

Betsy Baine Bubble-Gum Queen – A Tale of Fame: Alice String

Betsy Baine is big, and I mean Big. Actually I mean REALLY REALLY BIG! One bump of her bum in the canteen queue and I'm in BIG TROUBLE! I land in front of a cranky teacher who yells 'YOU ...end of the line.' By the time I get to the counter there's only one smelly egg and soggy lettuce sandwich left. Betsy Baine's lip curls in a cruel smile.

I take a bite of my yuk sandwich and shudder as Betsy Baine walks through the canteen, giving everyone the eye. She walks past my table, and I start to breathe again. BUT THEN she spins around and slams her tray right there on the table in front of me. I FREEZE!

'YOU!' She says, 'I want a word with YOU!'

My eyes bulge and my sandwich sticks in my throat.

'See you outside the Girls toilet.' A hundred eyes follow her out of the room and then everyone starts talking - all at once.

WHAT CAN I DO?

'Never look her in the eye,' said my sister, pointing at her wobbly nose. 'Run away,' said Tom as he rubbed his black eye.

EEK! BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY?

I put my sandwich down and slink out.

I shove my hands in my pocket and pull out a grubby blue bubble-gum ball. I pick off all the bits, pop it in my mouth and blow a bubble.

That's when I get my brilliant idea. Blowing bubbles does that. I rush to the tuckshop. 'Two bubble-gum balls please.'

Outside the Girls' toilet Betsie, the Big, Bad Girl is waiting for ME!

My legs wobble but I stand and face her. I blow an enormous bubble!

'Wow! Show me how to do that!' Silently I hand her a bubble-gum ball.

She looks at it. She chews. She blows. NOTHING!

That week I spend all my pocket money on bubble-gum. Every play lunch we chew and blow together. Everyday Betsies' bubbles get BIGGER and BIGGER and BIGGER until she blows the biggest bubble I have ever seen. And that's how Betsie Baine, bully, gave up her evil ways and became my famous friend – Betsie the Bubble-gum queen.