

The Bell's Ring for murder

By Emma Pearce, Age 12

I never expected there to be a murder in such a small, calm school, in a tiny village, especially a really horrible one like the one that happened only a month ago at my school. From the very moment I heard that scream and found the dead body, I knew that I had to investigate before it was too late.

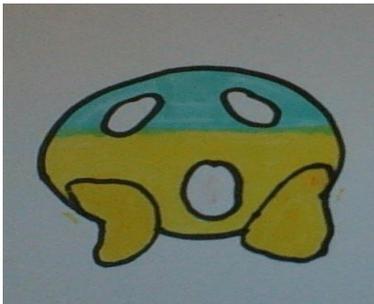
It was just a regular day at Landwednack boarding School for girls, boring lessons, then finally the bell rang for lunch. When we sat down at our tables, I looked over, across the room and saw my worst enemy, Belle. She's always bossing people around, she has this little group of friends who are in her dorm with her, but they're just like her admirers really. They just follow her around wherever she goes and they always do everything she tells them to, their names are, Jess, Annabele, Eliza, Alexa, Jude, Robin and Scarlet.

After we finish our lunch, we all have to go outside, not Belle though. Her and her friends never come outside, they just wait in an empty classroom until everyone is out of the hall and then they stay in there until the bell rings for the end of lunch. I think that there may be something going with Belle at the moment as she has seemed worried for the last

few days, especially today, it's like she's in a completely different world!

The bell rang for the end of lunch but I could barely even hear it as a deafening sound was drowning it out. It was a scream.

The scream had come from the hall so that's where everyone was rushing to. From the moment we got there, I could see straight away what had happened. Lying there, on the floor, with blood all around her with a knife stuck into her, was Belle. I knew this was murder.



Everyone looked shocked and then started whispering very loudly. The teachers made us all go up to our dorm rooms which was very annoying as I really wanted to investigate the scene of the crime right away before any teachers got there first and just cleared it all away!

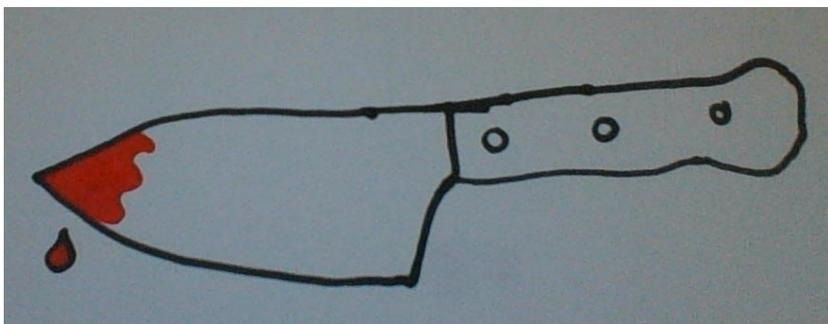
As soon as we got up to our dorms, me and my friends, Lydia, Elsie, Betty, Hayley, Summer, Ivy and Chloe started discussing the case immediately! I spoke first. "We need to investigate this case. I already know the suspects as

it is easy because Belle's friends were the only ones in the right place at the right time." Then Elsie said, "I know who we can already rule out. Alexa went to the san halfway through lunch because she was ill so she can't have done it. "Yes, you're right," said Summer. "Ok, one suspect ruled out. Now we just need to rule out five more until we are left with one. That one will be guilty!" I exclaimed. Then Lydia said, "I know another suspect who can be ruled out! It's Jess. I saw her arguing with Eliza and then storming out of the hall to go and see Alexa in the san. I was watching through the windows for a little while but not long enough to see the murder." "Ok, only five more suspects left, one of them is guilty of stabbing Belle to death. We only need to rule four more of them out now!" Said Betty.

The next morning, as soon as we were ready we went straight to the hall (which was out of bounds) to reinact the crime. Chloe played the victim (Belle) and I played the anonymous murderer. Firstly, I put on gloves which is what the murderer would have done to stop her fingerprints being shown, then, I went into the kitchens and pretended to pick up a knife but instead I picked up a broken, floppy old spatula and then came towards Chloe, she opened her mouth as if she was screaming and then I poked her with the spatula and she fell to the ground, I left the spatula lying on top of her (which was the closest I could get to sticking it in her without hurting her), then I ran out the back door and

went round to join the others who were pretending to be the crowd of girls gathering around.

After that, we searched around the school to see if Belle's body was still there, we looked for ages until we finally found it in a geography room which was completely random but I guess they would put it somewhere no-one would think it would be like some random classroom. She was covered in a dusty old sheet but still wearing the exact same clothes as she had been all day yesterday. I dug through her pockets and found a note. It was sort of like a poem, it said, when the bell rings, your angel's will sing, because you will be gone for good! I showed it to the others and they were as shocked as I was. I kept on searching through her pockets and found several more threatening notes like the one I had found a minute ago. Then there was a voice behind us. "Don't move a muscle or you will join Belle!" We all turned around. It was Scarlet.



"So it was you!?" Gaspd Ivy. Then Scarlet spoke again, "yes, it was me and you had all better stop your investigation right now and tell nobody about this or else!" Then Hayley

made a terrible mistake by saying "Well if we tell someone then you will have already been taken away before you can hurt us." Scarlet's face went red with rage and then she pulled a knife out of her pocket and made a lunge at Hayley. Hayley didn't even look scared, she just grabbed Scarlet's wrist, took the knife out of her hand, threw it on the floor and then pushed her over. I turned around to see the whole school plus the police watching through the window and then they came charging in, handcuffing Scarlet and taking her away.

So we had solved the murder without having even to finish ruling out suspects and in time for the summer holidays when everyone's parents took them out for the day so we wouldn't have had a chance to investigate and the murderer would have gotten away with it. And that was the last time any of us saw Scarlet again.