

## Chapter One

No one's shoes should EVER be that shiny!

A LOT of WEIRD STUFF happens at our school. But this was DIFFERENT. Because we knew that THIS could be the END OF EVERYTHING. And it had to do with loads of NEW PUPILS and the FAKEST SMILES EVER and EVIL BLAZERS.

But it was when we heard them chanting in a SECRET LANGUAGE that we KNEW things were NEVER going to be the same at our school EVER AGAIN.

And we probably should have realised that the SECOND all the new pupils MARCHED into our school because like my friend Zach says NO ONE should be able to sing THAT loud.

But it was when one of us went DEEP UNDERCOVER that things got OUT OF CONTROL. Because we didn't KNOW that sometimes when you go undercover you can go TOO DEEP and NEVER come back...

## Chapter 2

### Emergency Assembly

When we got to school on Monday something SERIOUSLY WEIRD was going on. The teachers were NOWHERE to be seen and Gary Petrie was doing highland dancing on top of

the old bike shed, shouting, “Come up and join me if you think you’re hard enough!” and no one was even trying to stop him.

I was just about to say we should probably go and fetch someone before Gary fell off and broke both his legs when we heard a SCREAM coming from the school office.

We RAN over to see what had happened and that’s when we saw that the office ladies were all on the phones SHOUTING about something.

One of them spotted us standing there so I started to ask what the SCREAM was about but that’s when she pulled a little curtain over the glass window really fast even though I was MID SENTENCE. (And I never even knew that there WAS a little curtain!)

Then all of a sudden loads of teachers came rushing down the corridor towards us and they started knocking on the head teacher’s door really hard and they looked MEGA ANGRY. We all watched as the door opened just a little bit and then an ARM came out and put a sign on the door. And then the arm disappeared and the door shut really quickly.

I looked at Jodi and Jodi looked at Zach and Zach looked at Maisie but Maisie’s eyes had gone all swirly because the sign said:

“EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY 9AM. TEACHERS ONLY.”

We had NO IDEA what was going on because the last time there was a TEACHERS ONLY emergency assembly was when one of the Year 2s got stuck in the basketball cupboard for half a day because no one could find the key. And we all thought that he going to have to LIVE IN THERE and drink water and soup through the KEYHOLE with a STRAW for the rest of his life. But a FIRE ENGINE had come and the fire brigade broke down the door with an AXE and we all got an EXTRA LONG afternoon break.

So I said that we should check to see if someone had got stuck inside the basketball cupboard but Jodi grabbed my arm and said, “No. This is something else. This is SERIOUS.”

And she was RIGHT because the teachers looked MUCH more upset than they had about the Year 2 pupil and Mr Beattie even looked like he was going to cry!

And that's when Jodi's eyes went WIDE and she said, "The Den. Now. RUN!"

So we ran.

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We ran along the corridor to The Den (which is our secret place under the stairs that go up to the boys' toilets). But when we got to the end of the corridor there was another SCREAM and the staff room door FLEW open and MORE teachers came RUSHING out.

Jodi stuck her arms out to the side and PINNED me and Maisie against the wall and yelled, "BREATHE IN!" And we did because we were scared we were going to get TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

I shut my eyes TIGHT as all the teachers ran past us and I could actually feel WIND in my face, that's how fast they were running.

Once the teachers had passed, Jodi said, "CLEAR" and dropped her arms and that's when I let out my breath and when Maisie slid down the wall and on to the floor because she'd fainted.

We got down on our hands and knees and put Maisie in the RECOVERY POSITION. We know how to do that because Maisie faints a LOT when she gets scared and when she wakes up she always needs a RIBENA or a TWIX or sometimes BOTH if she's had a really big shock.

But then Jodi GASPED and yelled, "MAN DOWN! MAN DOWN!"

At first I thought she was talking about Maisie but then I looked and saw that ZACH was curled up in a ball against the wall!

We rushed over and asked if he was OK and that's when Zach uncurled himself and blinked LOADS and said, "I don't know. I think so. What's HAPPENING?!"

I looked at Jodi and she looked at me and then she said, “Change of plan. There’s no time to get to The Den. We need to get to the emergency assembly NOW.”

So I reminded Jodi that the assembly was for TEACHERS ONLY.

And that’s when Jodi stood up and put her hands on her hips and said, “The rules no longer apply!”

And I GASPED and so did Zach because Jodi only says that in EXTREMELY SERIOUS situations, like the time we had to hold Maisie’s head up and pretend that she hadn’t fainted when she definitely HAD because you are not allowed to go on the Ghost Train if you have fainted, even if you’ve waited in the queue for over an hour.

So anyway, Zach got up and we all picked Maisie up by the legs and arms and we ran all the way to the assembly hall.

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It was CHAOS when we got to the hall.

The assembly had already started and all the teachers were SHOUTING OUT even though we are NOT ALLOWED to shout out in assembly and Mr Graves was telling everyone to CALM DOWN.

Then one of the dinner ladies actually CLIMBED up on to the stage and GRABBED the microphone out of Mr Graves’s hand and yelled, “UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE WE ARE ON STRIKE!”

Then she dropped the microphone on to the floor and LEAPED off the stage and all the dinner ladies cheered and started BANGING their ICE CREAM SCOOPS on the serving trays.

I looked at Jodi and she said something but I couldn’t hear what it was because of all the NOISE.

Mr Graves bent down and picked up the microphone and said, “PLEASE STOP THAT BANGING.”

So the dinner ladies stopped. And then they reached up and SLAMMED their metal shutters down.

Zach GASPED and said, “What are we going to eat at lunchtime? I’m STARVING!”

I had NO IDEA what we were going to eat for lunch if the dinner ladies were all on STRIKE but I knew that that was probably the LEAST of our problems because it was only 9am. And also because something BAD was obviously happening but we just didn’t know WHAT yet.

Then one of the teachers stood up on a chair and yelled, “We have to do something! We’re all at RISK!”

And then loads of the other teachers started shouting out at the same time and Mr Graves looked like he was going to be sick.

Jodi grabbed my arm and SQUEEZED and I knew that she did it because Miss Ross had just said that we were all AT RISK.

And that’s when Mr Harris said, “EVERYONE, PLEASE! CALM DOWN. THE CHILDREN WILL HEAR!”

And then one of the other teachers said, “They deserve to know! This affects them too!”

And that’s when Jodi gasped and said, “THIS IS NOT A DRILL!”

And I felt a bit dizzy but I just took a deep breath and nodded.

Because that is our CODE for when something is SERIOUSLY WRONG.

## Chapter 3

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The next day Mr Graves called us all to an assembly and told us that ANOTHER school was going to be joining OUR school and that we were going to be ONE BIG HAPPY SCHOOL.

We were all in SHOCK when he said that and we just sat with our mouths WIDE OPEN

because none of us knew what to say because it didn't make any sense!