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Opening extract from

Who's a Big Bully Then?

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For Joanna, who helped make this book

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Chapter 1
Darren Bishop

It all began with Darren Bishop. Any trouble I have at school always begins with Darren Bishop. He's been on my back all year, ever since I first came to this school. Darren Bishop is big, very big. He is big everywhere – big neck, big arms, big head. He has the biggest head in the whole school, in the whole world probably, and I hate him. I hate him like poison.

I'm also frightened of him, so I do my very best to keep out of his way whenever I can. But



sooner or later, almost every day, I bump into him.

Some days I've even bunked off school just to avoid him. I'm that scared of him. I don't know why he picks on me. Maybe it's because I'm a bit small and skinny. All I know is that he does everything he can to make my life a misery.

He's called me every nasty name he can think of. 'Chicken', 'little git' and 'baby face' are his favourites. When he really wants to wind me up he calls me 'a lily-livered, stinking coward'. I think he got that off some film on the television.

And it's not just name-calling either. He's always making horrible faces at me or flicking out my tie or giving me a shove.

But I keep my cool, even when he kicks my bag and stamps all over my books. He's done that twice now.

I don't keep my cool because I'm brave. It's just that I know he wants me to have a go at him, to start something, so that he'll have an excuse to beat me up. And he would too. But I'm not stupid. Nothing he did was ever going to make me fight him. Not his way anyway.

Then last week I had a chance, a lucky chance, to get my own back.

My way, on my terms.