

Chapter 1

Diggory was nearly the smallest child in his class.

Only Sarah Slater was smaller than him. “And she’s a girl!” Diggory said miserably.

Being the smallest in your class – or being the smallest except for Sarah Slater – should not matter much. But it *does* matter when the biggest boy in your class, Tommy Vincent, has Got It In for you.

When Tommy Vincent Gets It In for someone – that someone knows about it. He smiles at you, not in a nice way but in a scary sort of way. He says rude things about your pets: he might say your dog has fleas or your cat smells. He bumps you when he goes past in the corridors, and if your shoes are missing, or your coat is thrown on the floor at home-time, then you know that Tommy Vincent has Got It In for you.

And the worst thing is your friends. Until then they’ve always been on your side. They pick you early when you have to pick teams in PE. They share their things with you, and you all help each other with difficult homework. But when Tommy Vincent says he has Got It In for you they suddenly disappear. They are on the other side of the playground when he takes your ball; they are the other side of the Art room when he spills paint on your picture; they have gone home already when your outdoor shoes are missing. Everything that you like best about school goes wrong when the class bully starts picking on you.

