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Opening extract from
**Undead Ed and the
Howling Moon**

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LESSON 1: FIND A GOOD TEACHER



My name is Ed Bagley ... and I might just be your best friend. You know why? I'll tell you. One day, the things that happened to me might just happen to you ... and if they do, you're going to need some serious help. Well, here it is ...

Forget everything you've ever seen or heard about werewolves, zombies and vampires. Done that? Awesome – now, listen up because I'm going to tell you the single most important fact you'll ever learn:

BEING UNDEAD SUCKS

... especially if you're a kid.

The three most miserable guys I know are all vampires; werewolves go insane really quickly, and ghouls cry all the time. Me? I'm a zombie ... and that's no picnic. Of course, I didn't used to be like this. I used to be just like you: a normal boy from a normal school in a – well, OK – semi-normal town.

First things first: if you're going to learn anything about the undead, you need to grasp the three BIG rules:

1) Everything dies ... not just your hamster. Dying is a natural part of life (unless, like me, you're hit by a massive truck on your thirteenth birthday – there's nothing natural about that). You live, you die. Get over it: I did.

2) Living people don't see or hear the dead. You know why? It's because they don't want to. Nobody wants a corpse for a friend. It's logic, really – you'd be the same. If you don't believe me, ask yourself this simple question: if you were in a room with two other people and one of them was dead, which one would you talk to? Exactly. When you're oozing pus and slime from a lovely variety of flesh wounds, you'd be amazed how many people will look right through you.

3) The dead have their own problems. They

can get upset, they can fall out and, more importantly, they can die. Yeah, that's right: the dead can die. They just don't do it very often.

So ... I guess it's time to tell you my story. I'll go right back to the beginning, so you can throw up in all the right places ...