

This is the diary of me, Bubbles the guinea pig, from the time my owner's life was turned upside down by annoying wizard Merdyn the Wild. It includes fascinating thoughts about things I like:

1. **FOOD**

- 2. My owner **ROSE**, because she gives me food
- 3. Doing **POOS**, to make more room for food

And things I don't like:

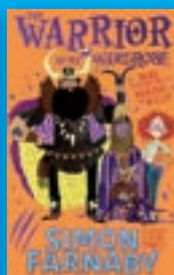
1. **DOGS**

- 2. **MERDYN THE WILD** – yes, he did a spell so that I could speak – but he's a big pain in the place my poos come out of

3. **DOGS**. Again. I REALLY HATE DOGS!

Oh, and it's got some stuff about time travel and magic and evil sorcerers. BORING!

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THE WIZARD AND ME
SIMON FARNABY

THE WIZARD AND ME

MORE MISADVENTURES OF MERDYN THE WILD BUBBLES THE GUINEA PIG

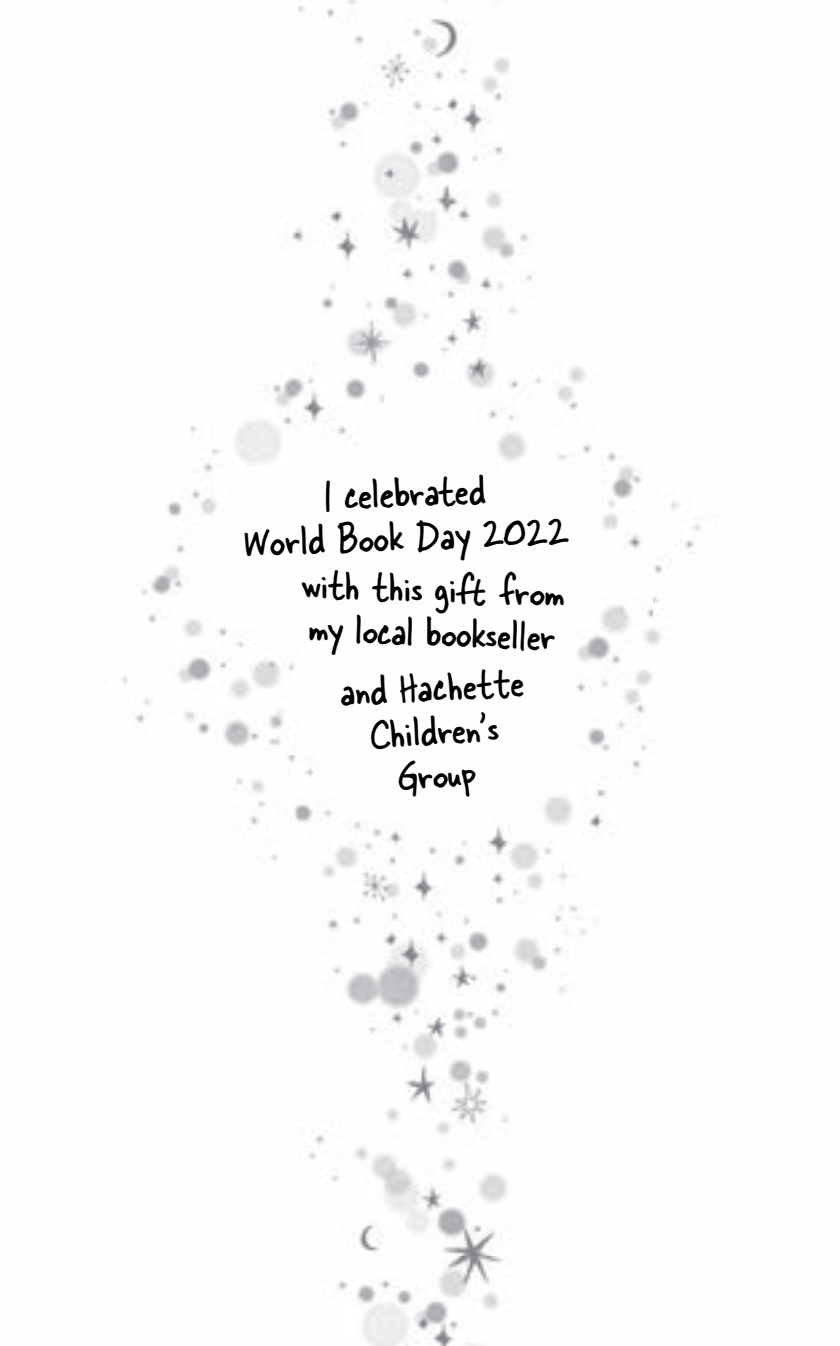


SIMON FARNABY

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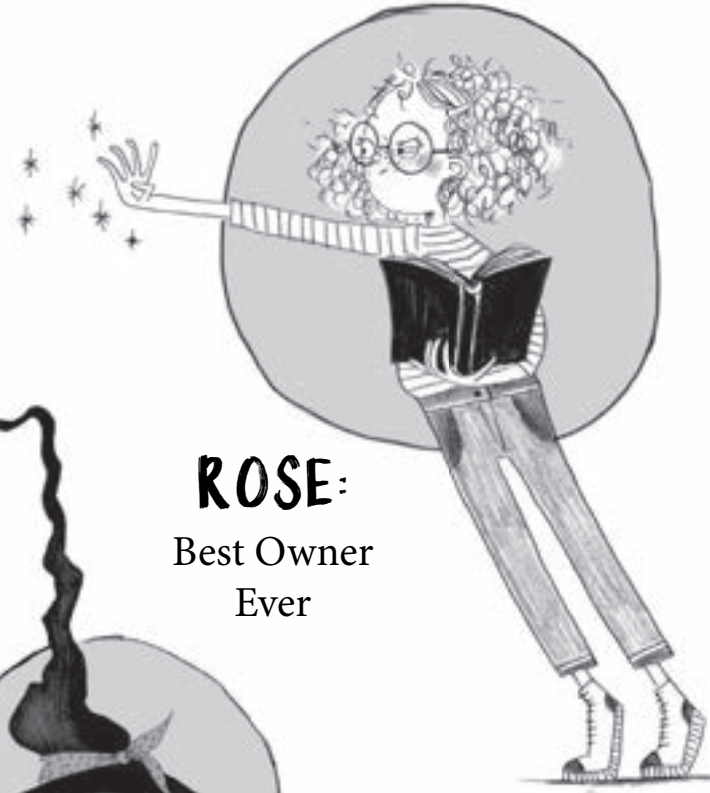
ILLUSTRATED BY CLAIRE POWELL
**SIMON
FARNABY**



People and animals you will meet in
my very exciting story.



BUBBLES: ME!
Best Guinea Pig Ever



ROSE:
Best Owner
Ever

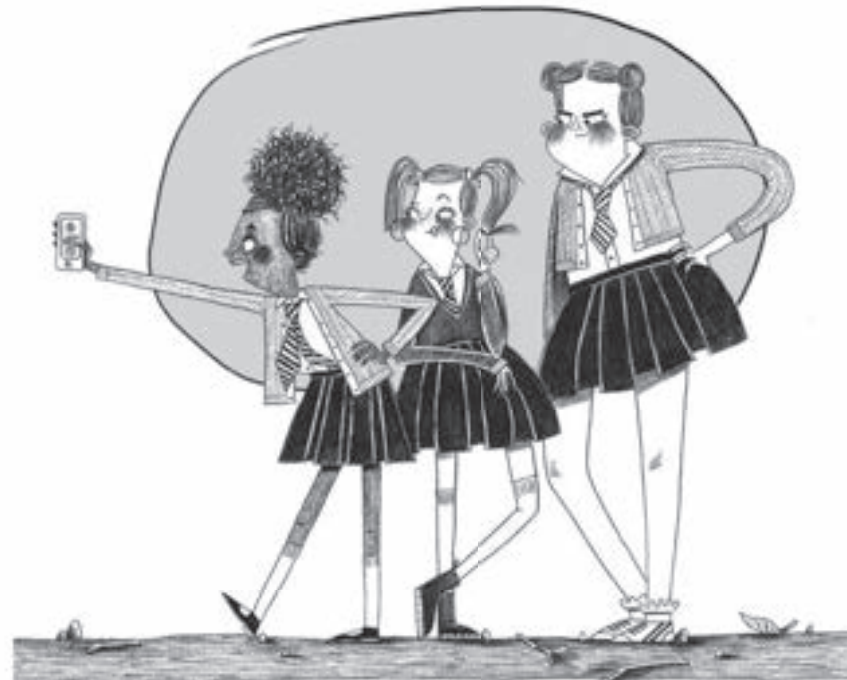


MERDYN:
Most Annoying
Wizard Ever

BOB:
Most Barky,
Bitey Dog
Ever



**CATRINA,
ANDREA AND
TAMSIN:**
Mean Girls



SNOTTY KID:
Snottiest Human Ever



DAY 1



Hello?! Is this on? Right, good. Hello!! This is an historic day in history. Possibly the most historic day of all time. I, Bubbles, a guinea pig, have been given the power of speech, thanks to a pine cone around my neck. (More on that later, it's complicated.)

OK. So. My owner, Rose, has given me a



Dictaphone, which is a voice-recording device I'm speaking into right now.

One day in the future, someone will find this Dictaphone and write down what I'm saying and make it into **THE BEST BOOK PROBABLY ACTUALLY EVER**. How do I know? Listen, I've **SEEN** books, OK, they are mostly **BORIIIIING!** This one will not be boring. It will be the greatest book **OF ALL TIME!**

I would write my amazing book myself but Rose won't let me touch her laptop because last time I tried to use it I did a wee on it and she had to take it to the computer shop to get it mended. She's lucky I didn't do any poos as wees and poos tend to happen close together.

Oh, oops! I hadn't meant to talk about wees

and poos. Sorry. Let me get to the point of my very important story ...

