

KATHERINE GOODE

TV TORTURE!



Illustrated by Kiera Poelsma

TORTURE!



in the living-room. For the next hour, they watched cartoons and rock videos. All the while, Chris kept shoveling cereal into his mouth and Baby Billy sucked rapidly on his dummy.





Chris slowly approached the set. It lay on its side with its cable lines standing upright. Chris gently prodded it with his foot. The set remained motionless.

‘Wow,’ Chris said in amazement. ‘It’s dead.’

‘What’s going on here?’ a deep voice thundered.

Mrs Jenson and Chris turned around and saw Mr Jenson standing in the doorway. His arms were folded stiffly across his chest and a deep frown cut across his face. As Chris explained what had happened, Mr Jenson’s frown seemed to freeze into a permanent scowl. His face turned even darker and angrier when the television repairman told them later that afternoon that the set could not be repaired for several weeks.







'Hi, Chris. I'm Serena Watson from Channel 23,' said a pretty, dark-haired woman nearly thrusting a microphone up his nose. 'How much truth is there to this story that you can transmit television images with your eyes?'



'What?' Chris said, startled by the continuous popping of flashbulbs. Blinding camera lights dangled overhead and soon his eyes were swimming in a sea of white dots.

'Tom Rothman, from the *Daily Sleaze*,' a tall, gangly figure announced. 'How do your parents feel about your so-called magical powers?'

No one stirred or said anything as the minutes ticked by on the mantel clock.



'I've had enough of this,' said Mr Jenson. 'You're all just a bunch of misery guts.' He went to the store-room and started rummaging around. Finally he emerged with a battered banjo case. He sat down and took out the banjo, began tuning the strings and then plunked a little melody. Then he strummed the opening bar of 'Waltzing Matilda'.

The Jensen family are TV addicts.
They watch television non-stop
from dawn to midnight.

Then one day disaster strikes!
First the television set explodes.
Then nine-year-old Chris Jensen
starts glowing in the dark and
transmitting television signals.

What's going on? And, even more
important, how are the Jensens
going to fill in the long hours?

Katherine Goode, her husband and
son live in a rambling house in
Adelaide. Katherine loves reading,
bicycling and bushwalking, but
admits to being a TV addict herself.
She has followed one TV soap for over
twelve years and checks the Internet
home page if she misses an episode.



MACMILLAN
EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA

