



My Brother is a Zombie!

by
Kirsty Holmes

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is a
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Level 11 – Lime



TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

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My Brother is a Zombie!

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Chapter One

My Brother Ollie

I'm Paige Crossley. This is my Secret Stakeout Den. I made it myself from a bed sheet and some books. I had to build it here to get a good view of Ollie's room. You might be wondering why an eight-year-old girl would be on a stakeout. You'd be right to ask!

It's not the usual way to spend a Saturday evening in the summer holidays, I agree. So let me tell you what's been going on. My brother Ollie and I live with our dads, Papa Tom and Papa Chris, and our cat Pickles.







I waited for Ollie, but he didn't come down for cartoons and breakfast with me like he usually does on a Saturday morning. Pickles was padding round and round in circles on the carpet. We both knew this was strange. Ollie didn't get out of his bed until 11 o'clock! Something was very definitely up.

After his birthday, Ollie got stranger and stranger. I had been watching him closely and started to think that there was only one way to explain it. "I think that my brother, Oliver James Crossley, is A ZOMBIE!"



Chapter Two

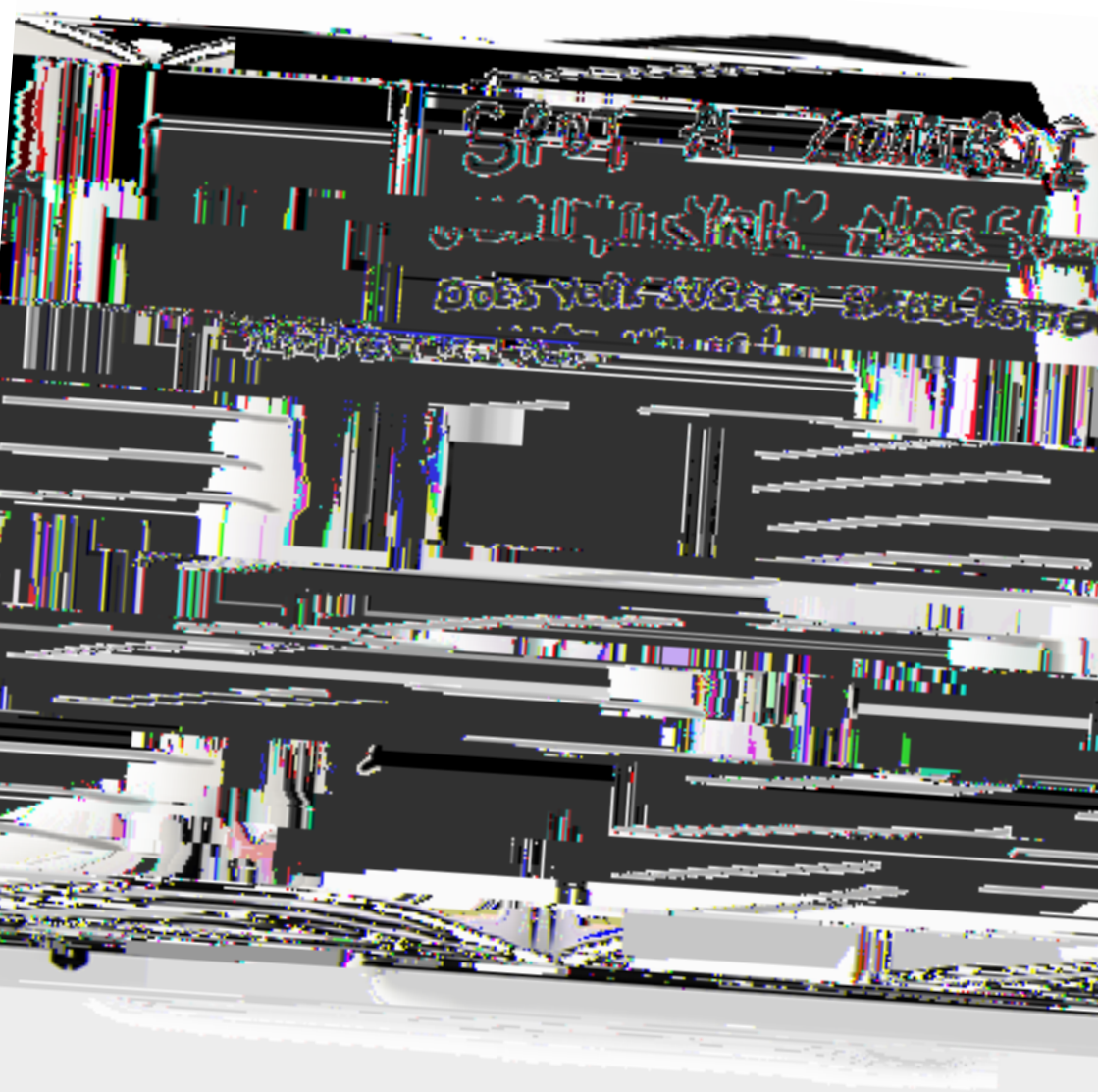
How to Spot a Zombie

As soon as I worked it out, I did what any sensible little sister would do. I went straight to the library. The library always has books about everything, and I knew about that

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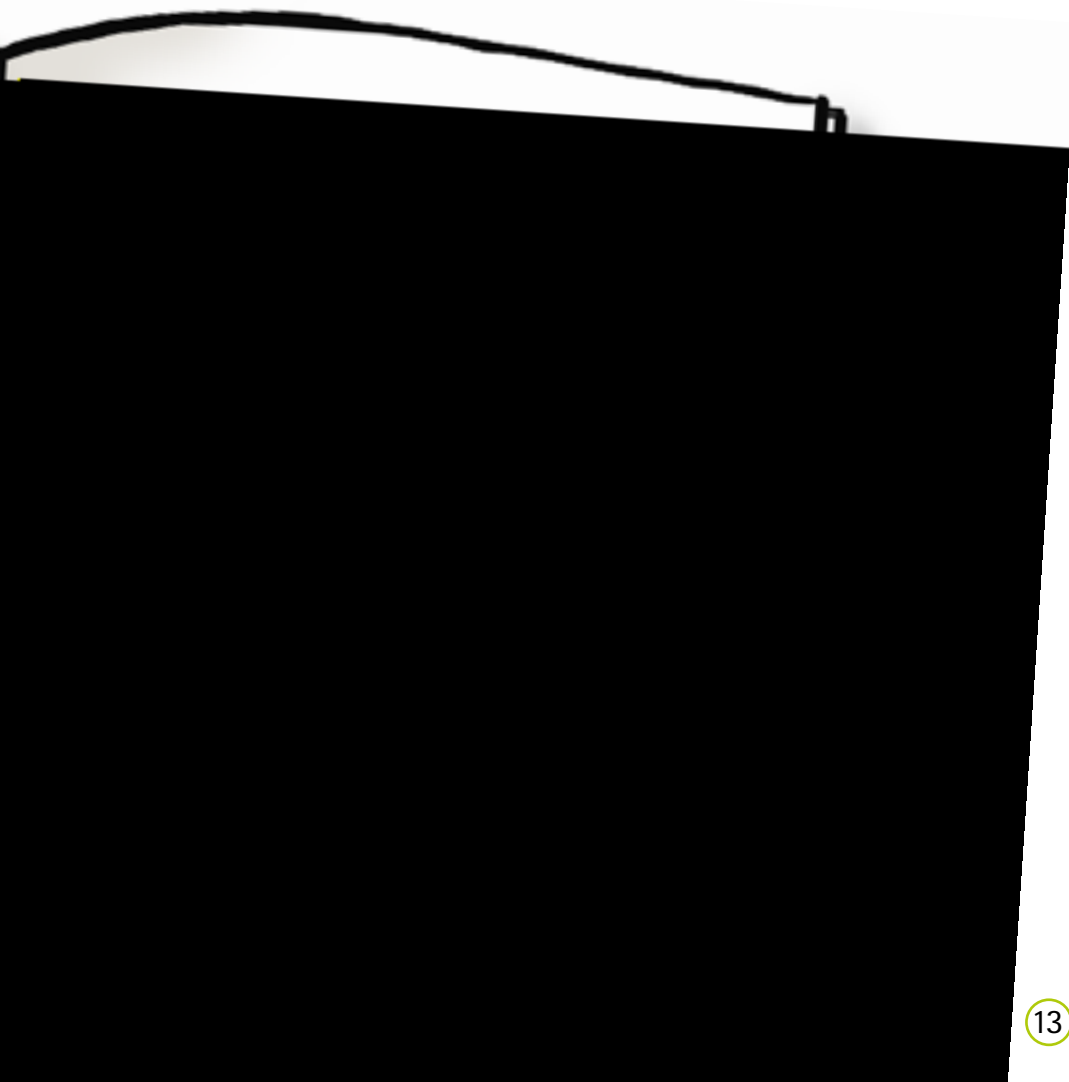
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It all made perfect sense.

