

THE GREAT CRISP ROBBERY

FROM THE
WINNERS OF
THE BLUE PETER
BEST STORY
AWARD

No snacks
were harmed in
the making of
this book

★ CELEBRATING ★
10
YEARS
OF IZZY AND FRIENDS ★

PAMELA
BUTCHART

Illustrated by
THOMAS
FLINTHAM

nosy
crow

THE GREAT CRISP ROBBERY

PAMELA
BUTCHART



nosy
crow



★ ★ ★
Look out for: ★ ★

BABY ALIENS GOT MY TEACHER!
THE SPY WHO LOVED SCHOOL DINNERS
MY HEADTEACHER IS A VAMPIRE RAT!
ATTACK OF THE DEMON DINNER LADIES
TO WEE OR NOT TO WEE!
THERE'S A WEREWOLF IN MY TENT!
THE PHANTOM LOLLIPOP MAN!
THERE'S A YETI IN THE PLAYGROUND!
ICARUS WAS RIDICULOUS
THE BROKEN LEG OF DOOM
A MONSTER ATE MY PACKED LUNCH!
THE SECRET SCHOOL INVASION
THERE'S A BEAST IN THE BASEMENT!



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 © Pamela Butchart, 2024
Cover and illustrations copyright © Thomas Flintham, 2024

The right of Pamela Butchart and Thomas Flintham to be identified
as the author and illustrator respectively of this work has been asserted
by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs
and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved

ISBN: 978 1 83994 053 8

A CIP catalogue record for this book will be 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.

This product is made of material from well-managed,
FSC®-certified forests and other controlled sources.



1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2
www.nosycrow.com

Contents

1. The Most Serious and Scariest Time EVER	1
2. The Sleeper Train	5
3. Bacon Sizzler, Anyone?	16
4. Stowaway!	44
5. The Bed Inside the Wall!	54
6. The Hooded Figure	60
7. All The Egg Mayo Sandwiches	83
8. The Midnight SCREAM!	93
9. Something SERIOUS is Going On!	103
10. I TOLD YOU!	114
11. Gary's GONE!	122
12. The Hooded Figure Strikes Again!	128
13. TESCO FINEST!	134
14. Sixteen BIG Packets of Crisps!	148
15. Lock the door! LOCK THE DOOR!	156
16. Squeak if You're There!	171
17. This is a Lot Worse Than We Thought!	181
18. The Great Train Robbery	194
19. Don't Get Off the Train, Jodi!	211
20. Not you too, GARY!	216

21. The OTHER Train	222
22. FLUSHED AWAY	235
23. I Know Those Shoes!	255
24. The Train is Stopping AGAIN!	266
25. "ZACH! MAISIE! WE'RE BACK!"	277
26. The End of the Line!	285





WEIRD stuff happens a LOT at our school.

Like the time with the

DEMON DINNER LADIES and the

PHANTOM LOLLIPOP MAN

and the headteacher who was a

VAMPIRE RAT.



But what I am about to tell you is probably the **MOST SERIOUS** and



thing that has **EVER** happened to us.

And it wasn't just because we were all on a **HIGH-SPEED TRAIN** at **MIDNIGHT** when it happened!

It was because of the **HOODED FIGURE**



and the

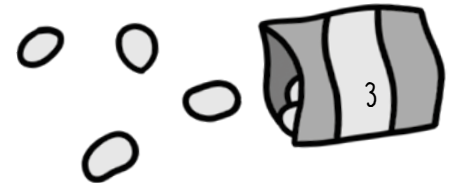


and all the

STOLEN CRISPS.

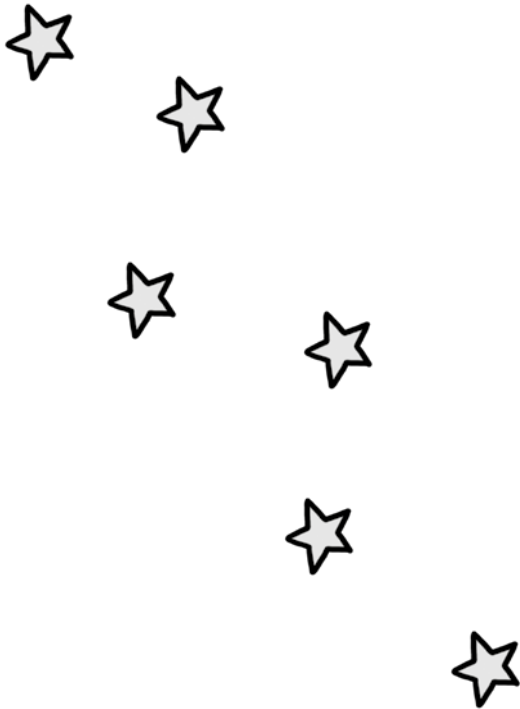
And we probably should have **KNOWN** things were **BAD** when Mr Beattie started **CRYING.**

But it was when we saw a bag of Gary Petrie's **STOLEN CRISPS** lying on the platform that things got **OUT OF CONTROL.**



And I just **KNEW** that someone was going to jump off the train in the middle of the night.

But I didn't know that it would be me.



