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TWO NETBALL STARS

By Jeremy R and Bruce M

As soon as Briley received a call from the NBA, her mouth dropped open. She was told she could join the all-star netball comp with a team from New Zealand!

The next day, as she gazed up at the stadium and gathered up her bags, she wondered what would happen. Earlier, she had said goodbye to her parents and left in a hurry. It was quite short notice and she didn't want to be late. She got on the plane with great anticipation.

Suddenly, the plane started to shake. The storm they were in had deeply destroyed the engine. The plane tragically crashed to the ground, killing all but Briley and Leah, Briley's best friend. In the crisis, Briley was knocked out and Leah was injured badly. She had hurt her arm and blood was oozing out. Glass was stuck in the deep cut but Leah expertly pulled it out. She wrapped a cloth from her handbag around it, fastening it with a safety pin. She did CPR on Briley and managed to retrieve her from her unconsciousness.

They were in the middle of the woods. It was dark and the air was covered by a thick layer of fog. The two had no supplies, no warmth or water or even food! Briley grabbed a stick and threw it in the fire from the plane, and kept doing the same until the fire rose. Leah was setting up a camp place, completed with leaves and sticks.

She gathered up a long piece of tree bark for a shelter and winced in pain at her arm, wondering if they would get there for the netball comp. They had to be in New Zealand in several days but they had agreed on staying the night. They didn't have any warmth but they would try to move on in the morning.

Leah rummaged around among the leaves for a cure to her serious cut, worried about her oozing blood loss. Briley rushed up to her, pulling her towards the fire. It would go out soon, but for now they had to savour what they had. Their only priority right now was Leah's arm. They both quickly got to sleep though, hoping that tomorrow would be better.

In the morning, a big scab had enclosed on Leah's arm. She felt fine and the fire was still going well. Although the fire was there, they had to move on. There was nothing else to do. They both picked themselves up, hoping they would arrive at some sort of populated city or town.

To their surprise, in under two hours, they reached South New Zealand. In front of them was the place where they would play. All the girls from their team were gathered there.

The girls started the game. Leah had to be subbed the whole time; she wasn't allowed to play because of her injured arm.

Briley was doing well. She got three goals. The opposing team was two points behind the reigning team. The New Zealand girls won the game by two points, making it to the finals.

The finals started but a fowl accounted. Briely was pushed and shoved to the ground by a mean girl named Saskia who who was famous for her fowls. Briley was quickly taken to the side of the court. The Ambulances came; she had landed on her rib. Leah was rushed to hospital as well and the doctors cleaned up the cut and put a big bandage on it. Fortunately, Briley hadn't

broken any bones.

Leah stayed in the hospital. The wound was inflamed with bacteria and she had to have surgery on her right arm.

Briley got a ride in the ambulance back to the game and the game went on. Her rib only hurt a little bit and there was fifteen minutes left. Briley's rib was getting worse but she still had to play. She shot for goals many times but the team wasn't the same without Leah. When Briley looked up to the stands, she saw a smiling Leah in the crowd. She had a plaster cast on her arm but she looked okay. The surgery had gone well, so she got out of the hospital quickly.

Leah strengthened Briley with her smile and even though the girls lost the game, they had learnt a valuable lesson at the end of it. Winning isn't everything. It's important to know that with God, everything is possible. You can win, lose, or come a draw. It doesn't matter what you come. Losing is good because you can celebrate others and God is with you through hard and easy times. God wants you to celebrate others, not bring them down. God will always be there to encourage you, even if you lose a big game. God still loves you.

EMILINE IN THE WAR

By S. Queen

Emiline, the animal whisperer, stepped outside of the school into the cold, misty air. It had been like this for five months now; fighting, yelling - it's all you can hear. Of course her best friends Emma the hedgehog and Amelia the dragon were right by her side. The war was upon them and in fact it was within them. The war was where she lived and everyday she had to walk home in all the shouting. Emiline was lucky she was still alive and walking home in the war was such a bad idea, but she couldn't do anything about it. Emiline's family was so poor.

Emiline was a kind and loyal girl from 1915. She was very brave and was never afraid to say what was on her mind. Amelia the dragon was very scary but also very kind... when she wanted to be. She was a blue dragon and she could even breathe fire, which is why Emiline wasn't as afraid to step outside as she would normally be. Emma was a super cute hedgehog, probably the most cutest thing that you will ever see. She got scared very, very easily so it's probably a good thing that she was friends with a dragon. Although they were scared, Emiline was determined to stay true to her convictions and never let the war break her spirit.

As the three friends walked home, they saw the destruction from the war all around them. The buildings were in ruins; all they could see were dead trees, wounded people on the street and vehicles that lay twisted and mangled on the roads.

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But despite the grim surroundings, Emiline's courage never wavered. She refused to be intimidated and continued to speak her mind fearlessly. With Amelia's amazing firepower and Emma's adorable cuteness, the great trio made a very unlikely but unbreakable team.

Suddenly, in the middle of the night, while they were sleeping, Amelia the dragon heard a sound and followed it. As she walked away, Emma the hedgehog and Emiline woke up and they followed her without Amelia the dragon knowing. Then Amelia heard another sound and looked behind her only to find Emma and Emiline there.

As the three of them got deeper into the woods, the sound got louder and they got even more terrified. Just at that moment, they all heard the noise but a lot louder this time. Then they saw a creepy, ominous, terrifyingly disturbing, horrible looking... dwarf!

At first they were all very frightened and horrified but then they calmed down and the dwarf explained that he knew a way to stop the war all over. But he also explained that he needed their help to do it and it was super risky.

The dwarf took them to a plane and said that the plane would take them to a place where they could stop the fighting and the yelling and everyone would be friends; with not only each other, but with God. When they got on the plane they thought that it was a little tiny bit... TERRIBLE! The dwarf was a little upset at what they said but still agreed to take them to stop the war.

As soon as they started to fly, the dwarf knocked them out. When Emiline, Amelia the dragon and Emma the hedgehog woke up, they heard noises and realised that they were captured by the other side. They also realised that they were putting them in a cage and that they were going to kill them. They had to get out and quickly!

Amelia the dragon tried to burn down the bars but it didn't

work. The bars were fireproof! They also tried to get out the window but there were soldiers everywhere. But just at that moment, as Emiline was getting a drink from the sink, they all saw that there was a little tiny hole behind the sink. After hours of squeezing and squirming, they finally got out, but only to find a million different portals.

They thought for a while and then Emma the hedgehog wondered if the McDonalds shaped one would actually take them to McDonalds. They went into a portal and it was completely and utterly freezing. Maybe because it was Antarctica! They saw a penguin and it was just a little tiny bit stupid. His name was Bob.

Next they went in to another portal and found there was no way back. All they got was a key. They also find out that they were at the war headquarters. The war headquarters is were they decide when to stop the war and who won. I know - that would be a lot of responsibility!

As soon as Emiline, Amelia the dragon and Emma the hedgehog thought of a way to stop the war and all fighting, they walked straight forward and knocked on a door that lead to the war headquarters. Then they heard a noise saying that they could come in, so they did.

They talked to them about how fighting is never the answer except for when they're asking what is never the answer. They talked about how millions of the people that God created, innocent people, were dying because of what YOU did. And they also talked about a lot, lot more and because of that, all the yelling and fighting and gun shooting stopped.

They could now go home but then they realised that they couldn't go home because there wasn't a portal back. Suddenly, a door popped up out of nowhere - but it was locked. At that moment, they remembered that they had a key. They tried the key and it worked. They were home again!

For a couple of days there was still some fighting but then it all stopped. They then realised that they couldn't have done any of this without the help from God because everyone knows that without God you can't do anything.

GOD'S HELP AND A NEW BEGINNING

By Jeremy R

Alessia, Jeremy, Mataya and Riley loved archery. Riley was amazing at archery and competed in contests and loved teaching the others new tricks. Mataya loved archery too but the sport she was best at was snowboarding and since they lived in New Zealand, she had plenty of time to practice. Alessia was good at BMX riding and got a new bike every month. She competed in many races too. Jeremy was a famous football player and played live at least three times every month.

There came a day when everyone had to go to their sports at the same time. But if they all went, no one would be able to look after their dog, Caspian. Caspian was very special to them and needed lots of attention. The siblings didn't know anyone that knew how to look after three year old Caspian though, and so one of them had to stay behind.

Alessia was 18 and the second oldest of the four. She had waited months for her BMX contest and been practising for ages. She had to leave tomorrow for her booked flight that would take her to the contest in California where she should be up against the best BMX girls and boys in the world. Everyone knew she couldn't stay behind.

But Riley needed to travel to Russia for her competition where she would be up against the best as well. She was leaving the

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next day as well. She was 21 and this was extremely important to her.

Mataya was competing in the snowboard Olympics in Egypt and she was leaving in three hours. Even though she was only 15, she made a good snowboarder.

Jeremy was playing a match in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, where they lived. Jeremy had been practicing with his mates for nine months and, being the one that always gave up a match because he didn't have to travel far, everyone knew that their 14 year old brother, the youngest of the four, couldn't sacrifice anymore. It wouldn't be fair, especially since he had to leave in the middle of the night and not even that was very fair.

"I can stay," Jeremy said.

"No. It's fine. I'm cancelling my flight now. You go. I'll stay," Riley said.

"No. You don't have to. I will," both Alessia and Mataya said, getting out their phones. But Riley held up her phone and showed them her cancelled flight.

"It's too late. I'll stay, you go."

Alessia ran to her room and stayed there. The girls could tell she felt guilty about leaving tomorrow for her BMX contest. Mataya ran outside to the stream and sat playing with the grass. Riley and Jeremy knew she felt guilty about leaving in three hours.

"I'm sorry you're missing the contest. I've been a bad brother," said Jeremy.

"No. Jeremy, you're the best brother. You've already missed so many games. It's only fair I don't go tomorrow," Riley said, watching Jeremy go to his room, probably to go to sleep so he could get up that night to go. He felt guilty for his sister but

knew he couldn't change her flight time.

Riley watched as Mataya left. She had packed her bags and driven off.

The next day, Jeremy had gone to the match and Alessia had gone to her contest too. Now Riley was all alone. But Mataya felt too guilty and here's what happened that night...

Mataya had driven off. She didn't have a drivers licence but even so she drove to her Aunty's house. Her auntie couldn't look after Caspian because she despised animals. But her Aunty was kind enough to drive her to the airport. But as Mataya saw the planes taking off, she realised her flight was next. But she suddenly called out, "Can you take me home?" to her Aunty.

Her Aunty shouted back, "Yes, fine! But why?"

So Mataya got back in her Aunty's car and told her about what had happened to Riley before she left and how she felt really guilty. And so her Aunty drove her back and they arrived in the middle of the night after the next day. Riley was so surprised that Mataya had come back though and demanded she went back to the Olympics. But Mataya refused and Riley felt guiltier than ever and hugged Mataya and cried for her sister who would now miss the Olympics.

Then, seconds later, the girls saw Alessia driving back. Alessia got out and carried her bike inside. When she came back out, Mataya and Riley both shouted, "Alessia! You're missing the contest!"

But Alessia explained, "I felt guilty. I was driving in the car, with the song 'Let's get ridiculous!' on and I realised that Riley staying home instead of me was ridiculous. And so I turned around and drove back."

Riley again, feeling guilty, hugged her younger sister, Alessia.

Meanwhile, Jeremy had just arrived at the stadium. He waved to his team and shouted, "Hi! Sorry I couldn't make it last week!" But his friends easily forgave him and they started the match. But Jeremy got the idea of, "I should 'get hurt' so that I can stop and go back to Riley." So Jeremy caught the ball and purposely tripped, landing on his wrist. It didn't hurt him but he pretended it did by rolling around on the grass, hysterically howling. He was a good faker. The refs let him off. He went home with his Uncle, who was watching the match and explained, "I faked it. I felt bad for Riley. She offered to miss her archery."

And his Uncle said, "Well, that's very kind of you. But you shouldn't have to miss your game because of her. It's the tenth time this season!"

But Jeremy's Uncle had a strong mind and believed in never giving up. So did the four siblings but in this case, Jeremy gave it up for his sister.

Jeremy arrived at his house only to see his three sisters hugging each other. Then he hopped out and said, "What are you all doing here?"

Mataya and Alessia said at the same time, "We felt guilty."

And when they said that, at the same time, Riley said, "They felt guilty." And so it sounded like, "We they felt felt guilty guilty," but just as they said that, their lives got more exciting, scary and mysterious. The Earth cracked apart and they fell into a strange land.

The new land separated them. Jeremy, who always made sacrifices, landed in a bright and colourful land which Jesus was King of, and Jesus could be seen sitting on the throne in Heaven. He was there because he followed Jesus's example of putting others first.

Mataya landed in a cold snowy land, full of icy trees and caves

because she put snowboarding first in most situations while Jeremy sacrificed. But she could see another girl that introduced herself as Shelby to guide her.

