

# Chapter 1



Today had been a really bad day for Kerry. Coming into Year 9 as a new girl was never going to be easy. And this school was very different from her old one. All the kids had stared at her. Then the teacher had said, "I want you all to welcome Kerry into our class. Kerry, you can sit over there."

And Kerry had tripped over some boy's bag and fallen – crash! Hair all over the place. Face red. Bag spilled everywhere. Kids laughing and pointing. And they'd gone on laughing and pointing all day.

"That's it! I'm never going back there," thought Kerry, as she set off home after school.

Only "home" didn't feel like home any more.





Kerry and Mum had moved to a new house. The house was old and dark, and it made odd noises. As she walked slowly up the road, Kerry could see there were no lights on. Mum must still be at work. Kerry felt the front door key in her pocket, but she didn't take it out. "I'm not going in until Mum gets back," she thought.

There was a big stone cross just over the road from the house. It had a ledge around it that you could sit on. Kerry sat there as the empty street grew darker. She started to feel cold.

"Oh, I wish I could go back to how things were before!" she said out loud.

"So do I," said a voice behind her.

Kerry almost jumped out of her skin.

