

Spooky Scoops

Nothing ever changes in Sanaya's world and that is just the way she likes it! But when a monster-themed ice cream shop opens at the end of the street, her life turns upside down. People are eating ice cream for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And if that's not weird enough, her best friend Jen starts to grow... fangs! Can Sanaya save her town from this hauntingly delicious ice cream?

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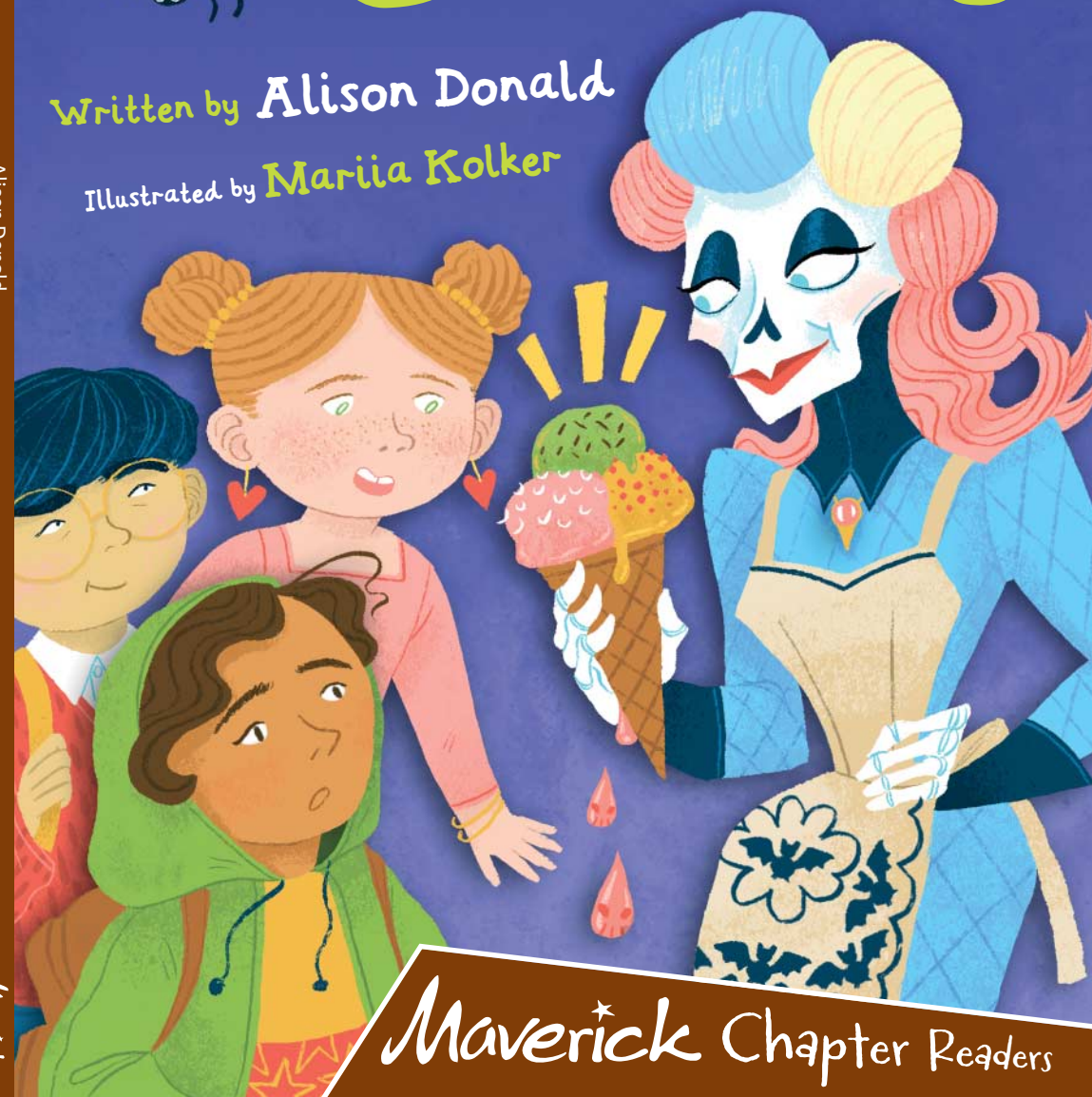
Alison Donald

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Written by Alison Donald

Illustrated by Mariia Kolker



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'Spooky Scoops'