Ollie really did stink. One day, he walked past me while I was spying on him under the dining table. His feet smelt of rotten, stinky cheese! Pee-YOO!



Later that night, we were all watching Papa





Ollie's room was a clear sign that he must be

Chapter Three

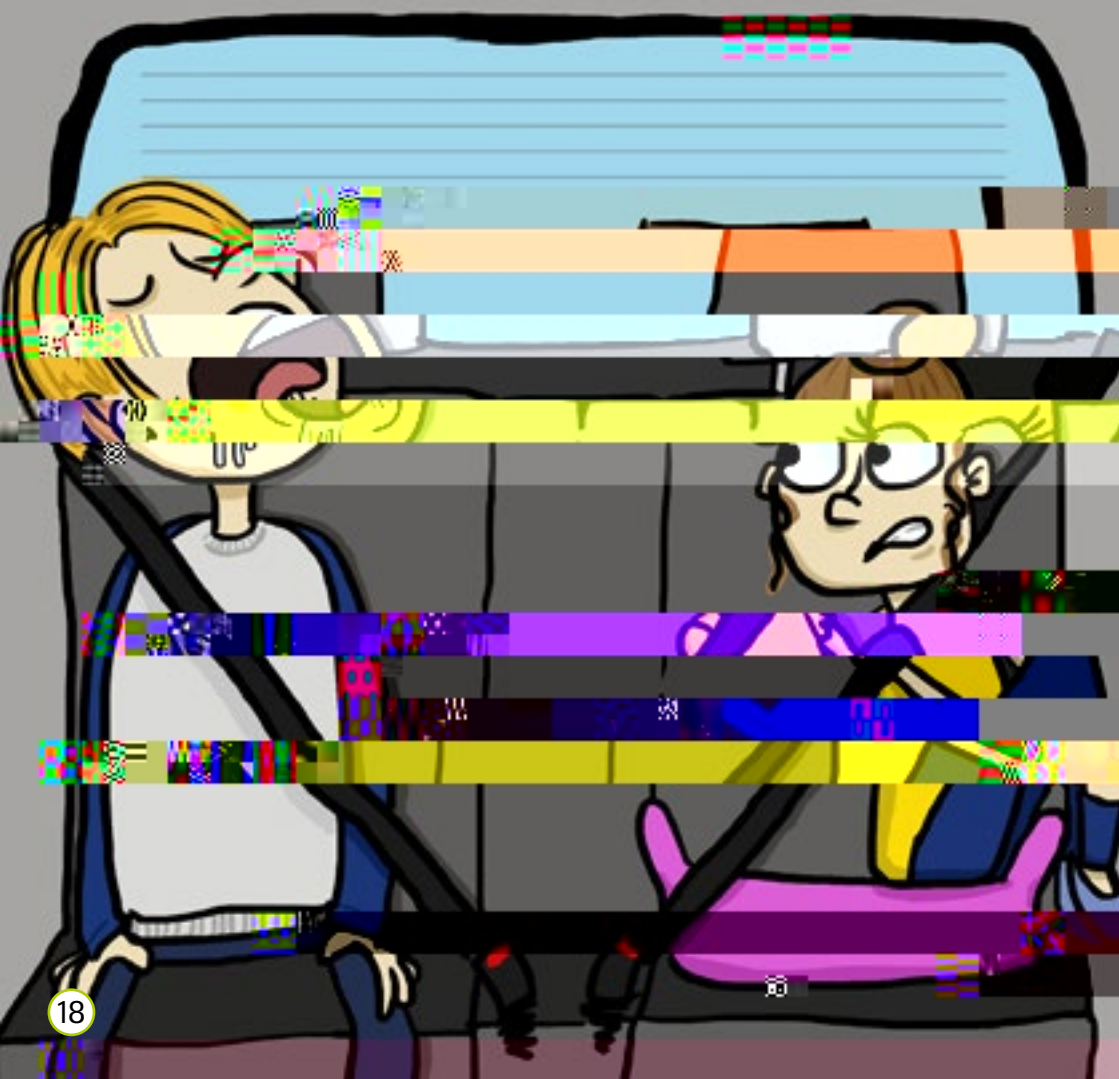
Beside the Seaside

One day, we went to the seaside. Papa Tom, Papa Chris and I built a sandcastle. Then we ran on the sand. Ollie used to love to play with us, but he didn't want to do anything that day. He just wanted to lay around all day.



They can only grunt. So I tried to talk to Ollie.

I couldn't believe it when Ollie grunted at me. I sat all the way across the seat in the car on the way home. Just in case.



Even the way he looked had changed. Now he wore a woolly hat pulled low over his eyes. And his clothes were always torn. Papa Chris told me Ollie liked them like that! How silly. Who would wear jeans covered with rips on purpose?

He would not outsmart me. I used to like wearing Ollie's cool t-shirts to bed, but now I didn't dare. What if I caught it from the t-shirt? I did NOT want to become a zombie myself. Who would keep an eye on Ollie? I had to be very careful.