Shelby was 34 and was a strong believer; a Christian. She was there to guide Mataya and teach her why snowboarding will affect her life one day and that she had to be ready for that day.

Riley was placed in a land of arrows stuck in trees, archers all around and a big contest happening, with her in it. She was happy at first but then realised she was there to learn how to become a Christian, for the land was filled with Churches. She needed to forget archery for that moment; she could think about it back at her house. Now she needed to focus on Jesus.

Alessia was in a world of BMX bikes and bike shops and ahead of her she saw a large paddock full of animals, happily grazing. All over the place there were bike ramps and skate parks. She felt sad for the animals because it was ruining their land. But then she realised she had made a bike ramp in the middle of animals' land at home and God sent her there to help her realise that animals are important too.

All the siblings were sad. They were separated but knew it was for the best.

Jeremy was already a Christian but had never been to Church. Ahead of him, he saw a world that looked like Heaven. God was on the throne; so was Jesus. Golden paths paved on the floor shone in the glow that came from what seemed to be the Holy Spirit. Jeremy walked towards God and by the look on Jeremy's face, he knew who God was immediately. God talked to him and told him he would find his sisters back at his home. Suddenly, Jeremy thought about Caspian. But God knew his thoughts and blessed him with reassurance and suddenly Jeremy found himself at his house in New Zealand with Caspian sitting at the door.

Meanwhile, Mataya walked with Shelby and Shelby said, "You will find your brother in a great trouble one day. You must stay calm and be reassured that he will recover."

But Mataya was anxious. "How will I know? Why will I know when my skills will come in handy? I'm anxious. Please help me!" she asked.

"You will know. God will tell you. And you will know what to do and how your tricks will help you.

Now, off you go and," but Mataya cut her off - "where am I meant to go?"

But Shelby said, "You will know. Start by walking to that stream." And Mataya walked down to a stream and kneeled down and drank from it. But just as she did, she was sucked into her own world, at the exact same time Jeremy had arrived.

At the same time, Riley was walking up to the Church, her special bow and arrow that she always carried with her in her hand. But suddenly a voice spoke out, "Drop your bow and your arrows." And Riley at first didn't want to obey but thought it may be God as she was told often who He is and what He may be like. She obeyed, leaving behind her beloved bow, holding tears back from her eyes. She had received the bow from her parents, who lived far away in Japan and the bow and arrow set was all Riley had left of them.

She went into the Church without it and listened to the preacher. When the service was over, she went to the preacher and said, "Thank you. I have found love through Jesus Christ, my new one true Lord." And God told her to pick up her bow and take it and the arrows with her. Riley thanked him. And when she had said that, she found herself at home, seconds after Mataya had arrived. Now all of them gathered there were Christians.

Lastly, Alessia was staring at the poor frightened animals,

JEREMY R

carefully grazing next to the BMX riders. But in her sadness and anger, Alessia yelled out, "Stop!"

And a different voice said, "Good job. I see you have learnt to look after my creation and follow the Lord's promises for you and I see that you look up to the future well." And the Christian girl, Alessia, knew God had spoken to her. She tore up the bike ramps and used wood to break the ramps on the skate park. She allowed the animals to roam free and instantly found herself at home.

But just as Alessia arrived, Jeremy fell and Alessia saw a strange dog clinging to his leg. The girls didn't know the dog and Caspian was fighting him off. The snow that was gathered on the sibling's path softened Jeremy's fall.

Riley shot the dog that bit her brother's leg. She had a strong feeling inside her, as if God was telling her to save her brother.

But out of the corner of her eye, Mataya saw another vicious dog approach. And she knew now she had to use her skills like Shelby had said. She snowboarded towards the dog, manoeuvring her board around the logs on the ground. She crashed into the dog, knocking it out and at the same time she picked it up and snowboarded down the street until she heard someone call out, "That's my dog! My poor Jeff!" And the old lady carried her dog, that had just been passed to her by Mataya, into her house.

Later, Jeremy was taken to hospital. He was fine after some stitches and they all went home.

After that, they all had many times of asking God for help and he always provided it. They all grew up to be people who learned to spread the Gospel and speak of our Lord, God.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

By Arwyn B

I was just 11 years old and my parents were dead. I lived in South America, and I had survived 7 years without my parents. You see, they were famous explorers and they were exploring 3780km under water. Their submarine screen sadly cracked and, not having any communication with anyone above water, they drowned.

People usually felt bad for me but I don't see why; I'd lived this long without them. The only thing I felt bad about was what was about to happen.

My hobby was to run. I didn't ever look back. I had gone to 8 houses already but to be honest, I really didn't mind. I just ran away!

Every single night I had this nightmare - the nightmare was of a chunk of footage of my parent's death. I went to this cruel Lady's house whose name was Rebecca. I remembered every single inch of the video she showed me. It damaged me, my heart, and most of all, my soul.

People say I should've died with my parents, but I knew I had a true meaning in life. Just because it didn't look like that on the outside, didn't mean it wasn't on the inside.

One reason why I ran away was from the non stop reminding of how different I was! This is my story...

Jack woke up to bright sunlight, but something was strange; someone was at his door. He heard four non-stop knocking noises. It was hard knocks, very hard. He was scared to open the door, but he slowly crept there. "One step at a time," he thought to himself.

He slowly, but very carefully opened the wooden door. A huge man filling up the whole door slowly got eye contact with the boy and finally but sturdily said, "You have to come with me!"

The boy was struggling to take it all in but finally said, "Me, come with you?"

"Yes, you have to come with me!"

"But why?"

"Because it was in your parent's Will. I'm a Lawyer and I was called to this exact address, so unless you can show me your parents, you have to come with me!"

"I, I. Um, I don't know what to do!"

Then the man suddenly grabbed him by the hand and chucked him in a strange white van! He didn't know where he was going but he had this sick feeling inside of him, the feeling of regret.

The van suddenly went to a stop. On the outside it was dead silent, but there was a strange voice speaking to the man, although it didn't sound like a nice voice.

The back door finally opened and his first glimpse of the outside was bars and an old creepy mansion. He realised that there was no escaping there; in fact it was like a jail.

"Welcome to the SSFUO, or shall I say Secret Society For Unhomed Orphans. My name is Mrs Fiddlewig and I am your new charming head mistress!" said the bone chilling voice.

While Mrs Fiddlewig was talking, Jack didn't realise that the man had left. "I heard that your name is Jack!"

Jack hadn't heard that name since his parents died and he found it quite emotional to hear it. Not even he said it! He wasn't used to that name so he wondered if that was his actual name.

"Yeah, I guess it is!" Jack said in an unsustainable voice.

"Well, you better start getting unpacked!" said Mrs Fiddlewig.

Jack didn't even realise that he had all of his clothes and belongings with him. He started to walk inside of the intensely large house. It seemed really weird in a way and it felt as if Jack had been there before; he just couldn't see why.

He reached his dorm and there were eight eyes staring at him: two girls and two boys. They had kind gentle eyes.

"Hi my name is Jack!" he said in a wimpy voice. None of the children answered but their glare was radiating through the room!

He was a little scared but knew these strange people were nice in some way or another! "Hi" said one of the girls bravely! "My name is Bethany, Bethany Wires, it is very nice to meet you."

"My name is Oscar Timbers!"

"My name is Dorothy!"

"My name is Connor!"

They all seemed nice, but something was weird. Jack felt as if he had seen them before but that was the least of his worries right then! But during the night Jack couldn't sleep so he started to wonder why he had the feeling that he has seen the children before, and ideas then struck into his head.

'Oh, oh, their parents were the ones in the submarine with my parents!'

He then knew he had to ask questions. In the morning, he got all the answers he needed to know! And yes, it was also their parents!

Jack had settled in well to the new environment. He really liked the children at the orphanage and he felt as if he had a connection with all of them!

One night, Jack found a secret box under a wooden platform which had a key and map. It had bold words of "OHINO, THE PLACE TO BE!" He also found a picture of 2 young ladies with camouflaged suits on. The photo was in black and white!

5 YEARS LATER... All of Jack's friends, including him, were old enough to leave the orphanage and find homes for themselves, but they had other plans. Instead, those plans were to find the missing treasure of Ohino!

They set off on a long journey, and since there were no airlines to the island, they had to go by boat and lots of walking. They made it to the island but there was one thing that caught their eyes; a cave that was covered in turquoises, aqua, violet and hunter green. Their eyes were stunned!

The map was saying that the treasure was inside of the well-decorated cave. Jack thought he should tell everyone not to touch anything, but they were all feeling the different textures of the whole entire cave!

They finally found the treasure chest and Jack had a very special necklace around his neck. In fact, it was the key! As they opened the box, each of them thought about filling their pockets, except for Jack.

He began to speak, "We don't need any treasure that might be in this chest. God blessed us enough to even let us go on this journey. The treasure we got was friendship. We got closer together and built an even stronger relationship with God. Wouldn't you say that's a treasure enough?"

At last the chest was open and they peered inside - but the chest was empty except for rusty metal sides and two colourful moths that fluttered out to safety. No treasure?

"I thought this was supposed to be the treasure of Ohino?" thought Jack.

Then he spotted a small dusty note in the bottom of the old rusty chest. Jack slowly read aloud: "No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. You will see me... Since I live, you also will live — John 14: 18-19."

"So store your treasures in Heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy... Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be — Mathew 6: 20-21."

"For I know the plans I have for you. They are plans... to give you a future and a hope — Jeremiah 29:11."

Jack's damaged heart and soul finally felt restored. He had always known he had a true meaning in life, and now he had found it.

Jack and his friends were flooded with joy. They realised that from that day on, they would carry their treasure with them, and their lives would be filled with kindness, purpose and hope!

LOST AND FOUND

By D E Lightful

Sofia, Camilla and Brooke were the best of friends but only because they all met in the same orphanage many years ago when they were all eight. Sofia's parents abandoned her because they weren't very rich and couldn't afford to pay for all of Sofia's things but her parents truly did love her with all their heart. On the other hand, Brooke's parents just didn't like her and thought she was a massive waste of time. And finally Camilla; she actually never knew about her parents at all so that's why this happened...

Sofia and Brooke were convinced by Camilla to join her on a journey to find her REAL parents and since they lived five minutes away from the ocean, that's exactly where they went first. About five minutes later, the three girls arrived at the beach and asked everyone they saw if they had seen this person while Brooke held up a picture of Camilla as a baby. Most people said, "No," except for an old looking lady wearing a white jumpsuit and brown, black and yellow sandals.

The girls asked the lady where she had seen the girl and she answered back as, "I'm her Aunty."

The girls were so shocked, especially Camilla, that she flew onto the ground. But soon after Camilla hopped up and asked the lady for more information about her parents and herself.

So the lady took the three friends to her house and made them

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some tea while Sofia asked some questions. Camilla was too embarrassed and concerned so she started sipping her tea while the others waited for their's.

"Excuse me miss, do you know where Camilla's mother and father are?" exclaimed Sofia.

"Well, the thing is, I don't know exactly where they are," replied the woman. "But I can tell you this; they are in the war zone at the moment which means they aren't in a safe place right now."

"What does that mean?" whispered Camilla.

"Your parents, they are in Ukraine and it is definitely not safe there but if you do go to find your parents anyway, be careful and have a safe trip. The way will be rough and scary but I will pray for you and your friends every night at exactly 8:25 so God knows to protect you and hopefully watch over you thoughtfully," said the worried lady politely.

Camilla was so super determined to find her actual parents that she forgot about her friends' safety and didn't listen to anything they said. She didn't even wait for Brooke to get her inhaler because she has really bad asthma and could not run very fast. Sofia had to stand in front of the car while Brooke got her inhaler so Camilla didn't drive away. But once Brooke got a spare inhaler from the first aid kit, they drove to the airport, which took nearly 4 hours. But the thing the girls did not realise was that absolutely no one was going to fly them to Ukraine!

When the three loving friends arrived at the airport, they asked a young man in a uniform to fly them to Ukraine but he said no! 5 minutes later, they found a helicopter driver and so they asked her to drive them to Ukraine but she said no as well.

The girls were running out of time and ideas but suddenly, as they were about to give up, a kind hearted, young man walked up to them and said, "I will drop you off in Ukraine if you pay me three thousand dollars."

“Yes deal!” shouted out Camilla.

“Well then, what are we waiting for, hop on my chopper and you’ll be there in no time,” said the man with excitement in his tone.

12 HOURS LATER... They had finally arrived just outside the borders of Ukraine. After taking a few steps, they were inside. As the girls walked closer towards the buildings, the helicopter flew away never to be seen again. The girls were suddenly surrounded by knocked down buildings, dead people and much much more. Brooke was getting grossed out so Sofia gave her a piggyback and Brooke could close her eyes.

As they got deeper and deeper into Ukraine, they started spotting soldiers so they hid in a near-by shack with a ratty roof. The soldiers passed by but because Brooke had her eyes closed still, she accidentally sliced her finger across a barrel and her finger nail started bleeding endlessly so she started screaming and crying pretty loudly. A soldier heard Brooke’s endless screams and headed towards the shack by himself...

