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# Huffy Puffy Panda

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Illustrated by Wolfe and Rachel Liam



## chapter

Ellie was having a very busy day. All day long, she had been rushing around, gathering odd things and bringing them into her room.

Her elder sister Gabby had been watching her nervously. What was Ellie up to? She knew that it couldn't be good. Whenever Ellie got an idea, it usually ended in:

- (a) a huge mess
- (b) something being destroyed
- (c) getting them both into trouble
- (d) all of the above

Gabby was dying of curiosity. She wanted to ask Ellie what she was doing. But she was

Doodle Away!



also undecided. If she asked Ellie, it would mean that she was involved in whatever her sister was up to. And that would mean getting into trouble! She decided that, maybe, she would just take a small peek to find out.

She tiptoed quietly to Ellie's room and peeked in the doorway. Ellie was busy at her desk, with her back to Gabby.

On Ellie's desk was a strange **assortment** of items, including an apple, a bowl filled with water, several tubes of paint, a stapler, some straws, a potato, coloured paper, a bag of chips and a cap. Most worrying, there was a pile of wet tissues creating a puddle on her desk and dripping water onto the floor.

## A COLLECTION

An **assortment** refers to a collection of different things.



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Gabby was just about to scream at Ellie, but something else caught her attention. (The actual words – if she had managed to get them out – would have been: “Ellie Belly! What are you doing? What’s wrong with you, you dumbhead!”)

The thing that caught her attention was something moving under Ellie's blanket. It was small and it was crawling around under the crumpled-up blanket. Too small to be a rabbit, so it couldn't be Taffy, could it?



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Gabby ran to the living room and peered under the coffee table. Yup, Taffy was there as usual. It was her favourite hiding place, where their little white dog, Snowy, couldn't reach her.

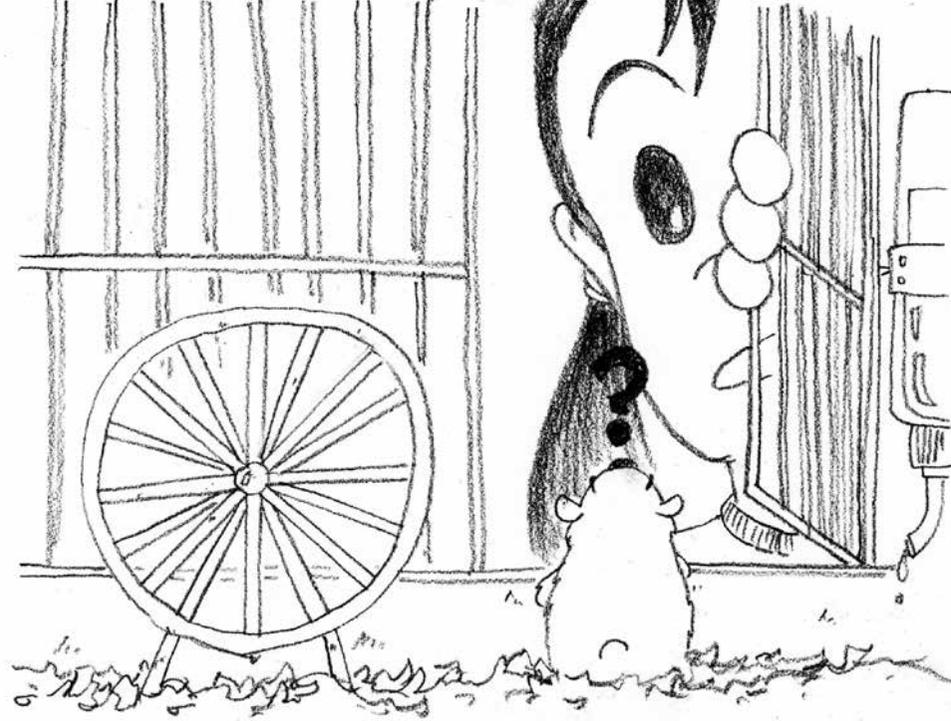
Gabby then ran to the giant cage that housed their grey hamster, Nugget, and their blind guinea pig, Mr Snuggles.

Mr Snuggles was there, but where was Nugget? Nugget was gone! Ellie must have put Nugget on her bed! She was going to be in big trouble! Mama had made it very clear: No animals on the bed!

This new rule was made after Taffy did a big pee on Ellie's bed last month and Mama had spent half an hour trying to scrub the pee stain off.

Gabby ran to Ellie's room.

"Get Nugget off the bed! I'm going to tell Mama!" she said. Then, because she couldn't help herself, she added, "What are you doing anyway?"



Ellie jumped in surprise and turned around. "What do you mean?"

"What do you think I mean?" Gabby said, pointing to the desk, then to the tiny lump moving under the blanket.

"What?" Ellie said innocently.

"Is Nugget under your blanket? And what are you doing with those things on your desk?"



“Oh, these things?”  
Ellie said, **ignoring**  
the question about  
Nugget. “These are  
for my art lesson.”

**I’m NOT  
looking!**

To **ignore** something is  
to not pay attention to  
it, on purpose.

“I don’t believe you,” Gabby said.

“Really! Come and see the list for  
yourself,” Ellie said, waving her notebook  
at Gabby.

Gabby stepped into the room and took  
the notebook. There was really a list titled  
“Things to bring for art lesson”. The list  
said: coloured paper, paint, a potato.

“What on earth are you going to do?”

“Our art teacher says that we are going  
to do potato printing. Whatever that  
means,” Ellie said.

“Then why do you have those straws and  
that stapler? You know you are not allowed  
to use Mama’s stapler without getting  
her permission.”



“Oh, those? I’m not using them. They  
just happened to be here.”

“And the water? Why are you playing  
with water!?! AND DO YOU KNOW YOU  
ARE MAKING THE ROOM WET?” Gabby  
was getting more and more agitated.

“Because water is fun,” Ellie said matter-  
of-factly. How could anyone not know that  
water is fun?

“And the apple? And the chips? The  
cap?” Gabby said as she backed out of the  
room. She didn’t want to be involved in  
Ellie’s nuttiness.

“The apple is for eating, silly,” Ellie said.  
She reached for it and took a big bite. “The  
chips and cap are for my field trip to the zoo  
tomorrow! Mrs Goh is taking us to see the  
pandas!”

Gabby rolled her eyes and sighed. When  
would she learn to mind her own business?  
She reminded herself that she must never



ever again try to figure out her younger sister. She was just too weird. Also, she was really jealous. Ellie would get to see the pandas before she did! Hmph!

Right at that moment, drawn by the yummy apple smell, Nugget poked his head out from under Ellie's blanket.

His little grey head wasn't grey anymore. It was purple.

