



## How it Begins

### Chapter 1

Clak, Clak, Clak Clak. The sound of the typewriter echoed through the almost vacant library. Everyone had gone home now except the typist, Miss Duncer, who went home at seven. But, even though it seemed empty, the library was really full of life.

As soon as Miss Duncer finally left and her footsteps couldn't be heard anymore, a little mouse poked his head out from between two books. He was Bernard Cheesit and lived in the library between the floor and wall boards. Nobody ever discovered his doorway of books and his porch behind them because his doorway consisted of two boring books: "Yaks Trading in the Arctic During the Civil War" and "The Art of Selling Heaters in the Sahara." You can see why nobody bothered him.

After Bernard had made sure the coast was clear, he carefully climbed down on to the next shelf and walked along it until he came to the adult fiction shelves. He then knocked on the back of a book. It opened, and there stood

cried to add

his old pal the bookworm. "How ya' doin' Specks?" asked Bernard.  
"Oh I'm fine, fine fine" answered Specks. "Never felt better in my life. In fact I was just thinking of having dinner. Those classics sure hit the spot. Won't you join me?"  
"No thanks, Specks. I'm going out scrounging now," answered Bernard. And with that he leapt off of the shelf onto the floor a foot below it. He then walked over behind the librarians desk, ~~out~~ opened up a trapdoor in the floor and went inside. He ~~walked~~ walked into a mole tunnel ~~and~~ and disappeared.

The next thing you knew it, he appeared outside through a drain pipe. He walked over to a garbage can and started looking around through trash. A banana peel here, a tin can there, nothing appealing to Bernard. He decided to walk on down farther. He walked right past the Post office garbage can, (knowing all it ever had in it was old strings) and kept on walking until he came to the Police Dept. He finished off a half eaten apple and was about to start on a

potato chip when in front of him, a mere 3 feet, stood two huge glowing eyes. Bernard new ammediately that it was the big tomcat. He slowly began to back up. The eyes followed. He backed up more. The eyes again followed. Bernard then turned around and started to run. But he stopped soon enough - he was in a ~~is~~ blind alleay! The eyes slowly started closing in. Bernard new he only had one chance he bent down, picked up some dirt and threw it in the cats eyes he then yelled as loud as he could "Help! Faithful!"

The cat pounced. His paw landed right on top of Bernard. ~~the~~ quickly sunk his teeth into the tomcats paw. The ~~youped~~ and jumped 3<sup>feet</sup> in the air. Bernard seized his chance and started running. He saw a moles head pop up out of the earth about 15 feet away. If only he could make it! He ran toward the mole. The cat realized his dinner was escaping and galloped after Bernard. Bernard jumped in the ~~whole~~.

just as the tomcat pounced on it he heard the moles voice from down in the hole. It was his friend Faithful the mole. "That was a close one" said Faithful. "Yeh" agreed bernard "thanks for helping me out."

"For a minute there I thought I was a  
bringer." "Well come on. Lets get out of  
here," All Faithful said. Bernard followed Faithful  
down into a <sup>29</sup> ~~thee~~ tunnel.

Faithful led him through a maze  
of crisscrossing passageways before they  
Finally emerged through the trapdoor behind  
the librarians desk. "This is as far as I go,"  
said Faithful. Bernard told him "Okay, well  
goodnight." Bernard walked slowly back to his  
house and ammediately fell into a deep sleep.

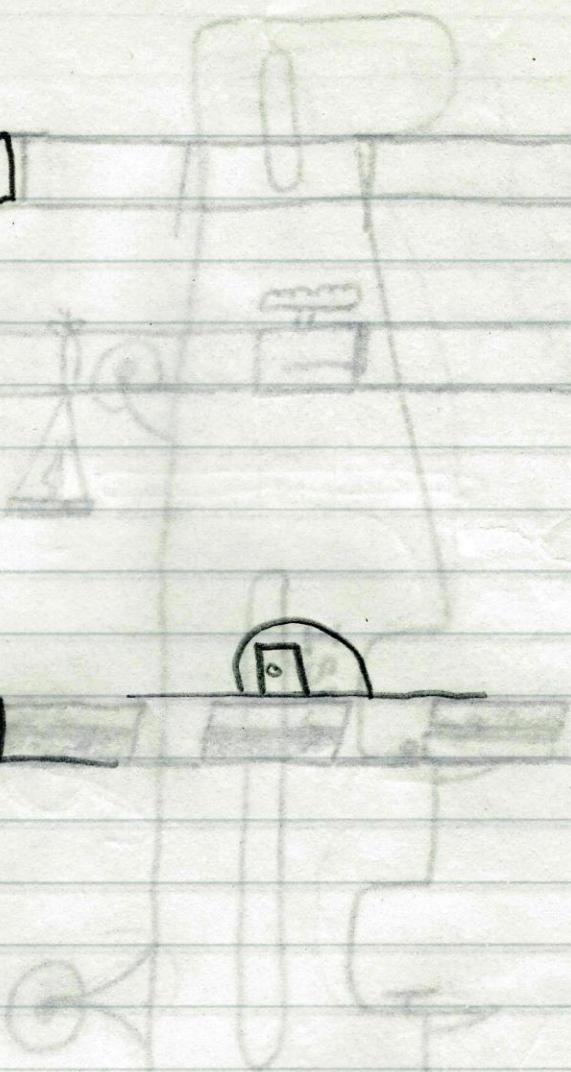
The next day as Bernard was lying  
on his porch, gazing between the books  
at the beautiful day outside, he could not  
help himself and dozed off. Normally when he  
was on his porch he made sure that  
he never really went to sleep but this  
morning ~~that~~ he had not bothered to take  
that precaution, and had fallen asleep.

