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Opening extract from

Big Book of Bad Things

Written by

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Michael's Big Book of Bad Things Part 1

I noticed that my mum and dad were different.
This is how it was:
I go to the bathroom. I'm cleaning my teeth.
Chooka chooka chooka.
Shee shee shee.
And I notice that the toothbrush
is a bit wobbly.
Mmm, it's a bit wobbleee.
Take it out of my mouth.
Bend it.
Bendy bendy bendy
Bendee bendee –
CRACK!
Try to stick it back together.
No good. I'll have to tell Mum.
Better make up a story . . .
'Er . . . I was cleaning my teeth
REALLY HARD . . . and . . . er . . .
The toothbrush broke.'
Yes, that's what I'll say.

Go downstairs with the two bits of
toothbrush.
Into the kitchen.
'Hi, Mum . . . well, er . . . I was cleaning my
teeth
REALLY HARD . . . and . . .'
I open my hands to show her the two bits
of toothbrush.
She looks at them.
'Not to worry,' she says,
'it's only a toothbrush.
It's no big deal. We'll just get another one.'
And that's that.

But . . .
a few minutes later my dad comes in.
'Hi, everybody. Anything happen today?'
'No, no, no,' we say, 'nothing much.
Sky's still blue.'
'Nothing at all?'
'Nope. Nothing at all.'
But then my mum says,
'Oh, hang on. Yes, there was something.
Something funny. Michael was in the
bathroom
cleaning his teeth so hard the toothbrush
broke.

And my dad says,
'Cleaning his teeth so hard the toothbrush
broke?
I've never heard of anyone cleaning their teeth
so hard that the toothbrush broke.
Michael, what's all this about
cleaning your teeth so hard the toothbrush
broke?'
And I say,
'Oh yeah, right. Yeah. Look. You see,
I noticed that the toothbrush was a bit
wobbly and . . .'
And he says,
'Wobbly? Wobbly? How do you mean
wobbly?'
And I say, 'Yeah, and I was interested to see
if it was a bit bendy and . . .'
And he says,
'What's that you're doing with your hands?
That bendy thing?'
And I say,
'Oh yeah, right, I was just trying to see if . . .'
And he says,
'Oh, I'm beginning to get the picture:
bendy bendy bendy –
CRACK!'

You see, he's got it out of me.
He's taken me in for questioning
and he's found out exactly what happened
without me telling him.

And then he REMEMBERED IT.
He remembered and remembered and
remembered it,
so the next time I did a
BAD THING
he could remind me of it.
So, maybe I was sitting on my brother's head
for half an hour or something
and he comes in and says,
'What do you think you're doing?'
And I say,
'Oh yeah, I'm sitting on my brother's head
for half an hour.'
And he says,
'Oh yes, like the time you went to the
bathroom
and
bendy bendy bendy –
CRACK!'

It's like he had written it down
in a book.
Michael's BIG BOOK of BAD THINGS.

