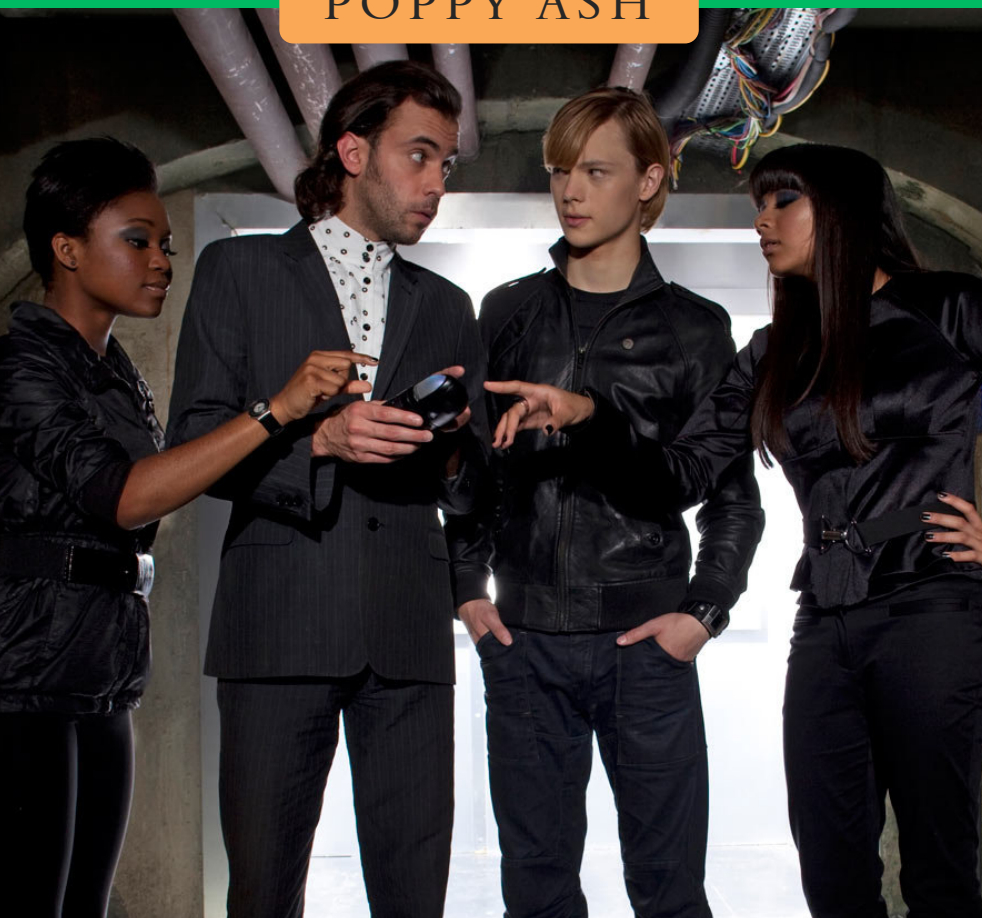


# KERI POTTER

*The School Spy Saves the Day*

POPPY ASH



Winner of the Norwegian Spy Book Awards

# *A mission for Keri*

Keri wandered around the school, admiring the work of fellow students on the wall and laughing at the misused apostrophes and forced semicolons. *'What a rubbish school this is'* she thought to herself. *'We don't even do GCSEs, and none of the teachers know anything!'*

Keri walked down the echoing corridors. Although everyone was in a class, the noise of loud children and unproductive lessons carried around the school. Keri reached the store cupboard and looked around secretively. *'Good, no one here!'* she thought to herself, *'Now time for something cool,'* Keri slid back the switch outside the door to reveal a thumbprint system. She scanned her finger and the door swung open, inviting her in.

As Keri pulled back the broom in the cupboard she was flung downwards at a shocking speed, her hair flying upwards and her clothing somehow changing itself in this process. She stepped out of the lift, looking at the tight black clothes she was dressed in and smiling in approval. "Being a spy is the coolest job ever."

"Welcome back to MI High" Frank said. "I'm glad you got my message. I've got a mission for you, but Aneisha, Tom and Dan are on a school trip. This is a big responsibility for you, but I'm afraid you'll have to do it on your own."

"Well I'll try my best!" said Keri enthusiastically. "School spies are seriously underestimated!"

## A MISSION FOR KERI

“You’re right.” replied Frank. “There’s a little bakery, ‘Brian’s Bakery,’ just down the road that’s just started up. We think it has something to do with the sudden strange behaviour of local people. Just look at this!” Frank showed Keri a video of people from St Hearts school running around and yelling, “We want cakes! We want cookies! We want Brian’s Bakery!”

“Oh.” Said Keri. “That’s pretty dodgy!”

