

Bedbugs

SERIALIZED



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

WHEN THE BEDBUGS GO AWAY...

Once upon a time in a mansion with one hundred bedrooms and one hundred beds, there lived a sad and lonely boy named Scotty Snot. Scott's father, Wilmot Snot, was rich beyond belief. He was also extremely strict with his son, Scotty.

"You are a Snot, Scott, and the Snot family is not like other families, including the Snoots and the Snobs," Mr. Snot said. "A Snot must have a lot of self-control. Snots, Scott, do not act like crackpots."

At another time, Scotty's father said, "Foolishness and nonsense are not allowed in the Snot house, Scott. Snot tots, unlike Snoots and Snobs, do not play dotty games, trot about laughing, and whatnot."

No wonder Scotty Snot was sad and lonely. He spent many unhappy days wishing to have one minute of fun in his huge mansion. He longed to slide in his stocking feet through the marble halls, or play soldier in one of the one hundred bedrooms, or make funny faces in the tall ballroom mirrors. But he never did, not once.

One night, however, all this changed. It was a night when the full moon appeared extremely close to the Snot mansion. It was a night when a slender moonbeam crossed each of the mansion's one hundred beds. In short, it was a night when the bedbugs could be seen.

Sometime during the night, a scream came from Mr. and Mrs. Snott's upstairs bedroom.

"Wilmot!" Scotty's mother, Lottie Snot, cried. "There are ugly crawly

things in our bed!"

"Oh, rot," said Wilmot Snot.

Early the next morning, Mr. Snot called the Bug-Off Bug Control Service.

"My wife found bedbugs in our bed last night!" he growled into the phone. "I want the Snot mansion rid of the rotten lot!"

"You want to get rid of your *bedbugs*?" asked the pest-control man, who knew a thing or two about bedbugs. "Are you joking? I don't think that's a good idea."

"I do not give a squat what you think," said Wilmot. "And a Snot, unlike a Snoot or a Snob, does not joke."

Within the hour, the Bug-Off Bug Control Service van rolled up in front of the Snot mansion. By noon, every one of the one hundred bedrooms was sprayed with Bug-Off Bug Spray.

Of course, this meant that all the bedbugs in every one of the hundred beds had to pack up and leave. This also meant that underneath every one of those beds, a Boogeyman was celebrating.