



# QUARTERLY QUILL

## *Quirky Queries & Quests*



# THE MYSTERIOUS REVIEW CHAIN IN STORY STUDIOS CARLTON

**Charlotte Corrigan**

Reports indicate that there is a mysterious review chain in Carlton’s Story Studios. Many people may have (or may not have) noticed it in its location on the bookshelf, high up, below the Goosebumps books. Some of these people may have even decided to observe, or even read this intriguing review chain. For those who haven’t, or for those who have and just don’t particularly understand it, the gist is this: Jayden (Story Mentor) reviewed Goosebumps, and then Adam (Story Mentor) reviewed Jayden’s review, and then Frances (young writer) reviewed Adam’s review of Jayden’s review, and then Mackenzie (young writer) reviewed Frances’ review of Adam’s review of Jayden’s review, and then “someone” named “Bob” (unknown) reviewed my review of Mackenzie’s review of Frances’ review of Adam’s review of Jayden’s review.

If you are still with me after that confusing paragraph, the smaller details are that Jayden gave Goosebumps a high review, while Adam reviewed Jayden’s review, saying that Jayden did a low-standard review, amongst other things. Frances then reviewed Adam’s review, saying that it was Adam that did a low standard review, and who probably hadn’t even read the books. Max (young writer) backed Jayden and Frances up, and then Mackenzie and I joined against Adam. But then, Bob reviewed me.

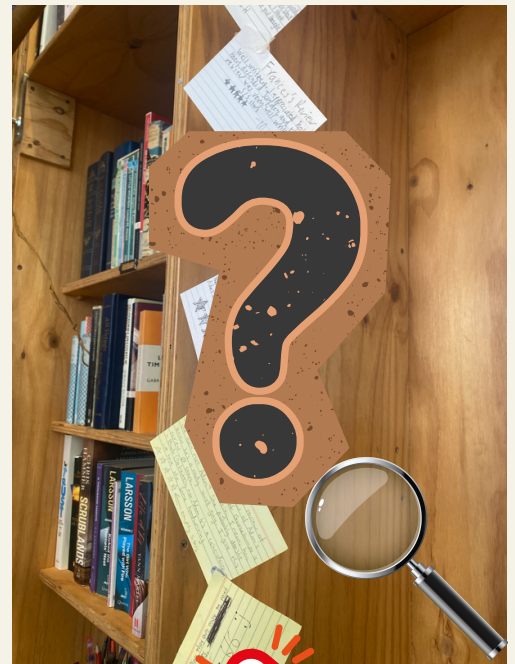
This “Bob” character is rather suspicious, if you ask me. A person with the exact same handwriting as Adam, who’s on Adam’s side, and who thinks Jayden, Frances, Max, Mackenzie and I are all wrong, seems suspiciously made up. In fact, I believe that it was Adam that had posed as a fake person, a person that he named “Bob”, so he would have someone on his side!

This is very shady stuff. Identity theft, even making fake identities, is a very serious crime. Adam should be lucky if it wasn’t him at all!

Interestingly, though, Bob can’t be found for an interview, which seems like even more evidence he doesn’t exist. More evidence pointing against Adam. I interviewed Adam, however, and he denies everything.

“I think my review is the only review of any substance,” he said. “Everyone else is a copycat and they all need to re-enrol in kindergarten. And I have no idea who Bob is, but I’m sure that if I met him he would be an amazing guy.” Adam doesn’t seem very convincing, however. And he’s very insulting! I then interviewed Natalia Kasana, from the Tuesday 5:30pm writing class. She has a different approach.

“I think Goosebumps isn’t scary and Jayden had the wrong idea, but I also think Adam shouldn’t have been so mean about it and so harsh,” said Natalia. A good, strong message. We don’t have any proof about Adam and Bob, but stay tuned for the future!




**BONUS ARTICLE BY  
QUARTERLY QUILL  
EDITOR ON PAGE 6!**

**This newspaper is compiled of articles by young writers, aged from 6 to 18 years old, from Story Studios’ Australia.**



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# FEATURED

## FANCIES

### A TALK WITH DEATH

An extract from reporter **Angelica Bradford's** chat with Death.

Death is the final moment of life. You cannot have life without death. Some people have a "nice" death, others have a more unfortunate ending. The Grim Reaper, a servant to the underworld, wears torn rags that cover most of his face, all blackened with time and decay. His most defining feature is the scythe he carries like a staff, using it to reap the souls on his list of doom.