Next, I looked up 'zombies' on the internet. I got Papa Chris to help me, because I didn't want to see anything too scary. We found a quiz. It was called 'Are You a Zombie?'. Papa Chris looked serious.

"I think we should take the quiz," he said. I nodded.

As Papa Chris read out the quiz, I pretended to answer for myself. But in my head, I was really answering for Ollie. He almost got full marks, but I didn't know about question four.

1. Do you smell like rotten socks?
2. Are bits of you falling or

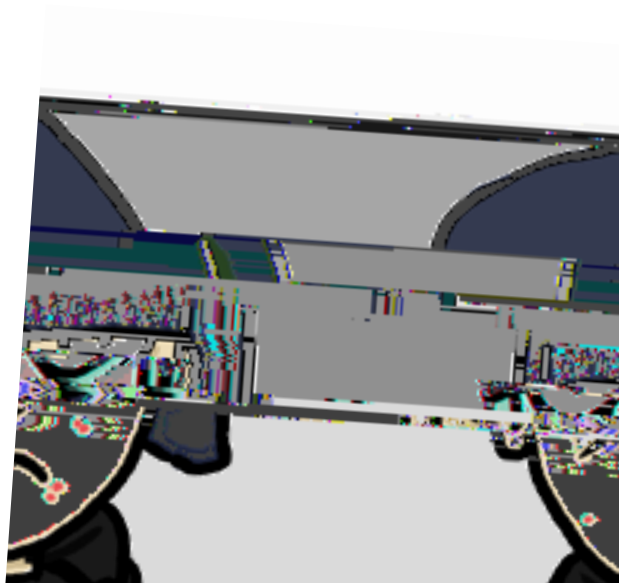


I had no idea if his friends were zombies too. It was clear that I needed to spy on Ollie with his friends so I could find out. It made sense. They were there on his birthday, the night he changed. Time to set up a stakeout...

Chapter Four

Are Zombies Real?

For a few weeks, I watched Ollie closely. I made a list in my book of the things I noticed. It was interesting to see how he acted around his friends. I was starting to think that maybe...



