

## **ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITIES**



**BEATRICE HOLLOWAY**

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

Everything was enormous. Even the wrought iron gates were higher than any Rhys had ever seen before. Certainly taller than the rec. gates he and his friend, Giddy, had climbed and fallen from since their first day at Infants' School.

It was the first day of his new all-boys school, September nineteen seventy-four. He was eleven years old and, as his father had said, time to grow up and attend the Secondary School.

The day had begun with Rhys putting on his new school uniform, all according to the school's dress code. Long grey trousers, how he longed for the cotton shorts he had worn all the summer months. Black lace-up shoes, grey long socks, a white shirt and a striped blue, black and gold tie. Emlyn, Rhys's older and married brother, had taught him how to put the right size knot in his tie. Rhys looked in the mirror and was satisfied with his appearance.

As soon as his mother saw him, she tutted, 'Just look at you.'

'What?' He wriggled as she stood in front of him and began fussing.

'That tie for a start,' she said as she undid it and retied it. 'And your shirt needs to be tucked in around the back.'