**Unraveller – Flying Like A Bird**by Emily, Year 7
All Saints Catholic School

Renma stared at her. “Are you serious? It was YOU who cursed the headmistress?”

"Yes. Please don’t tell on me.”

Renma looked at her with a strange look, one that said, *I'm considering, I don’t really trust you.* Dica motioned for her to respond. When she finally did, Renma said it so sceptically that Dica didn't really believe her.

“Alright. I still can't believe it. I bet the whole of Mizzleport wouldn't believe it either.”

Dica laughed, trying to lighten the mood. Renma sighed. And that was the end of that. Well, that was what Dica thought anyway.

Chapter 1

Dica sat on the floor, head in her hands. She had seen it happen with her own two eyes yet she couldn't believe it. Renma, she, she, she…

What had happened was that she had seen Renma. Just outside Dica's house, holding Dica's brother, Adik.

She had drawn a meat knife from her dress pocket and held it up so it glinted in the evening sunlight. *What* *was she up to?* Dica wondered. Then, Renma brought it down, down, down…

Dica gasped. She stretched out her arm to her brother from the window and screamed, “NOOOO!!!”

But it was too late and Renma had already fled, leaving Adik's lifeless, bloody body on the ground, the knife sticking out of his slender, swan-like neck

Why? Well, the answer was soon revealed. The headmistress, whom Dica had cursed, was Renma's mother.

Chapter 2

Dica was certain Renma was not her friend anymore. Renma had killed Dica's sister, Adicaladia. It was near the Mizzleport sealine. Renma had lured Adicaladia there, pretending to be Dica. Renma had cackled, and plunged a silver handled dagger into Adicaladia's chest.

Adik and Adicaladia had done nothing wrong. Their crime was being biologically related to a curser.

When Renma finally married, Dica's life had been wrecked. She never knew the name of Renma's husband. She didn't even know if Renma had children. All she knew was that Renma was her sworn arch-nemesis of the strongest degree.

20 YEARS LATER

Chapter 3

It was all over. Renma had died. Died of some illness, they said. Had four children, they said.

Dica herself was a widow. She had had a husband, but he had gone out one night and was killed in the dark. It was a tragedy. She was now searching for a new husband, someone handsome, someone who would respect her, someone who would help her.

One day she found her match.

“Hello , I just popped in to say hi because I heard you’re a widow. My wife is dead too,” he had said, that glorious day.

Then there were the children, a whole new problem, but not in the way you’d expect.

Chapter 4

They looked just like Renma. They had Renma-ish nares as well; Iris, Cole, Yannick and Nettle. Renma must have chosen these names.

One musty night, she looked up from her mattress and saw a Little Brother. It was common to see one in the Shallow Wilds, which was where the family lived, and it crept over to her.

The next thing Dica remembered was the feeling that she had a curse egg growing inside her.

Chapter 5

It was time. Dica led the children outside, saying she was taking them for a boat ride on a nearby marsh lake. But she wasn't!

They sat down in the boat. Nettle was looking uneasy. Perhaps she had sensed something was wrong. This just drove Dica to the edge. It was such a Renma expression!

Suddenly, she felt it. It was rising up, up, up…

Then it exploded. She felt waves of darkness exploding from her body, and a blissfulness as the weight of anger was lifted from her soul. The curse was flying, flying like a bird.

When she opened her eyes, Dica saw the four children flying away, each turned into a different bird. She smiled, knowing her revenge and her days of hurt were over.

Or were they?

Chapter 6

*I’ve taken it too far. I shouldn’t have.* Dica was lying on the floor. She hadn’t realised. She had found out she was wrong. What she had been so certain about was wrong.

They weren't Renma's children. They were her best friend's children.

They were children of Renma's brother and Dica's best friend. Her best friend. If her best friend were still alive, she would have surely cursed Dica for wrongly cursing, her own children.

Dica had wrecked her own life. Now was the time to end this suffering.

She reached for a knife, and drove I Into her wrecked, impure heart.