



# Chapter 1

## Party Invitations

**SPLAT!** Mrs Dollop was giving the Goblin Castle its annual spring dirtying. Matty, the Goblin Princess, was running down the stone stairs with Smoky, her pet dragon, when they were suddenly enveloped in a huge cloud of dust.

‘Hello, my little rabbit dropping,’ said

Mrs Dollop. ‘I’m just getting the place ready for tonight’s party.’

The Goblin Queen frowned. ‘Mrs Dollop! Stop gossiping. There’s still so much work to be done. Now, Matty, you’ll have to entertain yourself today. Your father’s just gone off to post all the invitations for the Grand Goblin Ball, and I have to help Mrs Dollop dress up the cake.’

‘Can I invite my friends?’ asked Prince Stinkwort, Matty’s brother. He was managing to slide down the stair bannister, chew on a particularly slimy



slug, and talk all at the same time.

‘Of course you can, Stinkwort.

Everyone in the Goblin Kingdom will get an invitation. Except, of course, the horrible hobgoblins. They certainly aren’t invited. Now, who will you invite, Matty?’ asked the Goblin Queen.

‘Matty hasn’t got any friends.

**BURP!** Stinkwort belched loudly.

Matty stared at her feet miserably.

‘**Burp! Plop!**’ Princess Plop copied her brother.

The Queen looked down fondly at her baby daughter and wiped a bit more

dirt on to her face. ‘Well done, Plop. Matty, my little horribleness, why can’t you burp like your brother and sister? I know you’re not like most goblins, but if only you behaved a bit more like a goblin should, you’d have lots of friends. Could you try at least to like eating slugs?’

‘I fwiend,’ said Smoky softly.

‘I know, Smoky.’ Matty stroked her pet dragon.

