

In Sarah's Dreams

Sam Bowring

Illustrated by Elizabeth Botté

VORSCHAU

Chapter 1

The ring

On Sarah Gregson's sixteenth birthday, her father Robert gave her a gold ring.

'My dear girl,' said Robert fondly, 'I tried to find a ring beautiful enough for you. It was too hard. This was the best I could find.'

Sarah's face went red. Then she smiled. She knew she was not beautiful, but she loved her father. 'I will wear it all day at school,' she said. She put the ring on her finger. She gave Robert a kiss.

'I'm glad you like it,' said Robert.

Sarah knew the ring had cost a lot of money. She hoped her father had not spent too much. Robert had to work hard to look after himself and Sarah, because Sarah's mother had left them when Sarah was very young.

At the beginning of the year, Sarah and Robert had moved to a new city, and Sarah had started at a new school. Sarah did not like the school. She hadn't made any real friends there. Robert had to move to where he could find work. Sarah understood, but she missed all her friends from her old school. She wished she could see some of them again.

There were nasty girls at this school. Jill Cleary was the worst. Jill was beautiful. All the boys liked her. Jill was nasty to Sarah all the time. She bullied Sarah just because Sarah had spots on her face.

It was Monday morning. The students in Sarah's English class were waiting outside their room for their teacher, Miss Hanson. Sarah stood at the back of the line, away from Jill and her friends. Jill saw Sarah and walked over to her. Jill's friends came too, smiling.

'How are you today, Spotty?' said Jill.



‘Leave me alone,’ said Sarah quietly.

‘Don’t tell *me* what to do,’ said Jill. She pushed Sarah. ‘I can talk to anyone I like.’

Jill’s friends laughed. Two boys were watching, but they didn’t help Sarah. They turned away. No one stopped Jill doing what she wanted. Everyone wanted to be her friend.

Jill saw the ring on Sarah’s finger, and her eyes grew wide. ‘That’s a beautiful ring,’ Jill said. ‘Who gave you that?’

‘My father,’ said Sarah. She tried to put the ring behind her back, but Jill caught her arm.

‘Very beautiful,’ said Jill. ‘Too beautiful for a girl like you. It only makes your face look more ugly!’

Sarah tried to pull away, but Jill was too strong. Jill took the ring off Sarah’s finger.

‘No!’ said Sarah. ‘Give it back!’

‘Why?’ said Jill.

Sarah tried to fight her, and Jill laughed. Jill was taller, and she always had her friends to help her. Now Jill’s friends held Sarah. Sarah couldn’t get to Jill, or the ring. She began to cry. She had to get her ring back! She tried again and again, but Jill’s friends still held her.

‘What’s going on here?’ It was Miss Hanson, the English teacher.

‘It’s just Sarah Gregson, Miss Hanson,’ Jill said sadly. ‘She was trying to steal my ring from me. A ring my father gave me. The poor girl. She really doesn’t know right from wrong.’

‘That’s not true!’ said Sarah.

Sarah knew that Miss Hanson liked Jill. All the teachers liked Jill because she did so well in class.

‘Sarah Gregson!’ Miss Hanson said angrily. ‘Stealing and bullying are not accepted in this school! I want you to think about that. Stand outside the classroom until the end of the lesson. All you other students get into class...now!’

A lesson for Jill

That afternoon Sarah stopped thinking about Jeremy and Jill Cleary. She talked to Marcia and she was happy. She went home feeling good.

Sarah hoped she was not going to dream about Jill and Jeremy that night. She didn't want to dream about bullying. She wanted to dream about something nice.

At dinner she sat at the table with Robert. He kept looking at her finger, where her ring had been. Sarah could see that he wanted to ask a question. After a few minutes he did.

'Sarah,' he said, 'I haven't seen you wear your ring since your birthday. Don't you like it?'

'Oh!' said Sarah. 'I love it! It's beautiful.'

'Then why don't you wear it?' said Robert. He looked sad.

'I just...' Sarah tried to think of something to say. She didn't want to tell Robert that the ring had been stolen. 'I wear it at school, but by the end of the day it hurts my finger. I take it off before I come home.'

'Is it too small?' said Robert.

'No, no,' said Sarah. 'But I've never worn a ring before. Soon it will be okay. Soon I'll be able to wear it all the time. You'll see!'

Robert nodded, but he did not look happy.

When Sarah went to bed she felt bad. She loved the ring, and she loved her father too. She knew he had spent a lot of money on the ring. She knew how hard he had to work to pay for it. And now she had lied to him about it again.

Sarah didn't know if Robert had believed her. She didn't like lying to her father! It was all because of stupid Jill Cleary. Sarah could not stop thinking about her. She was so angry! She was still angry when she got to sleep.