3 MINUTES LATER... The soldier started moving quickly towards the shack the girls were in so Camilla and Sofia tried to block Brooke’s mouth but it didn’t work. The soldier was only 5 metres away, then 4 and then 3, 2 and then he was at the door of the shack. He knocked gently then slammed the door open and CRASH! The soldier had spotted the girls and pointed his rifle towards their heads.

BACK AT CAMILLA’S AUNTIE’S HOUSE... It had just hit 8:25 at night so Camilla’s Aunty prayed for Camilla and her 2 friends to be safe and not to be scared and God answered her prayers.

The man had his rifle exactly pointed towards where their brains were until he lowered his rifle and took a band-aid from out of his pocket and tore it open as if he was going to put it on Brooke’s finger. He leaned near Brooke and wrapped the band-aid around her poor, stubby little finger. She stopped crying and wiped away the tears from her delicate face and she gave a massive thanks to the soldier.

“Thank you,” dreaded Brooke.

“No need to thank me,” said the man anxiously. “Anyway, what are you three girls doing all alone in Ukraine? You know we are invading this country and it is very dangerous to be here?” said the man seeming worried.

“I’m sorry but it was my fault. I wanted to find my parents who I have never seen before and I forced my only friends to come with me and I have got them in serious danger,” cried Camilla.

“It’s okay Camilla, we are the ones who said yes to come with you,” pointed out Sofia.

“Girls, I am worried for you. What happens if one of you get injured and I’m not here to protect you?” moaned the man.

“Why did you even protect us in the first place?” said Brooke.

“Because I know what it feels like to be an orphan,” said the soldier unhappily.

So the soldier decided to stick with the girls for the rest of their journey and promise to keep them safe no matter what happened. Then, they went to sleep and woke up the next morning feeling pumped.

The man eventually told the girls his name. It was Leo, and the girls told Leo their names one by one.

Once they finished introducing themselves they packed up their belongings and stomped off to a nearby city called Avdiivka with a population of 2500 people. They had arrived at the city after 2 miles of walking and running and even jogging.

“The four of us make a great team,” thought Leo.

“That’s true!” said Sofia.

“Wait, who’s that over there!” yelled Camilla.

“Oh umm, I don’t know, quick take cover and get behind that bush. RUN!” screamed Leo to the girls faces.

“Hello,” said a familiar voice.

Suddenly, before Leo could say anything, Camilla jumped out of the bush yelling, “MUM!”

“Wait Camilla is that you?” said Elizabeth, Camilla’s mum.

“YES IT’S ME,” squealed Camilla in great excitement.

“Mum, now I can come home with you and we will live together forever,” said Camilla once again.

“Well sorry Camilla, but we got rid of you for a reason. You’re actually not really my daughter,” said Elizabeth bravely.

“How?”

“Well you see, when you were born, my husband left me for another girl so I was left alone and I knew I couldn’t keep you because I wouldn’t have the money so I left you with an orphanage manager when you were 2 months old,” cried Elizabeth.

“I am sorry Camilla, but I am not your mother but he is your father from now on.”

“Who?”

“Leo!”

“Me?” whispered Leo.

“Yes you!”

“Camilla, you will live with Leo for nearly the rest of your life, understood?”

“Understood.”

HOW I BECAME A BILLIONAIRE BEFORE I WAS 13

By Lolly Lover

“Hi Mum, hi Dad!” Lacey called as she hung up her school bag.

“Hello honey, how was your day at school?” replied her mother as she came back from doing the washing.

“Just great! We made a model of a volcano and had to write facts about it. Also, could I please go over to Astrid’s house for a bit? Please!”

“Sure, go ahead. Just be home by five,” her mother called as Lacey rushed out the room to her best friend's house.

The two girls rode Shimmer and Sparkle, Astrid’s horses, around the paddock.

“I wonder what it would be like to be a billionaire!” Lacey thought aloud.

“I would buy lots of cats and create an art studio. That would be so much fun! What would you buy?” Astrid asked, her eyes shining brightly.

“Oh, I don’t know! I could think of millions of things to buy. I just can’t settle on one!”

LIVING LIGHT, SHINING BRIGHT: COLOURFUL ADVENTURES FOR THE YOU...

“If one of us becomes a billionaire, we’ll share the money, right? Let’s shake on it. We’re BFF’s after all.”

“Best friends forever!” the girls chorused before bursting out into a fit of giggles. They made the promise and then started talking about something entirely different...

The next morning, Lacey’s parents came into her room with smiles on their faces. “We just got a call from your Auntie Kirsty,” began Lacey’s mum. “And she wants you to house sit for her!”

“What!” Lacey squealed in delight.

“It’s just for the weekend, but I’m sure you’ll have fun,” her dad said with a twinkle in his eye.

“Oh thank you, thank you, thank you!” Lacey exclaimed.

“Thank your auntie, darling. She wanted someone responsible and mature. The person who came to mind was you!” Lacey’s mother said kindly.

When Lacey arrived at her aunt's house, she had butterflies in her tummy. Would she be able to be alone for the next couple of days? She sure hoped so. Lacey opened the gigantic, gold door and stepped into the modern, amazing house.

“Hello darling! Thank you so much for looking after my beloved establishment,” her aunt's voice rang out sweetly.

“Hello Auntie Kirsty,” Lacey replied happily.

After Lacey’s aunt had finished telling her what to do, Lacey said goodbye to her mum and dad and her Auntie Kirsty. All the adults were looking sad to leave her; they were looking almost regretful about leaving her to look after the entire house for the weekend.

“I’ll be alright guys,” Lacey reassured them.

When everyone had left, Lacey explored the house (with a

packet of lollies in hand, from the pantry). The place was amazing - that's the only word for it. There was an indoor pool, a fireplace big enough to stand in, a spa and many more outstanding things.

Cupcake, the cat, stared at Lacey with big yellow eyes. Then it licked her and dropped something on the floor. The thing made Lacey gasp. It was a large, gold key, unlike any other key Lacey had seen. She picked it up and examined it. There were sort of pictures on it. Like people watering their gardens and men going to the barber. It was all very fascinating. Lacey's curiosity got the best of her. She wanted to search the entire house to find a lock that the key would fit in. And that's exactly what she did.

For hours, Lacey looked for a lock that would fit the key, and for hours, she didn't succeed. Until she came upon one that fit the key perfectly. She unlocked the room and stepped inside. There, in the centre of the room, was a large table with a computer on it. Curious, Lacey turned on the computer. Oddly enough, the computer turned onto a page. On it, was a button that read, "Become a billionaire."

Lacey clicked the button, just as someone knocked on the front door of the house. Lacey quickly closed the door of the room, and ran to the door to investigate. At the front door stood body guards. Four, to be exact. Two men, two women.

"Who, who are you?" Lacey stammered.

"We are your body guards. Now you are a billionaire because you pressed the button on the computer," one of the woman said.

"How did you know that I pressed it?" Lacey asked in surprise.

"Private detective work. A.k.a none of your business," one of the men said rudely.

"So, you guys are my bodyguards because I'm a billionaire. Okay, cool," Lacey said, still getting over what just happened.

The bodyguards and Lacey went into the house. After a while, they were much more friendlier to Lacey as they learnt more about her. The group had lots of fun and played games like twister, hopscotch and hide-and-seek.

Finally, the weekend was over. Lacey's auntie came back, and what a surprise she had. "Who is this? What in the world have you been up to, darling?" Auntie Kirsty exclaimed in shock.

"Well, I somehow became a billionaire. These are my body guards. But they'll go and leave me with tons of money. It's cool, right?"

"Uh, yeah." Auntie Kirsty said, recovering from shock.

The body guards left and gave Lacey as much money as she could count. Wow, what a wonderful day she had!

When Lacey got home and told her parents the news, they were thrilled! Then, Lacey remembered talking to Astrid. She quickly went to Astrid's house and told her all about being a billionaire. Without knowing it, Lacey bragged a lot to Astrid. By the end Astrid was in tears.

"Are you okay bestie?" Lacey asked in surprise; she didn't know what was wrong.

"You've done enough, thank you very much," Astrid managed to say through tears.

Lacey couldn't get to sleep that night. She kept thinking about becoming a billionaire. And, what on earth was wrong with Astrid? Suddenly, she knew what was wrong...

The girls had promised that if either one of them becomes a billionaire, they would share the money. But all Lacey did was brag. Lacey immediately wanted to take it back. She wanted to apologise to Astrid for being such a horrible friend. She couldn't wait until the morning to say sorry to Astrid. Somehow, Lacey managed to get to sleep...

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The next morning, Lacey had no time for breakfast. She was on a mission; to apologise to Astrid and share the money. And that's just what she did.

By the end, Astrid and Lacey were laughing and having fun. They shared the money and remained BFFs for life. Lacey learned something that day: friends are worth so much more than money.

From that day on, Lacey showed kindness to people all around her. She and Astrid were billionaires, and stayed friends until they died!

THE GIRL WHO BECAME A CHRISTIAN

By Gym Queen

There was a sad and abandoned girl who was not a Christian and lived on the streets. Her name was April. She was ten and sadly, she was abandoned at eight. Her parents abandoned her because they just didn't have any more time for her and they could no longer give her the attention she needed for a growing girl. So from that day onwards, she lived on the streets.

But... on the second week that she got abandoned, she was walking around until she ran into another girl.

The girl had just stopped and stared at April. April stared at the girl. The girl just said, "Umm hi? My name is um Summer and well, what are you doing on the street. You only look my age?"

April replied, "I'm April and well, let's say I grow up on the streets so bye."

April walked away and fast towards her small shed. She went in her shed then she sat down at the end of her mattress, then started crying because she wasn't a Christian and she had no knowledge of God. That's why she just cried!

After a while of crying, she heard a knock on her door. KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK! The door wobbled as the noise of the knocks were horrendously loud! She bravely wiped away her tears. Then

slowly approached the door. She then cautiously opened the door. "EEKKK!"

"HI! IT'S YOU. I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU", Summer yelled in April's face. April just quickly shut the door and locked it.

KNOCK, KNOCK!

April thought to herself. "Hugh, well I guess I have to let her in," so April let her in.

"WOW! This is tiny," Summer said not trying to be rude.

April replied, "I know it's small but it's all I've got for now," then she sighed. They both sat down at the end of April's bed and then the strangest thing happened...

Summer started to pray. She said, "Dear Lord, please bless this girl named April."

Then April interrupted and said, "What the heck you doing?"

Summer answered, "I'm praying for you to make your frown turn upside down."

"Praying? What is praying?" April questioned Summer.

Summer answered, "It's something you do when you feel down or when you feel like you need the Lord's help."

April thought, "Lord?"

"Yes, Lord, here I'll teach you but you have to meet me at the front of the church at exactly 6:30 in the morning, got that," Summer firmly spoke.

"Umm okay," April answered, not really knowing where the church was. So April and Summer said goodbye and they then went to sleep.

The next morning... April ran through the streets hoping that she got up at the right time. She turned to the left. No church! She turned to the right. No church! Then thankfully April heard

a voice, "Hey you lost. The church, it's this way, come on," Summer said like she knew that April didn't know where the church was. April followed Summer up the steepest hill in the town then they made it to the church.

"All righty April, did you pack?" Summer asked in expression.

"Umm, no I'm sorry, you never told me," April said.

"Oh well, no problem, I packed extra," Summer said.

"So Summer, what did you want to tell me?"

"Oh nothing, just follow me. We're going on an adventure," Summer replied. "Oh, and put on these shoes, you will need them."

"Ummm Okay," April replied slowly.

So April put on the shoes and they were a perfect fit. Then April followed Summer and Summer took April to the back of the church. Then they walked higher up the hill and stopped. Summer started praying again, "Dear Lord, may you give us strength for we walk in you and may you help April to understand who you are, amen." Then Summer walked further up the hill and April followed.

They reached a cross that read, "Benjamin Nelson," and then on the bottom of the cross it said, "Benjamin Nelson, son of Abigail Nelson and David Nelson and lastly, brother of Summer Nelson."

Summer started tearing up as she read the cross then April realised that Summer had lost her brother. "How long ago did he die?" April asked trying to make her feel better.

"Umm, he died a month ago but what's sadder is that he was only seven," Summer answered wiping away her tears. "You see, I've also seen how hard it is to live without someone or someones."

Then April and Summer went back down the hill and into the

church. Summer took April into a room that was filled with books. Then Summer took out a book and the bookshelf moved. There was a tiny gap in the bookshelves because of the way it had moved. Summer pulled out a key. She put the key in the gap and then another whole room appeared. The room had a big glowing door at the end. Summer was suddenly attracted to the door. As it slowly opened, one step, then two steps, then three. Summer had disappeared into the door as April slowly began to follow.

On the other side of the door was a wonderful place. They were both standing at a golden gate. With a big smile, they opened the gate and... April said something different, "This place! Why do I feel so much joy and so much freedom?"