Ten year old Gracie was sitting on a swing in a deserted playground. She often came here alone to enjoy the silence. So, there she was listening to nothing when something caught her eye. Lo and behold, the Grim Reaper was gliding soundlessly by, looking all mysterious.

Gracie loved Halloween and creepy things so she immediately raced over, her long brown hair flowing behind and her horse riding boots click-clacking.

She stopped in front of him. "You're the Grim Reaper," she said.

"Yes, I am. But call me Death; 'Grim Reaper' sounds not nearly as terrifying." Death spoke in cold rasps, etching fear within the bones. Gracie took a step forward, and Death sprang back.

"Don't come any closer!" he warned, "if you do, I will kill you and take your soul to the underworld."

"Why are you here?" Gracie asked, "don't you think someone like me would see you?"

"I am out doing my duty of stealing souls. Surely you know that from all the inaccurate books written about me. People who are afraid of dying cannot see me. Are you afraid of dying?"

"I've never thought about that. I guess not. No, I am not afraid of dying."

"See? That's why you can see me. You're not scared - of dying."

"What does it take to be on your list?"

"Nothing! I come irrespective of your destiny." Death responded.

"What does that mean?"

"Well, everyone has a purpose in life, don't they? It means if you don't fulfil your destiny, then I take your soul. But if you do fulfil your destiny, Angels will accompany your soul to Heaven," explained Death.

"I thought that if you were a kind and good person then your soul goes to Heaven, not if you fulfil your destiny."

"Heaven won't accept those who are evil; they'll be taken by me."

"Is there a way I can ensure to fulfil my life's purpose?" enquired Gracie.

"No. You just have to continue living your life. Now, I must get back to my terrible task of reaping souls."

Gracie thought for a moment.

"Death? Is there any way of freeing you from this terrible task?"

"No, unfortunately it is my destiny. I am in the past now. Farewell."

Gracie felt a little sad for Death, realising that some souls will never have fulfilling lives. Her heart skipped beat, induced by an instance of fear concerning the outcome of her own destiny. And with that Death vanished into nothing.



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## THE WRITE STUFF

### ABRA-CADABRA APOTHECARY



#### Elena Astbury (Tootsy Winston)

Hello, my name is Tootsy. I am a bear, and if you have any problems with that you might as well go hide so I don't come and clobber you. Though... first read this 'review' (my mother calls it that, but I call it a SERIOUS COMPLAINT ABOUT THE ABRA-CADABRA APOTHECARY).

Anyway, it all started last Tuesday, when I got home from school and started doing my homework and I was like,

"Ya know what? I feel a strong resistance to this homework, I think I've caught the extremely rare MATHS-itis!" and my mother was like, "Oh, honey I think we better take you to the apothecary then. I'm sure they have some lotions to ease it," and I was like,

"FIIIIIIINE!" So, she took me to the apothecary to get checked for any Maths-itis or Spelling-itis. Surprisingly, they didn't find a single trace of any of the awful diseases, that's why I give their check ups 'two and a half moons'. After the check up, for some reason mother kept staring at me with this frown that was concerned buuuut... a little... terrified.

"Is something wrong mother?" I questioned. I waited for an answer but it didn't come.

By the time the sky had darkened and was starting to light up, her petrified face was still fixed on the same spot. My... nose.

continue on page 3

I soon realised that during the checkup the apothecary staff had rubbed a pasty balm on it. I give the apothecary's lotions 'one sun' because they made my once nice, furry nose purple. All the kids at school the next day laughed until they fell to the ground, literally, FELL.

Mother took me back to Abra-Cadabra that day, and their support was tiny. All they did was 'accidentally' tinge my nose PINK. Yes, PINK! School was even worse, all I saw all day were cubs sprawled on the floor shouting.

"You're PINK and PURPLE, Tootsy!! PINK and PURPLE!"

Pretty sure they were exaggerating, but... who knows? Maybe it had spread!

I rushed home, and to confirm my worries, Mother called the apothecary AGAIN!

You'd think she'd have learnt by now:

THEY ARE DEFINITELY NOT TRUSTWORTHY!

