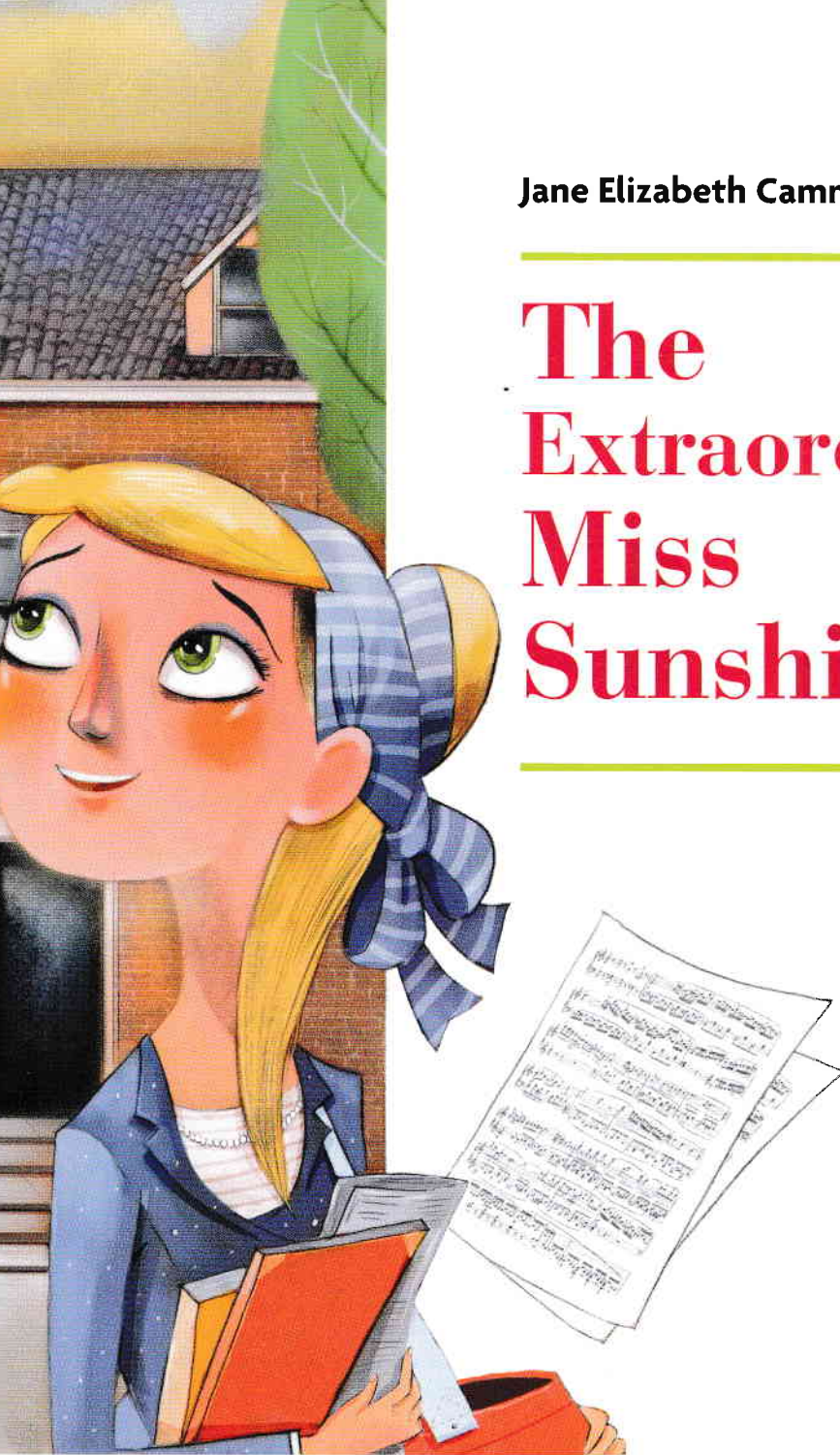


Jane Elizabeth Cammack

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# The Extraordinary Miss Sunshine

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Illustrated by **Alberto Stefani**



