

EXCERPT FROM "BORING SCHOOL DAYS: STRAIGHT FROM HELL"

By

C. C. Cieri

NARRATOR: This is a story about boring school days

(SCENE 1. EXT. EAST DOG HEAD ELEMENTARY. PLAYGROUND. 12:30 PM. SWINGS AND MERRY-GO-ROUNDS ARE CREAKING AND SQUEAKING, BALLS ARE BOUNCING ON THE BLACKTOP, AND CHILDREN ARE LAUGHING AND SCREAMING AND RUNNING ACROSS THE PLAYGROUND. CILIA IS CHASING BREADLEY ACROSS THE PLAYGROUND, SCREAMING AT HIM.)

CILIA: Bradley! You give me back my doll!

BREADLEY: I just wanted t' look at it! I think m' sister has one o' these dolls!

CILIA: You don't just take stuff from other people without saying please!

BREADLEY: I was gonna give it back!

(CILIA YANKS THE DOLL FROM BREADLEY'S GRASP AND SMOOTHS DOWN ITS HAIR.)

CILIA: I don't even know why Saria likes you! You're just a jerk!

BREADLEY: I am not a jerk!

CILIA: Well, you can go to H-E-Double-Hockey-Sticks, Bradley!

BREADLEY: (GASPS) You didn't!

CILIA: I did!

(SARIA WALKS OVER TO THE GROUP, NOTICING HER TWO FRIENDS FIGHTING.)

SARIA: What's going on, guys?

BREADLEY: Cilia said the "H" word!

CILIA: I did not! I just said that Bradley could go to H-E-Double-Hockey Sticks for being such a butthead!

SARIA: What are you talking about?

CILIA: He took my Barbie!

BREADLEY: I just wanted t' look at it!

SARIA: Not that! The hockey sticks!

BREADLEY: Ya know...H-E-Double-Hockey-Sticks! The word you can't say because it's bad!

CILIA: You know, “heck.” Except it's not heck, it's that other word.

SARIA: You mean Hell?

(SUDDENLY, THE GROUND STARTS TO RUMBLE AND SHAKE. THE KIDS STOP THEIR LAUGHING AND SHOUTING, BALLS SLOWLY STOP BOUNCING, AND MERRY-GO-ROUNDS SCREECH TO A HALT. THE BLACKTOP STARTS TO SPLIT APART, WITH SHRIEKS EMITTING FROM THE FISSURES. FEROCIOUS HELLBEASTS EMERGE FROM THE CRACKS, GROANING, SHRIEKING AND CACKLING. THEY SLITHER, CRAWL, AND FLY TOWARDS THE UNSUSPECTING CHILDREN WHO RUN BACK INTO THE SCHOOL, SCREAMING. SARIA, CILIA, AND BREADLEY FOLLOW SUIT.)

BREADLEY: You fool! What have you done?!

SARIA: (SQUEALING) I don't know!

(THE HELLBEASTS CONTINUE TO SHRIEK AND HOWL, THEIR KEENING CRIES QUIETING, THOUGH NOT STOPPING, DURING THE TRANSITION INTO THE NEXT SCENE.)

(SCENE 2. INT. EAST DOG HEAD ELEMENTARY. MS. KILLJOY'S MATH CLASS. 1 P.M. HELLBEASTS CAN STILL BE HEARD THROUGH THE WINDOWS AND THE HALLWAYS. MS. KILLJOY CLEARS HER THROAT)

MS. KILLJOY: Now students, we may very well be facing the end of times because a CERTAIN YOUNG LADY WHO WILL BE GETTING A DETENTION HAS UTTERED A PROFANITY, but I think we all agree that the Apocalypse is no reason to stop today's lesson.

HAINES: (MUTTERS) Says you!

(MS. KILLJOY SLAMS HER RULER ONTO HER DESK.)

MS. KILLJOY: DETENTION! Now, onto the lesson.

(MS. KILLJOY BEGINS WRITING ON THE CHALKBOARD, WHILE AN ANONYMOUS MAN SCREAMS IN PAIN OUTSIDE.)