After Bernard had been asleep for  
some time a little boy and his mother  
came walking down <sup>the</sup> ~~mouses~~ aisle. Now, like  
all other 2 year olds, this boy couldn't keep  
his hands off anything. That's why his  
mother <sup>had</sup> a firm grip on his hands. But as soon  
as she noticed a book on a shelf near

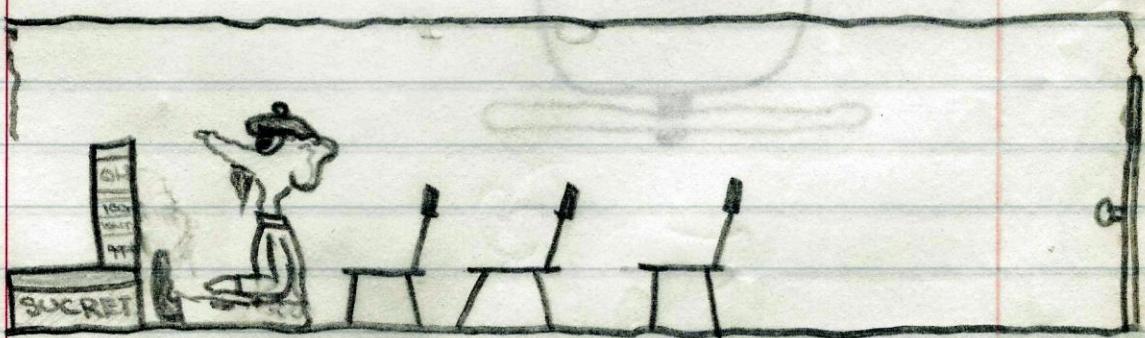
across from Bernards, and let go to look at it, the little boy reached up and pulled all the books in reach off the shelf ~~and with~~ <sup>was</sup> Bern. His mother reached down and was about to slap him <sup>so far away</sup> when she saw Bernard lying there. She shrieked, grabbed her son and told the librarian what had happened. Bernard, startled by the scream, dived back into his home. When the librarian came to investigate she found no sign of Bernard, but she still called up the exterminators.

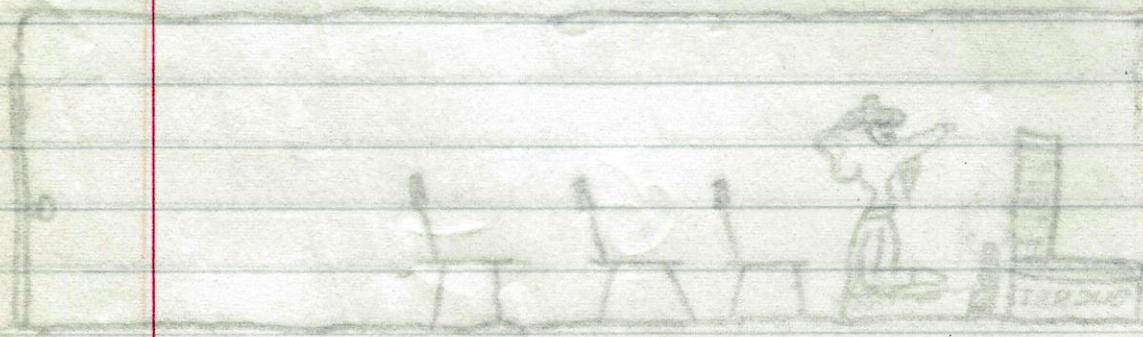
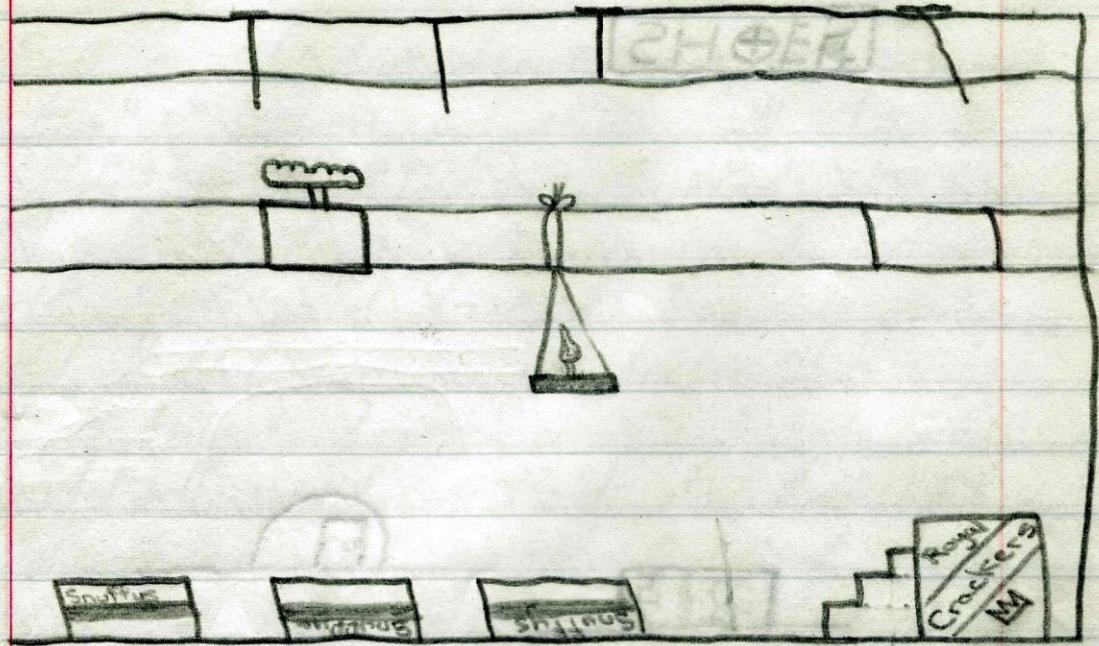