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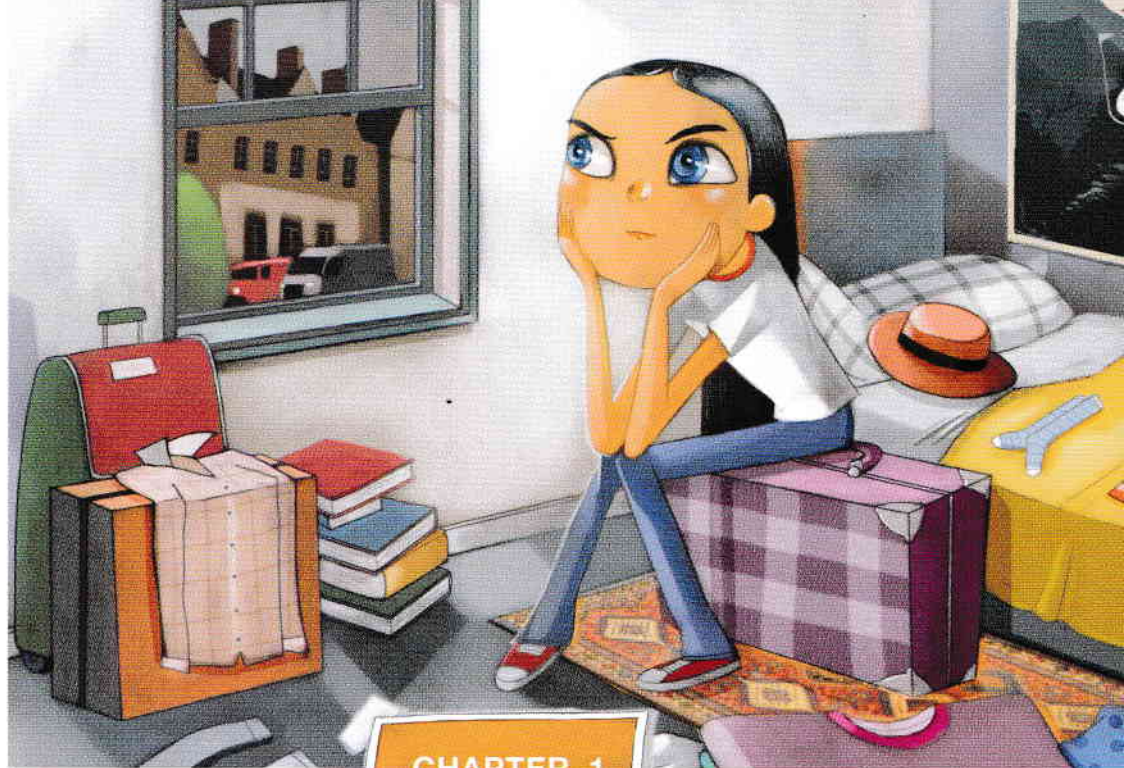
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THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.

A track number indicates that the audio can be found on the CD.  
An MP3 symbol indicates that the audio can be downloaded from our website, [blackcat-cideb.com](http://blackcat-cideb.com).



## CHAPTER 1

# A NEW SCHOOL

Parents and grandparents say that the years you spend at school are the best years of your life. Maybe it's true for some young people, but it wasn't like that for me... not at the beginning anyway.



track 02

My name is Alice May and I'm eleven years old. I lived with my family in London until my father got a new job in St Ives. We moved to beautiful Cornwall one summer.

This is my story.

The sun shone over St Ives, a seaside town in Cornwall. It was a busy fishing port. There were small stone houses and white sandy beaches. Lots of families lived there.

The town needed a bigger, more important school, so a famous architect designed a secondary school. The school was for children between the ages of eleven and eighteen. It was called The Fairbrother Academy.

The architect was very clever and he also loved music.

‘Every school needs a concert hall with a stage and lights,’ he said. The concert hall he created was wonderful. He also built a large gym, art studios, computer rooms and classrooms that were big and bright.

The outside of the school was beautiful. There was a large front door and lions around a fountain. <sup>1</sup>There were gardens and playgrounds and birds sang in the trees.

Some of the children who came to The Fairbrother Academy didn’t want to learn. They were not interested in French or Latin, Maths or History. They pushed their classmates in the playground and called them bad names. These children were good when they were at home with their parents, but terrible when they came to school.

I can hardly <sup>2</sup> sleep before the first day at my new school The Fairbrother Academy. I am excited and nervous all at the same time.

In the morning, when I walk into my classroom, I see a group of girls. They are talking together. They stop speaking when I come in.

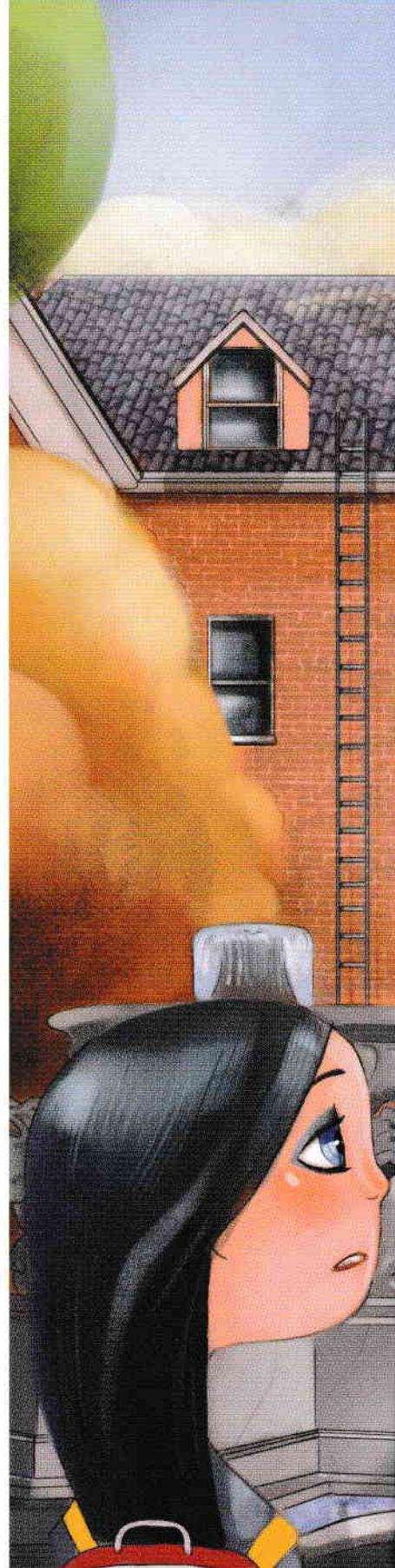
‘Hello,’ I say. ‘I’m Alice.’

