**A vampire as a neighbour?**I've lived on Abbey Street for as long as I can remember. I celebrated all my birthdays here, went to the playground every afternoon and played tea parties with all the neighbourhood kids.

Now I'm 15 years old and most of my playground friends have either moved out or moved away. Unfortunately, my best friend Jacky also moved to Sweden with her family last month because her father was offered a job there. She lived next to my house, so we did everything together. I miss her very much because although we talk on the phone every day, she's hundreds of kilometres away from me.

A few days ago, someone new moved into her house. Strangely enough, I haven’t seen this person yet because during the day all the blinds are down and he never seems to leave the house.

My father said at breakfast today that he came home late from the office yesterday and saw the new neighbour, who was fetching his mail from his mailbox. Oddly enough, he was in his pyjamas. My little brother John claimed straight away that the man was probably a vampire. My parents had to smile. Sometimes my brother's fantasy is boundless!

But the longer I think about it, the more I wonder whether there might be something true about it after all. What if John is right? What if the neighbour attacks us sometime at night like on TV? For this reason I have decided to pay the strange neighbour a visit with John.

So now we're both standing in front of the house. The doorbell says 'Smith'. It feels strange to know that my friend Jacky won't open the door in a moment.

John presses the doorbell twice. 'I'm so excited, Lou', he says, 'let's see how quickly he’ll come out with the truth!' At that moment, a sleepy man opens the door. John and I gape at him... The man is wearing a black suit!

My brother immediately starts shouting: 'Ahaaa, he's really a vampire! Lou, run, otherwise he'll bite us!'

'No, no, don't worry, I'm not a vampire, they only appear in films. Trust me!', the stranger says.

John grabs my hand and looks at me questioningly. I'm also not sure whether I can trust the alleged vampire. But actually you learn in kindergarten that there're no vampires in real life.

'Trust me', repeats the man, 'I'm not a vampire! I would like to explain that to you but that would be more pleasant for me inside.' My brother and I look at each other and nod.

We enter the house and follow the man down the long corridor, which used to be hung with family pictures when Jacky lived in this house. Now some moving boxes are stacked here. When we reach the still bare living room, the new neighbour offers us to sit on the makeshift camping chairs.

'I'm thankful that you let me explain the situation. Who are you actually?' I'm still considering whether to answer his question truthfully when John says: 'We're your neighbours. I'm John and this is my sister Lou.' 'Nice to meet you', he replies, 'My name is George and I'm not a vampire.' 'But why are you wearing this black suit then? And why are you sleeping during the day?' I ask him.

'That's a complicated story', George says, 'When I was a child I couldn't play outside as you do. Because when the sun was shining, I got a sunburn just after a few minutes. After many examinations, the doctors discovered that I have a rare genetic defect which is called 'Erythropoietic Protoporphyrie', in short EPP. Due to the enormous pain I have in sunshine, I can't really participate in social life. Working and living at night often makes me sad.'

I can't believe what I've just heard. George isn't a vampire but he has a terrible disease. 'I'm really sorry about that', John says. 'Yes, I'm sorry too! I want to apologize very much for mistaking you for a vampire. This is very embarrassing for us!' I add.

'Don't blame yourself, you couldn't know!' George reassures me.

'Would you like to come over to our house for a midnight barbecue at the weekend?’ I ask our new neighbour. ‘Our parents would be happy to meet you!'

'Thank you for the invitation!' he says, ' I would be happy to have a barbecue with you!'

John and I thought he was a vampire but he has a disease which is ruining his life.

Now I know that I can appreciate my health and that I shouldn't judge people too quickly.