

## Excerpt from 'There's a Leak!'

### By Ben Hales

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**[Elsa and her cat, Igor, have discovered a leak in the pavement of their local high street, and have been attempting to get someone to deal with it. They have just been visited by a man and woman from the Council, who have merely put up a sign saying 'Beware of the Leak'. In this excerpt, a group of journalists have just appeared]**

**Reporter 1**                    *(offstage)* I see her! Over there!

Enter Reporters 1, 2 and 3. They are carrying notebooks and cameras.

**Reporter 1**                    Look at that! There she is!

**Reporter 2**                    Lovely shot, just by the sign. *(To Elsa)* Could you move over just a bit?  
That's great.

They all take pictures.

**Reporter 3**                    Is that your cat too? *(To the others)* This is perfect! *(To Elsa)* Can you  
give him a stroke for me?

Elsa strokes Igor, pictures are taken.

**Reporter 1**                    Round a bit!

**Reporter 2**                    Over here please!

**Reporter 1**                    Big smiles!

Igor and Elsa smile.

**Reporter 2**                    Bigger!

They smile more.

**Reporter 3** Now sad faces, please! Sadder! That's beautiful!

**Reporter 2** Now give us worried... More worried... Terrified... Extremely terrified... Brilliant!

**Reporter 1** Just look down for me, love. Head round a smidge. There! (*To the others*) Don't you think she looks just like Princess Diana?

**Reporters** Oh yeah!

A frenzy of picture-taking. They stop and catch their breath.

**Reporter 1** So you're the brave little girl who discovered the leak, are you?

**Elsa** I suppose so.

**Reporter 1** What's your name, luvvie?

**Elsa** Elsa.

**Reporter 1** And how old are you, Elsie?

**Elsa** I'm twelve and my name is Elsa.

**Reporter 2** 'Elsie' is better, more sympathetic.

**Reporter 3** I'm making her ten, it's cuter. Less hormonal.

**Reporter 1** I'm making her sixteen. Much racier!

**Reporter 2** And how long have you been waiting here, Elsie?

**Reporter 3** Tell us your story.

**Reporter 1** We all think you're a remarkable young thing.

**Elsa** I haven't really done anything...

**Reporter 1** You have stood vigil!

**Reporter 3** You're face of humanity in an uncaring world!

**Elsa** I just think someone should do something about the leak.

**Reporter 2** ""Something must be done,' says Toddler Activist."

**Reporter 3** Don't you think it's an indictment of our apathetic society that this protest has been left to a ten year-old girl?

**Reporter 1** People are calling you 'The Heroic Tot Who Made A Difference', how do you feel about that?

**Reporter 2** Does your mother always leave you unattended in the street?

**Elsa** I was just going to the shops.

**Reporter 2** Would you call yourself a shopaholic?

**Reporter 3** What do you think it says about our consumerist society that people would rather shop than take an interest in infrastructure?

**Reporter 1** People are calling you 'The Princess of the Pavement'. How do you respond to that?

**Elsa** Why do you keep asking me questions? Shouldn't you be doing something about the leak?

**Reporter 1** It's human interest, love. That's what sells papers.

**Elsa** But I don't want to sell papers, I want someone to do something about the leak.

**Reporter 2** ""Leave me alone,' pleads Celebrity Leak-buster!"

- Reporter 3** Do you see any prospect of a peaceful resolution to this issue? Or will it, must it, end in violence?
- Reporter 1** What does your boyfriend think about all this? Has it affected your love life?
- Elsa** I don't have a boyfriend! I'm only twelve!
- Reporter 2** 'Underage Street Lesbian Urges Civil Disobedience'!
- Elsa** I don't know what you want me to say!
- Reporter 1** Sorry, love. We're sorry.
- Reporter 3** It can be overwhelming, being the eye of a media storm.
- Reporter 2** You must be very worried about the leak.
- Elsa** I am! It shouldn't be happening, should it? It's not normal.
- Reporter 2** You must be fearful about your future.
- Reporter 1** What about your cat, your old cat? You must be frightened about what will happen to him.
- Elsa** What do you mean? What IS going to happen to him?
- Reporter 3** Well, something like this could very well end in disaster. Does that scare you?
- Elsa** Yes!
- Reporter 2** The leak could very well mean the end of everything we hold dear.
- Reporter 1** Do you like music?
- Reporter 2** And sweeties?

**Reporter 3**                    And dressing up?

**Elsa**                            Yes?

**Reporter 1**                    It could all be gone in an instant.

**Reporter 2**                    Just like that...

**Reporter 3**                    Because of this leak.

**Reporter 2**                    I bet you wish you'd never seen it now, don't you?

**Elsa**                            Yes, yes! I don't want anything to happen! You're frightening me!

She starts to cry. Excitedly, the reporters all take her picture at once.

**Reporters**                    (*examining their shots*) That's it! That's the one! The money shot!

Exit reporters.