Summer answered, "Well that door we travelled in was a door that led us to a place that is example of what Heaven is like. So yes, right now we are standing on the ground of the Lord Jesus."

"Epic," replied April still not getting the way He works but thinking it was cool.

Then a voice came from the Lord. "April, I have given you this girl named Summer to teach you the ways. You are given the chance right now to be a Christian or no to be."

April was scared but she chose, "I think I'm going to choose you Lord for you have given me a friend and you have given me joy and freedom on this path to you."

As soon as April made her choice, the ground shook beneath them and they were teleported back to their hometown. They walked back to the front of the church and then something happened and it was good. Summer just got a phone call from her mum. Ding Ding!

So Summer answered the phone. "Hi mum, what's up?"

"Nothing much Hunny, but you are getting a step sister. Her name is April. Are you ok with that Hun?"

"Oh my goodness yes, I'm very happy with that mum. In fact, April is standing with me right now."

"Oh Hunny, that's great! Where about are you?"

"I'm at the front of the church."

"Ok, I'll pick you both up."

So Summer's mum picked up April and Summer from the church. Before they went home, they bought April some new clothes and things she'd need for school. Then they went home and April talked for rest of the day about how she was abandoned and how Summer made her a Christian.

They grew up together and went to college together for the rest of their life. Though sadly, when April and Summer were eighteen, David Nelson (Summer's dad and April's step dad) passed away after being diagnosed with brain cancer. They buried their dad at the top of the hill where they had buried their brother.

About the author...

Gym Queen is a young writing enthusiast. She wrote this story to tell you about Christianity. If you want to know about it of course! If you are finding it hard in your life because you're missing someone or someones, I know that if you pray and read the Bible, you will find it easier, even if it takes a long time.

POPPY THE PENGUIN

By Pippa P and Lolly Lover

“Our boat is going to crash on that huge spiky ice berg!” Amelia screamed, afraid she would lose her best friend, her sister! Suddenly, the GIGANTIC ice berg hit their tiny brown boat and it started to sink! As they sunk deeper and deeper into the depths of the salty ocean, they were almost entirely wiped away and dead!

11 months earlier... “Morning, sunshine,” shouted dad from down stairs.

(YAWNING!) “Morning,” Miya said sleepily.

“Come have your breakfast now girls,” dad said.

“Ok, I’ll just get Amelia,” said Miya.

After the girls ate their breakfast, they went for a walk in the park. While they were walking and talking, the newspaper stand was open and they saw the weekly news. In the newspaper it said scientists had just discovered a new species of penguin! “What if we went to go find the penguin?” said Amelia.

“YEAH that would be awesome, we would be HEROS!” said Miya with excitement in her eyes.

“But how would we get there?” asked Amelia.

“Hmmm, that sure is a good question,” answered Miya. So they went home and thought about it.

LIVING LIGHT, SHINING BRIGHT: COLOURFUL ADVENTURES FOR THE YOU...

One week later... The girls went to a shop to prepare their trip. First they went to the food shop, then the bakery, and then clothes store, and after that they went back home to have their dinner. After 11 months, 8 days, 12 hours, 3 minutes and 7 seconds of preparing, the two adventurous girls were ready to start their journey.

The next day, the girls were ready, but they hadn’t yet convinced their parents, but they were desperate to go and lied to their parents! They said they were going on a school field trip. They even printed out a form that their parents had to sign! But two days before they left, their mum asked them, “How long are you going on this journey for?”

“Hmmm, that sure is a good question,” answered Miya.

And they replied, “UMMMM, maybe we could go for around two months or less?” said Amelia.

“THAT’S OUTRAGEOUS!” shouted Mum.

“PLEASE MUM!” pleaded the sisters and looking at their hopeful eyes, their mum gave in.

“Alright,” said Mum who was in concern.

The day had finally come; the girls were ready. They had packed up their bags, coats and food and said goodbye with tears in their eyes. Exchanging glances, the girls grinned at each other. “We’re READY!” said Amelia with confidence.

Days passed as the girls journeyed to the first destination, the jungle! “This is so exciting, we are traveling to the jungle on a GRANNY MOBILE!” screamed Miya with excitement on her face.

“Here we come jungle!” shouted Amelia with joy spreading through her veins.

After hours of travelling, they finally entered the jungle unaware of the creatures eyeing them cautiously. CRACK! “What was that,” said Miya with fear.

BANG! "Who's there!" exclaimed Amelia. Suddenly, they saw two gloomy red eyes glaring at them with viciousness within its face.

All of a sudden, a creature jumped out and snarled angrily at them. Miya wanted to karate kick the ape in the stomach, when she remembered a verse her mum taught her... "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" (John 6.31). So she stopped herself and patted the ape with care.

"Hello there. Who are you?" whispered Amelia with a soft mellow voice, getting stuck in the moment.

"I'm am a mother ape," said the kind ape softly.

"WHAT, YOU CAN TALK?" exclaimed the astonished sisters.

Then said mother ape, "Well haven't you heard an animal talk before?"

"Uh NO!" shouted Miya. Suddenly, all the other apes came out from the shadows, and surprisingly, they were all females!

"Oh oh," thought the girls, thinking they were going to get trampled.

The apes all chorused together, "No sillies, we would never harm such polite girls like you two."

As the mother apes surrounded the girls, they gave the astonished sisters piggy back rides to their incredible treehouse. "WOW," breathed the girls in unison.

"This place is amazing - well that's the only word for it," thought Amelia.

The treehouse stood in all its glory, beaming 3 stories high! There was a giant wooden waterslide with leather padding going into a luxurious clear crystal pool. Looking around, Amelia could see a giant spa with an ape resting in it. Amelia chuckled when she saw an ape waiter giving the ape (SPA ape) a

cocktail with a mini umbrella resting on its side.

It was beginning to get dark as the girls had no place to stay. "You could stay with us if you like?" asked a male ape.

"Well, I don't know about that," Amelia said with uncertainty.

"Come on sissy, it will be fun," said Miya.

"Ok then," said Amelia with excitement.

So the two friends made themselves comfortable and drifted off to sleep. BUZZ BUZZ! "What was that," questioned Amelia while half asleep. BUZZ BUZZ! There it was again but twice as loud. "Ahhhh," screamed Amelia then the buzzing sound stopped. "That was weird," whispered Amelia with question.

In the morning, an older ape offered the girls some breakfast and some food to take with them on the rest of their journey. After they had a DELICIOUS meal, they started journeying to the next destination: Candy Land.

Miya and Amelia stood strong as they entered a mysterious new location. "Woah," said Miya with astonishment.

With the girl's mouths open wide, they stopped for a second to think... "God has blessed us in many ways and we are grateful for the opportunity we have to journey here."

Taking steps so slow, the two sisters continued their search through Candy Land. Looking around, they could see ice creams on rooftops, fairy floss clouds, mini gummy bears scurrying around on the flavoured tiles, honeycomb trees and a HUGE jelly castle towering over them. As they approached the castle, an evil sounding voice filled the air.

"Why, hellllooooooo," the voice said. The siblings stepped into darkness and onto a small brown mat then heard the voice again... "Please do NOT step on the mat!" she ordered.

So the girls avoided the small brown mat. Suddenly, a flickering

light turned on, as the partners could faintly see a queen? “Who are you?” Miya asked.

“Why, I am the Candy Queen,” she said suspiciously.

Then the queen shouted, “ WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?”

“We’re actuallyf...rom a small.... t...town...” explained Miya.

“Speak up!” demanded the queen.

“GULP,” went the girls.

“We are from a small community of people; we come in peace and do not want to hurt anyone,” said Miya.

“Good, now come my dear dear girls, would you like some food?” questioned the queen.

“Yes please,” shouted Amelia, while Miya whispered to Amelia, “She sounds incredibly suspicious.”

Then the woman replied that she had special seats just for the two sisters. They ate and ate and ate all night long until they just plopped onto their plates fast asleep! “IT WORKED, IT FINALLY WORKED!” screamed the queen as happy as she had ever been before.

“Where... where are we?” asked Miya.

“It seems that we are in a jail cell?” said Amelia. But instead of solid iron bars they were made of black LIQUORICE!

“The Candy Queen must not have thought it through enough,” giggled Miya.

“Huh?” questioned Amelia.

“Sissy, don’t you know? We can escape by...”

“EATING!” shouted Amelia, suddenly knowing how they could get out of the horrible situation.

“Shhh, we don’t want the Candy Queen to hear us,” whispered Miya.

“Whoops! Sorry.”

“Now shall we get out of here?” asked Miya.

“Let’s do it!” exclaimed Amelia.

The twins were eating away, just as the Candy Queen appeared in the clearing. The girls suddenly stopped biting and covered up what they had bitten. “Ha, you ENJOYING your new home?” chuckled the Queen savouring her moment of glory.

“How could you put two INNOCENT KIDS in a dark, miserable place!” Miya cried angrily.

“Well, guess what, I already have,” laughed the queen. And with that, the Candy Queen turned around and left. As quick as lightning, the girls ate and ate and ate their way through the dark Liquorice. They ran as fast as they could, when they bumped into a gummy bear who showed them the way to a chocolate river...

In the chocolate river there lay a small waffle boat with rocky road paddles and marshmallows as pillows to sit on. The gummy bear rowed them across the river. As soon as they touched land, the girls said thank you to their new friend and ran as far as they could possibly run.

On their way to Antartica, they stopped to hire a boat: a small, brown dingy to be precise. They set off on the waters, heading straight towards Antartica. While travelling through the sea they encountered some incredible animals that God has created such as seals, dolphins, whales, star fish and many more amazing creatures.

Miya saw a small looking ice berg, but as they got closer and closer it began to get bigger and bigger. When suddenly... “Our boat is going to crash on that huge spiky ice berg!” Amelia

screamed, afraid she would lose her only sister!

Suddenly, the GIGANTIC ice berg hit their tiny brown boat and it started to sink! As they sunk deeper and deeper into the depths of the salty ocean sea, they were almost entirely wiped away and dead...

As they sunk deeper and deeper down, Amelia prayed with the last words she had: "Dear Lord, please help..."

She stopped, took her last breath and then COMPLETELY FROZE! There was silence. Instantly, a huge wave started rolling their boat across to Antarctica, taking the two silent girls with it. When they reached land, they took a deep breath and looked around to figure out where they were and how they got there. "God saved us, He saved us!" shouted Miya. "Umm, Amelia? You okay?" Miya wondered why her sister hadn't talked yet.

"Yeah... It's just, what just happened?" said Amelia in amazement.

"I know! But we have to keep going, so come on! What are you waiting for? God will protect us, you know it!" Miya shouted with excitement.

They collected up all of their possessions, and started walking North to try and find the penguin. They walked up mountains and crossed rivers until they came upon a big white igloo. Inside the igloo it looked like there was a party happening. Then a small baby penguin waddled out of the igloo. Then Miya added, "What's your name."

"My name is Poppy, Poppy the penguin," said Poppy.

When Poppy took a step closer to the girls, she made a small squeal. "Squeak!" screamed Poppy.

"What is it Poppy," questioned Miya.

"My fur has been feeling funny, and my mother says it isn't meant to be this colour!" said Poppy quietly.

"Well I think we can do something about that," said Miya with excitement.

"What?" asked Poppy.

Then the siblings begin to whisper, and whisper and there was more whispering until they came to an agreement. "Would you like to come home with us?" asked Miya.

"Can you help me get better?" questioned Poppy.

"Why, certainly!" exclaimed Amelia.

"Ok then," said Poppy.

So Miya, Amelia and their new friend Poppy set off back home. They went back through Candy Land, across the chocolate river and tip toeing through the queen's castle. Then back across the jungle, saying hello to the gorillas.

When they finally reached home... "Quick, we need to hide Poppy from mum and dad!" urged Miya.

"Yeah, we can hide her in my room in the dollhouse," said Amelia while having a good giggle.

So they ran as quickly as possible to reach Amelia's room, when suddenly they bumped into MUM!

"Ummm hi Mum," said Amelia while quickly popping Poppy in her jumper.

"You're back!" shouted Mum with happiness. "I've missed you so much. How was your journey?" asked Mum.

"Can we tell you at dinner? I really need to unpack my backpack," said Amelia slowly.

"Ok then," said Mum with suspiciousness.

So the twin girls ran up to their bedroom to hide Poppy in the dollhouse.

The next day, Miya and Amelia took Poppy to the vet to get

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checked out. Miya and Amelia's auntie worked at the vet clinic and let them take whatever pet or animal that needed care to the vet whenever they needed to.

Their auntie said that it was a severe case of a really bad penguin disease, so Poppy needed to stay at the vet for a couple of days for her to be healed.

While Poppy was at the vet clinic, Miya and Amelia prayed to God to make sure that Poppy was alright and could be healed without any major medicine. They prayed all night and all day for her to get better. They felt a quiet, assuring voice was telling them that Poppy would be fine; and thanking them for remaining faithful throughout their incredible journey.

