

The End

If you were expecting a huge battle between the witches, and the forces of good and evil, with flashes and bangs and explosions and lots of coloured smoke, then be prepared to be disappointed. (There are lots of films you can watch which are full of these special effects!) This story has a much more sedate ending. When Miss Vile saw Mr Broom enter the hall with Miss Canning and all the staff of Spellcaster Academy, she knew she was beaten. She knew her powers did not match those of her adversaries; she surrendered without a fight. True, she did have a coven of witches who all worked for her, but they were mostly very old (over two hundred years old in some cases), and just like the rest of us when we get older, their strength was failing. Their magic would have been next to useless compared to the considerably younger and much more energetic staff at Spellcaster. (Most of them weren't even seventy yet – still babies!) So Miss Vile gave herself up and is now spending the rest of her years in a dungeon on a remote island off the north-west coast of Scotland. The rest of the witches were treated more leniently and were given community service. You can still see them from time to time sweeping school playgrounds with ancient brooms (though not the flying kind!).

You would have noticed that Mr Broom was alive and well at the end of the story. As you might have guessed, it wasn't Mr Broom that Lucifer had caught and killed that night. When Mr Broom (disguised as the mouse) scurried inside the potting shed he bumped into an actual field mouse who was nibbling on some seeds. Quick-thinking Mr Broom darted behind a sack of compost and tragically – for the field mouse at any rate – Lucifer pounced on the real mouse and instantly killed it. When Amber saw the dead mouse, she naturally thought it was Mr Broom. Thankfully, however, he was very much alive (though somewhat battered and bruised from his encounter with Lucifer). He lay low for a couple of days before struggling back to Spellcaster where he confirmed Amber's story, alerted Miss Canning to the imminent danger and then led the attack against Miss Vile.

But why did Miss Vile need to drug and kidnap the children in the first place? What was Plan R all about? Well, R stood for Rejuvenation and rejuvenation means to make young again. As has already been explained, Miss Vile and her cronies were well past their best-before date and were looking for a remedy to make them more youthful, hoping that with restored youth would come renewed magical powers. By boiling down children's bones they believed they could make a potion that would bring them eternal youth. Total rubbish, of course! But don't be too hard on them; there are people even now who believe all sorts of rot about various substances having medicinal benefits. Cosmetic companies make millions of pounds from their top-selling brands: anti-wrinkle creams and anti-ageing remedies. And there is no proper scientific evidence to prove they work! Much worse, however, are the elephants that are hunted for their tusks (and the rhinos that are killed for their horns) which are ground into a powder and are used to supposedly cure a variety of ailments, including giving ageing skin a luminous glow. Perhaps, some of us are no better than those witches?

So what happened to the original staff at the school? The lovely Miss Maple, Mrs Rose and all the rest of the staff returned from their enforced absences or recovered from their various illnesses, and once again took up their positions at St Augustine's. Ironically, they never reproduced the excellent SATs results that Miss Vile and her team of witches achieved when they were in control. But, as we know, there is a lot more to a child's education than simply passing exams. The children who left St Augustine's were happy, confident children who went on to become good citizens, which is all that really matters.



Mr Crumb was forgiven his crimes from the past and is now working at Spellcaster Academy.

He is still a caretaker, but now he is allowed to use spells to help him. The mop and bucket can be seen hard at work while he sits in his room reading the paper!

Amber didn't go back to Spellcaster Academy even though Miss Canning offered her a place. This pleased Grandad; he wanted her to have a proper career. Witchcraft seemed a very dated occupation for the 21st century! After St Augustine's she went on to study at high school where she is presently working very hard on her GCSEs. She no longer practises magic, though that night on the broomstick did leave her with a love of flying. She now wants to be a pilot. She feels that a woman flying a plane is a much more positive image than a woman on a broomstick. She is still friends with AJ, who wants to be a dentist – he hasn't touched a sweet from that day to this.

Lucifer's punishment was that his ability to talk was taken away from him; all he can do now is squeak like a mouse. So if you ever see a black cat, with white markings on its face (that makes it look as if it has a mask), and sounds as if it has swallowed a child's squeaky toy, don't try to stroke it. Remember: children don't touch cats! (Not that one at any rate!)



So that just about wraps everything up; pretty much a happy ending. Apart from, that is, the mysterious disappearance of Miss Wand. She vanished shortly before Mr Broom and the teachers of Spellcaster appeared on the scene. No one has seen her since, though there are rumours she has yet again disguised herself as a teacher and is working at a school in the vicinity. Keep an eye out for her! She might be closer than you think!