Jacob had been Ollie's friend for a long time.
But his other friend, Sarah, was new.

I was glad I set up the Secret Stakeout Den.
I could sit there with my book and when they
came out, I could see if they were the same as
Ollie. Maybe they were all zombies too!
" Ollie!" shouted Papa Tom. " It's time for your
friends to go home now!"

They came out of the bedroom and I took a
quick photo. All three had the same ripped

The air coming from Ollie's open door was DEFINITELY smellier than usual.
Just then, I sneezed. Achoo!
Oh no... Slowly, they all turned around and looked at me. Was it a trick of the light? Or did Ollie's eyes glow, just for a moment?



I had to tell someone. I went to find Papa Chris.

"Papa Chris? Are zombies real?" I asked.

Papa Chris looked up from his book.

"Of course not," he said. "They are only in that

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t y " I asked.

Chapter Five

The Bridesmaid

The next Saturday, Ollie didn't get out of bed until the afternoon, which was later than ever. Maybe he was getting worse...

I looked in my book.

I knew I had to get closer...



I tried to get closer to Ollie by sitting on the sofa near him. He was playing on his phone and didn't notice me. I moved closer... and closer...

"Urgh," he grunted at me. "Get off, Paige." But he wasn't too fast for me! I got a good sniff.



“Are you excited about Auntie Pippa’s wedding this weekend?” asked Papa Tom.

For a moment, I forgot all about Ollie being a zombie. I was VERY excited for Auntie Pippa’s wedding for one BIG reason. I was going to be a bridesmaid! I had a very special pink dress to wear, and flowers to carry.

Being a bridesmaid was very important. I had to help look after the bride! It was a very special job. But wait a minute! What if Ollie really was a zombie? A zombie at a wedding could cause all sorts of problems...

I couldn’t let this happen! It was my job as a bridesmaid to protect Auntie Pippa’s wedding from zombies. Even if the zombie WAS my brother Ollie.



I needed a plan. I turned the pages of my book.

It was time to get to work...