When Miss Jones told us we were going on an **EXTRA-SPECIAL** school trip we all gasped. Then when she told us we were getting the **TRAIN** we all gasped again! But nothing could have prepared us for what she said next. Because **THAT'S** when Miss

Jones told us we were getting the

SLEEPER TRAIN

to **LONDON** and that we would be going to **BED** on the train.

I stared at my friend Jodi, and she stared back. And then we both stared at Zach, and he had his mouth wide open and it was because none of us could **BELIEVE** what Miss Jones was saying to us!

I'd heard of the **SLEEPER TRAIN** before and how people get on it and go to sleep and wake up in the place that they need to

be. But I never thought that I would be going on one!

I thought that sleeper trains were just for **BUSINESS PEOPLE** in **SUITS** who had to get to London to have

BIG MEETINGS

at five o'clock in the morning.

EVERYONE started asking Miss Jones loads of questions about the **SLEEPER TRAIN**. Like, where would we all sleep? And did we have to wear pyjamas? And would there be a toilet on the train?



And Gary Petrie was jumping up and down and asking if he could come in **FANCY DRESS** (which didn't really make any sense, but sometimes Gary Petrie doesn't really make sense).

That's when Maisie started shaking and saying that she was worried because trains are



and that she didn't think she would be able to go to sleep **SITTING UP**.

So that's when I said I thought she definitely

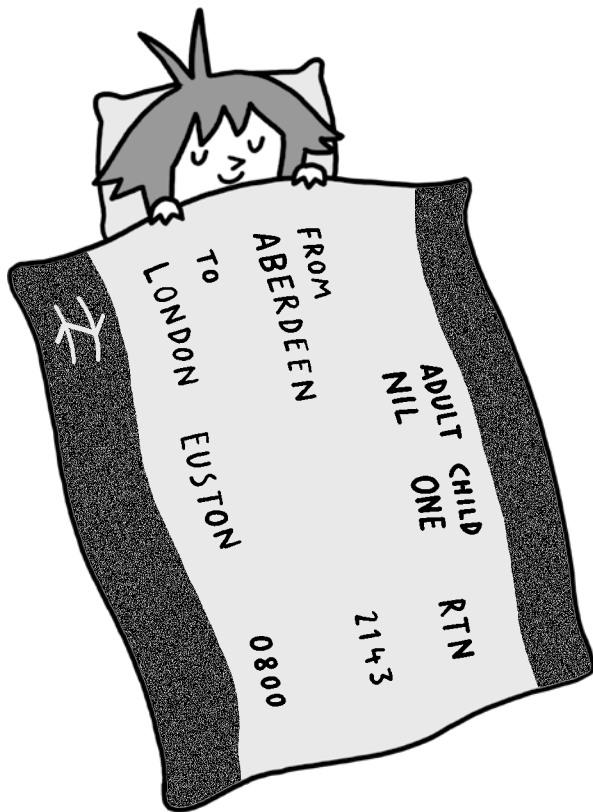
WOULD be able to sleep sitting up and then I reminded her of the time that she fainted while sitting on the toilet when it accidentally flushed before she was finished. And how she just stayed sitting up for ages, even though she'd fainted.

But then Miss Jones said that we didn't have to worry about sleeping sitting up because we were all going to have our own **BEDS** on the train.

That's when me and everyone got **REALLY** excited because I didn't even know that you got beds on trains!

And I didn't know what sort of **DUVET**

COVERS they would have but I really hoped they looked like **GIANT TRAIN TICKETS** or something like that because that would be really cool.



So anyway, Jodi put both her hands on her head and held on tight to her hair, which is what she sometimes does when she's **REALLY** excited about something.

Then she said, "It's going to be like one of the old movies I've watched with my mum! We'll have our own little bit of the train to ourselves. I can't believe it! This is going to be **AMAZING.**"

And as soon as Jodi said that I totally remembered a black-and-white film Jodi's mum made us watch where everyone was wearing hats and long coats and they were all running to get on the train that had

STEAM coming out of it. Then two of them fell in love but one of them couldn't get on the train because he didn't have a ticket so they had to BREAK UP. And when I asked Jodi's mum why he didn't just BUY a ticket she said that it was because it was

 ROMANTIC.

So anyway, that's when I knew that there was NO WAY Jodi's mum wasn't going to try to come on our school trip with us. And that she was probably going to ask Miss Jones if she could be a CHAPERONE. And I

knew that if Miss Jones said no, she would probably just buy a ticket and come anyway.

Miss Jones was trying to answer all of our questions, but there were too many of us with our hands up and some people were just SHOUTING OUT because they were

 TOO EXCITED

to follow the rules.

So that's when Miss Jones stopped answering our questions and put BOTH of her hands up in the air. And we all

eventually went silent and did the same because that's what the teachers do at our school if they want us to stop talking and

PAY ATTENTION.

Then Miss Jones put her arms down and smiled a really big smile.

And I could tell that she was **JUST** as excited as we were about going on the sleeper train. And I thought that it was maybe because Miss Jones quite likes sleeping and I know that for a fact because every Monday when we come in and ask her where she



went that weekend, she always **LAUGHS** and says **SLEEP** really loudly. So we know how much she loves going to bed.

So anyway, we all **STARED** at Miss Jones.

And then she took a **DEEP BREATH** and said, "Children. I can assure you that this is going to be a trip you will **NEVER FORGET!**"

And we all



and nodded because we knew that she was **RIGHT**.