

Gabriella – The Dilemma

By Abigail Bentick

Gabriella Hawkins went missing three years ago. All the girls were daydreaming and making up rumours. (Me and Sylvie even heard a rumour that she was dead). They looked up Banshees and ghosts on the internet. “Hey Sylvie!” said my best friend Nadine. “You’ll never guess what old Mrs. O’Connor gave us for our nature project..... to find tree rot!”

I stared at her. Her face bright red with anger almost making her ugly (but its kind of impossible to make her look ugly) but then I looked down at her designer heels. Her skinny legs, her flat stomach and then at her face. She had made a complete recovery from her anger and started putting red lipstick on.

“What?” she said “No.....it’s.....nothing”, although she already knew how much I envied her.

“So what’s with this Gabriella Hawkins?”

“She is..... She was a girl in my class”, I explained. “Oh its kinda weird isn’t it”, “Mmmm I guess”, I replied.

Suddenly the bell rang and everyone scuttled inside. I was about to follow when Nadine grabbed my arm. “Come quick”, she whispered in my ear and pulled me towards the gate leading into the forest.

“We...we can’t go”, I whispered back getting scared.

“You’re not a baby are you, a thirteen year old girl scared of the woods,” she said giggling.

I knew what she was doing - winding me around her finger. I know I shouldn’t let her walk all over me but I can never win so I let her drag me into the woods. “What will we do if one of the girls tells on us”, I said desperately. “Oh stop being a party pooper”, said Nadine, getting into a strop. So I obediently changed the subject “So why are we in here”, I said cautiously. “Just follow me”. I started to get even more scared as Nadine steered me around the forest. “Why are you shaking” she said, demanding an answer.

“That’s a stupid question - you know why I am shaking”. “Oh Yeah ‘cos you’re a baby”, said Nadine running off. “So I suppose you don’t want to hear my secret”, said Nadine. Her voice seemed like a whisper because she was so far away. Then a minute later she stopped still, smiling at something up in the tree. “Why did you run away from me?” I said angrily.

“Because you were taking too long”.

I looked up and stared and I saw a tree house! Nadine saw me looking and saw me striking poses as if I was a photographer. “I know I’m a genius” “You did not build it yourself - did you?” “No of course not silly I got my Dad to do it for me,” she said as she climbed up the big tree house. We sat down on her flowery blanket and she dipped her hand into the bag and prised out two bags of crisps. “Come on! Let’s get out of here seeing as we have to find some tree rot anyway”, said Nadine sulking. “Come on” said Nadine, already half way down the forest.

Then I heard a scream. I knew it was Nadine’s scream. I ran down the stairs tripping over the steps. I ran and there was Nadine staring at the floor and there lying limply on the floor was Gabriella Hawkins screaming. “I think she broke her leg. I saw her fall out of the tree”, said Nadine springing into action. “Give me your phone, I’ll call my brother” I said frantically as I grabbed her phone. “He’s not answering”, I said starting to cry. “I’ll run and get your Dad. I’ll be back in a minute”, said Nadine squeezing my hand. Two hours later I was still waiting, getting hungry.

“I know I’m stupid. I shouldn’t have run away,” Gabriella said as she clutched my hand. “Is your hand sore”, I asked. “It’s ok”, she said weakly.

Where's Nadine?" I said desperately. "She will be here in a minute with the ambulance and police". "What! No I can't go back", She said in a scream. "What actually happened to you Gabriella", "Nothing ok now leave me alone", she shouted as she started to climb the tree she was leaning on again she screamed because her hand and knee were sore. I stared at her long hair way past her knees, her torn dress, her scuffed shoes and she even had some rotten teeth.

Ten minutes later Nadine came with my big brother Jordan. "Oh thank God you're alright", he said kissing my forehead "So where is Gabriella?" "I've got the ambulance and police" said Nadine" "I don't know - she climbed the tree and I never saw her again". I said starting to cry. "Cheer up Chickie" the policeman said happily "we'll find your friend". But to this day Gabriella Hawkins has never been found so if you go into the forest, call out her name!

A Kidnapping **By Adam Brennan**

One day my sister Emily and I were on our way to the shop and we met up with John the town rich man and he said to us "did ye all hear about the other disappearances". "Other disappearances I never knew" Emily said shocked. So we ran to the shop and bought a newspaper.

There it was in bold black print MISSING TWO 10yr OLD BOYS the story told how Marc & Cian Mc Mullen had not been seen since the previous day. There was a photo of the two of them. That brought the total of missing children to 6. The guards had been searching all day and night but did not know where the children were. All the parents were worried in case their child was next.

Me and Emily ran all the home. We knew Mam would be worried as she had told us not to delay. We showed her the story in the paper. She was shocked. She warned us not to leave the farm and to stay together at all times. That night I could not sleep. I sneaked in to Emily's room and she was wide awake too. We decided to sneak out of the house and go and look in the nearby forest for the missing children. We grabbed a backpack, two torches from dad's garage, a rope, a bottle of water and some Taytos (in case we got hungry).

Our dog Gizmo was crying in her bed so we brought her with us to help. We sneaked out hoping Mam and Dad would not see us. We knew we would be in trouble but we had to try and help our friends. We ran all the way to the forest it was very dark and quiet. Gizmo barked thinking she was going for a walk. We thought she would wake the whole village.

When we reached the forest it looked so strange in the dark and we were very afraid. Our torches lit it up so we could see our way. Some animals were out and Gizmo ran after them. She took off down a windy path deeper in to the forest. Emily was really frightened. We had no idea where we were. The place looked so different in the dark and nothing looked the same. She was crying and calling Gizmo to come back but she just kept running.

Suddenly it was quiet and then we heard Gizmo cry she had fallen down a small cliff and landed on a ledge. She was stuck. I got the rope we had brought and got Emily to help tie it to a nearby tree. We could tie knots because we both went to Scouts. I tied the rope around me and climbed down the cliff. Gizmo seemed ok so I picked her up and with Emily helping we got her back to the top. We put her lead on but she was still all excited she kept pulling us and wanted to go in one direction. We followed her and she finally stopped. There in front of us

was an old barn it looked run down but there was a light on so we knew someone was there. We were very frightened we could here some men shouting. They did not sound very happy. Then we saw the other children being loaded in to a van they were crying and looked really scared. We did not know what to do.

Emily decided to take down the number of the van and said we could give it to the guards. It was nearly morning and when the forest started to get brighter we realised where we were. I stayed to watch the barn and see what was happening. Emily ran as fast as she could to the village and let everyone know were the children where being kept. The guards came and the men were arrested all the children were ok. I herd someone say that they were going to sell the children.

Me and Emily were heroes. We got our picture in all the papers and we were on the news. We still got in trouble for sneaking out that night but we were soon forgiven! Gizmo got a big bone she was a hero too...

The Big Adventure **By Chloe Walsh**

"I told you that Jake did not go into the forest".

"Yes he did, I saw him go in". "

"Why didn't you stop him?"

"We had a fight!"

"He is your little brother you should have stopped him".

"Come on then, where are we going Zac".

"We are going to find him in the forest".

"I don't know about this, why?" "I think we should call our parents".

"No, we will be fine". "But what if we get lost?"

"We won't".

"How do you know",

"Because I'm your big brother you just have to trust me Samantha. Come on".

"Fine I'm coming".

Two hours later.....

"Jake, Jake where are you".

"I don't think he can hear you".

"How do you know?"

"We're in the forest for crying out loud".

"I suppose you're right it has been two hours where could he be".

"Samantha lets stop and think remember what Mother always said. She said not to panic because when you panic you can't think".

