

CORGI



PUPS

**“Zack’s not scared of anything.
But everyone’s scared of him.”**

Rose wishes Zack wasn’t such a big bully. He’s always teasing her at school. Luckily for Rose, her Uncle Vinnie has a wizard trick or two up his sleeve – maybe he can conjure up a magic solution to her problem?

Soon, with a little help from Uncle Vinnie and the classroom pet rat, Rose is ready to teach Zack a lesson he’ll never forget...

A comical and thought-provoking story by an award-winning author.

Illustrated by Sue Heap, winner of the Smarties Prize Gold Award.

Corgi Pups are perfect for new readers just starting out on real books.

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A PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

CORGI



PUPS

Perfect for new readers

Invisible Vinnie

Jenny Nimmo

Smarties Prize-winning author



Illustrated by Sue Heap

Rose caught Lauren's eye,
and they both looked at Ben,
who was grinning.

What was Ben going to do?
How could he teach Zack a
lesson?

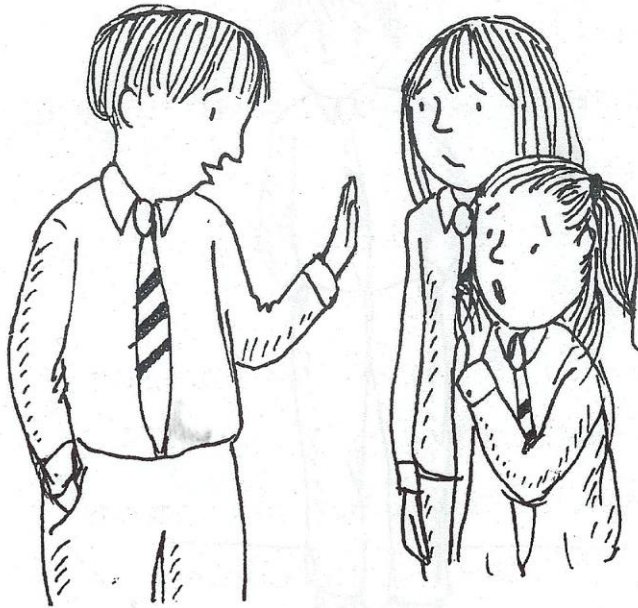
Chapter Four

Ben usually played football
in the dinner break. Today he
just stood by the railings,
looking anxious.



Rose and Lauren went over to him. "What's up, Ben?" said Rose. "Don't you feel well?"

"I'm fine," he said. "But I'm going to go back to the classroom and hide Ratty."



Lauren gasped.

"Shh! I don't want anyone to know," Ben whispered.

"What are you going to do with him?" asked Rose.

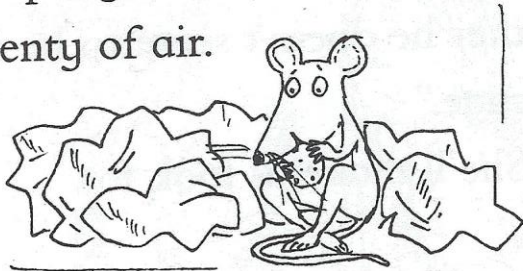
"I'm going to put him in my pencil tin then, just before the end of school, I'll tell Mrs Feather he doesn't seem to be in his cage."

"She'll make us look for him."

"But I'll make sure he isn't found," said Ben, "and we'll watch Zack. I bet he's scared."

"Brilliant!" said Lauren.

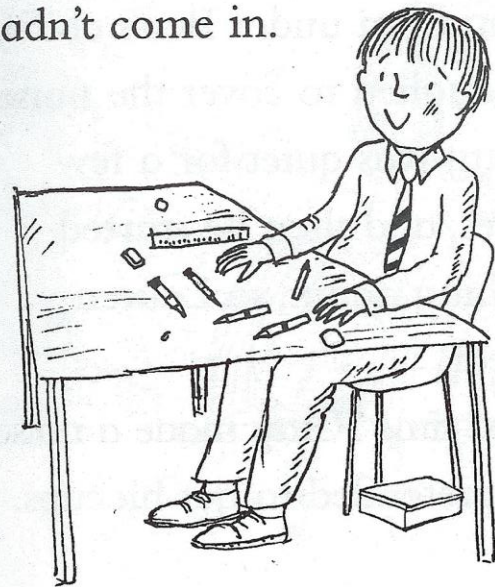
Ben went back to the classroom five minutes early. He put all his pens and pencils on the table and carefully lifted Ratty into the tin. It was a very large tin and Ben had dropped it so many times the lid didn't fit properly, so Ratty would get plenty of air.



Ben put some torn paper and a biscuit beside the rat, to keep him happy. He was just closing the lid when Zack walked in.

“Why’s your stuff all over the table?” Zack asked Ben.

“I can’t get it in my tin,” said Ben. He put the tin under his chair, out of harm’s way. Zack looked suspicious. He would probably have pushed all Ben’s stuff off the table if Mrs Feather hadn’t come in.



The classroom was very noisy just before the first lesson, so no one heard Ratty chewing his biscuit. But then the noise died down and Mrs Feather began to talk.

