

Laridaphobia - Fear of Seagulls.' by Millie Hedden

Seagulls are the most terrifying creature to ever exist (much like the T-Rex) and this is why I find them so frightening. You see, for most of my life

I have lived in a seaside town and everyone knows the dangers of holding up your ice-cream to the sky – rookie mistake. I can just imagine the result...yikes! To be honest, anyone who lives near the seaside knows that feeling when your favourite fish and chips gets stolen from you. Sadly, I speak from experience.

Take last month, for instance. I was peacefully walking along the den in Teignmouth, sipping my £3.50 costa drink (a salted caramel frostino topped with whipped cream and sprinkles, since you asked) when I felt a sudden sensation of scraping on my arms and face. I instantly knew it was one of those wretched seagulls. My first reaction was to clutch my drink to my chest and stand there screaming like all hell broke loose, until it flew away.

Traumatic, I know.

This now leads me to the question, why are they here and for heaven's sake, what is their

purpose? Other than scaring the living daylights out of me, of course. Well, if I consider my options, there is: running away to join a circus; moving to France and begin my own beret factory or spending every waking moment at school *shudder*. On second thought, I'd better just deal with them. So I've created a plan of action:

STEP 1 - build a security system around my house.

STEP 2 - only leave my home for the necessities, e.g. toilet paper, food, etc.

STEP 3 - create a master plan to take over the world with my anti-seagull scheme. However, even this may not be enough to hold back those seaside scandals.

Another time I had an issue with these vile demons of the sky was when I was in Year 1. I was casually walking along Teignmouth promenade and munching my granola bar when a seagull swooped down and snatched the treat out of my bare hands. I was speechless. I faintly remember a tear rolling down my cheek due to the pure shock of this experience. I was 6 years

old...6! No wonder I'm terrified of them now.

So what possibly can be done? We need to take drastic action immediately. I suggest recruiting the military – slightly farfetched? Nah, it's definitely necessary in my view and all of those who live by the seaside. Whoever decided seagulls would be a protected animal was a buffoon, they obviously didn't know the true wrath of these deadly assassins. None of this ridiculous, "Oh they're fine, just avoid them and cover your ice cream." No way, José! Do people realise that they are invading our society and one day they might even rule the world? No, they don't, because they're too worried about financial issues and their jobs so that they ignore the real problem at hand, the demons of the sky...