About the authors...

Pippa P is a smart creative girl who loves to make stories. She also loves to read books, build relationships and give a helping hand whenever she can. She will sleep whenever she can and will never skip an opportunity for a good nap!

Lolly Lover is a girl who LOVES lollies and helping her best friends. She loves to let her imagination run wild and loves to write stories with her best friend Pippa P. She doesn't like her sleep at all! And she will never let her smile turn upside down.

CLAIRE EDWARDS

By Pippa P

On a hot summer's day, young Claire Edwards, her two sisters, brother and parents were on a fishing trip with their cousins Isla and Sienna. The kids were having a great time swimming near the beach when their dads shouted with excitement, "I think we've got something!"

The kids swam as fast as they could to go see the fish, but when they got on the boat, both dads were just holding tiny, petite Chili Rasbora fish. The kids excitement drained away and they all felt disappointed in their dads.

After a few hours, they all headed back home. Because they hadn't caught anything decent, they went to get some fish and chips. While eating dinner, the kids asked each other what they wanted to be when they grew up.

Isla said, "I want to be a famous cook."

Claire's brother said he wanted to be an engineer.

Sienna said, "I want to be a famous artist."

But do you know what Claire Edwards said? She said, "I want to be a famous 14-year-old girl who sails all around Australia all by herself."

Claire wanted to prove to everyone that she could do it all by herself.

Time went by and one morning before school, Claire asked her mum if she could walk to school on her own, but her mum replied, "No you are still too young. I'm sorry sweetie but you are only nine."

"But Mum!" Claire complained with disappointment.

After school that day, Claire made a plan. She began planning to travel around Australia. She started saving up pocket money so that she could rent a boat and pay the government so that she could do this in her city's name, but the main obstacle to overcome was convincing her parents that she could do it. Her parents didn't think that she could do it but they watched as Claire saved up enough money by the time she was 13.

Claire had trained hard every day so that she could become a professional sailor to live her dream. She had the support of her friends and family.

Three days after her fourteenth birthday, she set off on her big journey around Australia. She hoped that she would be able to get around Australia in less than 6 months.

"I know the time will be rough and there will be problems but I know I can do it if I have the help from God," she said with pleasure.

First she went North from Melbourne, then further north to Queensland and all around Australia. She went West, South and East too. At Midnight one night, Claire awoke with a scare as her mini boat was getting trampled by a cargo ship. She had to put the sails up, close the windows, close the doors, get warm, put on the gear and drop the anchor.

"WOW, my boat nearly turned over completely," Claire said with astonishment!

After the crash, Claire put autopilot on so she could get some sleep. In the morning, she called her parents and siblings as they hadn't heard from her for more than a day (and for a parent

whose child is in the middle of the ocean, that can be stressful!).

Claire was almost halfway around Australia when a storm blew in out of nowhere and blew her boat over until she was completely under water...

After five minutes she was not far from being 10 meters undersea! She was puking to bits. It was just about all over the deck of the boat and it was horrifyingly disgusting. But when there was no hope whatsoever, The Lord our God came to rescue Claire. He randomly started tipping the boat until it was floating on the water. Claire was amazed!

After her long journey, she finally reached Tasmania and only had less than 5 hours until she would be walking on land again. When she did reach Melbourne, everyone was waiting for her to arrive. Claire was crying abundantly because she had missed everyone so much.

"Claire," her mum shouted while hugging her daughter, "you've been gone for 4 months and 8 days, and I have missed you so much."

"We all have," said her brother.

"You know what I've learnt on my big journey? I have learnt that we can never do anything alone and that we always need Lord's help no matter what tiny, big, difficult, simple, and sad situation we're in. We can always ask for his help," Claire told the crowd with confidence.

"Never ever let other people stop you from living your dream - just do it, show them what you've got!"

RUNNING TO THE MOUNTAIN

By Jeremy R

Banjo ran. She pushed tree branches out of the way. She didn't care how many new scratches she got. She just had to get to the mountain.

Suddenly, Banjo tripped. She hit her head hard on the rock in front of her. Before she blacked out, she could see and feel the blood dripping down her forehead.

When Banjo woke up, everyone around her was yelling. Her head hurt and she winced in pain. She went to cover her ears but she realised she couldn't. She looked down at her feet and saw that she was strapped to a stretcher bed. As she looked back, she saw the mountain in the distance.

"She's awake!" someone yelled out. "She's awake!" The sound came again. It was a deep voice, too loud for Banjo. People came running. People dressed in nurse's suits and doctor's suits. They all looked official. "You're very lucky, madame. Very lucky indeed," the same deep voice came again.

"Why does my head hurt?" twelve year old Banjo asked the doctor in front of her.

"Well, you were running toward the mountain, it seems, and you tripped on a small log in front of you. Then you fell to hit a rock and now you have a deep cut on your head. We're taking

you to hospital..." he finished.

"Banjo Joy." Banjo replied, filling in the awkward, questioning gap the doctor had left in his sentence.

"Banjo. Very rare name... but I like it. Well, young Banjo, let's get a move on," the doctor said, leaving Banjo to just lie there on the stretcher.

Banjo soon arrived at the hospital. "Oh! Take her in, please. She needs immediate attention," the receptionist said when Banjo arrived. The doctors and nurses rushed her away. How much damage could one rock cause? Banjo was puzzled and worried. She hoped her head would be okay.

"Would you like to see your cut, Banjo?" the doctor asked Banjo.

"Yes," Banjo replied wearily. She was shown a mirror and she saw her cut. It was the worst cut she'd ever seen. It was half and inch wide and half an inch long. Blood was still oozing out and she saw some of the sharp, brown rock stuck in the cut. She let her mouth drop and tears that she didn't know she was holding in stung her eyes and fell to the floor.

She was taken into a small hospital room. The doctors and nurses talked to her about what would happen. "We're going to take you down to the x-ray room and then we'll go from there," a tall doctor told her.

"Ok," Banjo replied shyly, tears still dripping from her eyes.

Banjo was taken down to the x-ray room. The doctors explained what would happen during the process. Then she had the x-ray. It went by quickly but the beeping sounds around her made her head hurt all over again.

"Ok. Well, it looks like you've broken a bone in your forehead. You'll need an operation and then stitches and there will be no

more running for you for at least six weeks,” the doctor nearest to Banjo said.

The next day, Banjo was taken to have an operation. It went really well and she was told that she could go back to running straight away if she was careful. Banjo rejoiced at the news and as soon as she was out of the hospital the next day, with stitches on her head, she ran.

In the distance she could see the mountain. She was almost there. She had to get to her friend. Briley was in trouble.

Banjo and Briley had been climbing the mountain. Banjo had fallen down. She had hit her backbone on the way and had to go to hospital.

Then she ran back to the mountain after having a back brace fitted. That was when she hit her head on the rock. And now here she was, running back to the mountain for the third time.

She finally reached the foot of the mountain. She started climbing, slowly and steadily. “Banjo! Anyone! Help me! Please!” Banjo could hear her friend yelling. She wasn’t far off her destination and Banjo kept climbing. No other nineteen year old girl could have ever been more determined than Banjo - the girl with a broken back and cut-open head. But Banjo pushed on until she reached Briley.

“Briley! I’m here! I broke my back and cut open my head but you’re worth everything. You’re the best friend ever!” Banjo shouted to her eighteen year old friend.

They had been friends for fifteen years now and bonded when Briley was three and Banjo was four. Banjo couldn’t lose her friend; not now. So Banjo pulled at the rock until her friend was free. Then, with Briley on Banjo’s shoulders, and her foot at a weird angle, the girls trekked down the mountain.

They reached the bottom of the mountain and headed back

to the hospital. It was the third time, now, for Banjo but she didn’t mind because Briley was her best friend. Banjo and Briley reached the hospital and Briley was taken for an operation. She was okay but needed crutches and a plaster cast.

The girls learnt something that day. They learnt that the Lord our God always helps the people in need. The Lord helped Banjo get to Briley, no matter how many broken bones and he took the pain from Briley’s ankle when she was hurt. God always helps you, even if you don’t know it. The Lord loves you.

A NEW WORLD

By Jeremy R

Each night, Alessia and Rory, close sisters, went out to the back of their house and played in the stream. But each time they didn't just play - or at least for the whole time - they adventured. Deep down in the stream, the girls could see a whole other world. It was filled of beautiful fish and swishing bits of seaweed. The current always pulled them along down the stream until they reached another land.

They were both 14 but Rory was older by eleven months. They lived with their mum and dad who showed them lots of love every day. At night, just after sunset, was when they chose to explore the new world each night. But the weird thing was, the world was different each time. Last time, it had been full of prowling animals and jungle trees. But this time, it was full of colossal mountains that seemed to touch the sky, with glowing peaks, shining in the moonlit glow. On the top of the tallest one, they could only just see a wolf, about the size of a lion.

"I wonder if he's safe?" Alessia curiously asked.

"I don't think so. He looks like an ordinary wolf. And they always attack... I think. But either way, shouldn't we go up the mountain?" Rory said.

Then Alessia finished the conversation and replied, "Yes. Let's go. But we should stick together and before we go, let's pray to

God."

Rory started, "Dear Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus, please guide us today as we go up the mountain and protect us from the wolf. Help us to see the bigger picture and I pray that no matter what, you will guide our hearts to you and never let us wander past the borders of where you want us to go."

Then Alessia finished, "Dear God, I pray for all that Rory prayed and I thank you for blessing me with her, such a great older sister. I pray that the wolf leaves us alone and that we safely make it to the place we need to be and that you guide us not into temptation, but away from the evil one. Forgive us, Lord, for all we've done."

Then suddenly, another voice said, "The wolf is friendly."

And both girls, Alessia and Rory asked, "Who are you? How do you know?"

But the girl said, "My name is Leah and I tell you, the wolf is friendly."

But the sisters didn't have faith. "How do you know?" The girls asked again.

"Have faith. I am a messenger from the Lord. I can see your hearts and I know you are scared. But it is only a wolf. Have faith and be courageous. Now, walk up the mountain and you will find another messenger waiting for you. You will know the Lord has sent her because her eyes will shine from being with the Lord and her body will reflect the sun." Then she disappeared into the stream which she appeared out of.

The girls plodded on, their feet squishing in the mud, mosquitoes flying all around, disaster striking as a band of bats flew in their faces around each corner. Wild dogs were leaping at them, biting their wrists until their wrists swelled up. They continued with thorns and thistles on every patch of

grass, sticky ponds they had to wade through, impossible tasks like climbing up trees and grabbing on to the vines and then swinging over the crocodile-infested water only to find that the vine broke and the other sister had to get another vine and pull them out.

Finally, the girls reached the snow capped mountain and realised they had to climb to the very top, tackle a wolf through howling wind and piled up snow, speak to another messenger from God and then finally do what the messenger told them to.

The girls remembered what the messenger had said and had faith and courage in the Lord. They climbed the mountain, step by step, but after 17 kilometres, they collapsed on the sloped, rocky ground. They were breathing fast, trying to catch their breath and they were dripping with sweat. Flies swarmed around them, sometimes getting caught on the girl's sticky sweat. I know it sounds gross to read, but trust me, it was worse for the girls. Finally, after they had got up and walked another 21 kilometres, they reached the top of the snow capped mountain. There, they saw the wolf. But then they realised the wolf actually wasn't a wolf; it was a lion.

But on seeing the girls, the lion turned and left, it's pace quickening.

Even though the girls were extremely shaken, after that the messenger appeared and said her name was Isabella. Isabella was sent by God to tell them they would be sent home and the girls were so relieved.

"Yes!" they both shouted. "We can finally go home."

Then Alessia added, "It's going to be awesome! I can't wait. But will we have to climb back down this mountain? Down that rocky slope?" she said pointing to the way they came up.

The messenger, Isabella, only said, "No. You will go down there." Pointing to the other side of the mountain, she gave the

girls a little encouraging whisper.

The girls could see a slide and they slid down it, all the way to the foot of the mountain. Alessia went first and when she reached the bottom, she found herself at home. Then Rory eagerly went too, and found herself at home.

They had learnt that even climbing up a mountain (which they guessed to be 20 kilometres high) would take them to have better lives. God sent the lion away on purpose. He sent the messengers with the perfect messages on purpose. He wanted to see if the girls were faithful, like he did in the Bible. He will always provide a better way than the first.

THE TITANIC 2

By D E Lightful and the Lion liker

It was a rainy night and Maple and Josephine were on the Titanic when this happened...

They were in their room and it was about 7:36pm. Underneath the huge deck of the Titanic, they were chatting away until they saw the driver of the boat wasn't paying attention to what was ahead of him and as soon as everyone knew it, they hit a giant ICEBERG!

Suddenly, loud, annoying evacuation sirens turned on. It was so loud they could barely hear a thing but compared to the people screaming, the sirens were so incredibly quiet because the people were so frightened. Everyone rushed to the top of the deck to get to the highest point available on the ship so they wouldn't get caught or drowned by the ocean. Some of the people turned back to see what the strange noise was.