She clearly hadn't. They showed up and GUESS WHAT? I was now a rainbow bear! I couldn't believe it. They gave me some shiny potions and I slowly turned back to my original, boring, brown. I give the staff 'five milky ways' for their extreme hugging skills, which is a BAD THING!

Anyway, NEVER trust them, 'cause the next week, I grew wings. It was actually quite enjoyable, I gave them 'seven black holes' for the nice maroon colour. You should also note that if anything ever happens to you because of the Abra-Cadabra Apothecary, it wears off in about five to six weeks. That brings an end to my 'review.' I have given the apothecary 25 universes for the overall half-satisfaction.

I hope you share this SERIOUS COMPLAINT ABOUT THE ABRA-CADABRA APOTHECARY,

Tootsy Winston

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## MUDDLING

## MYSTERIES

### CHROMATIC CHRONICLE: RAID REVEALS MAYORAL MURDERER

#### Georgie Garnet

This Thursday, the public were shocked as police raided the house of City Mayor Melanie Magenta, finding evidence of her involvement in both the recent spree of murders (dubbed the 'Greyscale Murders') and the widespread kidnapping of children in the Chromatic City.

This raid came at the tail end of a months-long investigation to stop the devastating crime wave in the city. In less than a year, the police have reported two hundred murders and over a hundred kidnappings.



The murders, which started in January, targeted the most vividly wealthy of the Chromatic City, which has thrown both the economy and business markets into chaos. Victims' bodies were found drained of all colour, the main currency in the City.

Since the raid, police have confirmed that a historic artefact known as the Prism was indeed involved in draining the bodies, transferring the colour into a single gemstone that was found in a secret room of the Mayor's mansion.

Another room showed signs of housing the kidnapped children, as well as evidence of dye packaging. A police spokesperson says that the children were likely involved in a black market colour-trading scheme, allegedly headed by Mayor Magenta, where the colour sourced from the bodies was somehow moved from the Prism and repackaged to be sold. Details are yet to be disclosed by the police.

Mayor Magenta, who is set to face trial in January, denies all claims of wrongdoing, stating:

"This raid was an unprecedented action on the part of the police. I had no knowledge that my house was being used for such heinous acts.

Undoubtedly, this was the work of a criminal mastermind

who, with the help of some of my servants, used my residence as a base for their enterprises. I am sure that they meant to besmirch my reputation, so one of their candidates could take my place as mayor. I beg the police to investigate further and inevitably clear me of all charges.

"However, financial information from the Mayor's personal bank account has been recently made public, disclosing that the Mayor had been both receiving considerable sums of money from anonymous sources, possibly from the black market, as well as paying an unknown amount to fellow councillors, and members of the police force. It has been proposed that the Mayor was using her position and wealth to bribe authority figures into silence.

Public outcry against the mayor has been overwhelming, with protests calling for her immediate resignation and conviction.

Prominent community members such as Tony Turquoise, Anastasia Azure and Maria Mahogany have all voiced support for Zachary Zaffre, the Mayor's main political opponent. The next mayoral election is set to occur in only a week, and Mayor Magenta will likely be removed from the ballot due to the ongoing criminal investigation.

### DOGGY DETECTIVE PART 1: THE CASE OF THE MAILMAN INVASION

Ryan Sendi

Update from our resident Doggy Detective:

Rain dripped down on my head as I skedaddled my way home when I noticed a red uniform and a bike. I thought it was nothing really, so I went home and got some sleep.

But then I was awoken by a giant thump, making me nearly jump out of my skin! So I stepped outside to see what it was...

It... was... THE MAILMAN!!! I tried to scare him off with my barks, but it didn't work. I immediately ran around the whole neighbourhood, absolutely furious, and demanding answers!

But no one seemed like they were the person responsible. That only meant one thing: Jessie AKA my owner. But she was on holiday, so I set off on a journey to find Jessie.

What felt like an hour turned into a day, and a day turned into weeks, which turned into me realising it's only been three minutes and 20 seconds!

I finally caught up to her and started the integration; which sounds like to humans: Woof woof woof, bark woof growl!

"Woof woof woof, bark woof growl!" Finally, she said, "Ohhh... Are you talking about the mailman, Bob? AKA my dad!"

To be continued...



