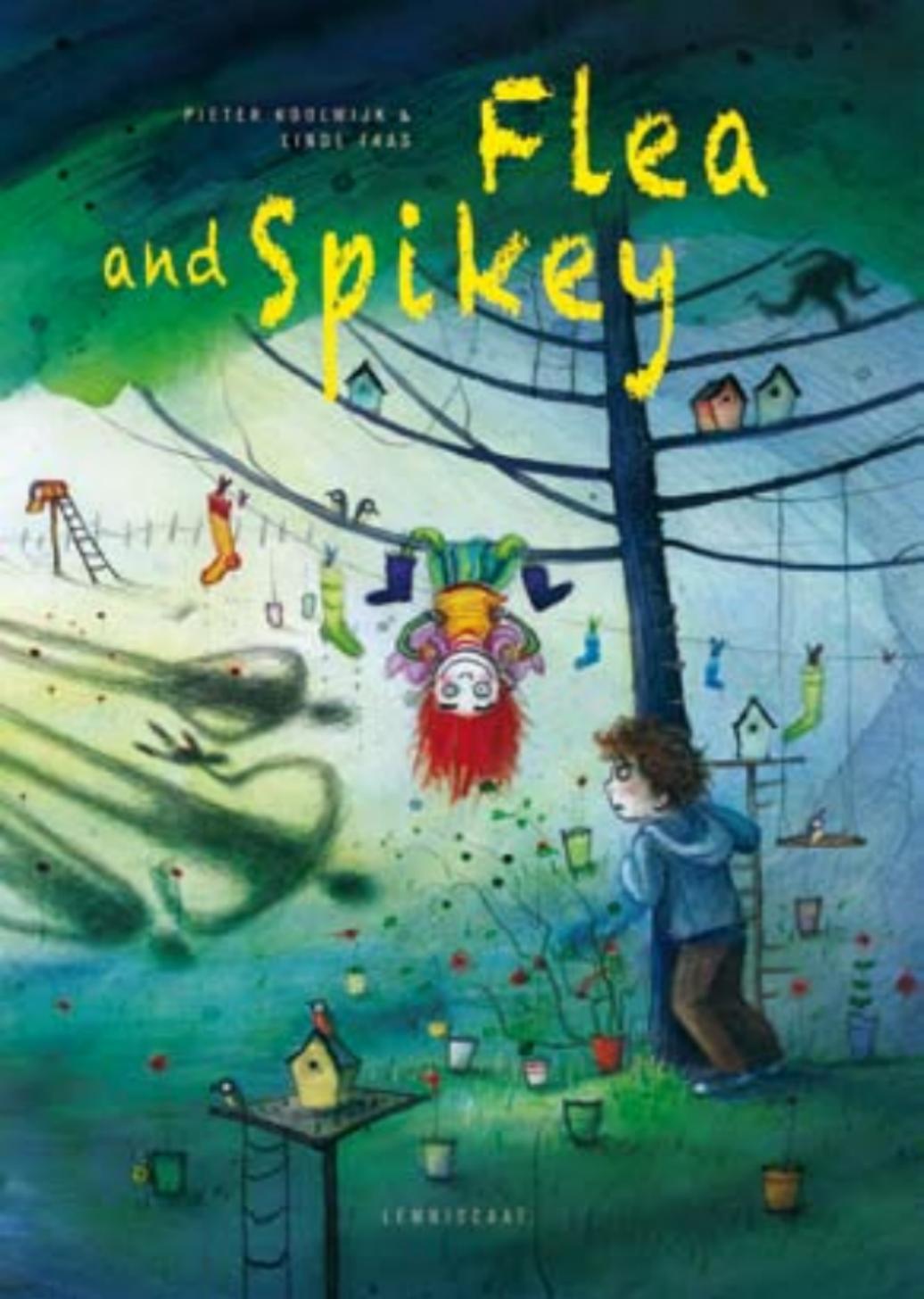


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# Flea and Spikey



LENNISCAAT

Meet Floyd, otherwise known as Flea. He's not so brave, rather small, and constantly being hassled by Arnold the bully. His life isn't very exciting until a new student joins his class. A petite girl with colorful clothes.

*With a broad grin on her freckled face she surveyed the classroom. Her eyes twinkled. All the prying eyes and gaping mouths didn't seem to bother her at all. On the contrary, she seemed to enjoy all the attention. 'This is Phoebe,' said Mrs. Jutter, introducing her. The girl looked up at the teacher ... 'But most people call me Spikey.'*

Spikey is not afraid of anything. She isn't even afraid of Arnold, and she takes Floyd under her wing. Slowly but surely Floyd discovers that life isn't as ordinary as he thought. Spikey shares a big secret with him and Arnold turns out to have a voodoo mother. When Arnold discovers that Floyd

knows, Floyd lands in big trouble. How will Flea and Spikey escape the wrath of Arnold and the machinations of his mother? And how will Floyd come to terms with his pesty nickname?