"Hey Zac loves water so lets look for a lake".

"Good thinking, hey there's a lake over there come on".

"Oh my God, there he is, Jake!"

"Sam, Zac you found me. Let's go home before mother and father kill us."

Our suspicions were right mother and father were angry with us for going into the forest. But as we explained they started to forgive us and soon enough we were off the hook and our parents were just happy we were safe but we still had to do our chores and help mother and father with the dinner

Story Cian

“Help! Help! They’re coming closer.” There were thousands of them maybe even millions. They were getting closer and devouring each other to get at them.....

It all started like any other Saturday. John had a soccer match and lost (as usual). He plays in goal for Stickleberry United and let in 18 goals that day. John was 9, he had weird looking glasses and curly, brown hair. His sister Sarah was 14, she was tall, she had long blond hair and lots of freckles. That morning, after soccer, John wanted to bring there dog, Pickles, for a walk. Sarah had to go with him. Sarah hated John but John didn’t mind her. They went to the wood down the road. There was something strange about the forest. The trees looked different and they didn’t remember the signs outside the forest. They went in and Sarah looked at her watch and it was 10 past 11. “That’s weird,” she said, “it was 20 past 12 when we left and it’s 10 past 11 now!!” “You’re just doing that to scare me,” said John. “No I’m not,” she said, “there’s something strange going on here.” John brought some pieces of pumpkin in a bag to drop behind him. Little did he know, somewhere else in

Lost In The Forest By Conor Renshaw

Me and my sister Jane love going to our uncle’s cottage which is at the edge of the forest. Once when we were there we went into the nearby town where we met some locals. They said don’t go into the forest. It’s full of trolls. But when we got back we decided to go for a walk. Where would we go? To the forest? No what about the trolls? It was only those boy’s trying to scare us. We decided to go and then we headed off. It soon began to get cold and dark. I didn’t like it. “Are you sure there were no trolls there?” I said. “What was that?” cried Jane. Jane started to run. I ran after her. We thought we were heading out of the forest but it just kept getting darker and colder. We were lost. Suddenly we heard a loud roar. That time it was a louder cry. “Jane, calm down,” I said, “There’s no such thing as trolls.” “No such thing as trolls,” It echoed back, in a deep gruff voice. “Now I’m really scared,” said Jane. “Now I’m really scared,” it echoed back again. “And HUNGRY!” “Ahhh,” - we looked behind us and saw two green eyes in the dark. “Mamma children for teas tonight”, said the voice.

The ground started to shake as the thing came towards us. Still, we couldn't see it until it was nearly on top of us. It was a troll, about 10 feet tall, hairy with a hunched back, long claws and very bad breath.

"Mom children for tea tonight," he roared.

"You don't want to eat us," I shouted, "we don't taste very nice".

"Let me be the judge of that," said the troll as he grabbed us.

He tied us up and took us back to his lair. There was a big fire going with a pot boiling.

"If you are going to eat us can I have one last request"? I said.

"Well why not", said the troll. "Happy meat is sweeter meat".

Fortunately, I had read that trolls are really stupid, even though I didn't believe in them.

"Before you eat us can we play our favourite game of hide and seek and we'll even let you be on". I said.

"Hmmm I suppose there is time one quick game wouldn't hurt".

He untied us and turned around and started to count, - one, two, three, four, five, seven (I told you trolls were stupid). Jane and I had the chance to run while the troll was counting to a hundred. We ran as fast as we could from the troll. Soon it began to get brighter until we reached the edge of the forest. There we were in front of us was our uncle's cottage. "Where have you two been?" he asked. "You wouldn't believe us if we told you", I said.

Forest Of The Lost Soul

By Cormac Lehn

"Remember stay away from the woods." Their Dads voice kept repeating in Mark's and Abby's head. But why? Mark couldn't get his head around it but his soon to be step sister Abby knew all too well. Abby let her short blonde hair down and rolled up the sleeves of her purple jacket whilst carefully observing everything looking north, south, east and west looking for any clues of the Stanville town mystery.

However Mark was entertaining himself with a Nintendo DS. "Oh my god it's a locket," Abby cried, "Not just a locket... the locket." Mark was confused. Abby explained how 3 years ago a girl was declared lost and this was her locket. "At first people thought she ran away", explained Abby. She put on the locket. She was about to tell him more about it but suddenly a bolt of lightning struck 2 metres away. It was followed by a fiercely loud thunder. They ran for safety. All they could feel was the ice cold wind rushing past their face. It then started lashing rain. Next thing they heard a deafening moan that could be heard all over Ireland. It wasn't thunder, it wasn't the wind, if definitely wasn't the rain. So what was it?

It was the trees. They let out another deafening cry and then the branches swooped down at them. The next tree tried to crush them and the next tried to catch them. They were dodging the trees whilst fighting off the rain and wind. Then right before Mark's eyes Abby was swooped up by a tree. "Help me, Mark please help me," Abby screamed. She kicked and she pushed but it was no use. Would this be the end of her? But just then a ball of lightning struck the tree. It immediately caught fire and released Abby. She was free. They thought it

was all over but the worst was yet to come. The storm had settled down by now but they were drowned wet.

“This is all your fault - you’re the one who wanted to come here,” complained Mark, “Oh look.” The forest was dark and you could see who was all serious now. “Where are we anyway”, Abby replied. A foot away from them it was all misty. They silently walked on for miles because they were so annoyed with each other. They didn’t even look at each other until they heard something up in the hills. It wasn’t something magical like living trees.

“Wolves” Abby whispered. “Hooooowl”, howled the wolves. The howling repeated “Howl, howl, HOWL” and every time it was getting louder. “Come on”, Abby whispered. Slowly she reversed, but then she fell over a rock and fell backwards onto a boulder. She had such a hard fall her locket fell off. She was about to scream in pain but before she could Abby passed out. “Help, help, somebody help”, Mark pleaded for help at the top of his lungs. But no one heard him and all it seemed to do was make a long echo.

“Howl, howl, howl”, the howls were getting louder meaning the wolves were getting closer. Mark panicked. “Oh God, what will I do.” Suddenly a wolf jumped out from the mist followed by a pack of wolves. They looked extremely vicious and extremely hungry. But just then Mark heard a horn from way up in the hills. The wolves seemed to respond to it like children respond to the home time bell. They growled and sprinted back up the hills.

“Where am I”, asked Abby. “You’re alright”, Mark exclaimed. He helped her up. “Thanks..... look I’m sorry”, Mark interrupted “no I’m sorry. Then they both smiled at each other. On their search for a way out Mark asked, “So what happened?” Abby did not understand. “Oh yeah the girl, well at first people thought she ran away, then they thought she was kidnapped, then rumours spread that she was dead”, she gulped. “Are you ok you look really guilty?” asked Mark. “Well you see, last month some tourist swore they saw her in the forest but...but...” What, what”, “I was her best friend ok I dared her to go into the forest and she never came back”. Abby fell to her knees and she cried. And this was her locket. She took it out of her pocket and put it around her neck. “If I could bring her back I would”. Mark looked down in sorrow at Abby.

Just then the water from a nearby river splashed up and swooped them both off their feet. They were going down the river at a tremendous speed. Swirling them and spinning them and splashing them. “Oh God look,” Abby pointed at the waterfall ahead. “Oh God”, shouted Mark, he clung onto a branch sticking out of the water and pulled back. Abby clung on too. “Wait a minute,” Mark continued. “When you put on the locket the storm started and those wolves nearly attacked us, but when you fell over and your locket fell off the wolves left us alone”. Mark paused to give Abby a chance to think. “Abby, can’t you see its your locket that’s doing this.”