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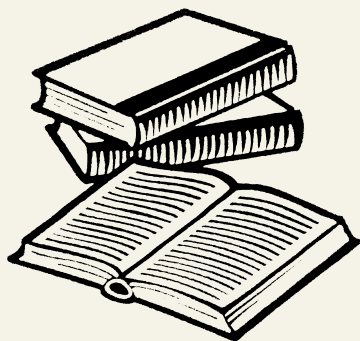
## POETS OF THE QUILL



## BOOKS, STORIES AND WRITING

### Fifi

Where do you find books?  
In bookshops and libraries of course!  
Where do you find stories?  
Out of the mouth or in a book!  
They sound so perfect, just like lilies  
floating in a pond.  
Where does your writing go?  
Into the world of mysteries, fantasies and  
many more.



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# SUPER SPORT SECTION

## MIKE RAPHONE'S SPORTS REPORT: SGUOGLEBALL SEASON IS UPON US!

Mike Raphone (and James Paul)

The Sguoggleball season has begun, and I, Mike Raphone, am here to discuss everything related to it. For you idiots who have never bothered learning the rules of Sguoggleball, I will explain them now.

There are three balls (but it's not Quidditch, okay!) and two goals, every player has a wooden bat, and there are two teams, each with 7 players, the goal of the game is to get all three of the balls into your team's goal....

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170 Elgin Street, Carlton VIC

However, the balls are sentient, demonic creatures, and each ball is slightly different. One is big, strong and aggressive, known as the Attack, one is average sized, and tries to stay away from the player, known as the Avoid, and the final, and the most dangerous one is the Hide, it is small, extremely fast, and ferocious.

No one can say for sure when Squoggleball was invented, and this is because it was invented before time was invented. In fact, historians now believe that early humans couldn't be bothered inventing time because they were too busy playing Squoggleball.

You may be reading this thinking to yourself, 'I've never heard of Sguoggleball before, it must be some small sport they only play on some small island.' Well those thoughts are wrong! We don't live on a small island, and where I'm from, nobody has ever heard of football! We haven't even heard of any sports other than Sguoggleball, and there are actually Martians who play Sguoggleball. I've met some of them, very strange names they have.

If you have a job, you need to quit it now so that you can watch the Sguoggleball tournament, as it is the most important, best bit of the year!

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# RECIPE REVOLUTION

## A POTION TO MAKE CLOUDS INTO CANDY FLOSS

Leo Ruiz-Walsh

Your sweet tooth will never go hungry again with this magical potion! (Warning: it may cause your teeth to rot!)

### Ingredients

- A tail feather from a roc (a 'roc' is a type of mythical, almost extinct giant bird)
- 11 grams of dried cloud
- A kilogram of stardust
- A pinch of light from a full moon
- A bar of Willy Wonka's best chocolate
- A bottleful of phoenix song

### Method

1. First place a silver cauldron onto a white fire.
2. Next pour a litre of water in the cauldron and add the feather and the stardust.
3. Then add the song and wait for 7 and a half minutes.
4. Stir in the rest of the ingredients making sure that the chocolate does not burn.
5. Turn off the white fire, then allow to cool for 1 hour and 3 minutes.
6. Place the liquid into a bottle.

Whenever you are hungry, throw some into the air and see the closest cloud turn into delicious candy floss!



## RECIPE FOR THE GREATEST PUBLICATION EVER

James Paul

It can be very difficult to make something amazing, but it is possible, follow these instructions here and you will have created the greatest publication in the galaxy. (Second only to the magazines that are published on Pluto, those are high end, we can't match that!)

### Ingredients

- A dollop of Featured Fancies
- A cup of The Write Stuff
- A generous sprinkle of Muddling Mysteries
- A pinch of of Poets of the Quill
- A very generous helping of Flash Fiction (you cannot have too much)
- A healthy dose of Curiosity Corner
- A scoop of Super Sport Section
- A drizzle of Whacky Weather
- A dash of Whimsy Wit & Quirky Quips
- A spoonful of Owlbert's Advice Column
- Exactly 8 grams of Recipe Revolution, you do not want too much of this!

### Method

Mix up all these ingredients with a little outstanding editing work and then you will have something amazing, something outstanding, and something incredible!

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# WHACKY WEATHER







## ANIMALOMOLIES

### James Paul

You may have heard about the time it rained cats and dogs (as reported in our first issue, pick up a copy of *Quarterly Quill* #1 for full details).

