

The man was a monster. It looked like he was part wolf. His hands were wolf claws! He had yellow fangs! A strong hairy tail hung down below the steel table.

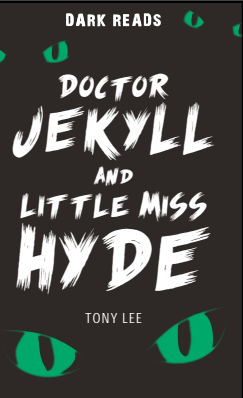
I thought I heard a wolf howl somewhere in the hospital.

Lee looked at me and we said it together, "Holy Moly!"



Edwina spent her break times in the science lab, helping the chemistry teacher, Doctor Jekyll. He was the strangest, most secretive man in the school.

He was always experimenting, but Edwina never knew what he was working on – until that fateful Wednesday.

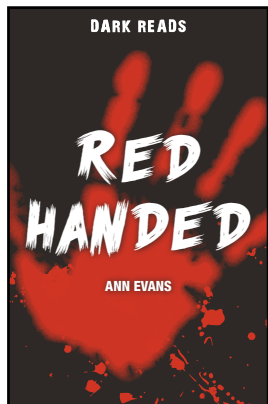


Nicking it had been easy. Now he felt like going on a nicking spree again.

Yeah, right now!

Excitement rose inside him.

He grabbed some tools – a hammer and crowbar.



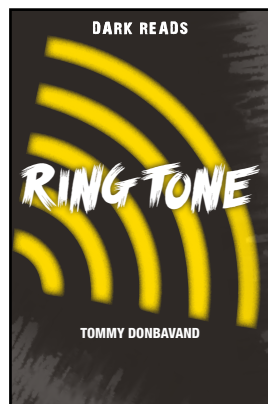
I ran home, trying not to think about what I had done.

"Where's Ben?" asked mum. "You said he was coming for tea tonight."

"He changed his mind," I said. "We don't do everything together, you know!"

I ran up to my room and slammed the door. I lay on my bed and cried.

Then my phone began to ring – with our special ringtone!



"Excuse me, where is everybody?" Callie asked the crewman.

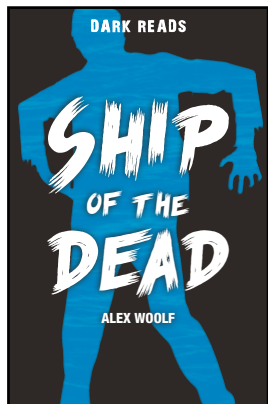
He didn't reply. He just kept stumbling towards them.

"There's something wrong with him," said Zac. "Look at his eyes."

"Hey, what are you doing?" Seth shouted as the man grabbed him.

"Watch out!" yelled Callie.

The man opened his jaws wide. Seth tried to break free but his grip was like iron.



He shot out of bed.

His real Aunty Joan came in, laughing.

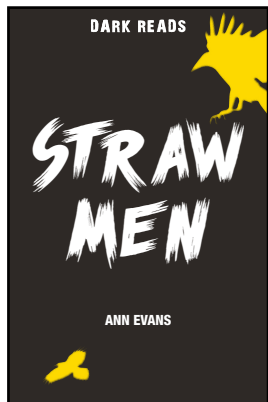
"Isn't it life-like?"

"It's creepy!" said Liam.

"It's for the Straw Men Festival."

She pointed out of the window. There were scarecrows everywhere, even two scarecrow grave-diggers.

Liam shivered. "*Very* creepy!"

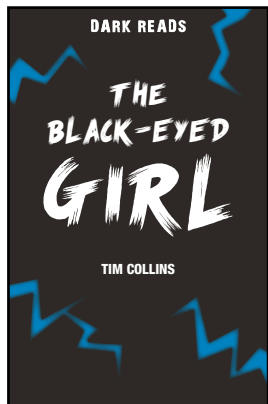


Megan pointed to the dusty mirror.

"That's where the ghost lives," she said.

"She died falling down the stairs. They say she appears all white except for her piercing black eyes."

Lauren walked up to the mirror and wiped it with her sleeve.





CHAPTER 5 **THE TRUTH**

I pulled the last few bricks away to reveal a human skull. It was a dull white colour, and very old.

"You are very handsome," said Victoria.
"I'm sorry I do not look my best."

"That doesn't matter," I said. And I leaned in to kiss her.

