

KEVIN
THE
VAMPIRE

A WILD AND WICKED WITCH

Matt * BROWN

ILLUSTRATED BY
FLAVIA
SORRENTINO

nosy
crow



First published in the UK in 2024 by Nosy Crow Ltd
Wheat Wharf, 27a Shad Thames,
London, SE1 2XZ, UK

Nosy Crow Eireann Ltd
44 Orchard Grove, Kenmare,
Co Kerry, V93 FY22, Ireland

Nosy Crow and associated logos are trademarks
and/or registered trademarks of Nosy Crow Ltd

Text copyright © Matt Brown, 2024
Cover and illustrations copyright © Flavia Sorrentino, 2024

The rights of Matt Brown and Flavia Sorrentino to be
identified as the author and the illustrator respectively
of this work has been asserted by them.

All rights reserved

ISBN: 978 1 83994 543 4

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of
trade or otherwise, be lent, hired out or otherwise circulated in any
form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval
system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic,
mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the
prior written permission of Nosy Crow Ltd.

The publisher and copyright holders prohibit the use of either text
or illustrations to develop any generative machine learning
artificial intelligence (AI) models or related technologies.

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.
following rigorous ethical sourcing standards.
Typeset by Clare Mills

Papers used by Nosy Crow are made from wood grown in sustainable forests.



1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

www.nosycrow.com

CHAPTER 1

A VAMPIRE CALLED KEVIN

The silent darkness of the night was split by an explosion of fire from the mouth of a galloping dragon. The magnificent creature, the colour of rubies from the Mountains of the Really Very North, thundered along a narrow rocky pass. Racing alongside her, a beautiful purple draffin – half dragon, half griffin – screeched and roared with delight. And standing on top of both, one foot on the back of each, was a nearly eleven-year-old boy.

A nearly eleven-year-old boy who was a vampire.

A vampire called Kevin.

“**WOOOOO-HOOOOOOO!**” screamed Kevin into the night, the wind in his hair and his face glowing and eyebrows singed from dragonfire. He looked behind him at the enormous train of carriages that Branwen the dragon and Gerald the draffin were pulling. The carriages belonged to Carnival Monstromo, a travelling carnival of monsters, which was Kevin’s home.

Kevin and the carnival were speeding towards Monstros City to take part in the Dragon Parade at the world-famous **FESTIVAL OF FEAR**. The **FESTIVAL OF FEAR** was the most important date in the monster calendar, when carnivals from all over Grackelser Odd came together to dance, laugh, eat incredible food and watch the Dragon Parade.

This year Kevin was being allowed to ride Brannie in the parade. More than anything he wanted to help win Carnival of the Year because Carnival Monstromo had never, ever, ever, in the whole history of the **FESTIVAL OF FEAR**, won it before. Ever.



That was the reason why Kevin was out that night: to practise something for the parade. Something extraordinary and exciting and dangerous. He stepped off Brannie so that both his feet were on Gerald's back, then took a deep breath. His plan was to jump off Gerald, then twist his body in mid-air and perform a cartwheel, before landing safely on Brannie's back. This move was incredibly difficult and was known as the **DANGER DIVE OF DEATH**.

OK, here we go. Three, two, one.

WHHHHHHHOOOOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAA!!

Unfortunately, as he leapt, Kevin got his foot caught in Gerald's reins. So rather than leaping majestically, Kevin found himself dangling upside down from the straps round Gerald's neck.

“KEVIN AURELIUS! WHAT HAVE I TOLD YOU BEFORE ABOUT ATTEMPTING THE DANGER DIVE OF DEATH AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?”

As he dangled, Kevin saw his mother standing

on top of a carriage.

“COME BACK HERE IMMEDIATELY!”

“OK, Mum,” Kevin muttered through gritted fangs.

In a *puff* of smoke Kevin turned into a bat and flapped back towards the carriages, grumbling all the way. Although, to his mum, because he was a bat, it just sounded like a lot of squeaks and clicks, which was probably for the best.



CHAPTER 2

THE DRAGON PARADE

Inside the Aurelius family carriage, Kevin's best friend, Susie Cabbage, was sitting stroking Dog, who was fast asleep on her lap. Dog opened his eyes and yawned, then coughed up something green and slimy, which looked around for a moment, tutted and slithered away under the seats.

Dog was not a dog. In fact, no one was very sure what creature Dog was. Kevin's dad thought he must have some Slobbering Hounds of Hell in him on account of his enormous sharp teeth and slobber. Although that did NOT explain the wings.