Actually, before I do that, I just want to say **ONE** thing about wees and poos. I'm a guinea pig. Guinea pigs wee and poo **A LOT**. Nearly **ALL THE TIME**. It's just a fact. **WE DON'T DO IT ON PURPOSE**, OK? We eat food, drink water, and then we wee and poo – it's called biology, **GET OVER IT!** Right. Enough about wees and poos.

So. Wow, what a day I've had! I've seen actual magic happen! I've met a real wizard! And I've added him to my list of things I hate:

1) DOGS. I HAAAATE DOGS!

2) BEING HUNGRY.

3) WHEN MY CAGE GETS TOO FULL OF POOS.

4) DOGS.

I KNOW I'VE SAID THIS ALREADY
BUT I HAAAATE DOGS.
HAAAATE THEM.

5) MERDYN THE WILD.

(THE WIZARD I JUST MENTIONED.)
OR ANYONE ELSE WHO TRIES TO
EAT ME.

Rose and I met Merdyn the wizard in the wood. It was after she came home from school with water leaking from her eyes again. Can I just ask, why do humans leak water from their eyes? What's that all about? Is it wee?

Do humans WEE from their eyes?! Anyway,



whatever it is, Rose does it. A LOT.

She didn't used to. It started when her dad went away and then she had to go to this new school.

Now look, I understand that she might have some human problems that I'm not aware of, but whatever they are, when she got home today I had a bigger problem ... I WAS HUNGRY!! So, I got up to the bars of my cage and scratched on them. She noticed me, bent down, opened the cage and picked me up.

"Oh, Bubbles," she said. "You trying to cheer me up?"

I wanted to say, "No! I'm starving!" but I couldn't speak at this point, so she couldn't hear me.

Then I tried to ask her for some food WITH

MY EYES. I do this by straining really hard and making my eyes go really big. Sadly, doing this face sometimes leads to a poo dropping out of my bottom which is what happened then. The poo landed on a map and somehow Rose took this as a sign to **RUN AWAY FROM HOME!**



The next thing I knew, she was packing a bag and I was like, OK, if we're running away, just don't forget to pack my food. All the time when she was packing, I was staring at my jar of food, stretching my eyes at it. Looking at Rose. Looking at the jar. Looking at Rose, looking at the jar. But I got nothing but three more poos

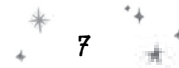


escaping from my bot-bot.

Before I could say, "THE FOOD, YOU DOPE!!" we were out the door and in the middle of some woods and Rose hadn't got a clue where we were. I could tell she was regretting running away. She sat down, opened her bag and said, "Oh dear, Bubbles, I forgot to pack your food."

I looked at her and I was like, I KNOW!!!!!! But just then something happened that scared me so much I immediately and completely emptied my bottom of poos. A MAN WAS FOLLOWING US!

The chap started talking to us. He said his name was Merdyn the Wild and started banging on



about being a wizard. Rose and I didn't believe him. Then this Merdyn fella grabbed hold of me and said he was going to EAT ME!! What the HECK?

Rose stopped him from killing me – she shouted, “This is my pet!” – which I suppose I should be thankful for. I mean, I will NEVER forgive her for forgetting my food. But I DO thank her for saving my life.

The mad bloke didn't give me back to her though. He threw some PLANTS over me, said some mumbo-jumbo words and pressed a pine cone to my head. I was thinking, *Get off me, you weirdo!* At that point, the strangest thing that's EVER HAPPENED to any animal IN THE WORLD happened. I started to hear my thoughts OUTSIDE my

head. And let me tell you, when you're an animal and you hear your voice OUTSIDE your head, you REALLY feel the need to do a poo. *IneedapooIneedapooIneedapoo!* I thought and then I heard it outside my head. “IneedapooIneedapooIneedapoo!”

I had a VOICE!

Rose heard it,
Merdyn heard it. I was
now a TALKING GUINEA
PIG!

“Go ahead,” the wizard said. “Say something else.”

“Er ... I don't know what to say,” I said.

“What have you always wanted to say to me?” Rose asked.

“Er ... I'm hungry!” I said.

The pair of them burst out laughing, which I thought was very rude, so I decided not to speak for a bit.

Merdyn said he was going to grant Rose a wish. He asked her what she most wanted in the whole of her life and she said, “Well, I want to be a singer, but I’m already a good singer, so I won’t wish for that.”

Rose, I thought, You are NOT a good singer. Most of the time, I think you are shouting in pain.

“That’s very hurtful, Bubbles,” Rose said back.

Oh. My. God, I thought. I’m going to have to be careful what I think now if people are going to hear me.

When we got home, Rose persuaded her

mum to let Merdyn the Wild stay in our shed. Her mum said she knew him. Humans are a mystery.

We finally came upstairs and Rose gave me some food and water. BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!!! She also tied my pine cone around my collar so that I can talk when I want to. Then she gave me this Dictaphone and now here I am talking to you.

That was my first diary entry EVER! I think it’s pretty blooming good. It’s possible that there’s too much talk about poos and wees, but whoever listens to this and turns it into a book might just leave those bits out so I’m not going to worry about that.