

Flash Harriet is a young detective, and with her pet tarantula, Gus, she is ready for anything.

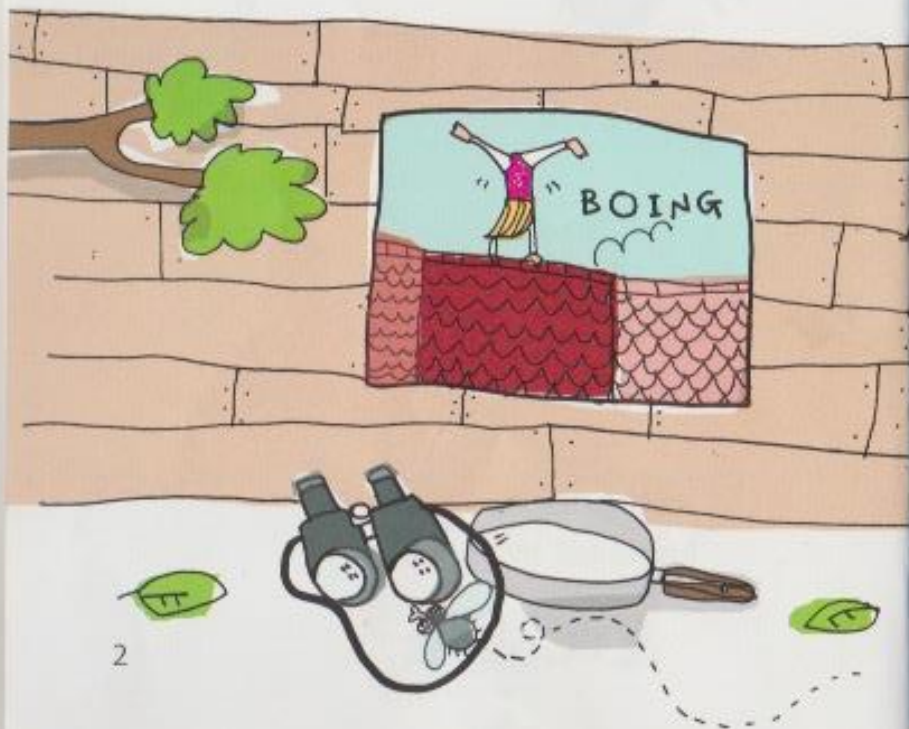
Let's read about her adventure.



1 A very surprising visitor

Flash Harriet was sitting in her tree house, reading her favourite book. It was called *Daring Detectives* and it was written by her Uncle Proudlock.

Flash Harriet wasn't a piano player like her father, Norman Brilliant, who was famous for his brilliant noise, BOING! BANG! BOING!



She wasn't an acrobat like her mother, Sequin Cynthia, who was famous for taking walks along other people's rooftops.

But Flash Harriet was a good detective, just like her Uncle Proudlock, and she was getting better all the time.

The strangest people came to her with the strangest problems and, just like her uncle, she could sort them all out.



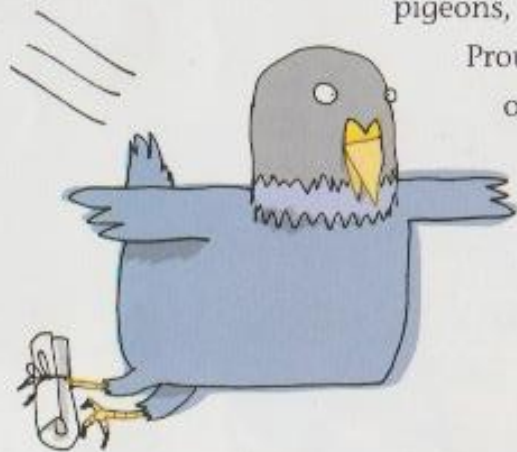
Flash Harriet looked across the room to where a large black tarantula was wagging his legs in the air. His name was Gus and he had been Uncle Proudlock's idea.

"Best guard dog you can find," Uncle Proudlock had said. He had been right. Gus was always on the case!



Suddenly, a pigeon with a message tied to its leg flew through the tree house window.

There was only one person who sent carrier pigeons, and that was Uncle Proudlock! Flash Harriet opened the message on its leg. It said:
**NEED YOUR HELP.
COME AT ONCE.
BRING GUS.**



Flash Harriet gasped. Uncle Proudlock had never asked for her help before. It must be something very important!

She put Gus into his special travelling box, strapped it to her belt and slid down the firefighter's pole she used for quick exits.



Then she ran across the garden to her house and banged on the window.

"I'm going to Scotland to see Uncle Proudlock!" Flash Harriet shouted over the CRASH! BOOM! of her father's brilliant noises.

Then she waved to her mother, who was standing on her head on top of the chimney.

"Bye-bye, darling!" cried Sequin Cynthia. "Have a lovely time!"

Flash Harriet grinned and waved again. Nothing her parents did surprised her any more.

Then she jumped onto her motor-powered tricycle and roared off to the station to catch a train. Uncle Proudlock lived by the side of one of the deepest lakes in Scotland – Loch Ness.



2 A clever plan



"Something odd is happening in Swag Hall," said Uncle Proudlock, as he drove Flash Harriet back to his castle on the edge of Loch Ness. He stopped the car and pointed across the lake to a huge stone house. "When the new people moved in, strange things began to happen."

Chapter One

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

Infer

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Summarise



V What does the word 'detective' mean?

I How was Flash Harriet feeling when she got the message from her uncle? How do you know?

P What do you think will happen next?

E Find phrases to explain why Harriet's parents were unusual.

R What was special about Harriet's guard dog?

S Tell me the 3 main things that have happened so far in the story.

Word families

Colour the words, in the same colour, that you think are in the same family.
One has been done for you. Can you make up a family of your own?

reading

dared

dares

unstrap

daring

strapped

read

straps

dare

misread

strap

strapping