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1. fountain :



2. hardly : with difficulty.





The girls don't smile. Their eyes are cold. One of the girls called Iris Fudge, who has an angry face, comes close. She looks at my long dark hair and blue eyes. Then she makes a scary face and runs back to her best friend Roxy Miller and the group of girls.

'Don't go near her. She bites!' Iris says.

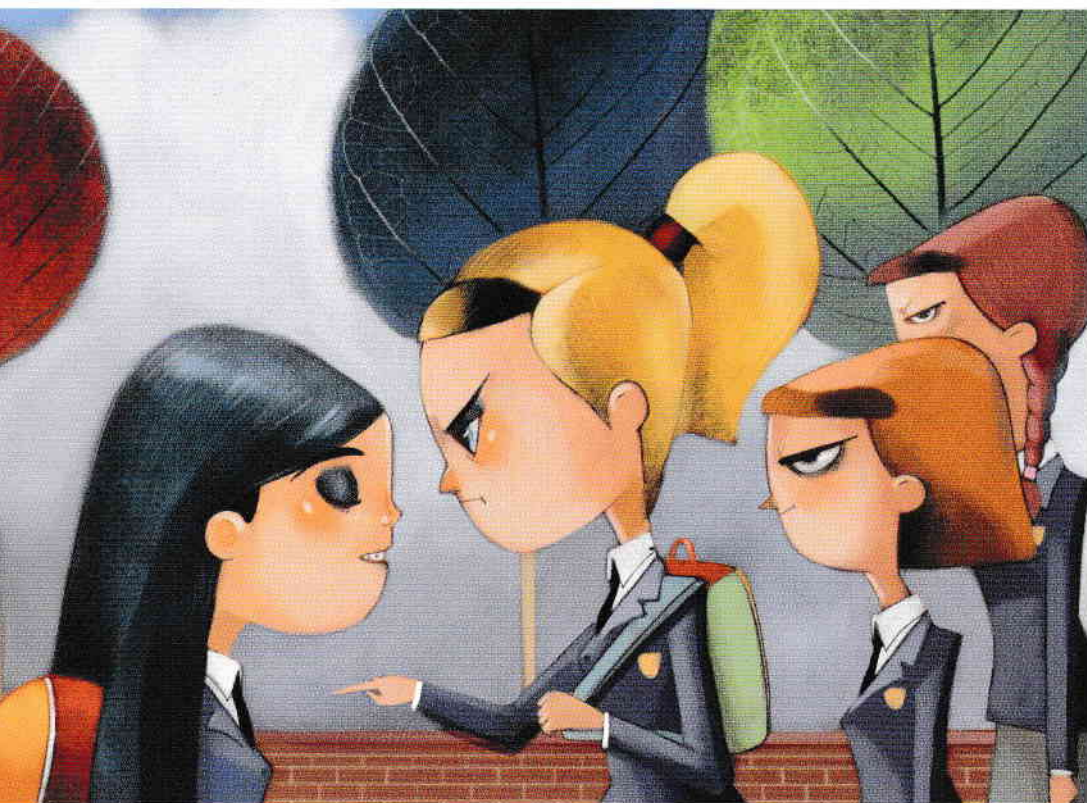
They won't talk to me because I have braces <sup>3</sup> on my teeth. They call me 'Shark Face'.

I don't look very happy when I arrive home from school. My parents see my sad face.

'How was school?' they ask.

'Fine,' I say.

3. braces :



They ask me about friends and I tell them about the girls in my class and the fun things we do together. It isn't true. I can't tell them what school is really like. If dad speaks to the teachers everything will become worse.

Every day there is trouble in our classroom. The bullies<sup>4</sup> don't like children who are clever and do well at school or children who wear glasses. They want kids in their group who are not very nice to teachers. They like children who don't do their homework. They think only bad children are cool.

It isn't only the group of girls who are bullies. There is a boy gang too. Their leader is Dexter Crane. He's very tall. Dexter pushes his classmates when they are in the playground. His friends, Ajax McCoy and Blaze Fenton, watch and laugh. They stand behind him.

At home in our house, a little bird sings in the tree near my bedroom window. She sees me crying and I tell her what school is like. The little bird shakes her head. She doesn't like it at all.

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4. **bully** : a boy or girl who scares someone.



## THINK!

**Nicknames can be very cruel. Iris Fudge and her friends call Alice 'Shark face'.**

1. Why?
2. How do you think this makes Alice feel?
3. Which of the following words describe Iris Fudge and the other girls?

friendly • unfriendly • warm • cold • inclusive • exclusive

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