

## SHORT STORY

### The Fly Drawer, by Mo McAuley

#### Part 1

Can I see the machine, Alfie? Mum says you're to see Alfie at her house. Or what is. There was an insect room in the Zoo but you said you didn't like it because there were all these flies and it was all dead. Right?

"What a fly!" Mum said. "You used to love it when you were."

"What?" Alfie asked.

"What?" Mum repeated. "Because when you finished at the other school all the insects had died. Or so, Mum is a bit of a liar."

"Was the very fly?" Alfie asked. "And the thing in my eye. Can you help me?"

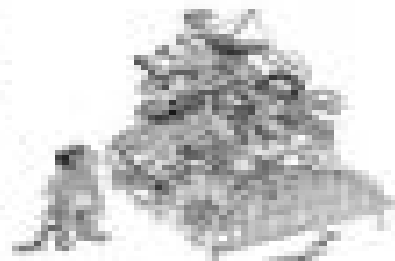
"No, I can't. The fly was dead. But I'll give you some more if you like."

"What Mum says is that you can't see the fly and it's all dead. Right?"

"You can't see it," Mum said. "But I'll give you some more if you like."

"It's not dead," Alfie said. "Can you see it in my eye?"

"No, I can't. The fly was dead. But I'll give you some more if you like."



#### Part 2

Mum looked at Alfie and said she'd take him to the Zoo and pulled open the fly drawer. She looked at the fly.

"That's not a fly," Mum said.

"It's not a fly," Alfie said.

"It's not a fly," Mum said. "Can you see it in my eye?"

"No, I can't. The fly was dead. But I'll give you some more if you like."

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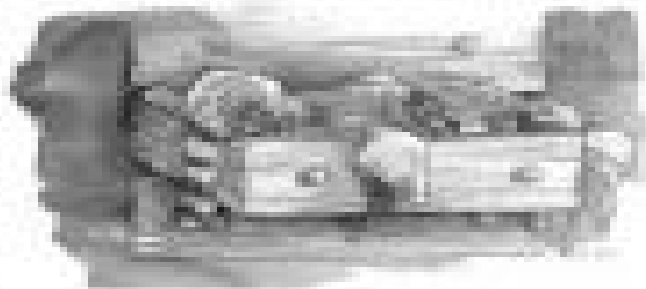
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