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© Alison Donald

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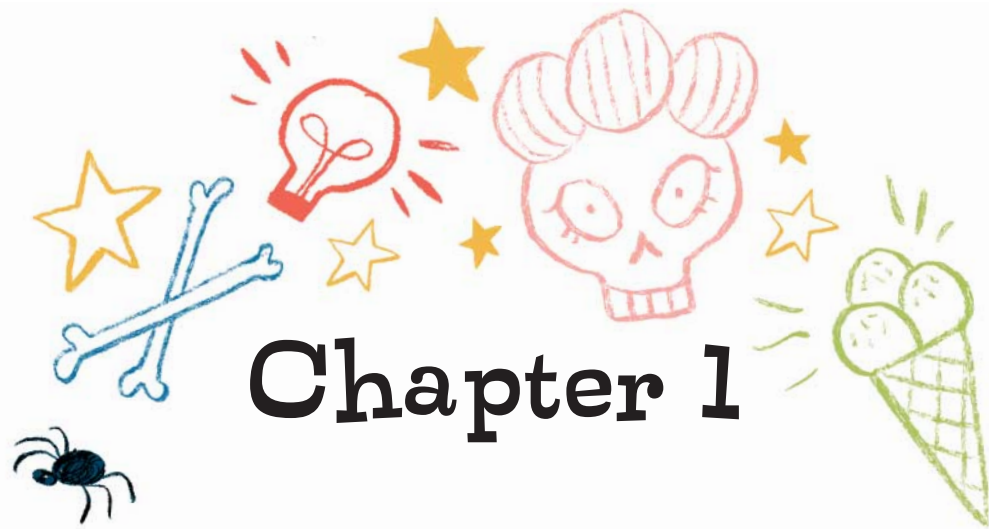
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Chapter 1

If you looked at my street, you wouldn't see anything special about it. It's noisy, full of tall buildings, and there aren't enough trees. But for me, it's Sanaya heaven (I'm Sanaya by the way). Nothing ever changes on my street, which is perfect because I don't like change.

At the end of the road, there's a small ice cream shop. My best friend Jen and I have been going there since we were little. We have lots of great memories there—like the time my front tooth fell out or the time

Jen found a pound coin under the table. Every Friday, without fail, we go to the ice cream shop after school. We look forward to it all week long. Did I mention that Jen and I love ice cream? We *really* do.

But the year I turned nine, there was a particular Thursday when everything changed. It started like a typical Thursday. I woke up at 7:15 and had one piece of peanut butter toast cut diagonally. After school, I did my homework and watched my favourite show: 'Hashtag Screammers'. Everything was going to plan—just how I like it—until I took Chompers for his daily walk.

I clipped on his lead and he shot out the door, dragging me behind. He tugged and pulled me to the ice cream shop. Chompers cocked his head back and howled a long miserable howl.

The ice cream shop was boarded up. A notice on the door said, “Closed for Grand Re-opening Tomorrow – Under New Management”. Did this mean that someone new had bought the shop and they were completely changing it? This was not okay!



My stomach felt icky. Our ice cream shop was just fine the way it was.

The next morning, when I got to school, there were already rumours flying around about the new owner of the ice cream shop. Some people had heard she was called Skeletina, and she never slept. Pretty odd stuff... who was this new owner?

That afternoon, Miss Bell, our teacher, was droning on about rivers. But Jen and I weren't really listening. We were thinking about the ice cream shop. A note landed beside my elbow. I slipped it inside my book and unfolded it:

I'm trying a new flavour today! Do you think they'll have Rocky Road? - Jen

I smiled and wrote back:

Maybe! GUESS what I'm having: mint chocolate chip or mint chocolate chip? - Sanaya

Jen opened it and giggled. My message was funny

because it was true. I always order the same thing: two scoops of mint chocolate chip ice cream in a waffle cone. My order never changes. Did I mention that I don't like change?

So imagine how upset I was to find out that the new owner really *was* completely changing the ice cream shop! After school, we walked there to see it.

"Look," said Jen as she pointed at the sign.

"*Grand Opening: Spooky Scoops, a monster-themed ice cream shop,*" I read. The shop had been completely transformed. There were giant spiders and cobwebs in the windows. I also noticed a large sign that said 'no dogs allowed'.

"Cool. Let's check it out, Sanaya! It looks fun!" said Jen.

But I wasn't so sure. I had that icky feeling again.

"Oh c'mon Sanaya, our mums are already inside. Let's go," Jen insisted.

I swallowed hard. Something wasn't right. The hairs on the back of my neck stood up.

I felt like something bad was about to happen.

