



Evie Navarro opened the front door and saw a crowd of photographers and journalists.

'EVIE! EVIE! CAN WE ASK A FEW QUESTIONS?'

'EVIE! WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE FAMOUS?'

'EVIE! HERE'S A DOG! CAN YOU READ ITS THOUGHTS?'

Evie stood there feeling dizzy and lightheaded. 'Um, um . . . I'm sorry – I've got to go.'



Evie was a superstar.

That's what her best friend Ramesh said.

'You are a superstar,' he had told her the previous Tuesday, while eating a hummus and falafel sandwich on their favourite bench at Lofting High.

But she wasn't really. Well, Evie didn't think so. She wasn't a celeb or anything.

It was just that a lot of people had heard of her.

She had been in newspapers, and on TV. She had been on the cover of the world-famous *Nature* magazine, and she had over 200,000 followers on Instagram, even though she had only ever posted two photos (one of a sunset and one of an endangered leatherback sea turtle). And every morning the crowd of journalists at her door grew bigger.

The reason for all this fame and unwanted attention was because Evie had a special talent.



The talent now had an official name, given by scientists.

Inter-species two-way telepathic animal communication.

Or, to put it another way, she could talk to animals. *With her mind.*

She heard what animals were thinking and could chat to them without even moving her lips.

And though she had kept this skill secret for a very long time, now everybody knew about it.

She had solved a crime with it. And there was

lots of proof. On TV. On YouTube. In magazines. Communicating with dolphins at her local zoo. Getting mice to march in a line. Asking rabbits for directions to their burrow. Telling a bearded dragon to change the TV channel, and conducting an interview with a seagull.



There were thousands of strangers on the internet calling her a freak, so Evie had been locking herself away in her bedroom and reading. The book she had been reading most was called *Animals of the Amazon*, by Professor Abigail García. It was amazing. Full of astonishing facts,

and written by a biologist who actually worked in the Amazon, in Peru, finding new species and helping to save the rainforest. Abigail García was on the front cover, smiling and waving in front of the trees, with a parrot on her shoulder.



Retrieval

1. How did the photographers and journalists make Evie feel?
2. Who told Evie she was a superstar?
3. Why was Evie receiving all this fame and attention?

Vocabulary

4. 'Full of astonishing facts'. What does the word astonishing mean?
5. Describe an animal that you know is endangered.

Inference

6. Why has Matt Haig used capital letters for when the journalists were talking?

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**Seriously at
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