MS. KILLJOY: Maurice is baking an orange pie for his wonderful teacher, which calls for two pounds of oranges. He currently has 7 oranges in his refrigerator, but two of them are bruised.

SUFFERING MAN: No! Don't break my legs! (CRACK) Augh! You broke my legs!

MS. KILLJOY: If we assume that each orange weighs 7.05 ounces; and that Maurice would never sink so low as to give his teacher a pie made from bruised oranges, how many—

SUFFERING MAN: What are you going to do with that hot poker?!

MS. KILLJOY: (CLEARS HER THROAT) How many oranges will Maurice—

SUFFERING MAN: AARRRRRRGH!!!

MS. KILLJOY: Who is making that infernal racket?! Can't they see we have a class in session?

PORGIE: I think that man is blindfolded. He can't see anything, Ms. Killjoy.

MS. KILLJOY: Detention, Porgie! And that "blindfolded man" outside will be serving detention for the rest of his life!

(MS. KILLJOY MARCHES TO THE WINDOW IN HER HEELS AND THROWS OPEN THE WINDOWS. A GALE OF WIND RUSHES IN THROUGH THE WINDOW AND WHIPS AROUND THE CLASSROOM.)

SARIA: My books! (TRIES TO REACH FOR HER FLAPPING BOOKS.)

MS. KILLJOY: (SHOUTING OUT THE WINDOW) You there! With the blindfold! Stop that at once! You are disrupting my lesson, and my students cannot concentrate!

SUFFERING MAN: Save me! Somebody get me out of here!

MS. KILLJOY: You just earned yourself a detention, young man! And don't think I didn't notice you hellbeasts cawing and squawking out there either!

(THE HELLBEASTS START SHRIEKING AND FLAPPING THEIR WINGS SO LOUDLY THAT MS. KILLJOY'S NEXT LINE IS ALMOST INAUDIBLE.)

MS. KILLJOY: If you don't stop that racket right now I'll call up all your parents and-

(A LARGE, PTERADACTYL-ESQUE HELLBEAST SWOOPS IN THROUGH THE WINDOW AND CARRIES MS. KILLJOY AWAY WITH HIS MASSIVE TALONS ON HER SHOULDERS. MS. KILLJOY CONTINUES TO PROTEST ALL THE WAY, HER VOICE FADING AS SHE IS CARRIED OFF.)

MS. KILLJOY: Put me down you hideous creature! Your parents will hear about this! And the school board! You'll be serving detentions for the rest of your life! Detentionooooooooon!

(THE STUDENTS ARE SILENT, LEAVING THE AUDIENCE NOTHING TO HEAR EXPECT FOR A GUST OF WIND AND THE ROARS AND CRIES OF THE HELLBEASTS. ONE OF THEM EVENTUALLY STANDS UP, WALKS OVER TO THE WINDOW AND CLOSES IT.)

BREADLEY: Thanks, Saria. I was gettin' kind of cold.

PORGIE: This is all your fault, Saria! If it wasn't for you saying that stupid word, none of this would be happening!

HAINÉ: What, you mean Ms. Killjoy getting carried away by some horrible monster, and now we don't have to do anything for the rest of class?

PORGIE: Oh. (PAUSE) Anyone want some gum? (TAKES OUT A PACK OF GUM) It's grape flavored.

FRIDAY: No thanks. I'm not hungry.

BREADLEY: I'll have some! (TAKES A PIECE AND POPS IT INTO HIS MOUTH. HE STARTS CHEWING.)

PORGIE: Well?

BREADLEY: Oh! Thanks! It's really grapey.

ARADIA: I have to go to the bathroom!

CILIA: Then go. You can probably make it before Ms. Killjoy comes back.

ARADIA: But Homard still has the hall pass from when he went to the bathroom, and he's not back yet!

CILIA: It'll be fine. Just get back quickly.

SARIA: Can you ask if he's okay on the way there? I'd hate to think that he got eaten up by a monster!

ARADIA: Okay! I'll tell him! (RUNS OUT OF THE ROOM.)

SARIA: Wasn't Ms. Killjoy chased out of the school after Randerson got expelled?

FRIDAY: I dunno. Maybe she got hired again.