

Then, Galen saw something. Was that an eye staring at him?

“Got you, Neshla!” he cried.

It wasn’t Neshla. It was a plant. The flower was identical to a human eye.

“That’s weird,” said Galen. He reached out to touch the plant.



“Ouch!” said Galen. A trickle of blood ran down his finger. He suddenly felt dizzy.

Neshla was calling. “It’s time to go,” she said.

The eye moved. “Yes,” said Galen.

He pulled out the plant. He put it into his pocket.

It was time to board the ship.



Josh punched the air. “Yes!” he said excitedly. “Maybe Mum and Dad will let me go hunting for Blackbeard’s treasure on Skull Island.”

Josh showed the old map to his mum and dad. They laughed.



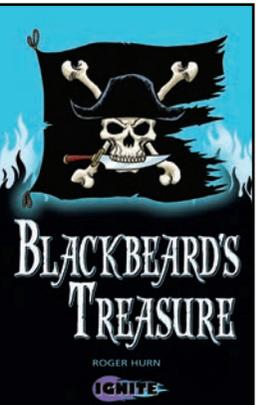
“That’s a clever joke, Josh,” said his dad. “You did some research on where we’re going and decided to have a bit of fun.”

“Yes,” said his mum. “You’ve made that map look really old. But you haven’t fooled us.”

“No, but it was a good try,” said his dad.

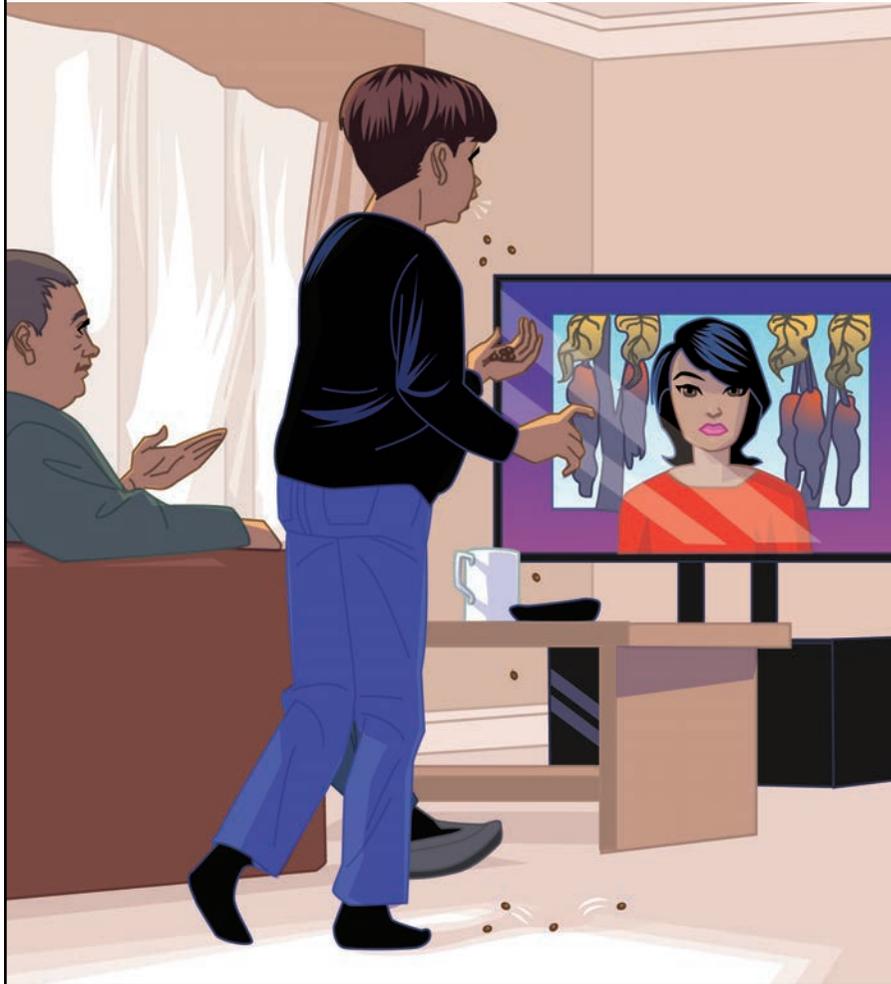
Josh shook his head. “I’m not playing a joke on you. I really did find this map in a bottle.”

Josh’s dad nodded. “Oh, of course you did. Ha, ha. Mum and I weren’t born yesterday you know, Josh.”



But it was the last line of the TV report that made Chaz’s mouth fall open.

“Across the world, chocolate is already running out.”



