

Bella's Adventure

Written & illustrated by

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Dedication

I dedicate this story to people who love adventures and challenges!

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me make this book possible:
Clare Ford, my tutor; my Mum and my Dad; Saronti publishers

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Aged 11

Chapter One: School



“Bella, it’s your turn to do your presentation now.”

Getting up slowly, Bella knocked the corner of her desk, sending

her pens flying.

Amelia and her squad, the Bulls, laughed meanly as Bella turned red with embarrassment. She had always felt out of place in Sandwell High, with the good looking, bright, confident straight A students. Being a scholarship student wasn’t easy.

“Stop that at once!” barked Mrs Apostrophe, the English teacher.

As the squad stopped giggling, Bella picked up her pens and pencils from the floor and went to the front of the class, biting her nails and feeling her heart beating extremely fast.

As Bella started talking, the headteacher appeared just outside the classroom door. Mrs Apostrophe knew she had to go and talk to him immediately, and apologised to the class.

Bella just looked down at her desk and couldn't wait to leave.

Bella decided this was a good time to stop her presentation and walk back to her table, already feeling humiliated enough. She stumbled over her bag and then sat down, feeling hot and bothered.

That's when the chanting and jeering began- again, but louder this time, while Mrs Apostrophe was out of the classroom.

“Ha ha, you're so clumsy!”

“Nothing like us!”

“What a rubbish presentation... We could hardly hear you!”

“You don't deserve to be at this school anyway.”

Chapter Two: The Dare



“If you’re so big and clever Amelia, why don't you go to the forest and explore the abandoned house?” suggested a boy meanly.

“ Fine! If you think that I am a scaredy cat just like Bella then yes I will go, come on Bulls!” exclaimed Amelia.

Later that evening, as Amelia started walking through the eerie forest, she heard some noises coming from all different directions. She wanted to prove to her gang that she was not scared, but she could not help a scream now and again.

As they came closer and closer to the house, one by one Amelia's friends started to turn back and head home. Slippery leaves and gnarled roots made their adventure extremely challenging. The weather worsened the nearer they got to the abandoned house. When they left it was windy, but as they were walking the wind whipped up and the drizzle turned into big heavy droplets of rain.

“Maybe we should head back,” cried one of the remaining girls in the group.

“NO!!” Amelia shouted back, “ If we turn back, people will ask where the pictures are and if we don’t have them, then nobody will believe that we’ve been here.”

But the girls didn't care. This was not time to worry about what people at school may or may not believe.

Getting more frightened every second, they persevered and finally reached the deserted house. Amelia and the only girl left in the group entered carefully and noticed cracks and spider webs everywhere. What seemed to have once been a kitchen had a terrifying shadow that looked like a ghostly figure.

Chapter Three: Trapped



Suddenly, the door slammed shut and locked.

The girls were trapped in the deserted house.

Trying to find an exit, they heard the windows opening and closing.

They knew it wasn't the wind because the wind had dropped.

They were petrified.

This was truly a waking nightmare.

Wailing and scratching sounds seemed to be drawing closer and closer - the girls were certain this was the ghost who was rumoured to have owned the house forty years ago.

Luckily, Ava had just one faint bar on her phone.

“Who should we text?” asked Amelia.

“The first option on my list is Bella - that’s the quickest option,” replied Ava, her hands shaking, as she tried hard to see the numbers to dial in the gloom.

Bella’s phone rang and rang, but she didn’t hear it as she was fast asleep.

She suddenly woke up, feeling like something wasn’t right. She checked the time and saw the missed calls and text messages from Ava. Feeling confused, because Ava never called her, Bella instantly called back, shaking and worried about what she might hear.

Chapter Four: The Rescue



“Hello, are you ok Ava? Why did you call so many times?”

“I can’t hear you! Where are you? Why do you sound so quiet?”

“We’re trapped in the abandoned house in the middle of the forest. You have to send someone to come and open the door from the

outside. Hurry! There's a ghost!"

Before Ava could continue, she heard Amelia scream.

"What was that?" asked Bella.

"It was Amelia. She must be hurt. I think she saw the ghost. I need to go. My battery is running out. Please hurry."

Then the phone went dead.

Bella sat up in bed, wondering quite what she should do next.

It was too late to disturb anyone.

"I'll have to go by myself. It'll be a lot quicker and I won't have to explain anything to anyone."

Grabbing a torch, her phone and a coat, she set off.

Bella knew exactly where this abandoned house was because she used to go there with her parents to have a rest when they were on a hike.

The moon was high in the cold night sky, so it wasn't too hard for Bella to wind her way through the treacherous forest. Soon, she came upon the house.

A raven frightened her as it flapped its wings and took off.

Could this be an omen?

On reaching the house, Bella noticed that one of the windows had been smashed.

She leaned over to try to open the door and felt something underfoot. Shining the torch, she lifted the slimy mat and saw a key glinting up at her.

This must be the key Ava said was needed to open the doors inside the house.

She held her breath and went in.

“I’ve never been so happy to see you in my life. Thank you Bella!” gushed Amelia with relief.

“I don’t know what we would have done without you. I will never make fun of you for being a “scaredy-cat” again. Thank you for coming to find us Bella.” added Ava. “You are a true friend.”

“Come on you two! Let’s get you home now! It’s been a long day.” announced Bella.

So the girls set off dejectedly back through the woods to Bella’s house, where they warmed up with hot chocolate.

Chapter Five: Friends



After they finished their hot chocolate, it was time to go to bed.

In the morning, they travelled to school together.

They were turning into the best of friends.

Before they went to class, Amelia told the headteacher what a kind and brave thing Bella had done. “ I think Bella should get an award. She deserves it.”

Chapter Six: The Reward



In assembly, Bella is so surprised when the Headteacher called her name out and Amelia presented her with a certificate and a civilian badge. But nothing was more surprising than when Amelia was also presented with a certificate - the Most Changed Personality - which the Headteacher explained

“Come on, let’s go and play together,” suggested Bella. “You can come and meet my friends and be part of our group. The girls are really nice. You don’t have to worry. You can just be yourself, without doing mean things.”

“Are you sure I really deserve it, after everything I’ve put you through?”

“Amelia, look. You’ve changed now. Everybody deserves a second chance.”

“I’ve learnt that my actions have consequences and that I should be

a buddy not a bully.”

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

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SWITCHED ON!

Join Bella and her friends as she has an adventure of a lifetime...

Will her enemy change her attitude to survive?

Will Bella return home safely?

Read on to find out!