



## Rumblestar: Chapter 19

Where Casper and Arlo arrive at Dapplemere.



**Q1:** Look at the last line. What does that tell us about who is responsible for the trashing of Dapplemere?

He slid his telescope down to the lake and through the haze of cloud Zip hung behind, Casper could see the exquisitely carved mills, with patterned shutters and verandas overlooking the water. But the mills didn't look like they were in good shape at all; the windows had been punched through, the wheels had been smashed to pieces and some appeared to be nothing more than heaps of charcoaled wood. On the lake itself, half-sunk rowing boats swayed aimlessly, and tucked into the foot of the hillside there was what looked like the remains of a village.

The shops lining the higgledy-piggledy streets claimed to sell all manner of things for Ballooners and Bottlers but every single one had been ransacked: there was **Huffington Balloons (Est. 1325)**, whose sign was hanging by its hinges; **Brittleweave Baskets (10% Discount for First-Time Buyers)**, whose contents were spilled out into the street; and **Twizzlequick Tools (Purveyor of Quality Tools Since For Ever)**, whose door was missing.

Down a winding alley, picnic tables lay overturned outside a pub called **The Burping Eagle** and menu boards had been clawed through outside a terraced building called **Nibblenosh**. The place had been trashed – it looked like a ghost town – but over everything, Casper noticed, there were bird droppings.



Q2: Why do you think Utterly gets upset when she sees Casper?

‘Casper?’ she breathed. ‘Is . . . is that you?’

‘I did tell you,’ Casper whispered, ‘that I am never, ever late.’ He paused. ‘*Especially* when it comes to rescuing a friend.’

And at those words, Utterly’s eyes filled with tears.