CHAPTER 2

No more choc?

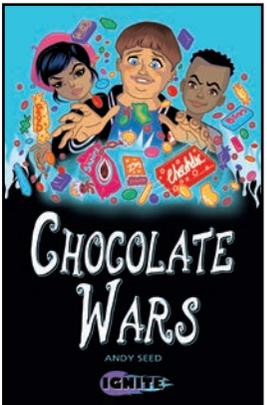
On the way to school next day, Chaz got a newspaper.

He read all about the lack of cocoa and how chocolate makers had to shut down.

It was grim stuff.

He called in at the sweet shop to buy a Mars Bar to cheer himself up.

“Sorry, Chaz, we’ve sold out,” said Mrs Cooper, the owner.



I took off my tunic jacket and stuck it onto my bayonet. It wasn't white (how could anything be white out here?) but it was a flag. I waved it back and forth.

Then, very slowly, I climbed up out of the trench. Everything stopped. No one fired at me. No one even seemed to move.



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I made my way through the slime and the mess to the donkey's side. She was done for... but there in the mud lay a tiny, newborn foal.

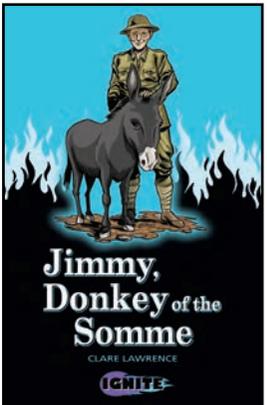
I picked him up in my arms and carried him back to the trenches.

And do you know what I heard? I heard cheering from our lads and I heard it from their lads too. Perhaps all of us in this terrible place felt we had done something good at last.

I love you, Mam. Give my love to Sissy too.

Geordie

9



Then, one night Dad told Felix and Jenny he had something important to say. "I've asked Suzie to move in with us," he grinned.

"Does she have to?" groaned Jenny.

"It will be great," said Dad. "You'll have a real chance to get to know her."

Two nights later Felix and Jenny heard a car pull up outside the house. It was Suzie. She opened the boot of her car. She grabbed several bags and hurried to the front door.

"I've got a bad feeling about this," said Jenny.

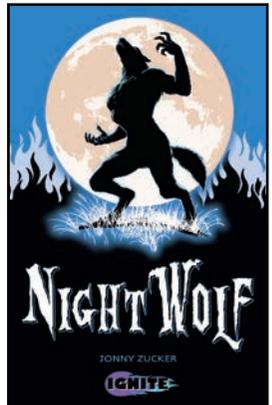
CHAPTER 1

A shocking arm

"Isn't this fun?" said Suzie after supper that night in her deep, growly voice. "Shall we play some board games?"

"Good idea!" nodded Dad.

"I've got homework," said Jenny, standing up from the table.



“Imagine what it was like, packed with people,” said Marina.

“Better than *Teen Factor* any day,” said Danni.

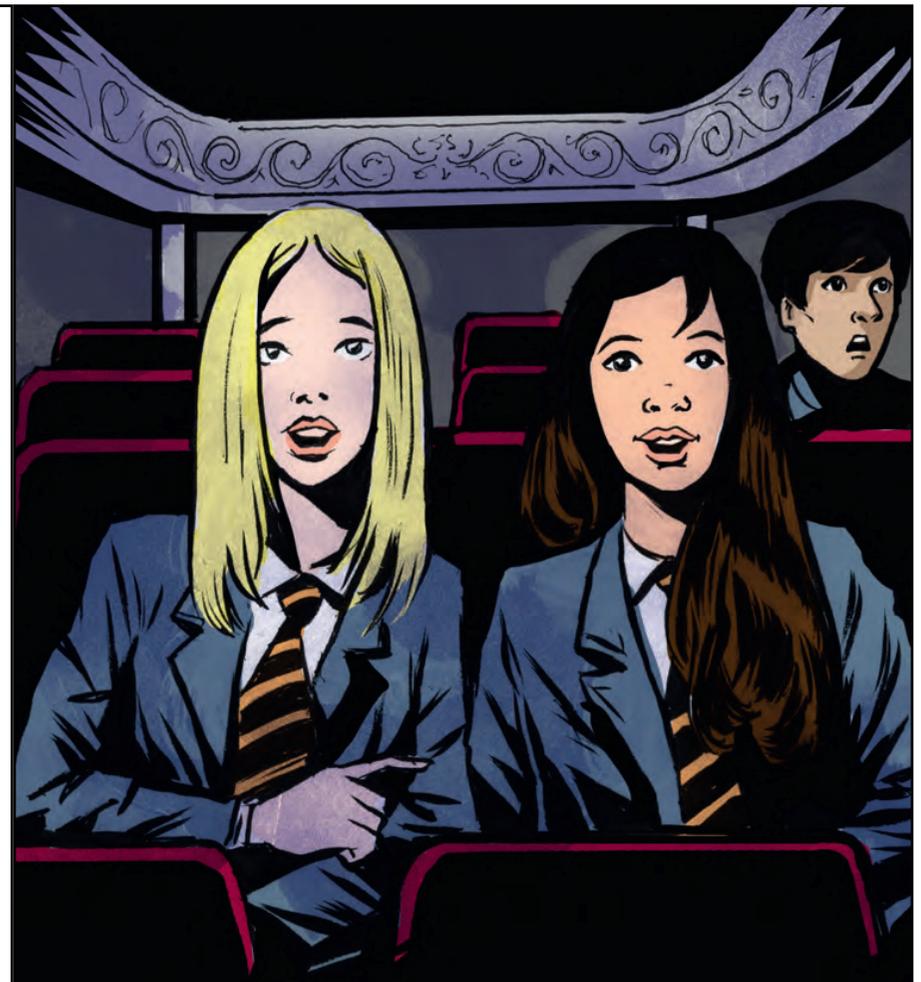
“We should go,” said Raj, nervously.