It was silent for a minute, then they saw shiny grey fins. Then something tried to bite the boat and Josephine and Maple realised it was a great white shark that was four and a half metres long - so they started yelling 'SHARK!' Everyone screamed even louder than before and lots of people hopped on the evacuation boats and started to paddle away from the sinking boat and sharks.

Maple and Josephine were the only ones left on the boat because everyone else was either dead or heading to dry land. The girls

LIVING LIGHT, SHINING BRIGHT: COLOURFUL ADVENTURES FOR THE YOU...

looked and saw there was only a few metres of the boat left and the girls were surrounded by dead and wounded people with giant lots of blood coming out of them.

When the ship was fully submerged underwater, the girls jumped off the Titanic into the water. They realised the last evacuation boat was only 10 m away from them so they swam without looking back, thinking the sharks were right behind them but they weren't.

They then reached the orange evacuation boat. Maple started the engine up and then they quickly blasted out of the shipwreck heading to dry land. The girls then came upon their next problem, which was how were they going to survive without having any food or even water that was safe to drink?

After 2 days with no food they reached a bigish island that was nearly 15 acres. They got off the orange boat onto the feet warming sand only to find a luscious passion fruit vine. "FOOD!" yelled Josephine in delight.

"Finally, after all this time, we're saved by this passion fruit vine," shouted Maple.

Josephine and Maple started tearing at the passion fruit. They also took some for the trip back to dry land. As they were heading back to the evacuation boat, they soon realised that it wasn't there. They thought hard and Josephine came to a solution to pray and ask for her Lord's help.

Maple went first. "Dear Heavenly Father, please help us in this tough challenge. Give us strength, lift our spirits high and please lead us home safely. In Jesus name, amen."

Then Josephine went next...

"Dear God, we really are struggling to figure out what to do next. We just want to go home and see our family God, though I do also know you are a part of my family. You are my father so please keep my friend and I... amen.'

They looked and looked around for the boat and suddenly saw a glimpse of something that looked like a raft. Someone else was adding stuff on to it... maybe another human?

Maple and Josephine walked slowly towards the human just in case he was not friendly and he suddenly spoke!

"He is friendly," thought Josephine.

"Hi," said Maple in a gentle tone.

"Why hello there girls, what on earth are you doing here?" replied the stranger.

"Well, long story short, the Titanic sunk and sharks surrounded us so we escaped and we are here to find food," whispered Josephine.

"Well in that case, why don't I show you girls around, but first I must know your names," said the stranger.

"Oh yes, of course, well my name is Maple and my friend's name is Josephine," answered Maple anxiously.

"My name is Marcus," he said strangely.

"Well then, why don't you show us around this island?" said Josephine.

Marcus showed the girls where to get food from and how to build a raft while doing other activities like juggling coconuts. It did take some time to learn how to do that stuff but I think God our father answered their prayers and helped them. Marcus said they could be back on their way home by the next night so that night they went to sleep feeling astonished and proud.

The next morning, Maple woke up and found that Josephine was gone! Maple looked everywhere so she went towards the raft and saw Josephine paddling away from the island. "So long suckers," screamed Josephine.

"Josephine, how could you do this to me? I thought we were

friends."

"We were until now!" mentioned Josephine.

"What did I do to you to make you do this to me?" cried Maple.

"I'm just wasting my time talking to you when I could be home on dry land. Bye FOREVER Maple!" said Josephine angrily and determined.

Maple had just realised her so called friend left her and cared more about herself than anyone, including her family. But Maple realised she didn't need Josephine. She'd get home by herself and obviously with Marcus if he wanted to come along. So the next day, they packed their stuff, built another raft and started heading south towards the closest dock.

After 6 days they reached the dock but their journey wasn't over yet. Maple and Marcus stepped foot off the raft onto land. Their families greeted them back home. After a few minutes, news reporters started showing up and asking questions like, "How did the Titanic sink?" Maple ignored the news reporters and let Marcus do the talking because she was too mad at Josephine and what she did to her - so Maple went home.

Maple went home feeling upset but proud. That day, Maple learnt that a true friend should know all about you. They should know your worries, your beliefs and mostly they must love you!

About the author...

D.E Lightful wrote this story with family which makes this one of her best stories. Her pen name is D.E Lightful because she believes if you are down or upset, you can have friends to lift you up and bring light where there are shadows. D.E Lightful is also a Christian and believes God helps people like in the story's tough times, just like he will do to you when you're upset, mad or disappointed. He will be there for you.

THE SAD STORY

By S. Queen

About the Author...

S. Queen is an amazing author and readers are in for a treat. This kind and considerate girl loves to dance and sing, and she has a bright future ahead of her. She is an amazing friend and I know that because I am her friend. S. Queen never breaks a promise. If you have not read this story yet, you are missing out!

- Kindness Queen

Hello, my name is Fiona Millers and this is my story...

I love to play with my dog: it's all I do. Every day, all day, I do nothing but play with my dog. His name is Filly Millers. He loves to play with me: it's all he does. Every day, all day, he does nothing but play with me. Even when we're not playing, we're together just relaxing. You know how everyone always has a hobby that they do everyday, all day? Filly is my hobby.

I'm homeschooled, meaning that I don't go to school because I am taught at home. I think that it's awesome because I can learn in my pyjamas, I can go at my own pace at any time of day and I don't have to deal with annoying people: I hate people. But mainly because I can be with my best friend, Filly.

Every night I sleep with Filly and everyday I'm with Filly. I take

him everywhere and if I'm not with him, it's for less than two minutes. I love Filly and Filly loves me. I tell Filly everything and he just gets it.

I got Filly when he was only 3 days old. We actually have a lot in common; we are both orphans. My parents left me when I was 3. I remember the day they left me. They put me in a box and left but I was only 3 and I thought that they would come back. Then they did. They came back for me and they had a puppy in their hands that was adorable. But as soon as they came closer, I knew they wouldn't stay for long. My parents put the dog in the same box as me and gave me a picture of them.

After an hour of waiting for them to come back, a lovely woman came up to me and Filly and she took us to her house. She gave me some food and a good night's rest, then she did the same for Filly.

The next morning, she ran all around the entire state to find a home for Filly and I. Eventually, she realised that there was no one that wanted us, including our parents. So she took us. She was very nice to us and every day after that she treated Filly and I like we were her own children and we both treated her like she was our mother.

Filly's story is a little bit different as my parents took him away from his mother to be with me. But as for his parents, they got killed in lab testing. The scientists tested shampoo on Filly's mother's eyes and after that they killed her. They did the same with Filly's father. So every day after that I continued my daily routine.

But then, one day, everything changed. I woke up at 10:45 because Filly didn't wake me up for some reason. After about 10 minutes, I remembered that Filly didn't sleep with me last night because he couldn't get up from the spot where we were watching TV.

Then Genia (the girl that has looked after me for the past 13

years) ran into my room and told me to wake up and get ready because we had to go to the vet. I wanted to ask her why, but my brain just told me to do what she said. So I jumped up and hopped into the shower (not literally).

When I was ready, she was already in the car. Once I got into the car, I asked anxiously, "What's going on and where are we going and where is Filly and why are you in such a rush and why am I asking so many questions?"

Before she could answer me, Genia skidded out of the garage and sped through the streets all the way until we finally got to the vet. During the entire time I was praying to the Lord that we wouldn't get arrested and somehow we didn't. It was the luckiest day of my life. Until it wasn't. "I'm sorry but.. but.. but Filly is going, he's going... to get put down!" Genia exclaimed with tears running down her face, expecting me to burst into tears too.

But instead I shouted at her, "That's not true, tell me you're lying!" But she didn't say anything.

Then a woman came up and said. "I'm sorry, I'm Angela Morris, but you can call me Angie. Your mother called me thinking this might happen. I'm a therapist and I've taken the time to learn all about your situation. But what I found just tore me apart. What you've gone through and what you're going through I don't know how you're ok."

"Do I look like I'm ok? They're taking my best friend away from me. And I'm just supposed to let them kill him, when there is nothing wrong with him!" I said as loud as I could.

Genia then jumped in and started bickering with Angie. But at that moment, Filly collapsed to the ground, so I ran over to him. As I did, everyone in the room looked at me and Filly. Genia and Angie looked and stopped bickering. The veterinarians stopped what they were doing and there was complete silence for almost a whole minute, until everyone rushed over. One of the vets

checked his heart beat and said, "I'm sorry, but he's dead."

At that moment, I burst into tears. Then Genia said, "I'm sorry but it's what God wanted to happen, to take Filly out of his misery."

"No," I said loudly. "How could God want this to happen, how could he want me to be in so much pain. And why would he take away my best friend away from me. God didn't do this, Satan did this!"

"Fiona stop, you know that God works in mysterious ways. Just because you hurt now that doesn't mean you will hurt forever. I can get you another dog! Move on!" Genia said with a cross look on her face.

"I don't want another dog. I don't want to replace Filly. And I don't want to move on because he was my everything. Without him I'm nothing," I shouted madly, but still crying heavily.

After that I ran into Genia's arms in tears. I hugged her for half-an-hour until we both walked to the car. Normally in the car we would talk each other's ears off, but this time, I didn't feel like talking. When we got home, I went straight to my room, shut the door, flopped onto my bed and screamed into my pillow as loud as I possibly could. Then I just cried for ages and ages until I fell asleep. When I woke up, I was still in tears and my pillow was soaking wet. At first, I was just upset about Filly but then I realised that my face was soaking wet because of my pillow; that was a little bit disgusting!

After a while, Genia walked in and sat on my bed. Then she said sadly, "I'm sorry about Filly but if you get ready for therapy, after that we can go to the shelter and get you another dog. OK?"

"OK," I said cheering up.

"Wait, therapy? When did I start therapy?"

“Today! I thought that it would be good. It’s with Angie,” Genia said while walking out the door.

Then I just tried to pull myself together and get in the shower. It didn’t work, but I managed to get ready and jump in the car all without crying, so I think I did well.

When I got there, I was surprised about how many fidget toys were there. For my first time in therapy, I think I was doing pretty well. Angie and I talked about a lot of things but mainly how I felt about my life, what I thought of my parents, how it made me feel when Filly collapsed and how crying is sometimes the best thing to do when you feel sad. After therapy, I realised that Filly was never going to come back. Before I treated this as though he was just moving to America, but now I realised that he was dead.

The next day, Genia said. “Today I’m going to bury Filly and tomorrow we can have a little funeral for him. I’ve already invited a couple of people. Do you want to come and bury him with me?”

“Um okay,” I said sadly. I jumped into the car and we went to the vet where we found Filly’s body.

Then we got a vet to put him in our car. Once Filly’s body was in our car, we drove to the burial fields, dug up a hole and placed him in. Genia and I just stared at his body. I could tell by Genia’s face that she was thinking about when she found me. Her eyes were full with tears. After a while she said, “I’m thinking about when I found you; you were so tiny with eyes full of wonder. But you weren’t in that box alone, you were with... Filly.”

Then suddenly I burst into tears too. I was thinking about nothing, absolutely nothing. I didn’t know what to say, so I just hugged her. Again, in the car we were silent. I had no words, once again. When we got home it was just like when Filly died; I flopped onto my bed and stayed there until the morning.

Then Genia walked in and said, “Do you want to come to his funeral, you don’t have to if you don’t want to?”

“No, I’ll come,” I said sadly. After that I got up and started getting ready for, well you know what.

When we got in the car I changed my mode compliantly, in fact I even cried tears of happiness. I was sad because I lost an amazing and wonderful friend but also happy because he wasn’t in pain any more. When we got there, I burst into tears. However, I still managed to say a few words.

All of a sudden, I heard barks. The barks sounded exactly like Filly’s, but it must just be another dog. Then the ground shook and out of nowhere a paw reached out of the ground. In an instant, there were four paws, then a dog’s head, then...FILLY! I stood still for a while and after that I ran to him and fell into his arms. He was very dusty and dirty, but I didn’t care. I was just so happy to see my beloved Filly again. After a while of hugging Filly, I realised that he was there, even though I realised I was at his funeral.

Genia’s sister was a vet so she checked to see if he was okay and it turned out he was never dead in the first place. She also said that Filly was just sleeping the entire time. “That means that we buried Filly alive,” said Fiona.

“I know and I’m sorry, but I just did what the vet told me to do. I mean, the vet said he was dead so I didn’t really give it another thought,” Genia said sadly.

After that we went home with Filly and had dinner. Because Filly was back, we went to my favourite take away place in the entire state. That night, I couldn’t sleep because all I was thinking about was how that vet said that Filly was dead. That vet should be fired!

In the morning, I demanded Genia take Filly and I to the vets so that I could make them fire that lady who told me my best friend

JEREMY R

was dead. When we got there, the lady was running out of the veterinarian office in tears. As I went in, I realised that she had just been fired because of what she did. Then I just walked away and into the car.

“Did you have a dog when you were young?” I asked Genia.