Mark couldn’t hold on any longer and let go. He was about to go down the dangerous waterfall that was at least 100 feet high. In a desperate attempt to save her soon to be stepbrother Abby pulled off the locket and threw it away. In that second the fast current calmed. They watched the locket float away down the river but just then a hand came down from the bank and took out the locket. “Grace, Grace it’s.... it’s you,” Abby said. “Who’s Grace?” Mark suddenly copped on. “Oh my God you’re alive”. “Thank you”, Grace said. “Thank you for finding my locket and from saving me from my curse now I can live.

At that moment everything changed. Mark was gone and it seemed they were back to the day Abby dared Grace to go into the woods. “Ok here I go”, Grace shivered. Abby realised she was given a chance to save Grace. She clung onto Grace’s shirt. “Come on lets go home this is a stupid game”, Abby said. “What made you change your mind”, asked Grace. “If only you knew Grace, if only you knew.....

Lost At Sea
By Danny Carpenter

“Help! Mam, Dad, John, anybody?! My leg is trapped. Please help”, shouted Beckie. When nobody answered, she knew there was nobody within hearing distance. Beckie looked at her arm. There was a nasty cut just above her wrist. She saw what had caused it. It was a piece of the boat wreckage sticking out and it was really sharp. Beckie knew how to treat the wound because she had done first aid when she was fifteen, three years earlier. But she needed to find a first aid kit.

Before she could do that she needed to move what was trapping her leg. It looked like a door from the boat. She put her hands underneath it and lifted it just high enough to pull her leg out. There didn’t appear to be any damage done. She stood up. She had a slight limp but that would go away. She limped around looking for the first aid kit. Suddenly she thought she spotted a Red Cross symbol and limped over to the box buried in the sand. She dug it out, delighted to find it was it. She took out some plasters and a bottle of antiseptic and put some on the wound and plastered it up. She fixed up her other minor cuts also. All in all she used up a quarter of the bottle of antiseptic and eight plasters. She would have to be more careful. Her Mam, Dad and John, her annoying little brother, but only by two years as he always reminded her, might have some cuts too.

She remembered last night when her dad told her to brace herself because they were about to hit the reef of an island. That was it she thought, she was on an island. On a beach that was on an island. The beach was surrounding a forest well it was more like a jungle but she would call it a forest. Then she had a sudden thought. Had her family been washed out to sea? She may have hated John but she didn’t want him dead and she definitely didn’t want Mam or Dad dead. I have to find them even if they are dead she thought. She ran as fast as she could. To her relieve she noticed that her limp was gone. That was a good sign. She stopped. She thought she had heard a rustling from a bush in the forest. Then out of the forest came John. “Where were you?” Beckie asked shocked. “With Mam and Dad,” John said smugly. “Where are they?” asked Beckie. “In the forest trying to make a trap. Dad thought he saw some wild boar,” he said in a matter of fact tone. “How come you don’t seem surprised to see me?” she asked. “I saw you before I left to find Mam and Dad. After I found them, they told me to go back and get you.” “Well now that you have found me let’s go back to Mam and Dad”, Beckie said. “Alright, alright calm down”, he said.

It took them about an hour to get there but when she saw her Mam and Dad she ran over to them and gave them a big hug. “I’m so glad my big girl is okay!” her Mam said. “Glad to see you back Becks”, her dad said. “Good to see you too!” said Beckie. “Oohh, so happy to see you all too”, said John in a real mocking tone. “Shut up!” they all said at the same time. “Alright then”, he said sulking. “So, Dad, can you explain to me how are you going to build the trap?”

Beckie asked. "We are using two broken parts of the boat as makeshift doors and there will be a net so when something falls into it and lands in the net the weight of that something will bring the net down and when the net goes down the doors close." Beckie was just about to say something, when John walked out from behind some trees with his head down and walking dangerously close to the trap. Then John tripped over his shoelace and fell into the trap. "That was smart", said Beckie. "I'll get him", she said to her Dad. Beckie opened up the doors and put them on the latch. "Get me out of here now!" John shouted at her. "Ok give me your hand", she said. She helped him out.

"Oh by the way Mam, I found the missing part of your bracelet and he handed it to her. "Oh thank god!" Mam said. "I know it was your grandmother's but isn't our priority getting off this island?" Beckie said. "Of course it is", her mother snapped. "But this bracelet means a lot to me." "We should start to build a raft to get off this place. We can use a sharp piece of the wreckage and a strong stick as an axe to cut some bamboo down and make a raft. We will just make a simple raft by looking for some vines to tie it together," said Dad.

We had been heading dead straight for Brazil when we hit the reef so Dad suggested we go back to the wreckage and get the other first aid kits. There should be three of them. Then we would head to the other side of the island, build the rafts there and set off from that point. He thought we would have the best chance of being found on that course and that we might get noticed by a fishing trawler.

After one hour they reached the wreckage with Dad leading the way. After another couple of hours they had the three first aid kits and four pieces of sharp wreckage, and they found five bottles of water from the wreckage. Dad had found some bamboo and he had brought some of the vines he had found on the way. But he needed to have a knife to cut some of the stronger vines. Just then John took out a knife he had found in the wreckage. Beckie realised that John wasn't such an annoying brother any more. "It's not ideal but it will have to do", said Dad. While coming back Beckie had left one of the pieces of the wreckage so they could pick up the trail again. We will go and pick up the trail again and head for the other side of the island and start to build the raft.

Before they got there, they heard a big loud stomping noise coming towards them. They ran as fast as they could towards the beach. Whatever it had been it had really scared them. They didn't want to go back into the jungle at night so they shared one of the bottles of water and Dad still had a little bit of the net from the trap and he used it to catch some fish. Beckie ate absentmindedly and she thought about her home in Washington DC. She thought about how rich her family the O'Neill's were and of their beautiful home. She remembered how her Dad on the evening of June 30th, her school holidays had announced that they were going on a cruise from Brazil to France in Europe. When they got to France, he had told them they would rent a car and drive to Euro Disney. She was so excited and couldn't wait to set off. Little did she realise she would end up in this situation.

In the morning they went back into the jungle and they were very cautious. They got to the trap. There was a family of three wild boars in the trap. Dad had told them to go and cut some vines and bamboo. He said he would prepare the boar for eating. Then he would bring some of the meat to the beach. When the three of them set off, Beckie was given the job of cutting the vines while Mam and John had to cut the bamboo. Five days later, they had the raft built. They would leave at sunrise the next day. They had found a stream on their travels and so filled up all their water bottles ready for the journey. They had stocked up on some fruit from the jungle and had prepared some boar meat to bring with them. They needed to eat a big dinner before they set off, so they went back to the trap to see if anything had gotten caught in it since. They were about to bring the piglet they found there back to camp when they heard

the stomping noise again. It was coming straight for them. They dropped everything and ran. While they were running, Beckie noticed that their mother was gone. She shouted at Dad but he said to keep running and they could find her later. At long last, the thing stopped chasing them.

They walked in the direction of the beach calling for their Mam. They were passing by a lot of puddles. It had rained heavily the night before. They had got the worst of it. They had been on the beach. Beckie stopped when she thought she saw Mam's bracelet in one of the puddles. She bent down to pick it up. In the reflection she could see a body in the tree. "Oh my god", they screamed, "it's Mam!" They dropped to their knees and started to cry. After a couple of hours Dad got up and said "We better get back to camp." They followed him in silence. Suddenly, Beckie looked up but Dad had disappeared. "John", Beckie said, "I think we're lost." They walked for hours arguing over which direction to take but finally they reached the beach and their Dad was there waiting anxiously. "We are going to have to forget about your mother and try to get off this island as quick as we can. We will have to tell people she drowned in the accident on the boat because I don't know what killed her", Dad said in a sad voice.