“Pass the popcorn,” joked Marina.

Danni laughed. But, then she pointed at the screen.

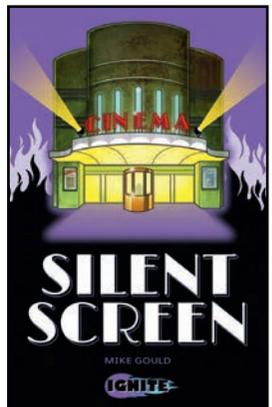
“The film is about to begin,” she said.

“Good one!” said Marina.



“I’m not joking!” Danni replied. “Look at the curtains!”

They were opening.





“Wow, a snow beast,” said Dylan.

“That photo wasn’t taken here, was it?” asked Alex.

“I hope so, I would be famous back home if I can get a picture of that!” said Dylan.

Alex closed his eyes and hoped that he didn’t see it.





The ball of fur started to uncurl.

The rest of the family stood back.
“Careful now, Nick,” whispered his mum.

To their amazement, the small ball of fur gave out a little cough and they all instantly saw that it was a small hamster looking up at them.

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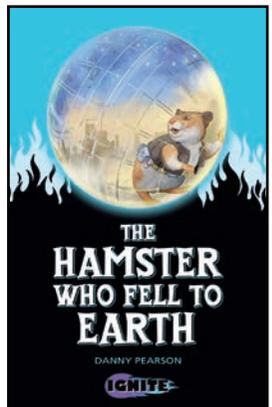
“Awww, Mum, can we keep him!” shouted Lola. She had always wanted a pet.

“No way, you know your father can’t stand fur.”

“Your mother is right. This little thing must have got lost. First thing in the morning we shall call round the street to see if anyone has lost their pet,” said Nick’s dad in a stern voice.

“But, Dad, where did it come from and why is it wearing a little belt and jacket?” asked Nick.

9



“There are monsters in the woods,” said her father, the king.

“There are spiders in the woods,” said her mother, the queen.

“There are fierce rabbits in the woods,” said Sir Aaron, the knight.

The knights were very important people. There were three special knights who spent their time looking after the royal family.

Sir Jack was old and stuffy. He was no more fun than the king. Sir Alfie was young and stuffy but Sir Aaron was just THE BEST!

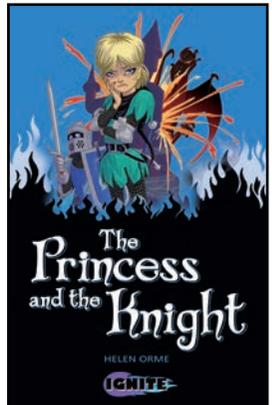
6



He was young. He was good-looking and he always had time to chat to Annalise.

He told her all about his exciting adventures as a knight.

7



His mum shot him an angry look.
“You know I have lots of work to finish off this evening, now please take your sister to the fair. I am sure you will have a great time.”

Tom looked at his little sister, Sarah, who was looking up at him smiling.

“OK, come on, let’s go,” he groaned.

It did not take them long to reach the fair which was very busy.

Tom was nervous that someone from his school would see him.

Sarah started pulling at Tom’s arm.

“I want to go on that ride, no that one, no THAT one.” She was pointing at every ride and stall at the fair.