## Synopsis of Flea and Spikey

Life isn't easy for nine year old Floyd. He's the smallest in his class and everyone calls him Flea. This is all due to Archie, who is tall and who does everything to make life miserable for Floyd.

This all changes when Spikey takes the same class as Floyd. A small and unique girl, with Spikey fiery-red hair. She wears the strangest clothes and nothing seems to bother her. She becomes friends with Floyd and he can't believe his luck. Finally someone who's nice to him. He is a little embarrassed though when Spikey does or says something odd. Sometimes he's not sure if she's telling the truth or making things up. "Dragon dirt," "The Foot Dodger," and a "miniature father." Everything seems possible to Spikey.

When Floyd is at Spikey's house, many stories turn out to be true after all. The garden



gnome besides the pond is not made of plaster, but it's her father who has disguised himself. Floyd can't (or rather dares not) believe his eyes. Spikey's father explains to Floyd that his thoughts are based on preconceptions he shouldn't rely on. And that he should just use his eyes.

From the garden, Floyd sees Archie walking with two friends in tow. Right away Archie

has a go at him. What strikes Floyd is that Archie doesn't notice Spikey's father. Apparently Archie still sees Spikey's father as a statue. The mood changes when Archie's mother drives up and steps out of her car. Archie recoils and his friends back off. She orders her son to come along and Archie seems to slink off. Until Spikey asks something about his mother. Archie gets angry. His mother is nobody else's business. Spikey must shut her mouth, otherwise Floyd gets beaten up.



The whole situation regarding Archie's mother gives Floyd the creeps. Inside Spikey's father says that Archie's mom is a voodoo mother. A mother skilled in the magical art of voodoo. Someone you should be wary of.

When Archie pushes Floyd against the wall again, Floyd threatens to tell everyone about Archie's voodoo mother. Archie is taken aback and lets Floyd go. For a moment Floyd feels great. Spikey is not as happy. The whole situation sends a shiver down her spine. And she only gets those when something really bad is about to happen.

The shivers down Spikey's spine never lie ... this is confirmed the next time Archie lies in wait for him. He throws Floyd on the floor, clips one of his nails and cuts off a piece of his hair. Floyd doesn't really understand what had happened to him. Spikey does though. Archie has stolen bits of Floyd.

During recess they ask Spikey's father what to do. The little guy thinks the voodoo

mother is involved and that she wants to make a voodoo doll for Floyd. Fortunately he also has a plan. First they need to get a lock of hair and a toe nail off Archie. What they would do afterward he didn't want to say yet. Floyd doesn't have much faith in it. How can he do this?

Spikey has an idea. She challenges Archie. A game — and whoever loses must eat the other's toe nail. Spikey seems to be winning, but then she gives up. While she has Archie's toe nail in her mouth, Floyd cuts off a wisp of the boy's hair. Archie gets angry and wants to hit Floyd on the head. Just at that moment the teacher comes in and Archie is put on detention.

After school Floyd, Spikey and her father follow the boy home. Once Archie is inside, Spikey's father follows after him. He wants to try to swap the locks of hair and the nail clippings. He soon comes tumbling out of the house. This time Archie sees him! So



he also sees with his eyes. The little pop gives Floyd the nail clipping and the lock of hair and lures Archie away from the house. Spikey runs after her dad. When even the voodoo mother comes out of the house to see what all the ruckus is about, Floyd knows he must go inside the house.

Inside Floyd sees the lock of hair and the nail clipping and he manages to swap them with Archie's. Right before the voodoo mother returns to the room, Floyd slips into a closet. For a moment Floyd thinks she discovers him. She walks towards his hiding place, but is distracted when Archie comes running in gasping for air. Floyd waits for them to go and then he flees the house.

The next day at school Floyd is a little fearful of everything that happened. Much to his relief, Archie isn't there. But now Spikey seems to be worried. Just after class starts the custodian brings in Archie. The guy smells — he is covered in brown gunk and is

carrying a brown doll. He is angry at his two friends. They should have stayed away from his doll. Archie feels his friends are to blame for what happened to him. The custodian takes the smelly guy to call his parents.

The next few days Archie is off sick at home. After readmission to school, Floyd isn't bullied any more. The other children still call him Flea. According to Spikey that's no big deal. Floyd still grumbles about it though. He feels sorry for himself. Then Spikey's dad pops up and says Floyd should learn to see the good side of life. He should consider all things. If he did why would he care about his name. Floyd realizes that he'd rather be Flea with his friend Spikey, than Floyd alone.

While the classroom is full Floyd tells Spikey that she can call him Flea from now on. Spikey's enthusiastic response results in her being put on detention. Floyd supports her and remains at school with her.