Early the next morning they set off. After a three day diet of passion fruit and raw fish Beckie was really sick. Her brother insisted on leaving the head on the fish he gave her. They were all getting very angry with each other because they were tired and hungry. She wished so much she could be at home in her own bed and dreamt of a nice warm bath. Suddenly she spotted something in the distance. Was it a fishing boat?! She woke Dad and John who were sleeping in the hot midday sun. Hurray they were safe!

They finally got back to their home in Washington DC. They would always miss their mother but they were relieved to be home. Beckie went on to become a nurse, John a lumberjack and Dad became a tour guide in a forest just outside Washington DC.

Magic In The Air **By Elaine Brennan**

"Help! Help!" said John.

"Would you just stop, this is all your fault anyway. I told you, you were playing too near to the forest and then your ball went in there. "And now we are lost," I said.

"Can you not get us out of here?" said John.

"Ok, ok. We have to stop arguing and find our way out of here."

We were walking for ages but no matter where we went we were lost. After about two hours of that we sat down to try and decide what to do. Maybe we could set a fire and people would notice it and save us John suggested. "No way," I replied, "That only works in movies."

"I think we should split up and we might be able to find our way out of here alone," said John. "No way - Mam and Dad would kill me. You are only eight years old and this forest is too dangerous for you."

"Well I have my pen knife in my back pocket so maybe we can make something to help us," said John.

"Ok then let's go our separate ways but if you need any help call for me. Let's go." I said.

So we set off. I went right and he went left. Then I thought to myself what a dirty forest it was. There was slime on all the trees. It was dark from the branches and leaves covering the sun. Further on I saw some big footprints. Oh my God I thought what have I done? I just remembered my Dad had told me never to go into the forest because there is a legend about a bear who lives in the forest. That's why nobody ever comes here or lives nearby. My poor little brother is all alone in this forest! Suddenly I heard a cry for help. It was John. I ran as fast as I could but I had to get up into a tree to see him. He was lying on the ground in the distance unconscious. When I got there I shouted to him to wake up! I looked around. He was lying on his back and he had a big cut on his eyelid but he shouldn't be unconscious just from that cut alone.

When I lifted him up his small little penknife was sticking in his stomach. There was a pool of blood on the ground and I didn't know what to do. I told him he would be ok and that I would take care of him. But I didn't have a clue what to do next. How was I meant to take care of him? Then I thought of the first aid course I had done earlier in the year and I reached for my little pocketbook of instructions. It was gone. I must have dropped it when I was running. I got up on the tree and there it was hanging on a branch. When I moved it fell and I lost sight of it. I walked towards where it had fallen but it had disappeared in the darkness. I ran back to John.

He was starting to come around and was moaning. Before he did I moved him against the trunk of the tree to try and keep him warm. When he woke he vomited and then he felt better. I asked him what had happened but he just shook his head. I said to him that I had to go and find my first aid book and kit and that I would be back soon. As soon as I had it said I got up on the tree and hesitated for a moment. Then I jumped down where I thought the book fell. When I fell to the ground I looked up. It was completely dark and even scarier than the other bit of the forest. I couldn't seem to see my first aid kit. Then I heard something coming. So I ran behind a tree. It was the bear. I gasped with fright. I was so shocked after all that had happened I couldn't move. Suddenly I saw my kit. The bear was about to step on it but I moved to distract him. The bear growled and ran too. My heart was beating so fast but I climbed up a tree and the bear stopped at the bottom of it looking up and growling. He hit the tree with his huge paw. After a few minutes he stopped and fell asleep.

I didn't know what to do because if I got down he would certainly eat me but I was afraid he would notice John and eat him. I had to make a move. I had to save John. I got down slowly and reached for the kit trying so hard not to wake the bear. I grabbed it and ran to where John was. When I got there, John was lying there half conscious. He looked at me with fear in his eyes and then he recognised me. I got a bandage and some drops to help the pain in his eyes. I got a clean wipe and got a grip of the penknife and tried to pull it out when John said shouted at me in pain to stop. I gave it one last pull and it came out and the blood flowed out. John screamed really loudly waking the bear. I quickly stuck a bandage on the wound and lifted John up and started to run. At least the darkness meant the bear couldn't see exactly where we were but he could smell the blood I was sure. We had to get up a tree and quick. We climbed slowly up the nearest tree and when we got to the top we could see daylight shining through the leaves. The bear was at the base of the tree shaking it and roaring. We wouldn't last long at this rate. We screamed for help but no one heard us. I heard something whispering, "You will be ok, the trees will take care of you."

All I thought was trees don't move or do anything. How could they save us? The bear was ready to knock over the tree but a big old branch of the tree we were in came down and hit the bear. Of course this only made the bear angrier and he knocked down the tree. Before we fell to our death a big branch of a nearby tree reached out and caught us just in time. "I told you we would take care of you," said a deep voice from the tree. The bear looked around in all the trees but couldn't spot us because the branches of the tree were wrapped so tightly around us.

The bear turned and tried to sniff us out. The branch we were on got its leaves and put it over the blood that was on John to prevent the odour from reaching the bear's nostrils. We could not believe our eyes.

At last the bear left with an angry growl. We breathed a sigh of relief as we saw him walk away. The trees gathered around us and spoke kindly to us. They told us they had been watching all that had happened to us but that they could not help us during daylight and could only move and speak when night fell. We thanked them very much for saving our lives. We could not believe we were talking to trees!

"Now it is time to bring you children home," said one of the trees, "Hold on tight!" He stretched out the branch he was sitting on and it stretched and stretched through the entire forest. From the height we were at we could see all the beauty of the forest at night and all the little creatures waved goodbye to us. Suddenly our village came into view and we could see the lights of our own house in the distance and lots of people gathered outside it ready to start a search for us. The tree gently dropped us on the ground at the edge of the forest and we stood up and turned to thank him. But he was gone. John leaned on my shoulder and hopped as best he could across the field towards home. Suddenly we were spotted. We heard our parents call out our names - "Lily! John! There you are!"

Our parents gave us a great big hug like only parents can give. They took us home and called the doctor for John. Soon we were drinking hot chocolate and sitting by the fire relaxing. "Now," said Dad, "explain yourselves. What happened?" So we told our story about how we went into the forest and got lost and that John fell over a rock and his penknife in his pocket stuck in his side. Dad wanted to know how we found our way home. "We are not as helpless as you think, Dad," I said and winked at John, "We had some help from very special friends!"

Castle Clue Tour **By Emma Heffernan**

Once upon a time Jemma's brother, Jimmy got lost in the forest. Jemma went to look for him. Jemma saw a big yellow tree with 700 eyes. She fell back and fell into a pit. It was ten feet deep. "I can't get out", she said. She found her phone. "I will ring someone to get me out," she said but the battery was low. She saw a cave so she went in to the cave. Inside the cave there were bones of dinosaurs and bones of mummies.

She found twigs and sticks so she put the sticks and twigs together with mud to make a ladder. She climbed up the ladder. "I made it", she said "now I have to look for my brother." There was her brother lying beside a tree. Jimmy was still alive but with a broken arm and leg. "We better go to the hospital with you". "Use my phone to ring the ambulance" he said. "We have to get you into surgery" the ambulance driver said when he arrived. "Would you like to come". "Yes" I said. "Right well you sit there and tell me how this happened".

