***The Witches***

***Chapter 10***

***The Ancient Ones***

***Summary:***

* As mean as the GHW is, she has one last as-nice-as-mean-can-get announcement: the witches who are too old to catch their own blabbersnitches and crabcrunchers (we all know how physically demanding that can be, right?) will be provided with some of the formula, so they don't have to make their own.
* She shows these Ancient Ones what she will give them: a tiny, blue bottle that contains five-hundred doses of the Mouse-Maker. She tells them that they should come up to her room, number 454, at six o'clock to get their bottles. She also gives them the schedule for the rest of the night: tea with the manager immediately and then dinner at eight o'clock in the Dining Room.
* By the way, says the GHW, too bad for any adults who accidentally get dosed with the mouse maker – they'll be mice, too. Hey, it happens.
* The meeting is about to end, when one of the witches screams and announces that she smells dog poop. There's a child lurking nearby, she just knows it. Suddenly, all the witches are sniffing, and the GHW demands that the child must be found and "exterrrminated immediately!" (11.33).

Brief Synopsis:

The Grand High Witch makes a special announcement before ending the presentation: the witches who are very old, whom she calls "the ancient ones" (100), will not have to go all over catching rare animals to make the formula. Instead, she has made special bottles of Formula 86 Delayed Action Mouse-Maker, put them in small bottles of 500 doses, and has them upstairs in her room to dole out that evening. She shows a small example bottle to the audience and tells them her room number, 454. She tells the witches that they must now go have tea on the Sunshine Terrace with the Manager and then will reconvene at 8 in the Dining Room for dinner.

It seems as if the little boy has made it through the entire meeting unscathed when, as the women gather their things to go, one suddenly yells out that she smells dogs' droppings. The witches all start to sniff the air and they smell it too. The Grand High Witch yells for them to find the child, assessing correctly that any child hiding in the room would be in on all of the witches' secret plans.