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Opening extract from

Winnie Shapes Up

Written by

Laura Owen

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Winnie Shapes Up







For Ina – K.P.

For my very good friend Dianne Bogumsky, with love – xx

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Laura Owen and Korky Paul

Winnie Shapes Up



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Shop



Ssshh! Winnie





There was only a murmur of polite conversation in the shop . . . until Winnie came in, barging her way like a rampaging rhinoceros. **Crash!** She had red spots all over her, and she was scratching at them.

Itch, itch! 'Ooo, I'm as itchy as a witchy in a ditchy full of itching powder!' said Winnie. **Trip! Crump!** She knocked over a display. 'Sorry!' shouted Winnie. There was a queue for the counter, but Winnie shoved to the front.



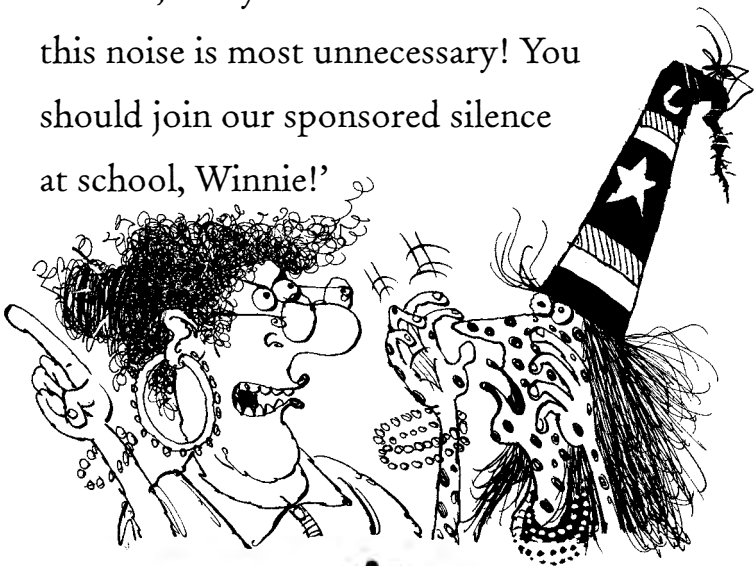




Itch, scratch! ‘ ’Scuse me!’ she shouted. ‘I need just one incy little ingredient so that I can make a pepper gherkin potion to get rid of my rash. I’ll be as quick as a lick on a lolly stick, I promise! Mr Shopkeeper, have you got a jar of knobbly pickled gherkins and a chilli pepper or two?’



‘Well, really!’ huffed Mrs Parmar. ‘All this noise is most unnecessary! You should join our sponsored silence at school, Winnie!’





'A sponsored what?' asked Winnie.

'Silence,' said Mrs Parmar pulling a leaflet out of her bag. 'You get people to pay you for every minute that you can keep absolutely quiet.'



'Coo!' said Winnie.

'The money goes to the poorest children in the world,' said Mrs Parmar.

'Double coo like a blooming pair of doves!' said Winnie. 'I'll do that for those poor little ordinaries!'





'Ha! You'll never keep quiet!' said the shopkeeper. The other customers all laughed at the idea as well.

'I blooming well will!' humphed Winnie. 'I can keep quiet for, oh, ever so long!'

'Do it now, then!' said Mrs Parmar.

'All right!' said Winnie.

'Tee-hee! Ha-ha!' went everybody. 'You just said something!'







'That's not flip-flapping fair!' said Winnie. 'If you promise me money to be quiet, then I'll keep as quiet as a fossil with a gag on, you'll see!'



So they all promised to pay Winnie to keep quiet, and she hurried home.

'Hey, Wilbur,' said Winnie. 'I'm going to keep quiet for the poorest little ordinaries in the world.'

'Me-heow!' wondered Wilbur.