Well we were walking past this tree with 700 eyes and I fell back into this pit. I got back up I realised Jimmy was lost. I found him lying beside the tree with a broken arm and a broken

leg. At the hospital Mammy and Daddy came. "How I missed you," I said. "I will bring you home now", said Mammy.

Freak Forest **By Gavin Walsh**

My sister and I walked into a forest. We walked for about an hour into the thick forest trees. Then I said, "I think we're lost". It was beginning to get dark and it was raining. It was slippy and soggy. We turned around and there was a skunk. He was big and green and had flames in his eyes. I thought he was evil. We ran as hard as we could. Then we turned back to look. Then we fell off a cliff. We kept falling. We fell into a really deep pool. After a few minutes we woke up and there were two people standing over us - a man and a woman. The woman said to me "You got a nasty bump". I had a really bad headache. They gave me a tablet for it. We went home and got our dinner and I told my mother the story and she said, "I'm putting yup posters in the streets telling people not to go in there". But I said "I'm going in there tomorrow on my own.". My mum said "You are never to go in there again". I ignored her and went to bed.

Early the next morning I got some food and some weapons. I took my time, thinking. When I came to the entrance of the forest I took out a knife and began walking. Then I heard a noise in the bush. I went to look. It was a wolf. It tried to attack me so I had to stab it. I felt sorry for the wolf. I climbed a tree to see if I could see anything. And there he was making a fire with some fish. I climbed down the tree and walked forward and I asked, "Who are you and what are you?" He replied "My name is Robbie and I'm an ogre". I said, "Are you hungry? I have some beans, sausages, bread and ketchup." He said, "I'm starving. I have only fish and garlic". "I have a dish," I said, "We can put the food in that."

We had some sausages, bread, beans and ketchup and garlic. He said "Thank you for the food it was lovely". I said "No bother at all". We talked for a while. He said "Why did you run away from me yesterday?" I said "You looked scary but now I know you are a nice ogre unlike other ogres." I showed him my knives. I gave him one to keep because he was my friend. He showed me his house, well it was a shack. I said to him "I will be back in a few hours unless you want to come with me". So he came with me. We got some old tables and chairs and some forks and knives for his house. Once they were in he tested them out. He said "They're perfect, thanks". I said "If I get lots of money I will buy you some new furniture". He said "You don't have to if you don't want to." I said, "No I will because you are my friend."

Then I went home and told my Mum. She gave out to me for going into the forest. But I told her the ogre was nice to me and we had dinner together. She said "So will we take the posters down". "No", I said "Because he wants peace and quiet". She said "Ok then". Then I said I was going back the next day to bring him some food. So I went to bed. The next morning I made some pancakes and brought them to him. The next few days I brought him more food some sausages, bread, bacon, pancakes. He loved them all. I stayed with him for over and hour every day. For years I visited Robbie. He grew very old and died at age 112.

Lost in the forest **Jagoda Orlowicz**

Once upon a time there was a brother and sister called Gavin and Chloe. Gavin asked his mother and father could he go to the forest and get some blue berries. "Please please", said Gavin. "Ok" said Dad "But be back home at half past 9". "Ok", said Chloe and Gavin.

Chloe and Gavin found lots of blueberries and Chloe saw two foxes and she ran into the foxes. She forgot what Dad had said she had to go home at half past 9. She looked at her watch there; it was 12 minutes past 10. It was dark. The wolf cried woowo woowo. Chloe and Gavin were scared. Gavin asked Chloe how do we go back home. "I don't know". said Chloe

"Something smells nice", said Gavin. "What is this" said Chloe. "I don't know, come with me and we will look to see what this is", said Gavin.

"That is a big cookie house, wow" said Chloe. "I'm hungry". "Can I take a piece of cookie and some sweets, I think so". They were eating cookies. She forgot about everything. They were eating and eating and eating. Somebody said "Come over here", said an old woman, "I have more sweets at home". "Ok said Gavin and Chloe. "There are no sweets", said Gavin. "Yes", said the old woman "Because I am nice and I want to eat you", said the witch to Gavin. "I don't want to be eaten", said Gavin. You and Chloe can be cooking and cleaning my house, every day. You give to your brother sweets and food. If he is heavy I will eat him. One day when Gavin was heavy the witch said "today I put you in the cooker ha ha ha". "I don't know how to go to the cooker", said Gavin. "I will show you", said the witch. Gavin and Chloe put the witch into the cooker and they ran from her house. Gavin and Chloe ran home to mum and dad and they are very happy.

The Mystery Forest **By Katie Mullins**

Friday morning 22nd March was Sophie Gilmore's school tour to the Mystery Forest. The mystery forest was in Kerry. Sophie's school was in England so it was a long way to Kerry but it was worth it. Sophie was on the tour bus on the way to the airport and everyone was talking about how cool it was to be going to Kerry. She was sitting beside her best friend Liz Brennan. Her little brother Mike was in 4th class and he was going too but he was on a different bus and he was already having a great time. The driver on Sophie's bus turned on the radio and they sang all the way to the airport.

When they got there Sophie and Mike took out their passports. On the passport it gave all their identity about Sophie her age: 10; her name: Sophie Gilmore and her description green eye's brown curly hair. A few minutes later they were on the plane. Liz had some games to play on the flight. Soon enough Sophie started to feel tired and she was soon asleep. She slept for the whole flight.

When they got off the plane they went straight to the forest. Everyone was divided up in to different groups. Mike and Sophie were put together. Everyone was very interested in the forest. There was loads of fun stuff to do. Every group had a tour guide who told them all about the mystery forest. There was a rumour going around the forest that some people died in

this forest and came alive at night and killed whoever disturbed them. There was a big old castle inside the forest with loads of rooms. Sophie's group had a quick tour of the castle. Mike found a rope that led him around the castle floor. Sophie was his supervisor so she had to follow him. She called him back but he wouldn't listen. He kept going and she kept following him. It kept going for ages. Soon it stopped. It had led them to a wall with some writing on it. It was a clue for something in castle. It directed them to go to the stair case. They were tempted to find out what it was. Sophie said, "We have to go before they go without us ". They turned to go back but they did not know which way was back. They were lost and left behind. Finally they found they were outside and the rumour had become real. Soon she could hear this scary noise

"Whoooooooooooo.....Whoooooooooooo.....Dumdum....Dumdum."

She did not want to frighten Mike so she acted calm. Another scary noise was coming from behind her - it was Mike's ipod. She said "Stop that you are the reason we're here", Mike didn't really care he said "Can we go and find that clue".

She thought this was a bad idea but she went along with Mike. Sophie and Mike suddenly went and found the clue. It was above the staircase and the attic. They knew where it was they just didn't know how to get up there. On the attic door it said - "The thing that led you to the first clue will lead you to the last". They thought and thought.

Finally Mike said "The rope can get us up there". "That's it", said Sophie "Let's go get it". Sophie was the tallest so she flung the rope up and it caught in the door. They pulled at the rope just to make sure it wouldn't fall. Mike was the first to climb up and Sophie followed. At the top were old pots, old vases, old portraits and in the middle was a crown belonging to King Ross the third. Sophie took her digital camera and took some pictures to show to everyone. She and Mike might have discovered history but they were still trapped.

Soon she could hear "Wake up, wake up, It was Liz. She was saying, "We're here, get up." Soon she realized that it had all been just a dream. She got off the bus and had a great time at the mystery Forest but not like she had imagined it. Soon it was over and everyone enjoyed the Mystery Forest. She went straight back to England. Her and Mike told their Mum and Dad what a great day they had and Sophie kept the dream all to herself.

