

St Brigid's Primary School

Haddington Road

6th Class

Illustrations by Marie Stamp

Beaver Fever

Marge is sitting at home in the rocking chair knitting and having a cup of tea. Outside her window, the children from the street are making lots of noise again. Marge hates children so she curses under her breath, "darn those children!"

In the corner of her eye, Marge sees something moving - a dark shadow. She follows the shadow and it stops in front of a photograph of her dead husband. The photograph falls to the floor and smashes to pieces. "Oh not again Justin! That's the fifth frame I've bought this month! I'm not buying another one."

The children start banging on her door and she says to Justin, "stop bothering me. Go out and scare the children."

Justin the ghost knows that Marge is lonely and needs a new best friend. Marge goes out to the back garden and sees a hole in the ground at the bottom of the garden. She gazes into the hole and sees a beaver. The beaver runs into the house and sits on the picture of Justin. The photograph disappears!

Justin the ghost suddenly possesses the beaver and the beaver starts to talk.

"Hello my dear," he says.

Marge gets a fright and attacks the beaver with a rolling pin. Justin Beaver flicks his hair and runs into the garden. "It's me, it's Justin your husband!" he tells her.

Mr. McClumskey, Marge's mean neighbour, is cutting his hedge and overhears the beaver talking to Marge.

He decides he wants to kidnap Justin Beaver and sell him to scientists for lots of money.

Mr. McClumskey goes inside the house and calls Dr Egghead at the International Junior Scientific Lab (IJS) of Canada. "It's Mr. McClumskey, I've got a good one this time! This one is for real, I've got something important to tell you," he tells Dr Egghead.

"Oh it's you again, because of the last time I'm going to get sacked," groaned Dr Egghead.

"No you won't!" Mr McClumskey assures him.

"Get a life!" Dr Egghead tells him.

"I have got a *talking* beaver," says Mr McClumskey.

The scientist sighs. "The only way I'm going to believe you is if you bring the beaver to here to Statford, Ontario," he says.

"Fine, I'll prove it to you. See you in two days!" Mr. McClumskey hangs up the phone.

The next day is Saturday and Mr. McClumskey knows that Marge goes out at two o'clock every Saturday to go shopping in Tesco.

Mr. McClumskey climbs over the garden wall. All of the doors and windows are locked on the ground floor so he climbs up the drainpipe to get in through an open window to a bedroom on the second floor.

Mr. McClumskey huffs and puffs as he climbs up the drainpipe up to the window. He falls through the open window and lands with a thump.

Justin Beaver hears the thump and spies Mr. McClumskey as he struggles to get up. Mr McClumskey takes the sack he has with him and tries to capture Justin. Justin is frozen in fear. Mr McClumskey catches him. Justin squirms and wiggles in the bag and screams “Let me out! Let me out!”

Mr. McClumskey doesn't leave the way he came in. Instead of going back out the window, he runs out the front door.

When Marge comes home a couple of hours later and discovers that Justin Beaver is missing, she rings the Gardaí and says that she wishes to report a missing talking beaver. The Garda who answers the phone chuckles. “I'm sorry about your beaver but we only listen to serious emergencies,” she tells Marge.

The next day Mr. McClumskey puts Justin in a bag with enough nuts to eat for two days and they fly to Ontario.

Once they get there and check into a hotel, Mr McClumskey rings Dr Egghead and tells him that he will bring Justin to the lab this afternoon. Justin says, “you scoundrel!” You just want me for the money!”

“Just shut up and finish your nuts,” says Mr McClumskey.

Mr McClumskey takes Justin to the lab. They meet the receptionist and she says to him, “What are you here for *now*?”

Mr McClumskey says, “I'm here for a very important appointment with Dr. Egghead.”

On their way down to Dr Egghead's lab, they see unicorns, dragons, leprechauns and mermaids in cages along the corridor.

When they get to Dr Egghead's lab, Mr. McClumskey takes Justin out of his rucksack. He says, “I told you I had a talking beaver! I want a million euro”

Dr Egghead says, “well, make him talk first!”

Justin the ghost realises it’s time to leave the beaver! He slides out of the beaver’s body and and flies over to the cages and into one of the leprechauns.

Justin then says to the unicorn in the next cage, “how do we get out of here?”

The unicorn answers in a French accent. “I’ll give you a ride if you get me out of here,” she says.

Justin is able to open all the locks using his ghost magic. The mermaid shouts from her aquarium, “what about me?”

So Justin decides to open all the cages.

The leprechaun and the mermaid jump on the unicorn’s back and fly away. On their way back to Ireland, they drop the mermaid off in the Bermuda Triangle. Once they get to Ireland, they see a rainbow. The unicorn then drops the leprechaun off at a cloud at the end of the rainbow.

Justin the ghost thanks the leprechaun for allowing him to borrow his body. The leprechaun says, “anytime! Tá fáilte romhat! Thank you for getting me out of that lab!” The leprechaun also gives Justin some of the gold coins from the pot at the end of the rainbow.

The unicorn flies off to Candyland in the Clouds, and Justin the ghost flies back to Marge’s house. He looks in the window and sees her sitting on her couch crying over a picture of the two of them on thir wedding day. Justin sees a black cat sitting on the window sill and decides to fly into the cat. Justin cries out to Marge saying, “Marge I’m here, it’s Justin!”

Marge is delighted. She opens up the window and picks him up and strokes his back. Justin coughs up a giant furball full of gold coins.

A couple of months later, Marge and Justin are sitting in the big new mansion they bought with their gold coins watching the St.Patrick's Day parade on television. Justin spots see the leprechaun on one of the floats. The leprechaun gives a wink and says, "top of the morning to you!"

Meanwhile, Mr. McClumskey is still at the lab trying to get the poor beaver to talk.