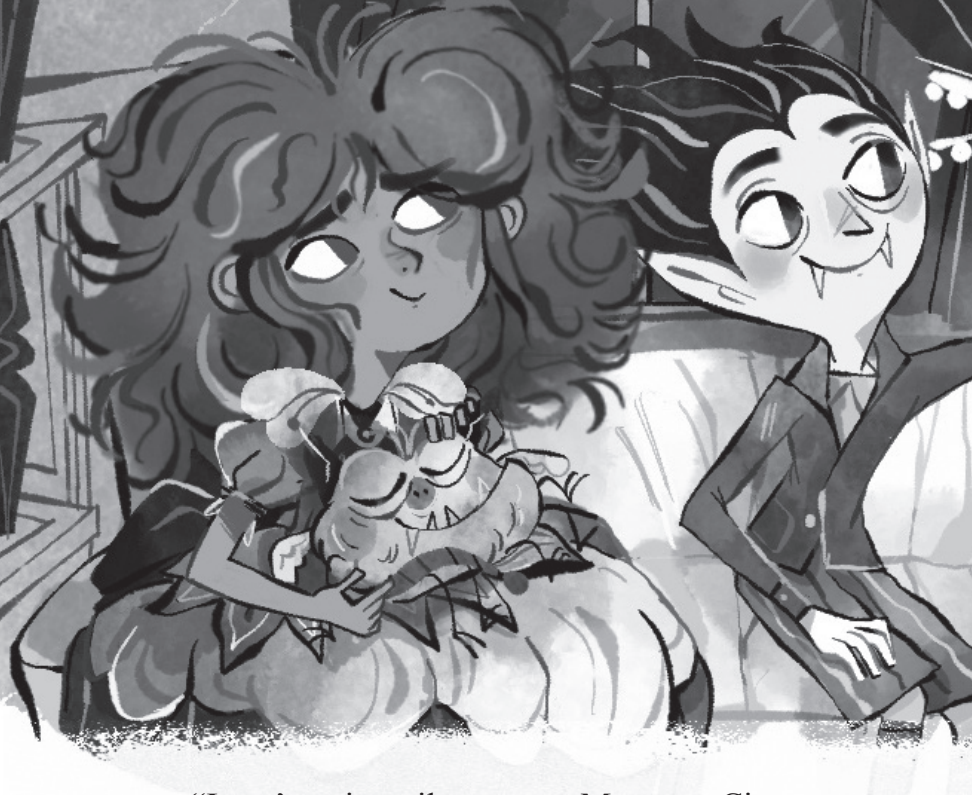
Kevin the bat flapped through the open window, then fluttered around the carriage before landing

gently on one of the seats. In another *puff* of smoke Kevin the boy appeared, his dark hair sticking up at strange and unusual angles and his face peppered with smudges of soot.

“What happened to you?” asked Susie.

“Oh, I was just trying out something for the Dragon Parade,” he said, pulling a bag of sherbet lemons from his pocket and offering them to Susie before popping one in his mouth. “Something we should both do – me on Brannie, you on Gerald. It will be incredible.”

Kevin sighed and looked at a poster next to the window. A skeleton with eyes like balls of fire was standing on the back of a golden dragon. In one hand the skeleton held a floating orb of shining white light, and in the other it held a burning flag that read: **THE FESTIVAL OF FEAR.** Underneath the picture it said: **WHO WILL WIN CARNIVAL OF THE YEAR? COME TO MONSTROS CITY TO SEE THE THRILLS! THE SPILLS! THE CHILLS!**



“I can’t wait until we get to Monstros City, Susie. I’m so glad you’re coming. It’s the most amazing place in the whole world. You’ll love it.”

Susie smiled. She couldn’t wait either.

“So what were you trying out for the Dragon Parade?” she asked, still smiling.

“A little move called the Danger Dive of Death,” said Kevin.

“The danger dive of what?” Susie stopped smiling.



Kevin looked at her. “You don’t know what the Danger Dive of Death is? I thought everyone knew what the Danger Dive of Death is. I mean, it’s the Danger Dive of Death.”

“Well, every monster might know what it is,” said Susie. “But I’m not a monster, am I?”

Susie most definitely was not a monster. Susie was a human who, until less than a week ago, had lived in a boring town where nothing interesting ever happened.

SUSIE'S PREVIOUS WEEK

MONDAY

NOTHING HAPPENED

TUESDAY

NOTHING HAPPENED

WEDNESDAY

NOTHING HAPPENED

THURSDAY

NOTHING HAPPENED

FRIDAY

NOTHING HAPPENED

SATURDAY

WENT TO A CARNIVAL, DISCOVERED THE
CARNIVAL WAS RUN BY MONSTERS!!!

SUNDAY

RODE A DRAGON FOR THE FIRST
TIME, HELPED SAVE A DRAFFIN FROM
A COLLAPSING MOUNTAIN AND
JOINED CARNIVAL MONSTROMO!!

Let's just say it had been quite a weekend.

Kevin grabbed a large book from a table next to the window; it was called **FANGS FOR THE MEMORIES: VAMPIRES FROM HISTORY**. It was one of his favourites because it was full of interesting stories about amazing vampires. He flicked through until he came to an entry about a vampire called Carmilla Le Fanu.

“Carmilla was one of the greatest performing vampires ever,” he said. “She invented the Danger Dive of Death.”

“It sounds quite dangerous,” said Susie, before adding, “and deadly.”

“Oh no,” said Kevin. “It isn't dangerous because vampires are immortal. Just imagine us doing it at the Dragon Parade. We'll win Carnival of the Year for sure.”

Susie tugged on the puffy sleeves of her dress. “Kevin?” she said. “The danger-deathly-dive thing sounds super, super exciting, but I'm a human, remember, so I'm not very immortal.” She thought

for a moment. “Actually I don’t think I’m at all immortal.”

But Kevin didn’t hear her. He was imagining himself holding the Carnival of the Year trophy high above his head and everyone at the Festival of Fear chanting his name.

“You’re right,” he mumbled. “It *is* super, super exciting.”

Susie frowned. Vampires might be immortal but they were not very good at listening. Not very good at all.

FANGS FOR THE MEMORIES: *Vampires from History*



Vampire: Carmilla Le Fanu

Also Known As: The Carnival Queen

Early Life: Carmilla became famous for dragon-riding and for creating the Danger Dive of Death.

Note: The Danger Dive of Death can sometimes lead to death and so should not be attempted without the correct safety goggles.

Note About the Note: Actually, the Danger Dive of Death is so dangerous that it should only be attempted by those who possess the power of immortality. Or wings. Or probably both.