The Broken Tree **By Marc Drennan**

Once Joe and Mary reunited when their mother and father agreed that every second week one of them will mind the children because of their divorce. Joe and Mary had heard their Granny talking about how their mother and father used to go the forest at the far side of the river Brannon from where five people have been missing since 2007. The people were local neighbours whom Joe and Mary knew very well. The children were not allowed to go to the forest but that would not stop them. Joe wanted to pretend to be a detective and look for the five people. Which seems fairly impossible since it was two years ago.

Joe persuaded Mary to go but Mary did not like the idea but in the end Mary agreed to go. That night they got their gear ready, their boots, their caps and all the rest. It was a mile away so they left a bit earlier than planned. So after 15 minutes they got there. Joe climbed a tree to look for the sparkling rock their mother and father used to go to. They never knew why it was called the sparkling rock.

Then Joe caught a glimpse at the corner of his eye of the huge tall rock. So they ran as quickly as they could to get to the rock and when they got there the rock was covered with graffiti. Top to bottom, side to side it was like there was a mural on the wall. They carved their names onto the rocks with stones. They realised by now that their father would probably notice that the children are not there. And they knew in a few minutes their Dad would have a search party looking for them.

Then the children heard chainsaws not a far distance away. So they went to see who had the chainsaws. Joe was hungry so he took a basket out of his bag. It was full of sandwiches. They sat down next to a tree and ate. When they were finished they tidied up and went to see who had the chainsaws. As they were getting down Mary saw a cave. Mary loved caves and she wanted to go in but Joe didn't. Mary nearly started to cry so Joe said "Right so we'll go in". Mary jumped into the air.

They went in. It was dark and very wet. There was a river flowing at the side and then they heard shouting in the cave. Mary felt scared so they left and just as they were out they heard another shout saying "Hey, you kids what are you doing - get out". They ran as fast as they could and then they heard the chainsaws getting closer and closer. They noticed men cutting down trees. A man was just finished cutting a tree. The tree fell on Mary. There was panic around the forest.

Mary was bawling her eyes out. Everybody rushed to her. The workers called ambulances and fire brigade. But it was too late - the weight of the tree was too much for Mary. She had passed away. This time Joe bawled his eyes out. They got the tree off Mary and she was rushed to hospital. His father came as quickly as he could he started giving out to Joe for bringing them to the forest. "You are not allowed to go to the forest, you know that".

The funeral was huge. Everyone who knew Mary was there. From then on Joe never went to the forest again.

The Tribes of War **By Marcus Hogan**

Once again Johnny and Lulu were taking their daily swim in the Canal in the Forest when somebody shouted very loudly, "They're coming". Johnny and Lulu knew who was coming and they had to get out of there fast. Johnny was a blond haired boy and an absolute rock climbing fanatic. Johnny had 7 rock climbing trophies and Lulu the blond haired girl really loved swimming but really hated rock climbing. They live just a mile away from a forest called Macho Forest. It is divided into two parts Eastern Macho which belongs to the Macho tribe and Western Macho which belongs to the evil Future tribe and every once and a while the future tribe would try to attack Eastern Macho.

Johnny ran and Lulu followed. They ran to an old rusty car that had remained burned ever since the war of Macho in 1928. They hid behind the car and right behind it was a fully loaded gun. Johnny picked it up and they both ran for their lives towards a patch of sand mainly in Western Macho though but they legged it toward the bit in Eastern Macho. They saw the Future Tribe invading Eastern macho when suddenly two of the tribe members caught them. Johnny and Lulu ran a little bit and then Johnny pulled out the gun and started to shoot at the tribe members. They made a break for the mountain called Macho Point. It seemed like everywhere they went they would almost certainly be caught. They reached the mountain and Johnny, completely forgetting about Lulu, started to climb the mountain better than he

ever did. Lulu climbed a little bit and then fell back down while Johnny was nearly half way up. The Future Tribe caught up with Lulu and captured her. She was scared motionless. Johnny was too far up to help her now but when Johnny turned back around he was cornered as well.

They brought Johnny to a cave in the mountain and tied him up and they brought Lulu up to the top of the mountain and they were going to throw her off the mountain. They started to ask Johnny questions. One very tall man came up to him and shouted "Where is your leader", Johnny answered "What Leader". "We know you know what we are talking about", the man shouted. They all left the cave and went to the top where they were going to drop Lulu off the top of the mountain. Lulu screamed and screamed for Johnny but Johnny was still being held in captivity when suddenly the Future tribe hit man came and freed Johnny because he did not agree with the killing of children. Johnny climbed up the mountain and snuck behind the men and shot the men. He shot them again just to be sure. Johnny freed Lulu. Lulu jumped on Johnny's back and they went down the mountain. Their Mum and Dad were waiting at the bottom.

Their mother was saying "My babies, my sweet little babies are back". Johnny was not in the mood and said "We're fine Mam. Johnny and Lulu were proclaimed heroes across the Macho region for ending the evil Future tribe and freeing the region from war.

Castle Clue Tour **By Martyna Morela**

"Amy, Amy wake up".

I heard someone calling me. I opened my eyes wildly and saw Dave bending down beside me with his eyes in tears. "I thought you were dead," he cried, "don't do that again." I was lying on the sand between my two brothers. Dave the blond haired one and Michael the brown haired one. Dave was the eldest. He was 24. Me and Michael are 18.

"Hey Michael how did we get here "asked Dave "Where are we?" Michael said nothing. He was just walking up and down. I stood up and I looked around. Behind us were lots of trees. To our left hand side there was an ocean and a beach and on the other side well.....there were some parts of a plane and some body parts (it was disgusting) and of course more trees. It was very hot with no clouds in the sky, not even a tiny one.

"Ok I'm fed up with this," said Dave. "Amy will you stand up and get some wood and Michael you go with her and get some leaves".

"And what about you," I asked, "I'm going to look for rope or something like that." "Fine, but we will meet up here in about two hours," I said. We went to the forest - it was kind of darker place but ... it was beautiful with lots of flowers I've never seen and lots of birds. I was wandering around and my brother was walking very...very slowly. He was shaking and suddenly he went very pale and he looked like hugging himself. I stopped and I shouted out "Are you ok Michael." He jumped and started screaming. I was laughing and then he said to me that he was very scared and not to do that again. Then we came to a blank spot with no trees (except they were around us) and no flowers. Then Michael shouted out, "We're lost - how are we going to get back." Then he sat on the ground and started to hug his legs. I was looking around and then I realized I had my phone. I tried to call Dave (who always had his

phone) but it didn't work 'cause there was no signal (like well done we are in the forest somewhere). Me and Michael started to call out to Dave but then we realized that there is no point of shouting because we are in the middle of the forest. And then Michael suggested that maybe we could follow our own footprints so we could find the way we got up here. We did that and we started to pick up the things that Dave had told us to and I found some rope. When we got back Dave was crying. When he heard us coming he turned around and shouted out, "Oh my God - you are back. I thought you were dead or you couldn't get back so I tried to call...."

"We know, we know we tried too but there was no signal," I finished the sentence for him. "Ok any ways what's you're idea," I asked Dave. "What do u mean?" he asked. "Why would you need all this stuff?" I said making my face serious. Then he told me if there was a storm we would need a shelter. The night came. It got very dark and cold. Dave or Michael didn't seem to be cold but I was freezing. I asked them to light up the fire and found a blanket in the bag near the crashed plane (It wasn't perfect but this was better than nothing). Dave told us we were going to build a shelter in the morning and then we started to talk about how are we going to get back? The next morning when I woke up I saw Dave starting to build the shelter and Michael was trying to catch some fish. So I stood up, shook the sand away and went to the forest to get some coconuts. It didn't take me so long and when I got back I saw Michael with two big fish in his hands.