Well, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is it is no longer raining cats and dogs, but the bad news is that it is now raining every animal except cats and dogs.

Jonathan Hargrave, a local resident, spoke to the *Quarterly Quill* this morning about the animal anomalies that experts are now referring to as "animalomolies".

"It seems like science has abandoned us," said Mr Hargrave when asked about the odd occurrence.

"I was trying to dip my cookie in my cup of tea, which requires intense focus. I may add, before I suddenly had a much bigger problem than the one sitting at the bottom of my mug. There was a giraffe in my backyard!"

Mr Hargrave then stressed about how loud a giraffe can scream.

"Not many people are aware of the capabilities of a giraffe's vocal chords, but trust me, a giraffe that just fell from the sky onto some very nice outdoor furniture can make a very loud sound."

These unusual weather patterns have caused the town's animal population to explode (in more ways than one) and scientists are scrambling to discover the cause of this unusual event. Keep buying this amazing publication for more updates!

## AMAZING WEATHER REPORT Anaya A

Hi, this is Anaya here. I am going to tell you the weather report. Today in Melbourne it is 500 degrees and it's going to have extreme lighting bolts and tornados! Caps will be flying in the wind in Melbourne.

We may have two tsunami waves in Sydney. Canberra will have unicorns jumping up and down from the rainbows.

In Queensland it is raining books! In South Australia burgers and giant lollipops will fall from the sky and water will gush out from the enormous clouds splattering everywhere.

In the Northern Territory, it's raining money with toys falling from the sky. That's all from me today, folks. I hope you have a lovely day.

## THE *NO PRO*™

### James Paul

Are you sick of forgetting to do your homework? Or tired of getting distracted and avoiding what you're supposed to be doing?

Well, no longer! The all new *No Pro*™ connects to every camera in your home, and watches your every move (in a non-creepy way), so it can tell you off for doing the things you're not supposed to be doing.

Its bluetooth connects to every device in your house, so that it can reach you in every nook and cranny of your home.

The device is also able to listen in, (again, in a non-creepy way) allowing it to learn every rule and schedule of your household in extreme detail. It views your calendars, (I can't stress enough that this is totally non-creepy!) so that it can know exactly what you're supposed to be doing at any given moment. You can even take it to the next level and give it access to your online accounts, including your bank account (but only so you don't spend money on things you don't need! OK!) allowing it to know all your homework/work assignments.

Don't even think about it, just buy a *No Pro*™ right now, trust us, they're good!

### Call for Reviewers and Critics in the Quarterly Quill's "Write Stuff" Section!

Are you passionate about the written word? Have an opinion about a cool new game or a frustrating movie you'd like to share? Well! the *Quarterly Quill* is looking for individuals like you to contribute to our Write Stuff column!

#### How to Apply

If you're interested in becoming a reviewer or a critic for the *Quarterly Quill*'s Write Stuff section, please send your review to us at [publishing@mywritersstudio.com.au](mailto:publishing@mywritersstudio.com.au)

## FLASH FICTION

### PUB TROUBLES

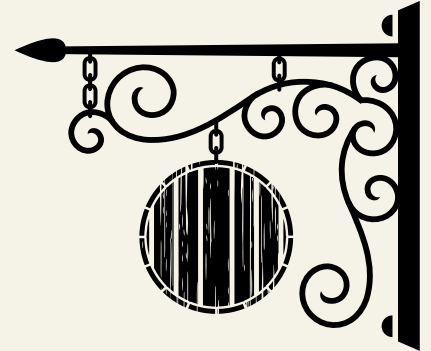
#### Blas Caffaro Rossi

"Can I eat some of that?" the dude beside me asked.

"No, it's my food, get your own," I replied....

The guy looked strange, so I ignored what he was saying to other people about how I had no empathy for people less fortunate than me.

I swear I've seen his face before... BANG! The door slammed open, revealing an angry police officer staring at the man with blazing eyes. The officer took handcuffs out of his pocket and then put them on the man's hands, saying, "I finally found you, you criminal!"



## THE SUPERMARKET ADVENTURE

### The Produce Guy

Hello. I am Tomato the Pea. And I am standing on the edge of death and destruction.

The Frozen Peas section.

There is a great big brute of a man standing over me, ready to pile me into the bag of which I will only come out of to be consumed violently. I have to save myself. So I jump out of the giant's grasp and flee for the exit! But just as I am about to have freedom, a lady scoops me up into her handbag!

