

An Unexpected Study

Marley was dead to begin with. She could feel the grogginess in her eyes the moment her alarm started ringing; an ungodly hour. Once at school, she had to sit in the field, grass staining her pants, pretending to be interested in her friends' summer holidays. She decided to venture indoors for a change of scenery. Not wanting to be in the crowded hallway, she ducked into the nearest empty classroom. The sounds from outside were muffled. Marley sat down at a desk.

She was startled from her reverie when she heard a scratching noise coming from the storage closet. Creeped out, but also intrigued, Marley slid the door of the closet open, confronted with a selection of plastic tubs. They were messily labelled with Sharpie, incomprehensible. Marley wrenched the lid off of a container to her right, leaving her panting and wiping sweat from her brow. She winced as she was greeted by a foul smell, and clapped a hand over her mouth.

It was a small creature, perhaps the size of a kitten, but had no fur. It clambered out of the tub and trotted away.

At that moment a key turned in the door. As it opened, the creature slipped out of sight, leaving a trail of slop behind.

The biology teacher gaped at her. "What happened?"

"How? Those pigs were supposed to be dead! I'll make a call right away!"

Marley was even more confused when the teacher instructed her to retrieve the pig.

It left a trail of smelly liquid behind, so she could see where it had gone. The other students didn't notice. Dipping in and out of the clumps of people, she ended up at the library.

The librarian was on her computer. Marley said a shy hello, and sped to the bookshelves. The rancid scented elixir was easier to detect on the carpeted floors.

The pig was curled up at the bottom of a shelf. Taking a deep breath, tucking her hair into her hoodie, and rolling her sleeves back, Marley scooped the pig up with both hands. She dashed out the door.

The pig was slippery and hairless. Marley wanted to puke. At the classroom, the teacher wrenched it out of her hands immediately. She checked her timetable, realizing that biology was first. Head spinning, she sat down, wondering what events this year had in store...