



THE SECRET SCHOOL INVASION



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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



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...





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!)

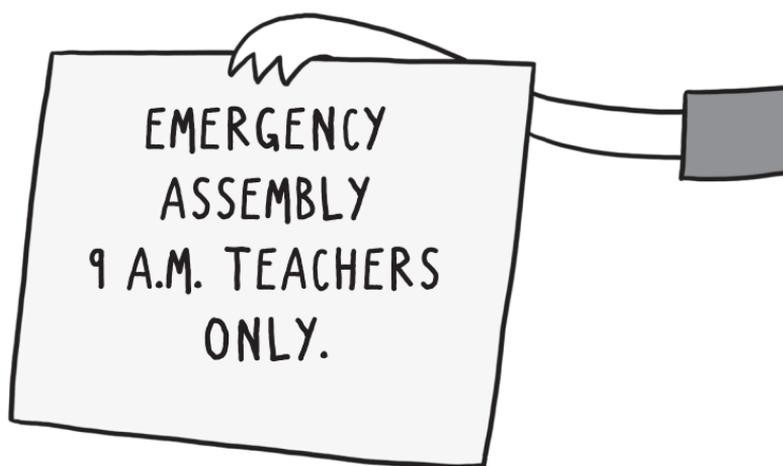
Then, all of a sudden, loads of teachers came rushing down the corridor towards us and they started knocking on the head teacher's door really hard and they looked

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:



We had



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 was 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.





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 staffroom 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,

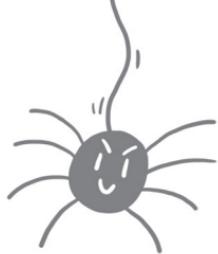
★ "MAN DOWN!"

★ 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.

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



and said, "What are we going to eat at lunchtime? I'm **STARVING!**"

I had



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 9 a.m. 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



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**.