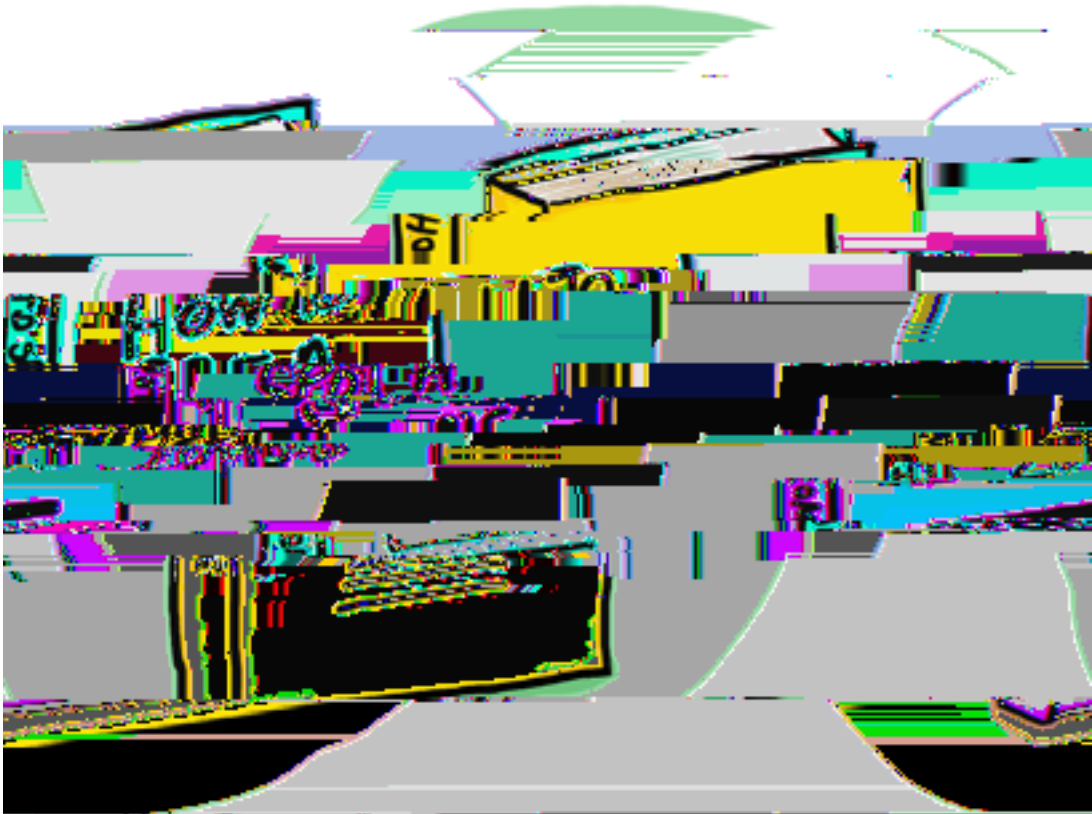


Chapter Six

The Wedding

The wedding day was bright and sunny.

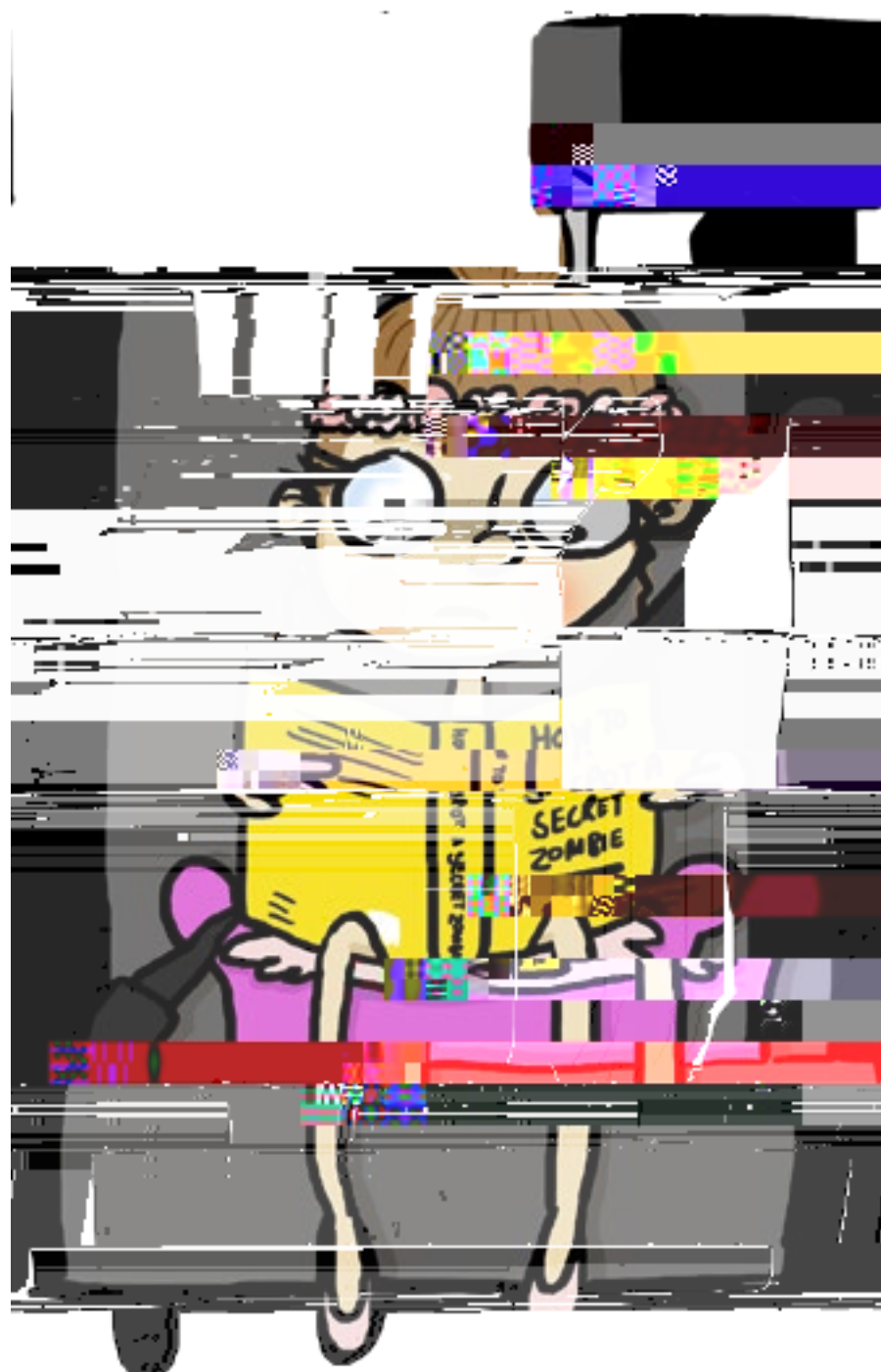
I needed to be ready. The book had a list of all the things I would need to take Ollie down and save the wedding.