She walks out of the supermarket. I am free.



## HOPE

### Teodora Caffaro Rossi

It was a warm Christmas morning and I was ready to open my gifts. As I climbed out of my bed to the Christmas tree I felt weird, it didn't smell normal. I didn't feel normal. As I looked down to see my gifts, nothing was there. If I wasn't home, where was I? I looked back at my Christmas tree and all I saw were small, little, Palestine flags around it. I smiled. A stranger was here for a purpose: freedom and to tell me what was going on. I realised that all I needed was hope to arrive.

## DYING PEACEFULLY = NOT PEACEFUL

Miller Zahara

Contrary to belief, dying while sleeping is not peaceful. It is painless, but you can feel your soul leaving your body, the ache you feel looking at your own body, your entire life flashing behind your eyes, and let me say, mine was short and boring as hell. You can feel the despair as you wonder what your family thinks; as you realise that everything, everyone, and everywhere mere memories, that you are now gone.

How do I know? Reality shifting is a LOT like dying in your sleep, except I'm not dying. And I can hear Kian's uncontrollable screaming.

## CHRISTMAS PIG

Daniel Lin

CP was a Christmas-loving Pig. He kept at least a trillion baubles in his box. Every year he hung them up, and it was breathtaking. Rainbows littered the tree and glimmered proudly.

But one Christmas evening, CP's Christmas baubles were nowhere to be found. He suddenly saw a trail of glitter. This was a fabulous clue, CP just had to follow it. At the end of the trail was... CD (Christmas-loving Dog)!

CD said, "I thought it was a tennis ball!"

It was such a silly mistake! CP put up the baubles and was done! Wahoo!



## BURNS

Corinne Glass

She looked at her hands, once pale and gentle like the rest of her soul, now streaked with burns. If she closed her eyes, the scene would be replayed and she could still feel the warmth of the fire, hear its angry crackle, see the red spots behind her eyelids, taste the ash on her tongue, smell the suffocating smoke

rising higher and higher...

She could hear the screams, feel the sting of smoke in her eyes, see people disappearing into the smoke.

And in the end, she could feel the excruciating pain, then hear a piercing scream, before... blackness.

## A DEEP SPOOKY NIGHT

Subaga Sudarsan

A strange sound came from above. I shivered inside my bed. The problem was I was alone in my room! No one was with me, so one would believe what happened next...

"Watch out!" Someone yelled. I was so afraid that I screamed, and even worse, I woke my baby brother up!

The next part is almost too scary to mention... Can you guess what it was? Something grumbled like a hungry stomach. Was it a bear? Was it a monster? There was a sudden freeze and a giant ROAR echoed through the house! What do you think it is?

# WHIMSY WIT & QUIRKY QUIPS

## COMICALLY BAD JOKES

James Paul

*Jokes so bad, they're funny!*

Q: Why did the chicken move from the chips to the salad?

A: To get to the other side.

Q: Why didn't the skeleton go to the dance?

A: Because who invites skeletons to dances?! Have you been inviting skeletons to dances? I am quite concerned if you have been!

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?

A: Because the chicken was sick that day.

# OWLBURT'S

## ADVICE

## COLUMN

James Paul

Owlburt, I have 3 questions for you. Answer them all, if you dare...



## RUMOURS SWIRL AROUND STORY STUDIOS AMIDST COMPETING NEWSPAPER SPECULATIONS

Nina Culley  
Editor & Chief

Suspicion hangs thick in the air at Story Studios Australia as whispers of rival newspapers begin to circulate. Speculation abounds, fuelled by the unexplained delay in the release of this issue of *Quarterly Quill*, which was slated for publication at the year's outset.

In the absence of the *Quarterly Quill*, other journalists and emerging enterprises are reportedly considering filling the void. Among them, the vigilant duo Owlburt and Owlburta have taken it upon themselves to monitor these potential competitors closely.

Amidst the uncertainty, this journalist urges anyone with information on the alleged competing newspapers to come forward and alert the *Quarterly Quill* team immediately. The future of Story Studios Australia's media landscape may depend on it.

1. Owlburt, if you're so wise then help me, please! Where did I put my phone? I took it.

2. Owlburt, I am planning on going on a trip round the entire universe; will I be home in time for dinner?

You will, but you'll be in another universe.

