

X

HEAD OF THE CLASS by ANTONY WIELAND

Shy Sally has been asked to take the class while her teacher is indisposed. Reluctantly she accepts.

SALLY.

(Noisy class. Sally's nervous)

Could you all be very quiet until Mr Armstrong comes back please ... Thank you.

(Slightly relieved she settles herself behind teacher's desk) ...

Marie, could you open a window at the back? It's a bit hot in here ... *(Waiting) ...*

If you could do it now, please ... Okay, it doesn't matter if you don't want to. *(To herself, covering her embarrassment)*

Oh no. I should have been firmer with her. I'll never get them to do what I want now.

I'm supposed to write on the board what Mr Armstrong's set them. *(To class in a weakened voice)*

Does anyone know what's happened to the chalk? *(Gets reply)*

If I can have it back, please. *(She ducks, gets up and receives a hit in the eye)*

Ouch! Lucy, what did you do that for? Just wait till Mr Armstrong hears about this....

Who say's I can't stand up for myself?... What, Mr Armstrong said that? Oh, he did, did he. And I suppose all this was his little joke to see how I'd cope under pressure. Well, I'll show him. *(Changing her mood)*

Open that window now! ... Don't just sit there, do it! ... Thank you.

Now, open your exercise books and copy out what I write on the board.

That means all of you! Lucy, stop chewing your nails and concentrate. *(Writes on the board)*

I would like all of these questions answered in the next ten minutes. If you refuse to answer the questions then I will be forced to abandon the lesson and you will finish them in the Headmaster's study. Is that clear? ... *(Waits for reply)*

I'm sorry I didn't hear you Yes, Miss Sally... That's better.

(Relaxes back in chair. Reads magazine)

(To herself)

Let's see Mr Armstrong top that ... Lucy, stop crying!...

(Sally is supremely confident by the time Mr Armstrong enters)

Hello, Mr Armstrong. I didn't expect you'd be back so soon. I was having such fun.

Can I do this again tomorrow?