



The Waiting Room

1 I sat in the hospital waiting room with a throbbing knee. Opposite sat a man with a lump on his cheek the size of a goose egg. Next to him hunched a woman whose left eye was hidden by a plastic patch. Beside her was a biker in black leather and studs. A crimson scar slewed across his cheek like the Grand Prix raceway.

2 "Sorry about the wait," said the nurse who'd taken our details. "The doctors are flat out finishing up with the last of this morning's patients — it's been quite busy today."

"Crikey," said Dad. "What about my daughter?" He jerked his thumb at my knee which, let's face it, looked pretty spectacular. The bandage was soaked through with blood.

Nurse Singh checked her stopwatch. "The doctors won't be *too* long and you four are the only ones waiting."

3 This didn't cheer us up. Goose Egg rubbed his cheek gloomily. Eye Patch tugged at her cardigan and Scar Face glared at me

as if I'd personally held the doctors up. The silence in the room was so heavy I thought it would squash us.

"Looks like we're in for a *long* wait," I said. My eyes fixed on the lump on Goose Egg's cheek. "What happened to your face?"

4 "Janis!" said Dad, but Goose Egg gave me a twisted smile.

"This," he said, "is a dragon's egg."

All eyes turned towards him.

"Are you keeping it warm?" I asked.

"Exactly. It belongs to Blackfang the dragon and ..." his voice dropped to a whisper, "... it will hatch tonight."

5 Eye Patch snorted.

I turned to her. "What happened to your eye?"

"I lost it."

"Lost it?"

"Yup, last Thursday at the Marble Championships in Tankville. I was one shot behind the favourite, J. D. McGribble, when an albatross swooped down and snatched up my lucky shooter marble."

I let out a low whistle.

"So then," said Eye Patch, "I plucked out my own eyeball and used it to play the winning shot."

"Awesome."

"Trouble is, my eyeball kept on rolling. Last I saw, it rolled all the way down to the Tankville Dam."

"Humph," said Dad.

6 I turned towards Scar Face, who rubbed his crimson scar. "You look like you went ten rounds with Godzilla."

"Yer not far wrong." Scar Face twisted his knuckle ring. "I was walkin' down a dark alley when a spaceship landed in front of me. Out of the hatch crawled an alien with a head like a dropped pie and three sets of floppy-flap ears."

Scar Face had everyone's attention. Even Nurse Singh gazed at him curiously.

"The alien waltzed up to me and pointed to its putrid mouth. 'Take me ... to your ... feeder.' Next thing I know, it's hanging off me face, claws dug in deep."

"What did you do?"

He gave a greasy grin. "I roared louder than a Harley on rocket fuel. The alien took off so fast its ears fell off." He patted his pocket. "I've got 'em in here."

7 I looked at Scar Face admiringly, but then I realised the waiting room had gone quiet and everyone was looking at *me*.

Goose Egg pointed to my knee. "What happened to you, young lady?"

"Yes, do tell," said Eye Patch, sniffing.

"I'm all ears," said Scar Face, patting his pocket with a grin.

I turned to look at my dad. He seemed to be really fascinated by something in his magazine.

"Oh this little thing here? I just fell off my bike."

8 There was a collective "humph" of disappointment from everyone in the waiting room.

"No, I'm really here to get my pet zombie checked out," I said, pointing to my dad with a smirk.

Goose Egg laughed.

Eye Patch giggled.

Scar Face bellowed.

Dad just snorted.

"Next!" called out the nurse.

Questions

- How many people needed to see the doctor?
a four
b five
c six
- Who was Blackfang?
a a marble champion
b an alien
c a dragon
- What did the albatross pick up?
a a marble
b an alien's ears
c a dragon's egg
- The bikie has the alien's
a spaceship.
b ears.
c eyes.
- The alien didn't have
a a dropped-pie head.
b three flippy-flap ears.
c a greasy grin.
- How can we tell that the patients have become bored?
a They weren't talking.
b They joined in with the story-telling game.
c They were hunched over.

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ().

putrid crimson bellowed
admiringly spectacular

- A deep purple-red colour (1)
- Very impressive and exciting (2)
- Rotten and bad-smelling (6)
- To look at someone with great approval (7)
- Shouted and roared (8)

Grammar

The words in **BLUE** appear in the text. Match them by writing the correct antonym shown in **RED**.

E.g. **under** / **over**

- busy** **losing**
- silence** **inactive**
- lost** **noise**
- winning** **found**

Back To The Text...

- In which part of the library would you find this text?
a fiction b non-fiction
- The purpose of this text is
a to instruct. b to entertain.
- Another good name for this text would be:
a My Sore Knee
b The Tallest Tale

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- a The nurse checked her stopwatch.
b The nurse said "Sorry about the wait."
- a Scar Face told his story.
b Goose Egg told his story.
- a The alien dug its claws in.
b The alien's ears fell off.

Think About This

- Which person was in need of the most help?
a Eye Patch
b Scar Face
c You can't tell from the text.
- Which words suggest that the alien's face was a mess?
a Godzilla
b dropped pie
c flippy-flap ears

Challenge Option

Writing: Write about the biggest story you have ever made up.

