

Chapter 10: Spring Term

Amber fell onto the table, but somehow managed to stop herself falling to the floor. Her mobile phone spun out of her flailing hands and into the air. With one hand gripping the edge of the table, she reached out with her other hand and just about managed to catch it before it fell to the floor. Luckily, the clatter of her tumbling to the table was drowned out by the rapturous applause from the ladies cheering Miss Vile's speech.

Miss Vile then stepped to the side of the hall where she began preparing a laptop for a PowerPoint presentation. Amber could feel the mobile slipping through her fingers. Carefully, she brought the mobile up towards the safety of the table. Meanwhile, Miss Vile had set up her PowerPoint display and was now addressing her faithful followers. "You don't want to hear me speaking all evening," she began, "So I have prepared a visual presentation that outlines exactly what I intend to accomplish with Plan R." She then went on to lecture her audience for what seemed like an eternity, much to Amber's increasing agitation. But the witches were lapping it up; each new slide was met with gasps of approval. Finally, Miss Vile reached the last slide and began reading out the bullet points. Amber prayed that her mobile was still recording. This was the evidence she needed.

The Main Aims of Plan R

- Remove Mrs Rump from the kitchen
- Mix Potion X into the soup
- Serve to the children
- Children will become unconscious shortly after taking the dose
- Tie children up
- Take down to the school cellar
- Await collection



Just as Miss Vile was concluding, Amber felt the mobile vibrating. She had remembered to put it on silent, but the surprise made her panic. Fumbling to switch it off, it slipped through her fingers and hit the floor with a clang! But luck was once again on Amber's side, for the excitable witches were all babbling questions at Miss Vile at once and didn't notice the din behind the screen. The question and answer session was interminable, but at last Miss Vile brought the meeting to a close and the excited witches began drifting away. Amber was beginning to think that she had got away with it. When everyone had gone she would be able to pick up her mobile, which she hadn't dared get while all the witches were present, and head quickly for the safety of home with all the evidence she needed. But then she heard something she hadn't anticipated: the whirr of the projector screen as it began to ascend to the ceiling. She held her head in her hands and closed her eyes as she realised she would be in full view of everyone left in the room!