3. I heard that birds evolved from dinosaurs; have you ever thought about going on Ancestry.com and seeing what dinosaurs you've evolved from? Do please let me know, maybe I will have met them!

My mum used to say we were descended from velociraptors, but I think she just liked Jurassic Park. My cousin also once dated a crocodile. Does that count? It didn't last, but they're still friends.



## Olive Branscombe

**Hello Owlbert, I'm going to Adelaide these holidays! Are you going anywhere for the summer holidays, Owlbert?**

Adelaide is a Hoot! You'll have a great time. I hate summer, so I'll be nestled in my apartment, but you have a good time.

## Lottie Exeter

**Hi Owlbert, I am wondering what you are most excited for next year? Also, what are you most proud of from this year?**

Great question! I'm excited for this mouse I'm currently eating, and very proud of the mice I ate last year. I'm also excited to be joining the Owl Flight Academy later this year to scrub up on my gliding and weaving. I've got gliding down but my weaving could do with some improvement.

## Zen Wong

**I am very happy with my accomplishments this year. I have written quite a few murder novels in that time. What is your favourite genre, and what is your favourite book? I love fantasy, and my favourite book is every book in the world. I hope you can get back to me soon.**

Dear Zen,

Murder novels? I'm very intrigued! I do love a good whodunit... Agatha Christie, or P.D. James. I read Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole and hated it; not enough mice-eating! But I also love fantasy novels like those from Terry Pratchett or Neil Gaiman. And I'm very good at eavesdropping, so I'll usually drop in on people's audiobooks.

## Kingsley Cheung

Dear Owlbert,

**I am really proud of working with the MYWS and improving a lot. I've really enjoyed working with all the teachers. Next year, I'm excited to get higher grades and work harder and harder, but the further you go, the more challenges you meet. Now, how old are you?**

Regards,  
Kingsley

Dear Kingsley,

No, how old are you? You seem very wise in any case. Me? I'm forgetful - but I believe I'm between 7 and 77. Keep writing, I hear you're very good at it!

Equal Regards  
Owlbert



## Lucy Mulligan

Dear Owlbert,

**How are you? I hope you are not lonely in the writing studio. I wanted to write this letter to you because I wanted to thank you for making writing class OWLtastic! I also wanted to give you an OWLmazing movie recommendation! It's called 'Enola Holmes', or you might like 'Harry Potter' because there's a LOT of owls to keep you entertained. I'm going to tell you about my year, something that I'm really proud of is that me and my basketball team WON THE CHAMPIONSHIPS!!! I also really enjoyed coming to writing class and seeing you every week on that high up shelf. It makes me feel happy. I hope you have a nice holiday.**

Love, Lucy  
PS Merry Christmas!

Dearest Lucy,

Thank you for thinking of me these holidays. Thankfully, I don't get too lonely with Owlburta around (she looks like me, only she's really annoying...). I've added 'Enola Holmes' to my watch-list but I don't know about 'Harry Potter' - I am sick and tired of getting mistaken for Hedwig... what's so great about that owl anyway? No seriously, write to me and tell me.

Merry Christmas!  
From Owlbert.

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Editorial Team, including Owlbert, Owlburta, and myself, I extend our sincerest apologies for the delay in releasing this issue.

Also, in light of recent submissions, I'd like to clarify the *Quarterly Quill's* editorial focus. While we appreciate the influx of short stories, it's worth noting that the *Quarterly Quill* exclusively features journalistic content—whether real or imaginative - think what you'd find in a newspaper.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding the type of content we're seeking for publication.

Until our next edition, happy reading.  
-N.P. Culley





# OWLBURTA'S HOROSCOPES

*A special note...*

*Greetings, wise and feathered friends!  
Owlburta, your humble owl guide, is back with  
her horoscopes! Follow these guides, and make  
the most of the star alignment. Apologies for the  
late issue, someone didn't listen to their  
horoscope!*

## **Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**

Hoot! Today is your time, fellow owl and writerly friends! Spread your wings and fly, take risks, and embrace the unknown!

## **Taurus (Apr 10 – May 20)**

Ooohh, a tricky time; danger may lurk at any corner! Your feathers will be ruffled, but don't let it phase you! The next cycle will bring something happier...