After a few days the shelter was finished and every one got fed up with fish and coconuts. And then I thought there could be a radio on the crashed plane. I was right I found the radio there. I told the man we had crash landed and that we were going to Mexico. The rescue crew came after two days. When we got home my friends couldn't believe me!

Haunted House **By Nicole Gordon**

There was once a deep, dark forest with gnarled trees and black bats. If you dared to walk along the path, you might never be seen again. One Halloween night there were children out Trick or Treating. Owen was going with his friend and Una was going with her friend. What they didn't know was that they were going to be forced to go into the forest.....alone. Una's friend Roisin dared Una to go into the forest. Meanwhile Owen was dared to go into the forest as well.

So Una and Owen had to go into the forest and there they stumbled across the Haunted House. They met each other at the old willow tree and they walked towards the house. As they opened the creaky gate and walked up the spidery path, they felt a very cold breeze down the back of their spine. They knocked on the door and it flew open. They ran home as fast as they could and raced up the stairs to their bedrooms.

In the morning neither of them spoke about what had happened the night before. They badly wanted to go back to see what was in the forest, so they did. They walked and walked and walked but they couldn't find the house.

"Now we are lost and it's all your fault," said Owen. "How is that my fault," said Una. When they stopped arguing they noticed that they were at the dreaded house

"Here we are," said Owen. "I know," said Una.

When they got to the door it opened very slowly and so the children entered. As they climbed the old stairs they saw a shadow at the foot of the landing. When they got to the top the ghost

stuck her hand out and made a grab at Una's neck. "Help me," said Una. But it was too late because she was dead!

Scared

By Robert Gleeson

Once there was a brother and sister called Tip and Sally. Tip was 11 and in 5th class. Sally was 13 and she was in 3rd year. All of Tip's friends told him that they went to the near forest called the Scare of Doom. (But they really didn't go)

Tip got jellies and begged his father to let him go in but of course he wasn't going to go on his own so he got his sister Sally. She wasn't too sure about it but she went anyway. So the next day which was the 1st of April 2006 off they went. Sally wasn't too excited but Tip was over the top about it. Their father David dropped them off to the Scare of Doom. They walked in with their flash lights and parachutes and rainproof gear. There was a sign saying "1 mile" in really old writing.

They walked on through the muck and twigs. Eventually it got harder as they walked on. They walked on for a while through the mist and fog. All the foxes and bats were flying and walking around. Sally had an idea that there was some sort of snakes or spiders. Tip was beginning to get scared. Then the bats started flying around. And if you were to pick a person that hates bats it would be Tip. It started to get wet and slushy again.

All of a sudden an old ESB pole was falling. Tip said "Run, run, run", Sally said back, "No I can't! I see crocodiles. They both grabbed the ESB pole but Sally got eaten by the crocodile. She had an arm bitten along with her leg and a chunk out of her ribs. Tip went running over to Sally. He forgot his phone and said "Oh! Damn," Tip quickly made a light stretcher so he could bring Sally back home. They were 9 miles from home and Tip did not know which way to go. He was afraid to go forward so he went back for another 9 miles. He said to himself don't run, don't run.

He just happened to find a quad. He put Sally on it very gently. He drove it through the muck and twigs very slowly. When Tip got onto the slightly harder ground he picked up a bit of speed. Eventually he got to the end of the forest. He got a pay phone. He put in €2 and rang the emergency services. He called for an ambulance.

Tip regretted going into the Scare of Doom. The ambulance came. They put Sally into the back of it. The driver drove off with the siren blaring. Tip was sad and crying. Their mother and father came to have a look to see how bad it was. When they got there they said "You should not have gone into the forest". Tip said "But... but... but Dad let me!"

The Final End

By Roisín Burke

"I told you so! I knew that this was a bad idea. Do me a favour and shut up!" said Edward.

"Oh excellent, I was thinking about something and now you've gone and made me forget," said Bella.

There was a sudden silence between the two siblings. "I was thinking about, about.....How we're going to get out of here." Oh great like that's going to help!!" said Bella. "Do you know

something?" said Edward "I bet whatever amount of money I have that you don't even care!" said Edward. "Oh here we go I see blame it on me why don't you!" said Bella. "I'm not blaming it on you I was just saying!" "You weren't saying anything" said Bella. "Just a load of rubbish about getting out of here" said Bella. "Like we're gonna get out of here!" said Bella. "Shhh for a minute will you" said Edward. "Don't you shh me!" said Bella. "No really be quiet for a second" said Edward. "What is it?" said Bella. "Is it just me or can you hear water too?" said Edward. "I can hear it too" said Bella. "Let's try and follow it!" said Edward. So off we went further into the forest and this is how I got here, telling you this story because this is the story of how I die.

"I can hear the stream - it's getting closer!" said Edward. And there it was a huge, gigantic lake! "Hang on a second how the hell are we going to get across this thing?" said Bella. "Well I actually don't know" said Edward. "But for now we'll just make a camp for the night" said Edward. "And how do you intend to do that then mastermind?" said Bella. "You just go find some sticks and lots of leaves and we'll see what happens after that ok?" said Edward. Bella went and returned 45 minutes later. She had the whole forest by the looks of it. "Is that enough?" said Bella. "Oh yes that's quite enough!" said Edward.

So we built a camp, had some food I had brought and called it a day. The next morning I awoke to find that Bella had gone. "Bella, oh Bella!" said Edward. "Over here," came a voice from the side of the lake. "Edward, come here" she said. I went over. "During the night I had a plan. Do you want to hear it?" she said, "The left over wood and the big tree that fell down won't have something to do with it, will it?" I said, "Cos I might just know what you mean. So we set to work on our boat. We used the big tree as a canoe and the other wood as oars. Once it was finished we pushed it into the shallow part of the lake and hoped it would work. At first it was going very well until I heard a creak from where Bella was sitting," "What was that?" I said, "What was what?" Bella said. "I thought I heard a...Edward," I suddenly heard help me! Bella's part of the canoe had collapsed. "Don't worry - I'm coming," I screamed. But it was too late. She was already sinking rapidly. "No no! Bella come back." My eyes were prickling. Why didn't I react quick enough? Typical of me to be so slow! I started crying but it did no good. She was gone. My only sister was gone, and this time she wasn't coming back. I had to get help and but even if I did get help it wouldn't bring her back. She was gone and I'd just have to face it. I told you this was the story of how I died. So I found what people mean by the Final End!

The Big Fall **By Sabina Moloney**

Hi my name is Ella and I have a twin brother called Sam. I am 10 years old and my brother Sam is 6. We live in a two story house in Co. Kilkenny and we love it there. One day I woke up and I thought maybe Sam and I could go for a walk in the spooky forest. Well that's what everyone says but I don't believe it. But anyway we are going to find out. I ran into Sam's bedroom and said let's go for a walk in the forest. "No," he said, "that forest is spooky." "No it isn't," I said, "now get up and go ask Mom and Dad while I make a picnic for our lunch." Off he went. A few minutes later Sam came running down the stairs shouting that we could go but we had to be back by 8:00. While Sam went and got dressed I made ham and cheese sandwiches and I packed drinks. Then I went up to get dressed. When I was dressed I got my Dad up and asked him to bring us there. He said he would but we have to

walk home. Finally we got there. It was very dark behind the trees. We walked over to the picnic bench. I asked Sam did he want a sandwich he said yes. We ate up quickly and went off to explore.