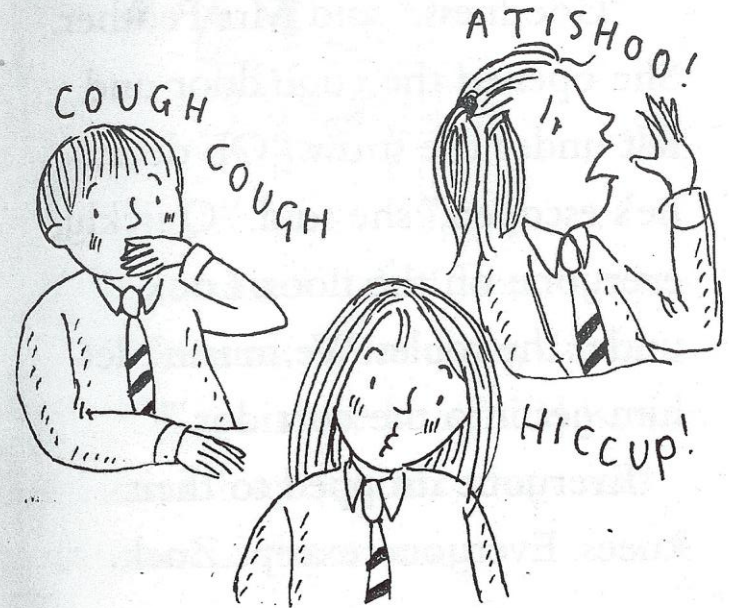
A faint scratching sound could be heard. It seemed to be coming from under Ben's chair. Ben coughed to cover the noise.

Ratty was quiet for a few minutes, and then he started scratching again, so Lauren sneezed.

Next time Ratty made a noise, Rose pretended to get hiccups.

“What’s the matter with you three?” asked Mrs Feather.

Ben, Rose and Lauren were silent. Suddenly, Ratty started rustling the paper. Ben coughed, Lauren sneezed and Rose hiccuped.



“What’s going on?” said Mrs Feather suspiciously.

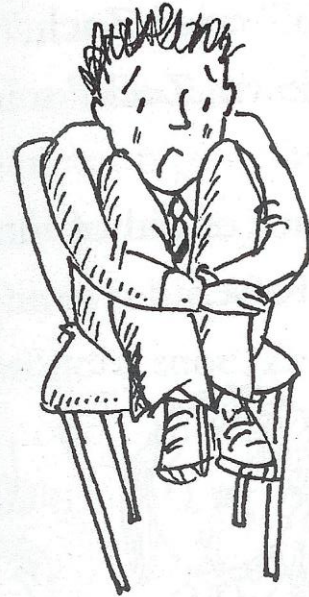
Ben realized he couldn’t keep coughing all through the lesson, so he said, “Ratty doesn’t seem to be in his cage, Mrs Feather.”

Everyone looked at the cage.

“Goodness,” said Mrs Feather. She opened the cage door and felt under the straw. “Oh dear, he’s escaped,” she said. “Quickly, everyone on the floor. Look under the tables. We mustn’t let him get into the corridor.”

Everyone dropped to their knees. Everyone except Zack.

He sat on his chair with his knees pulled up to his chin.



“I see him!” cried Ben.

“He’s under your chair, Zack!”

“Oh yes. There he is,” said Rose.

Zack leapt off the chair and ran across the room.

"He's coming your way,
Zack!" cried Lauren.

"No! No!" cried Zack.

"Calm down, Zack," said
Mrs Feather.

"You're not afraid of rats, are
you?" said Rose.



"No!" screamed Zack.

"He's right by your foot,"
said Ben.

"I don't see him," said Mrs
Feather.

"He's invisible," said Rose.
"Just like Vinnie. Ooo – now
he's on your shoe, Zack!"



“AAAAAH!” shrieked Zack.
He jumped up on a table, white
with terror.



Pete was the first one to
laugh, and then Russell joined
in. Zack's gang was laughing
at him, and very soon everyone
else was laughing too.

With a terrible cry, Zack
jumped off the table and ran
out of the room.

“Zack, come back!” said Mrs
Feather, chasing him down the
corridor.

While she was gone, Ben
sneaked Ratty back into his
cage. “Don't tell,” he said to the
rest of the class. “Promise you
won't tell?”

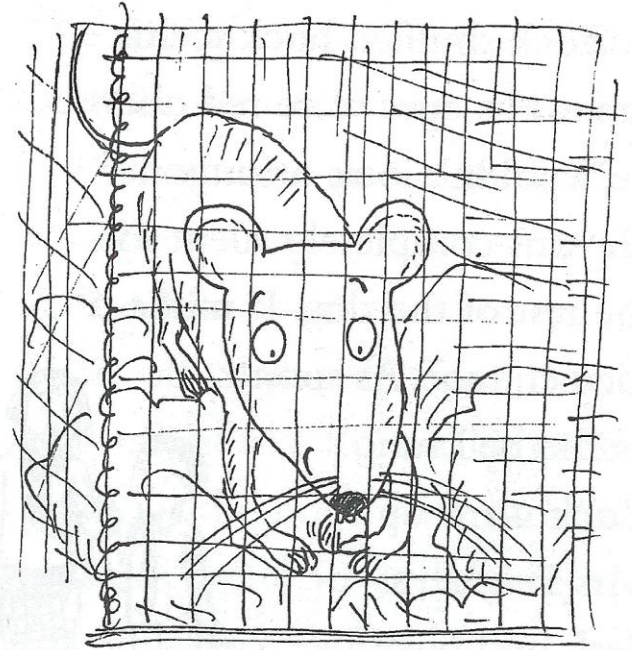
“Course we won’t tell,” said Pete. “That was the best joke ever.”

Lauren leaned over to Rose.

“I reckon Zack’s lost his gang,” she whispered.



Chapter Five



A few minutes later Mrs Feather came back with Zack.

“I found Ratty,” Ben told her.
“He’s back in his cage.”