Sarah began to dream again. She was standing at the front of the school. Jeremy was close by. Sarah knew that she was just dreaming. She knew that Jeremy was not really there. It was all in her head. Why did she keep dreaming about this strange boy?

‘Jeremy,’ said Sarah, ‘I saw you at school today. The real you. I don’t know what your real name is. Your real name in real life.’

‘My real name *is* Jeremy,’ he said. ‘Why don’t you ask me the next time you see me in the real world?’

Sarah laughed. ‘Maybe I could, if you didn’t run away every time I see you!’

‘I don’t run away,’ said Jeremy. ‘I just can’t stay in the real world for very long.’

I certainly have some strange dreams these days, thought Sarah.

‘Did Jill Cleary and her friends do anything to you today?’ said Jeremy.

‘Annabel drew a stupid picture, but I don’t care about that.’ Sarah’s face went red with anger. ‘Jill Cleary made me lie to my father. I made him sad. He thinks I don’t like the ring he gave me. All because Jill stole it!’

Jeremy nodded. ‘I think Jill Cleary needs to be taught another lesson.’ Jeremy clicked his fingers, and the dream changed.

Sarah and Jeremy were standing in Sarah’s house. It looked worse than it looked in real life. The walls were covered in dirt. The windows were broken. There were marks on the carpet.

At the kitchen table sat Robert. Next to him sat Jill! She was dressed in Sarah’s clothes. They were eating breakfast together. The food did not look very good.

‘Don’t worry,’ said Jeremy. ‘They can’t see us.’

‘Why is Jill in my house? Why is she eating breakfast with my father?’

Jeremy's answers

At lunchtime, Sarah looked for Jeremy. She could not find him. She wanted to ask him a lot of questions. Had he been helping her? How was he able to come into her dreams? Who was he? Was his name really Jeremy? Sarah remembered something Jeremy had told her in a dream. He said he could not be in the real world for very long. What did he mean? She looked for him after school too. But she still couldn't find him.

When Sarah got home, Robert said, 'You're wearing your ring!'

'Yes,' said Sarah. 'It doesn't hurt my finger now. I can wear it all the time.'

Robert smiled and said, 'That's good to hear.'

When she went to bed, Sarah hoped she wasn't going to dream about Jeremy or Jill. She wanted to forget about them. She had her ring back. That was the important thing.

But she did dream, and Jeremy was there. They were in a classroom. Jeremy was sitting at a desk next to her. There were no other people in the classroom.

'Hello, Sarah,' Jeremy said.

'Who are you, Jeremy?' said Sarah. 'Are you really in my dreams? I have to know.'

'I am,' said Jeremy. 'I told you that before. You didn't believe me.'

'How can I know what to believe in a dream?' asked Sarah.

Jeremy saw the ring on her finger. 'Did you get your ring back in real life?' he asked.

'Yes,' said Sarah. 'Jill Cleary is afraid of me!'

Jeremy smiled. 'Good,' he said.

The library

Sarah walked to school early on Friday. She wanted time to visit the library. In the library there were lists of all the students who went to the school. She went up to the front desk. The librarian was an old woman named Mrs Wilson. Mrs Wilson was nice to Sarah because Sarah was often in the library.

‘Hello, my dear,’ said Mrs Wilson. ‘Are you tired? You look tired.’

‘I didn’t sleep well last night,’ said Sarah.

‘That’s no good,’ said Mrs Wilson. ‘Get a good sleep tonight. Sleep is very important. Now, what can I do for you?’

‘I want to see the names of all the students at the school,’ said Sarah.

‘All right,’ said Mrs Wilson. She reached behind her desk and pulled out a thin book. ‘Here it is.’

Sarah opened the book and looked inside. She was looking for Jeremy’s name.

Jeremy looked younger than she was. If he was at the school, he must be in one of the lower years. She looked at the names of the students in all the classes below her. There was no one called Jeremy.

‘Did you find who you were looking for?’ asked Mrs Wilson.

‘No,’ said Sarah. ‘Thank you.’ She gave back the book.

Sarah began to walk out of the library. She passed the yearbooks. The yearbooks had pictures and names of students from past years. Sarah had an idea. Jeremy had said he did not come to the school any more. Maybe he was in one of the yearbooks from a past year?



Activities

Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 5 and circle the correct answers.

1. What do you think is special about this day?
a. There's a wedding. b. There's a funeral. c. It's a birthday.
2. How old do you think the girl is?
a. fifteen b. sixteen c. seventeen

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

bully spots grab nasty

1. When I was a teenager I had a lot of _____ on my face.
2. The thief tried to _____ my bag, but I held onto it.
3. Ben's afraid to go to school because one boy there is a _____.
4. Jenny is a _____ girl. She's always saying unkind things.