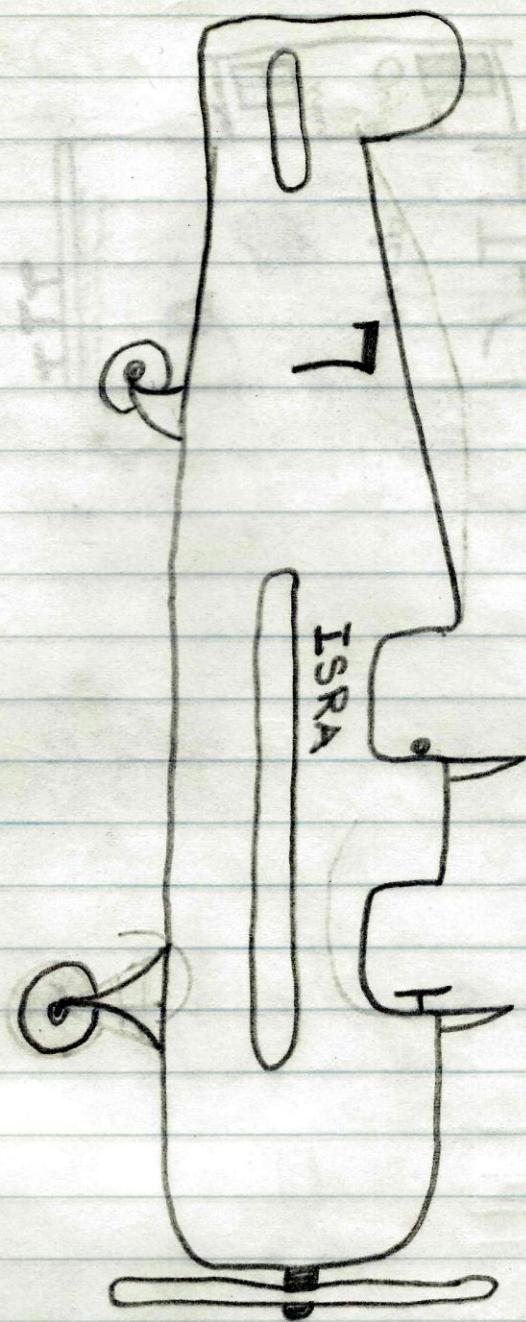
SH+E



18 15



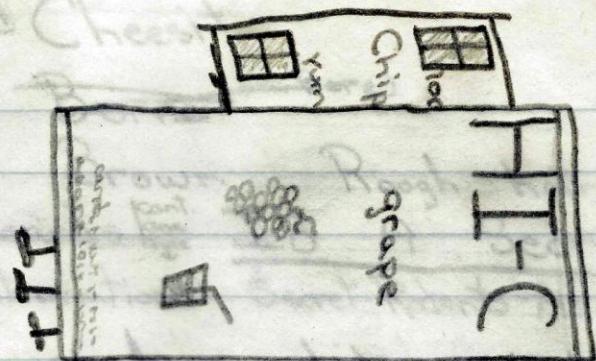




Alabama

Bernard Chee

Secrets 8



An Insect

How Should I say that?