

MISS HONEY

I'm not strong like you, Matilda. You see, my father died when I was very young. Magnus was his name. He was very kind. But when he was gone, my aunt became my legal guardian. She was mean and cruel like you can hardly imagine. And then, when I got my job as a teacher, she presented me with a bill for looking after me all those years. She'd written everything down: every tea bag, every electricity bill, and every tin of beans. And she made me sign a contract to pay her back every penny. She even produced a document that said my father had given her his entire house. I find it hard to believe that he really left it to her. Just like I cannot believe that he would have...killed himself, which is what she said happened.

LAVENDER

Hello. I'm Lavender by the way. Matilda's best friend. There's a bit coming up that's all about me. Well, not exactly about me, but I play a big part in it. But I'm not gonna say what happens because I don't want to spoil it for you.

(Pause)

Alright, look, what I do is I volunteer to get the Trunchbull a jug of water. And then... No! I don't want to tell you anymore because I don't want to ruin it!

(Pause. Stars to go)

Well on the way back I find a newt. A newt is a really ugly lizard that lives in water, so I pick it up and – No! I will not say anymore!

(Starts to go, but really this time)

I'm going to put the newt in Trunchbull's jug! It's going to be brilliant!

BRUCE

It was the biggest burp I had ever done. It was the biggest burp I had ever heard, the biggest burp I had ever heard about. It was like the entire world went silent for that burp to exist, as a huge cloud of chocolaty gas wafted from my mouth and drifted...across class...

Past Lavender...

Past Alice...

Past Matilda...and then, my great big beautiful chocolaty burp, which now seemed to have a mind of it's own, wafted full into the face of the Trunchbull.

MR WORMWOOD

(On the phone) Yes sir, that's right sir. One hundred and fifty five brand new luxury cars, sir. *(Listens)* 'Are they good runners?' Let's put it this way...you wouldn't beat them in a race.

(He laughs hugely at his funny joke but there is silence from the other end of the line. He stops laughing, immediately)

No, sir, yes, sir, they are good runners sir, yes, sir indeed, sir.

(Ends call and speaks to his family)

I'm going to make us rich! Very rich. Russian businessmen. Very, very stupid. Your genius husband is going to sell them one hundred and fifty five knackered old bangers as... brand new luxury cars! *(To Matilda)* Fair does not get you anywhere,

you thickheaded twit brain! All I can say is thank heavens your brother Michael has inherited his old man's brains, eh son?

TRUNCHBULL

In this world, children, there are two types of human being. The winners and the losers. I play by the rules and I win. But if I play by the rules and...I if I do not win, then something is wrong, something is not working. And when something is wrong, you have to put it right, even if it screams.

(To Matilda) You are not fit to be in this school! You ought to be in prison, in the deepest, dankest, darkest prison! I shall have you wheeled out, strapped to a trolley with a muzzle over your mouth! I shall crush you! I shall pound you, I shall dissect, you madam! I shall strap you to a table and perform experiments on you. All of those disgusting little slugs shall suffer the most appalling indignities because of you-yes you!

MATILDA

Yes, well, I needed to learn to read words so that I could read sentences because basically a sentence is just a big bunch of words. And if you can't read sentences you've got no chance with books. I love books. Last week I read quite a few: Nicholas Nickleby, Oliver Twist, Jane Eyre, The Invisible Man, The Secret Garden, and Crime and Punishment.

MRS WORMWOOD

Look, is this going to take much longer Doctor, I've got a plane to catch at three. I'm competing in the bi-annual international amateur Salsa and Ballroom Dancing Championships in Paris. And this time I have a secret weapon: Rudolpho. He's part Italian, you know. Very supple. And he has incredible upper body strength. So? What is it? What's wrong with me? What is it? Wind? *(Doctor informs her she is pregnant)* What? But I've got a baby! I don't want another one! Oh...bloody hell!

MRS PHELPS

Matilda! How lovely to see you! Are you enjoying school? What? Well, we don't have revenge section. Why do you ask? Is there a child at school who is behaving like a bully? Matilda, are you sure nothings wrong?