C. Listen to Track 3 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. What did Robert give Sarah?
a. a key b. a ring
2. Did Sarah think she was beautiful?
a. yes b. no
3. When had Sarah's mother left?
a. the day before b. when Sarah was very young

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. What name did Jill call Sarah?
a. Silly b. Spotty c. Bully
2. How did Sarah feel after she shouted at the boy?
a. She felt good. b. She felt bad. c. She felt angry.
3. Where did Sarah see the boy for the second time?
a. in her class b. in her dream c. in the hall
4. Who helped Sarah in the bathroom?
a. Miss Hanson b. Jill c. Marcia

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. In her dream, Sarah made the water very hot. | T / F |
| 2. Robert was sad that Sarah wasn't wearing the ring. | T / F |
| 3. In the dream, Jill was living Sarah's life. | T / F |
| 4. Sarah liked seeing Jill being bullied in the dream. | T / F |

C. Complete these sentences.

1. Water poured out of the _____.
2. In Annabel's picture, Sarah's face was covered with _____.
3. Sarah didn't want to tell Robert that the ring had been _____.
4. Jeremy said that when Jill woke up, she might see things _____.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. Who began to cry in the bathroom in Sarah's dream?

2. What was the name of the film Marcia wanted to see?

3. Who did Robert give the ring to in Sarah's dream?

4. Who pulled the ring off Jill's finger in the dream?

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Match these verbs to the objects they go with in Chapters 4, 5 and 6.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. click | a ring |
| 2. wear | fingers |
| 3. draw | a bus |
| 4. catch | a picture |

B. Write the past tense of these verbs.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. know _____ | 3. wake _____ |
| 2. feel _____ | 4. steal _____ |

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Listen to Chapters 4, 5 and 6 on the CD. Why do you think Jill wasn't so nasty to Sarah in the classroom on Wednesday?

Chapters 9, 10 and 11

Before you read

A. *Look at the picture on page 35 and circle the correct answers.*

1. Where do you think Sarah is?
a. in an office b. in a shop c. in a library
2. How does the lady look?
a. kind b. nasty c. crazy

B. *Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.*

librarian ghost empty imagine

1. Close your eyes and _____ that you are flying.
2. Our house will be _____ while we are away on holiday.
3. The _____ helped me find the book I wanted.
4. I keep hearing strange noises. Do you think there could be a _____ in this house?

C. *Listen to Track 6 on the CD and answer these questions.*

1. When did Sarah go to the library on Friday?
a. before school b. after school
2. Why did Mrs Wilson ask Sarah if she was tired?
a. Because she was often in the library.
b. Because she looked tired.
3. Where did Mrs Wilson have the names of all the students?
a. in a book b. on her computer

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. *Circle the correct answers.*

1. What was Sarah looking for in the book Mrs Wilson gave her?
a. Jill's address b. Jeremy's name c. Marcia's phone number
2. Where were Sarah and Jeremy sitting at the start of her dream that night?
a. in an empty classroom b. in a bathroom c. in Sarah's house
3. How did Sarah and Jill stop Jeremy from hurting Jill?
a. by hitting him b. by hiding
c. by imagining he couldn't move
4. Where did Sarah and Marcia go on Saturday?
a. to the cinema b. to Jill's house c. to the library

Glossary

adj. adjective; *n.* noun; *v.* verb

believe /bi'li:v/ *v.*

belong /bi'lɒŋ/ *v.*

bully /'bʊli/ *v.*

n.

click /klik/ *v.*

confused /kən'fju:zd/ *adj.*

control /kən'trəʊl/ *v.*

crazy /'kreɪzi/ *adj.*

deserve /di'zɜ:v/ *v.*

dream /dri:m/ *n.*

v.

ghost /gəʊst/ *n.*

grab /græb/ *v.*

hall /hɔ:l/ *n.*

ignore /ɪg'nɔ:/ *v.*

imagine /ɪ'mædʒɪn/ *v.*

librarian /laɪ'breəriən/ *n.*

library /'laɪbrəri/ *n.*

lipstick /'lɪp,stɪk/ *n.*

mirror /'mɪrə/ *n.*

ring /rɪŋ/ *n.*

spot /spɒt/ *n.*

steal /sti:l/ *v.*

stupid /'stju:pɪd/ *adj.*

swing /swɪŋ/ *v.*

tough /tʌf/ *adj.*

ugly /'ʌgli/ *adj.*

jdm./etw. glauben

gehören

tyrannisieren

*jmd., der andere tyrannisiert
oder schikaniert*

(mit den Fingern) schnipsen

durcheinander, verwirrt

kontrollieren

verrückt

verdienen

Traum

träumen

Geist

packen

Diele, Korridor

nicht beachten, ignorieren

sich vorstellen

Bibliothekar(in)

Bibliothek

Lippenstift

Spiegel

Ring

Fleck, Pickel

stehlen

dumm

hin und her schwingen

(knall)hart

hässlich