“Your job is to find out just what Brian’s Bakery is doing. It’s not just children at St Hearts that are acting this way, but people everywhere, even the Prime Minister is reported to be a great supporter of Brian’s Bakery. Something seems pretty strange.”

“I’m on to it.”

“Oh, and one last thing, Keri. Here are some random gadgets that you may find useful – a spy pod to find out about the people you meet on, a coat which changes into a parachute and high heeled boots which can activate a laser out of the heel, responsive to your command.”

“Niiice!” said Keri, admiring the gadgets. “Do they do these shoes in red?”

Frank sighed and buried his face in his hand, “Just focus on the mission please Keri.”

Two hours later Keri had managed to fool her head teacher Mr Flatley into thinking that she was on an environmental project run by the government in order to escape school. She went to Brian’s Bakery, dressed especially for the job – she looked much older in her bright orange wig and jet black suit, finished off with the high-heels and jacket that Frank had given to her.

“Hi.” Keri said when addressing the bald man at the desk in the bakery store, “I’m here from the Food Hygiene Scheme, to check how clean your bakery is. Don’t worry; it’s just a basic procedure that the government have to follow for any new food-based shops.”

The man examined Keri, not seeming to believe Keri’s story, but Keri flashed an ID card confirming her story which MI9 had given her. “Oh come through then, but there ain’t nothing to see ‘ere, love.” The man said, leading her behind a screen into the back of the building.

“I’d like to be on my own, if that’s alright? You know, it’s all part of the strict regulations.” Keri said, keeping the screen held for the man to exit. Once he’d left Keri examined everything, taking in the ingredients and layout of the area, but nothing shocking or surprising was apparent to her. *‘Oh dear,’* she thought to herself. *‘Frank won’t be impressed at all. I need to come back with something good. This is my chance to shine! I want him to know that I’m a good spy.’*

Then suddenly she heard it. It wasn’t loud but it was definitely there, a muffled noise, the noise of a person trying to speak. As she went further into the room it grew, and the sound of the person’s fear and desperation became apparent to her. “I’ll let you out,” she whispered, hoping that this may provide some comfort for the person.

She tracked down the source of the noise – it was coming from the trap door under the floorboards. A man tied up and gagged was revealed to her when she pulled back the ingredient boxes and lifted up some loose panels. He was trembling, his face red from screaming and tears sat in his eyes; he was in a terrible state. Keri untied him and found

him some water and food, but the man was too tired to speak. Eventually he whispered, "I'm the real Brian. He's taken over my bakeries. I don't know what he's doing but I can bet you it's dodgy."

Just then the fake Brian arrived, and the two men looked so similar that even side by side they were practically impossible to tell apart. "You're a copy of Brian! An android!" Keri exclaimed. "You look exactly the same!"

The fake Brian replied in a woman's voice, "I copied his genetic sequence. Now I, the Crime Minister, can control my copy of Brian!"

"The Crime Minister!" Keri shrieked. "I should have known you'd be behind this all." Then Keri ran at the fake Brian, forcing her fingers into his back and twisting to make his face twist and his body fall to the floor. "*Five Finger Twist!*" Keri laughed. "It works on androids too!" "Not so fast!" boomed the voice of the Crime Minister. "You may have broken my android but you haven't destroyed me." A mist filled the room and almost immediately died down, and there she was, suddenly standing before her. "Oooh, I do love a dramatic entry!" she shrieked and her cackling laugh rang through the room.

"What you're doing is wrong!" Keri exclaimed. "What are you even planning on doing?"

"With Brian's Bakery being controlled by me I can be in control of the whole world, just you watch me. The drugs I put into the food here are highly addictive but also make people respond to *my* command. They will work for me and give me all their money!" She smiled to herself smugly.

## A MISSION FOR KERI

“You won’t get away with it; I won’t let you!” Keri yelled angrily.

“Oh won’t I?” asked the Crime Minister, as several of the ingredients boxes opened up to reveal robots armed with guns. “I’ll kill you first,” she spat cruelly.

“Oh really?” questioned Keri. “Well I have a secret up my sleeve, or should I say on my shoes?” and with that she pulled off her high-heeled shoes and aimed the lasers at the robots, activating them and making the robots fall to the floor.

“My army!” the Crime Minister cried out, running to her fallen robots. “You’ve caused too much damage, stupid school child. You will never win – just give in now and I’ll let you rule the world with me! I’ve always wanted a daughter and I can see that our minds think alike”

“No!” yelled Keri, and she pulled off her coat and surrounded the crime minister in the parachute. “I had my doubts about the use of this gadget,” Keri laughed, looking down at the Crime Minister frantically trying to escape from the grasp of the parachute she was entangled in. “But this parachute has saved my life.” Keri proudly pulled out a pair of handcuffs and took pleasure in placing them on the Crime Minister. “Who would have guessed it?” she said to herself, “Keri saves the day!”