YOU WILL NEED







He was even wearing a suit, just like Papa Tom and Papa Chris.

Ollie didn't look like a zombie at all...

Sitting in the back of the car on the way to the wedding, I took a good sniff. I couldn't smell anything bad at all. Ollie smelled of spices and soap.

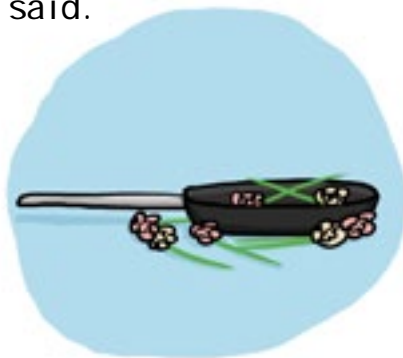
"You kids look great," said Papa Tom.

"You're growing up so fast," said Papa Chris.

"You look nice, Paige," said Ollie.

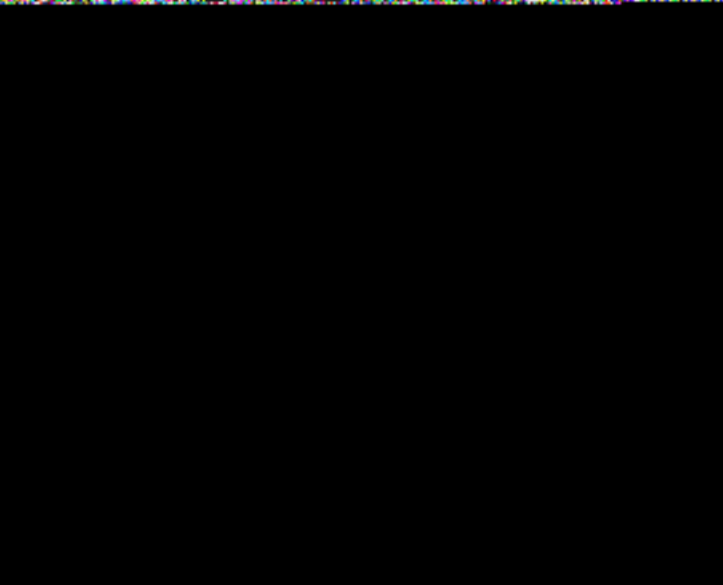
Wait. HE TALKED?

"You too," I said.



I watched Ollie closely all day. He sat nicely next to Papa Tom and Papa Chris while I walked with Auntie Pippa. The frying pan fell out when we were about halfway, but I hid it in my flowers. I don't think anyone noticed.







My Brother is a Zombie!

1. What is Ollie's full name?
2. What does Ollie like to wear?
 - (a) Dark sunglasses
 - (b) A woolly hat
 - (c) A long scarf
3. Why did Papa Chris help Paige look on the internet?
4. What did Paige hide in her flowers?
5. Do you think Paige is convinced that Ollie is a zombie?
How do you think she feels about him growing up?

An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of the Letters and Sounds document.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

BOOK BAND GRADED using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

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EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

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