## **Gemini (May 21 – June 20)**

The moon is on your side this month. Soak up its beam, recharge your batteries, and let its magic aid you in all of your writerly dreams!

## **Cancer (Jun 21 – July 22)**

It is your time to shine! The stars will align and if you make it so, your greatest dream shall come true! But work hard! The stars can not do all the work...

## **Leo (July 23 – Aug 22)**

Do not let writers block get you down, fellow Leos! Push through those blank walls and worries and you shall be rewarded with your greatest tale yet!

## **Virgo (Aug 23 – Sept 22)**

It may not seem so, but luck is on your side my friends! Just not in the way you expect...

## **Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**

The world needs your help, Libras! Now is a time to be selfless and help others, and fate may reward you...

### Crossword Clues

#### Down:

1. Our very own *Quarterly Quill* Editor!
2. Something you do not know, but want to find out...
4. The name of a bird, and the name of a pirate!
5. A magical place where books are free!
6. A feather used to craft a tale...
7. A genre of story filled with magic!
9. The name of a famous blue train and a (less) famous ginger cat!



## **Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**

Listen to others over these next few weeks, Scorpios. There is wisdom to be found, and advice to follow. If you have a problem, be sure to seek guidance!

## **Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**

A daring quest lurks just around the corner for you! Take the road less travelled and speak to those whom you would usually pass. There is adventure and inspiration to be found!

## **Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**

Your dreams should lead your heart and your mind this cycle. Let your strangest ideas find their way into your stories, and you shall unlock some writing gold!

## **Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**

Summer has come to an end, but fun and adventure has not! Your friends may be in need of a pick me up, and you are just the right person to bring back the summer vibes into their wintery life.

## **Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**

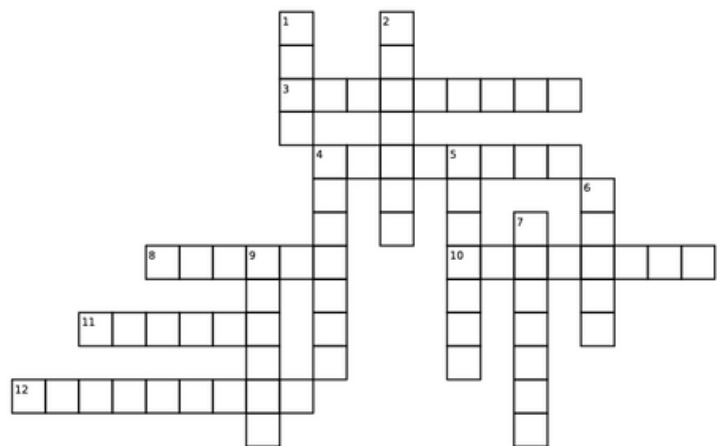
It is time to do something unusual, Pisces friends! Whether that be in your writing or personal life, mix it up, and you will have some extraordinary experiences!

Are you interested in submitting to our next issue of the *Quarterly Quill*? Well there's no time like the present!

Here are the sections...

- Features Fancies (for non-fiction, creative non-fiction, memoir, and more) 500 word limit
- The Write Stuff (for any and all reviews) 500 word limit
- Muddling Mysteries (for investigations and crimes reportage) 500 word limit
- Poets of the Quill (for poems of any kind) 12 line maximum
- Flash Fiction (for super short stories) 100 words maximum **NEW!**
- Curiosity Corner (for bizarre advertisements) 200 word limit
- Recipe Revolution (for recipes) 500 word limit
- Super Sport Section (for fictional sports news) 300 word limit
- Whacky Weather (fictional weather reports) 300 word limit
- Whimsy Wit & Quirky Quips (for jokes) 5 jokes max **NEW!**
- Owlburta's Advice Column (questions for our wise and wonderful studio owl and Assistant Editor – Owlburta) 200 words max **NEW!**

Email us at [publishing@mywritersstudio.com.au](mailto:publishing@mywritersstudio.com.au) with the title of your piece and your pen name.



### Crossword Clues

#### Across:

3. What is the *Quarterly Quill*?
4. A famous literary detective....
8. The last name of a famous wizard boy...
10. The name of a bookstore just around the corner from Story Studios...
11. He is big, grey, and fluffy! (And lives in the forest, if you need another clue!)
12. The name of a day of the week and a very strange little girl....