We were walking around and we started to hear noises like things banging together and so on. Sam was really frightened. I said it was only the trees making noises. We walked on. Then suddenly we came to a cave and we went in. First of all we took off our jumpers because it was roasting hot. It was pitch dark inside but luckily I brought my torch. I turned it on and we kept on walking. Then suddenly we started to drop and fell right into a really deep hole. We screamed and screamed and screamed. I could barely breathe. I turned back on my torch because it must have flicked off when we fell. There was a long, long ladder and I suggested that we climb up. But Sam refused saying he was afraid of heights. Eventually I persuaded him to come up if I carried him on my back. We finally got half way up and fell back down. Oh yes and by the way there were rats, snakes, mice and worms down there.

There was a small passage "Oh look," I said, "lets go through here - it might lead us out of this filthy place." We came to a corridor. A light flicked on as soon as we entered. There was a small doorway. We ran over but it was locked. Where could the key be? There was a little bucket. I looked in the bucket and the key was there. I picked it up and ran over to the door where Sam was waiting. He was shivering. "What's wrong Sam," I said. He replied, "I am very very very very scared." "Well, it's ok. We will get out soon," I said, "I will lead you out in a few minutes." I opened the door. It led us back to the forest. We ran home as quickly as we could.

When we got home we told our Mum and Dad everything and how scared we were. We had something to eat and something to drink. I went up to my room to change my clothes and I went to watch TV. Then I went to my room and I wrote in my diary what happened and I will never do it again. Then I read a book about a forest and then I got into bed and switched out my light and said that's enough adventure for one day and I bet I will have a dream tonight. One second what's that noise it sounds like Sam screaming. I went into him. He was screaming because he dreamed that he had one of those rats down his pants. I went back to my room got into bed and tucked up. Bye Bye I had fun telling my story.

The True Legend **By Joanne Connolly**

It was Saturday morning, and I was looking at all the trophies that we had won. Most of them were May's. She won lots of things with her blonde hair and long legs, whereas I have brown hair and chubby legs. I did go to dancing lessons when I was younger, but I kept falling and interrupting the class, so I had to quit. It was so embarrassing! Now Gretchen and May go dancing – well Gretchen doesn't really like dancing but she thinks it's cool to hang around with May.

I don't think it's cool to have brothers and sisters. You have no peace. My brothers are Sam, Will and Ben. Will is the eldest, then Ben, then Sam.

They were all running around the kitchen table in their new jerseys, well everyone except for Ben. Ben doesn't like football. He much prefers to wear a shirt and jeans. With his brown hair, he's different from Will and Sam who have blonde hair and rather like May. Ben looks just like me. We like a lot of the same things and I stick up for Ben a lot.

It was four o' clock and time for the post to arrive. We take turns in collecting the post from the door. It was May's day. When I walked into the kitchen, May was holding a letter. Well I thought it was a letter until I got it out of her hands. It was actually an invitation addressed to; Zinnia Taylor, Brighton Farm.

I scanned the letter many times. It was from Chocton.

'It must be from Sal', I said. May stormed out of the room muttering something.

Mum was at the kitchen sink chopping some onions. They were stinging her big blue eyes and her brown hair was still wet from her shower. She was wearing her pink apron. 'Mum, can I go to Chocton?'

'You'll have to ask your father', Mum said.

It was a long afternoon, waiting for Dad to come home. So Ben and I went out to do our flower gardens to work on them. Ben's garden looked great. Every day he went out and scalded all the new weeds. My garden looked so neglected. All my zinnias were broken and my potatoes looked like they had seen a ghost. Don't even ask about the tomatoes. I planted new zinnias and some roses. I got them from mum who keeps the seeds in a special hiding place or else Ben would have his garden bursting with flowers.

If you look really closely in the distance, up the hill, you can just about see Chocton, even though it's fifteen miles away.

We heard Dads truck, coming down the drive. I ran as fast as I could until I tripped over my pink summer sandals. I opened my eyes. When I looked up, I had tripped over my flower bed. My newly grown plants scattered all over the place. I put them back in their places very quickly.

'Dad', I screamed running into the kitchen covered in soil.

'Yes, Yes. What's wrong?' 'Can I go to Chocton to Sal's party?'

'OK. When is it? But on the way, the truck needs a fill of diesel'.

'No, no. I want to go through the forest' 'but you know the legends'.

'Dad, everyone knows they're not true'.

'You have to go with someone' said Dad.

'What about Gretchen or May?'

'No. I want to go with Ben'

'Ok,' Dad said hesitantly. But you have to promise to take care of him and don't go through the forest. Go around it.' said Dad.

'Ok, ok, ok.'

'Ben', I called. 'Come on'.

'Where are we going?' he asked.

'It doesn't matter. Now tomorrow we are going on a little trip'. I didn't want him over excited or he wouldn't get any sleep at all.

'Ok, get some sleep or you'll be exhausted tomorrow'

The next day we were up at the crack of dawn, getting ready and saying goodbye. Dad told Ben where we were going. We walked up the hill towards Chocton. We just kept walking and walking.

Our bottles of water were nearly empty, so we had to go into the forest to refill them. Neither of us talked the whole way until Ben started to moan about how much he needed to go to the bathroom. We stopped. He made me want to go too. After that, we started walking through the lovely peaceful forest.

The legends couldn't be true, I thought to myself.

'Ben, you fill up our water bottles. I am going for a walk. If anything happens to me, you go straight home. But other than that, don't come looking for me. Do you hear me?'

I walked for a while looking up at the trees wondering how long they'd been there. I turned round, still looking up, but then I was interrupted by a loud growl. It was a huge bear standing right in front of me. With that, I was up the nearest tree like a bullet, hoping Ben wouldn't come looking for me. I never thought I would die this way, but here I was, with a huge bear just about to gobble me up for Sunday lunch! The bear was head-butting the tree with great force. Its claws looked so sharp. I didn't want to scream because Ben might come looking for me. Suddenly, the bear's cub came and the bear stopped and started licking its' cub and it went off. I waited a few hours just in case it was a trap. But bears probably aren't that intelligent.

When I got down, there was no sign of the bear or its cub. I was getting very hungry and really thirsty. I walked for hours. I was lost. It was vital I found Ben. So many things were going through my head. (a) The legend was true. (b) Where was Ben? (c) I didn't die.

Suddenly, I heard a faint voice. It was Ben. I was sure of it.

I ran towards the voice when I tripped on something, thinking it was a branch or a root. No, it was thicker than that. It looked like a bears' foot. Oh my God!

I got up and ran, not wanting to look back. I heard the clomping of his big hairy feet. I was so scared. I wanted to cry. My eyes were stinging me. Suddenly it stopped.

I kept running but I still could not hear it. Two lucky escapes in one day. God, someone likes me up there. I heard the voice again, only this time it was louder.

Then I turned the corner. It was a miracle. Ben was there standing in the distance. I ran and gave him a hug.

'Ouch!' It wasn't Ben. It was a thorn bush. I was so thirsty.

I heard footsteps behind me. All I could do was run as fast and as far as I could. I stopped. I knew that voice, even though I didn't dare look back. I spoke in a very high-pitched voice. 'Ben, is that you?' and the voice replied,

'No, it's me.'

I turned back. It was Dad, not Ben, Dad.

But how did I know it was him and not some lousy bush?

I walked to him very slowly and touched his face.

'Dad, it really is you.' I said and gave him a big hug.

'Dad, it's true, the legend, the one with the bear.'

'Oh don't be silly, Zinny. We all know that isn't true.'

Still to this day, Zinnia Taylor is not believed when she tells of the tale of the true legend!