“Nah. I had a cat called kitty. A car ran over her and she died,” Genia said while crying.

“I’m so sorry,” I worriedly said.

“That’s okay. It was many years ago,” said Genia, cheering up. Then we got home and life went back to normal again.

My name is Fiona Millers and this is my story. While it is very sad, it is nothing compared to some other people's lives as they live without knowing where they're going to lay their head at night. This story is to say that even when you think that the worst thing is happening, like your dog has just passed, the best thing in the world can happen, like God bringing your best friend in the entire world back. I wrote this story because my best friend's dog has just died and I was feeling all sorts of emotions for her.

THE STRONGEST FRIENDSHIP

By Jeremy R

As soon as Jenna ended the call, she realised something. Katie had just told her some valuable news; a treasure was waiting to be found. “Norbert!” yelled Jenna. “I have to tell you something.”

“Really?” asked Norbert ten minutes later. “We get to go on an adventure?” Norbert wondered aloud in excitement.

“Yes Norbert. Yes we do!” replied Jenna.

Seconds later, there was a knock on the door. Jenna peeked through the window, making sure it was her best friend. “It’s just me Jen!” yelled Katie, using Jenna’s nickname.

“Okay Kate! Just checking!” said Jenna, teasing Katie with Katie’s least favourite nickname.

“Hmmmmm!” sighed Katie softly as Jenna let her in.

“You won’t believe what your about to see!” thrilled Jenna to Katie. “I have a talking pelican.....named Norbert!” screamed Jenna as Norbert came into the living room. “Norbert, meet Katie...Katie, meet Norbert.”

finished Jenna.

“Hi. I’m Norbert,” Norbert the pelican said softly.

“How can he talk?” Katie asked Jenna.

“Norbert was born with this ability. No one knows why,” replied Katie.

The girls and Norbert talked and talked for a while until they decided that they should embark on a journey the next morning to find the treasure. So, the next morning, when they had packed their bags, they left Jenna’s house. Norbert was just excited; no other feelings were needed. Jenna was feeling a bit worried; she didn’t know what would happen on their trip but she tried to have fun. Katie was a mix of every feeling; she couldn’t wait to get there but where were they going exactly?

Up ahead, there was a burst of light streaming through the thick vegetation in the forest. “Umm, is that a...” Katie trailed off.

“I think so. I think it’s a portal,” replied Jenna.

“Let’s go!” screamed Norbert.

The girls and Norbert started up a run, going faster by the second. Soon, they had arrived at the portal. It was green and white. Cautiously, Katie jumped. “It’s safe guys!” Came a muffled voice from what seemed the other side.

Norbert then jumped in without hesitation. “Come on Jenn!” shouted Norbert with emphasis.

Jenna jumped... and made it to the other side! She was safe and reunited with her friends.

Ahead of them was... pink clouds. “Wow!” whispered Norbert quietly, struggling to say anything but that.

“That looks like.... Cotten Candy?” Jenna asked to no one in particular.

“I’ll test it out!” said Katie gleefully. And she did. “That’s... Candy...Cotten.... Candy,” said Jenna in between mouthfuls. Norbert and Jenna leapt in to try some but... they got wedged in the Cotton Candy. Katie looked down at her feet and realised they were stuck as well. They struggled to get out.

“Help! Help us, please!” screamed Jenna loudly.

“Run! Hurry! Rush them to the hospital!” shouted a shrill voice.

Suddenly, two hands grabbed Katie by the waist and pulled her out. She was thrown into a car and driven away. Next Jenna was rescued and taken somewhere else. Then Norbert fell. No one had saved him in time. “Well, let’s go then boys,” A buff man said to the others.

Katie found herself in a luxurious hospital. She peeked around. A doctor came in and gave her a blood test. “She’s fine,” the doctor said, pulling Katie out of the bed and pushing her out the building.

Katie looked around and started walking to the nearest building. She went inside and saw Jenna sitting in the waiting room. She was taken away but moments later she came back smiling.

The girls went to find Norbert, anxiously looking around. Suddenly, a cage randomly popped out of the

ground. They had reached a murky, brown swamp. The cage was in the middle; floating. A black mud-like substance swarmed around Norbert's feet, sticking him to the cage floor.

Almost immediately, a man appeared out from the shadows. He was tall and slim. He looked at the girls menacingly, a hint of danger in his eyes. He dived into the brown swamp and emerged right next to Norbert's cage. He stood on the water and walked towards the girls. The girls jumped into the swamp like the man did, and held their breath. Under the murky mud, Cotton Candy was everywhere. It looked like the mud was just a thin layer above the Cotton Candy. In the middle, there was no Cotton Candy. There was just mud. That's why Norbert was getting stuck.

Suddenly, Jenna had an idea. She told Katie her idea. The girls grabbed handfuls of Cotton Candy and started throwing it into the middle, drowning out the mud. Then Norbert's feet became unstuck.

Katie and Jenna quickly looked around for a key. Katie realised something though. The doors of the cage were held shut by the mud. The Cotton Candy would be able to get rid of it!

The girls grabbed more Cotton Candy and got rid of the muddy stuff. Then the cage door opened and out flew Norbert. But there was a problem; the man who had caught Norbert was standing beside them. He reached into his pocket... and brought out a type of mechanical machine. It was blue and black and had a weird gadget like-thing on the top.

Suddenly, Jenna saw the words "Laser machine". Her mouth fell open in shock as she realised what the man was about to do. She quickly whispered to Katie her theory and then the girls met Norbert at the shoreline. They had swam under the muck until they got there. Then the girls ran. They followed Jenna, who led the way back to where they had come from. Then they rounded a corner and hid behind a large crate. They waited for the man to pass and when they were sure they lost him, they crept out from the shadows.

They walked towards a shining bright light ahead of them. It was another portal. This one was aqua and violet. Jenna jumped in straight away this time and Norbert followed. Katie did the same and hugged her friends.

"Okay. So this world is... Mythical Creature World by the looks of it!" Norbert said.

They could tell because there were dragons and phoenixes, fairies and gnomes. There were also goblins, ogres, dwarfs and elves. They were all mythical creatures. A big ogre towered above them. He suddenly grabbed all of them in his big, hairy hand.

The Ogre carried them to a large cave. He placed them down in a wooden cage and locked the door shut with a big key.

In the other corner of the room, opposite them, was a small, round ball of fluff. It looked like a baby dragon. The fluff was a small pinkish, whiteish beanie that was upon its head. It was also wearing a small silk scarf made from what looked like a phoenix's feathers. It was a fiery

red and went well with the dragon's hat. The dragon was purple and had emerald coloured wings. Its claws were grey and his eyes were a strong, bold brown colour.

The dragon peeked at them from behind his wooden bars. The cages were hung from a ceiling and were held up by metallic chains and the floor was paved with gold. The cave's floor, however, was a dull greyish colour.

The green ogre had yellowed toes, fingers and teeth. "Now, you guys don't chatter all right?" He spat at them. No one answered. "I said, don't chatter all right!" He yelled, his spit and snot flying all over the floor of the cages.

"Y-yes. O-o-of course," stammered Katie.

Norbert and Jenna cowered in the corner of their cage and the dragon looked towards them. His eyes were as round and as big as large buttons. He looked sad.

"Who are you?" The dragon asked as soon as the ogre left. "Why are you here?" he wanted to know.

"Well, I'm Jenna and this is Katie. This is my pet pelican, Norbert. He can talk. We are here because we were passing through this world to find a treasure when the ogre picked us up and locked us in this cage. Who are you? And why are you here?" Jenna asked kindly.

The dragon just looked at them for a moment. "My name is Sizzle and I am here because I was playing with the ogre's children once when I accidentally stepped on the youngest one's toes. He burst out crying and the ogre came... and he took me away," he finally said, looking down at the floor.

"Well, we're going to get you out of here... and us, we just don't know... how yet," Katie said bravely.

Jenna spied the key up above them. She looked to the dragon opposite them. She looked at Norbert's wings. She realised how tall Katie was. She had a plan... and it just might work.

"Can you breath fire Sizzle?" Jenna asked.

"Yes I can!" replied Sizzle.

"Could you catch a falling key in your hand Katie?" Jenna wondered.

"Probably. If you helped me!" said Katie.

"Norbert, could you fly up to the key?" Jenna asked her pet.

"Yeah.....probably," answered Norbert.

"Ok then. I have a plan," finished Jenna.

"Ok. So this is what we'll do," Jenna started. "First of all, Katie, Norbert and I will go to the back of our cage."

The girls and Norbert went to the back of their cage.

"Next, Sizzle, could you breath fire onto the bars of our cage? We will duck down so that we don't burn and you can breath fire above us," said Jenna. So that's what Sizzle did. He tried burning the bars on his cage... but strangely they turned to steel. The ogre must have seen through their plans.

"Hmmmmm," Jenna murmured. She had planned ahead though. She didn't think the ogre could be too dum

to realise that dragons could breath fire. “Norbert, now that we’re free, can you fly up to the key?” Jenna asked. Norbert did. He propped the key up on his back and flew down... but the key fell off his back!

“Katie. Grab the key!” Jenna whispered loudly so as not to make the ogre come back. Jenna and Katie both reached out and grabbed the key successfully!

The girls and Norbert wandered over to Sizzle’s cage. They slowly unlocked it since the key was quite big and heavy and Sizzle was free!

Sizzle thanked his new friends and flew back to his home out an open window. Norbert flew Jenna up to the window on his back and then came back to Katie and did the same thing for her. Then they continued on their journey.

They walked towards the swirling lights in the distance, trying to guess what world they would experience next. They entered the portal. This time the portal was red and white and was an interesting combination.

As soon as they leaped into the portal, they saw a big jungle. The jungle was full of wolves and foxes. There were a few tarantulas crawling around and a few dogs. There were also tigers, mice, leeches, birds and goats. The jungle world was more of a cartoon type world. Well, it was realistic but the plants were plants that no one could ever have seen... until now that is.

There were many strange flowers and trees surrounding them. A big plant towered above them. It had large vines sweeping off it. The vines circled above them but left them alone.

The trio knew that something would probably go wrong so they ran. They ran until finally, they could see the last portal. It was a blur of pink and gold but just as Katie pushed her feet off the ground, a big vine wrapped around her waist. Then Norbert and Katie were snatched up too. They were thrown from plant to plant, the plants catching them with their vines or petals or leaves.

They eventually arrived at a big leafy palace type thing. The doors were made of pure gold and silver and the rest of the palace was made of rose gold and diamonds. The palace walls and doors were decorated with leaves and flowers and had many trees on them.

The huge doors opened up and they were pushed in. The girls and Norbert stood up, astonished at how the plants had just thrown them so they landed on their bottoms. They brushed themselves up and almost immediately guards came running towards them. “Intruders! Intruders! Call the Queen!” one yelled. They were suddenly picked up by the guards and held tightly.

“Hey! Get your ugly hands of me!” protested Katie, filled with rage.

“Yeah! Leave us alone!” screamed Jenna, agreeing with Katie and kicking the guards.

“Plllllllllllgghhhhhhhh!” Norbert spat at them, blowing a raspberry with his tongue. But the guards matched on, leading them away from the portal and the palace doors.

Eventually, the guards dumped them down on a ledge. It was paved with gold and had large flowers on it. There

were cushions sitting beside them that had pretty leaves embroidered on them.

A woman around the age of thirty was sitting on a leafy golden throne and looking down at them. She had a silver crown on her head with diamonds and flowers decorating it. She was clearly the Queen since she had the crown. Four other ladies surrounded her, waving palm tree fans over her and minding her puppies. Her puppies were corgis with leafy puppy jumpers and bed socks. The ladies around her were all wearing gorgeous gowns and shoes that were completed with, of course, leaves and flowers. They all stared at the girls and Norbert.

“Hello. I am Queen Saskia of the Floral Kingdom of the Southern Part of the World of the Universe of Stars and Moons and much, much more. I see you are intruding my kingdom. Queen Saskia had no idea that they weren’t intruders at all because she didn’t investigate anything. She was very lazy and mean and never thought about others. She was very bossy and didn’t pay any of her workers more than a penny. She threw any one of her workers into prison if they did so much as just make a mistake as small as the tip of a pin. She meant business... but not in a good way.

“Well? Hurry up and introduce yourselves!” Queen Saskia said rudely to the “intruders.” Of course, the girls and Norbert were not intruders... but Queen Saskia didn’t know that.

“Hiiii. Iiii’mmm Kaaatieeeee annnd thiiiis iiis Jeeeeeeennna aaannnd Nnnnnnoorbeert,” said Katie, stretching out the words to show the Queen she couldn’t care less about her mean actions.

“Oh! How rude! Throw them into the dungeon!” said the boring Queen.

Secretly, Katie was excited to go to the dungeon. On the way to the Queen, the guard that captured her had said, “If she throws you in the dungeon then don’t even think about escaping through the hole in the wall because it leads to the outside world... blah, blah, blah....” Then Katie had zoned out. She needed to tell her friends about that. They could escape!

As soon as they got into the jail cell, Katie told her friends what the guard had said. Then she looked around the room until she saw an out of place block. She pushed it and crawled through. Jenna and Norbert followed her and they were free!

They ran towards the portal and jumped through it. They landed in a dark room with a treasure chest in the middle. Jenna opened the chest and... there was nothing there.

Suddenly, Jenna realised the real treasure... friendship! Along the way, they had had fun and worked together!

They ran all the way back through all the worlds and portals until they were back to the real world. There was no trouble on their way because now that they had realised what the real treasure was. God helped them on the way because they truly trusted in him.

God is like our wiser friend. He helps us and looks after us with all his heart. He would do anything for us and he even sent his son to lay down his life for us - sinners. Even Queen Saskia is loved by him and even the most

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evil and bad people can eventually look up to him. God has made a place in his Kingdom for everyone and loves everyone dearly. God is our wiser friend and he loves us with all his heart.

SAVING THE WORLD

By Jeremy R

As soon as Addison reached down to grab her little brother's hand, she started running. She felt how cold he was and looked towards Layla. Layla was only three and was struggling to keep up. She was a llama and had very little legs. "Come on, Jeremy, we're almost there," Addison said to her brother. Jeremy gripped her hand. Suddenly, Layla, who was in front of them, screeched to a halt.

The portal that Layla had spotted was around two inches away from where they were standing. It was blue and green and they could hear strange noises coming from the other side. It sounded as though a river was right in front of them; they just couldn't see it.

Their mission was to save the world. They planned to save it from the snow that was falling down from the mountains. It was causing people's roofs to cave in as it tumbled upon them. An avalanche was streaming down the mountain, so of course people were distressed and running out of their houses. They needed to act quickly, quicker than ever.

Addison took another step towards the portal, letting go of Jeremy's hand. She tried to go through it but she bounced back almost immediately. It wouldn't let her in. It didn't let Jeremy or Layla in either. Jeremy looked to the top of the portal. The colours were different up there.

The portal was about twelve feet high. "Addison?" Jeremy

started. "Could we see if they top of the portal will let us in? The colours are different," he finished.

"Sure Jeremy," replied Addison.

They built a ladder from the bamboo sticks around them, using hay to tie them together. Soon, it was tall enough to reach the top of the portal. Jeremy held the bottom while Addison climbed up. Then Jeremy climbed to the top.

The siblings looked down at Layla. She wouldn't be able to climb the ladder. So Jeremy and Addison climbed down again and reconstructed the ladder into a flight of stairs. Then they all climbed up together.

Addison was just about to jump through when she realised that she wouldn't be able to jump down twelve feet without getting hurt. So she climbed back down and made a ladder out of the bamboo sticks. She climbed back up and then pushed the ladder gently through the portal while Jeremy and Layla watched. It worked! The colours were pink and mint green this time. As soon as the ladder was through, Addison climbed down. Jeremy did the same. Then the pair reconstructed the ladder into stairs for the last time. Layla climbed down and finally, they were on the other side of the portal. They were so relieved and happy.

"Wow!" Jeremy exclaimed. "It's.....amazing!" he added.

"It really is," Addison said.

There were many mountains ahead of them. They were a blueish, greyish sort of colour with a touch of snow on the tops of them. "Not more snow," whined Jeremy.

They would have gone around the mountains but they were surrounded by lava. They could only get across by using a drawbridge that lay at the foot of each mountain. Then they had to climb over the mountains. A sign was in front of them.

"One mountain will lead to victory... the others, not so much. Choose your mountain... and choose wisely." Addison read aloud. Those words were neatly printed on the sign in neat handwriting.

"Jeremy, we need to chose wisely. Remember, we need to find the snow shield to get rid of the snow. Not for good of course... just for now. The snow shield should be able to push the snow back so we need to find it quickly. Let's go find someone... maybe that hedgehog over there? He might know what mountain is the right one," Addison said.

They ran over to the hedgehog. He looked like he was trying to find food. "Can you understand me?" six year old Jeremy asked the hedgehog. The hedgehog nodded his head. "Okay then. Do you need help finding food?" he wondered aloud. The hedgehog nodded his head. "Here's some!" yelled Jeremy, running off. He returned with some nuts and gave them to the hedgehog. The hedgehog looked at them knowingly, as if he was thanking them. "Can you tell us what mountain will lead us to the other side please?" Addison asked the hedgehog kindly. The hedgehog nodded his head again and ran towards the mountains. He gently nudged the three forwards with his head, guiding them towards one. He then scurried off back towards the woods, gathering up his nuts once again and taking them somewhere else.

The siblings and their pet walked up the mountain and before long they reached the other side. "I see it! The snow shield!" yelled Addison. They ran towards it and Addison grabbed the snow shield. But when they looked back... there were more mountains. They didn't know which one to choose and they didn't remember which one it was because of the larger number of mountains.

There were no animals around so they took a deep breath, closed their eyes, prayed to the Lord and chose a mountain.

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They climbed up it and before they knew it, they were on the other side of the mountain. They could see the portal ahead of them. They went through the dramas of making ladders and stairs again and before they knew it, they were back in the real world.

They used the snow shield and saved the world! From that day on, they were known as heroes throughout the land.

In their hearts, they knew that they weren't the true heroes. God was. God was the one that kept them safe. God was the one that led them to the right mountain. God was the one that created the thought of making a ladder and making stairs. God was the one that created them. Without God, nothing would be possible. But with God, everything is possible. Our Lord is amazing.

THE GREAT GUM FACTORY

By D E Lightful

Mia and Iris were best friends that loved to work with each other at their local gum factory, where they could look up at their lights that were being held by blue raspberry flavoured chewing gum. With over 1000 completely different flavours possible, Mia and Iris were told by their boss that they should create a totally new and improved gum. But they struggled to come up with a new flavour! They'd already made honey, mango, chocolate, beef jerky, and even chilli flavour (no one really bought that one). They'd thought of every possible flavour.

While Iris and Mia were sitting at their office, Iris thought of a solution - to just pray and ask for God's help. They closed their eyes and began to pray. They opened their eyes only to find a brown piece of paper wrapped in string, so they unraveled it to see a blueish yellow fruit sitting right in front of their eyes.

"Could it be?" said Mia, "a new fruit. Mmm it smells so sour and tangy."

"I think this just might be our new flavour," said Iris.

"Well, what are we waiting for, let's get to work!"

After a few long nights of hard and breathtaking work, it was time to release the new gum flavour. It was called The Bloom.

The girl's very old boss was very impressed with the awesome work.

They were soon to find their gum was sold faster than hot cakes - way faster in fact. It was all gone in 2.14 minutes! Isn't that amazing!

The boss said that they had a good day and sold 100 pieces of gum for \$25.99 each. But it wasn't over yet and the next morning the girl's boss told them to go outside, so that's what they did. They stepped out the door to see about 2000 screaming fans yelling for the new flavour that they had sold out of the day before.

The girls immediately ran inside and told the boss they were going out to find out about the new flavour. So the girls packed and set off on their journey to find that secret ingredient.

The girls started walking towards Green Hood Forest where half of the forest is magic but the other half is the worse place you could endure in your entire life. As they officially entered the forest and took their last step from outside of the forest into it, they put an "x marks the spot" just in case they didn't come back or couldn't find their way out.

Cautiously, they entered the forest. Just as they entered they heard a voice (or maybe it was just the wind whipping against them both). But whatever it was, they kept stubborn and stayed on track. No one could stop them from here, not even themselves. They would do anything to find that secret combination of tastes from that one fruit.

"Just pray to God that he will keep us safe during the tough challenges that will come in our way," whispered Iris.

She hesitated for a second - but that wouldn't stop her from getting what she wanted! The girls walked through with no hesitation this time but there was definitely fear inside of them, no doubt about that. But ever since the girls started walking, all

they could hear was the same little whisper they had heard when they first stepped foot inside of the Green Hood Forest. It was like the noise was just following them and watching over them but not trying to protect them. Probably, it was trying to hurt them.

Even if the girls didn't want to do this that much, they kinda had to now. They had already started and as you know, you can never half finish a job.

The girls pressed onwards walking into some boogie coloured green mist. The mist was smelly but not bad smelling; it actually smelt like spearmint. It had been a few days now but as they entered the green coloured mist, they slightly saw a shadow, but it was just enough to see what it was. It was a man standing in front of them.

The girls screamed and ran to the right, which was not towards the man but the opposite way. Unfortunately, wherever they ran, the shadow man was there! They turned left and the man was there. They turned right and the man was still there. So the girls ran straight through him, barged him out of the way, and bolted for victory out of the mist. Iris was panting a lot. It was like she was having a heart attack!

5 minutes later... Iris fainted and fell to the ground and woke up 32 minutes later. When she woke up, Mia was carrying her. She placed her down on a puffy pile of leaves.

"Iris, are you okay? You fainted and you were also panting a lot after we left the mist."

"W... where am I, who are you?"

"Iris, I'm Mia, your best friend. How could you ever forget me?"

"Oh Mia! Sorry I don't know what happened to me. It was like I just stopped and my body shut down for a while."

"Your body did shut down but you are lucky, otherwise more

horrible things could've happened to you. I'm lucky to have you with me. Are you okay though and do you need a piggyback?"

"No I'm fine thanks."

"Well I guess we can keep on going," said Iris.

"You're right, I guess the only way we can go from here is to go forward. Hopefully, soon we are in the magic part of the Green Hood Forest. I really want to get this over and done with," sighed Iris.

"Me too and look, I see something up ahead!"

"Where, I don't see anything?"

"Look, there are two signs," said Mia all at once.

"Oh yeah, quick let's run closer. I can see what it says. One says 'neat' and the other one says 'nasty'. Which path should we take?"

Iris decided to just let Mia pick what path to go through and Mia chose to pick the sign that said, 'Neat'.

They walked through the path only to find that they were in magic part of the Green Hood Forest. There was gold, rose gold and different coloured mushrooms. It looked like there was pixie dust everywhere. The girls also saw a giant lake and fairies with leaves as clothes and with pots that said 'Magic vanilla'.

"I wonder if we will get to try that?" asked Mia.

"Well, let's take a pot just in case," replied Iris boldly. "The fairy queen has made the magic vanilla just in case of an emergency and the queen needed it to send away invaders."

The fairy queen welcomed them to stay there. But they said, "Sorry, no, but have you heard of this fruit that looks blueish and yellow and has a sour tangy smell?"

"Yes, actually I have seen it on the path ahead. To find it, just keep

on going forward and you will reach your destination.:

A FEW WEEKS LATER AFTER MUCH SEARCHING...

The girls had searched for 3 weeks, day and night, with no sight of the fruit and the girls started to worry that they were going the wrong way. What were they doing wrong? They looked up and looked down but many days passed and the girls started losing their hope. They were about to give up when suddenly, God answered their prayers. They had a sign of the fruit! They saw a chunk of it laying down on the ground. It looked like there was a path of the chunks slowly leading the girls to a giant bush of the fruits. At the tree, they weren't just chunks but were whole fruits - hundreds of them - no, maybe thousands! However many there were there were a lot.

The girls started picking and picking them until there was enough for the forest and enough for the fans. Even though the girls were in pain and all bruised, they were determined to head back with the fruits being as good as new.

They walked for weeks and weeks and finally had a glimpse of the x they placed when they first started their journey. They got out of the forest but they weren't done yet. They walked like a snail all the way back to the factory and the people opened the gates and let them inside.

"They're back," the fans shouted as the girls walked inside with the fruits on their backs.

When the girls were inside they didn't know what to say because everyone seemed sad - but why? But then Milo walked up to Mia and Iris and told them the news.

3 WEEKS LATER... The girls never knew this time would come

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so quickly. The boss of the gum factory had passed away while the girls were looking for the flavour of their dreams.

Milo said to the girls, "At least boss would be proud of you girls after everything you've done for this community."

It was almost time for his funeral. Mia and Iris were devastated that they weren't even there for him during his time in hospital lasted. They really wished they could talk to him one last time.

The funeral service started and Mia tried to hold in her tears but she couldn't. At least Iris was there to comfort her. The more the girls sat there, the more sadness entered their hearts with tears and devastation. It was hard for them get over what just happened but they knew they couldn't hang on to this forever.

After many hours of crying and sadness it was over. The girls had felt a tiny bit better but as they entered the factory they were surprised by the new gum flavour they made.

Iris saw a vision of the boss (or was she hallucinating?). Then she thought to sell the new gum and for each gum people bought, they would have to pay a tip in remembrance of the boss.

The new gum quickly became so successful, the girls decided to end their job and build their own factory, but not with gum, they wanted to do it with magical chocolate instead.

That day, Mia and Iris learnt that sometimes you have to let go of some special people like their boss and you can't ever let that get in the way of your life - because your life is still going!

NO ONE HOME

By Gym Queen

One morning, two sisters woke up. Their names were Macy and Autumn. They were two years apart in age. Autumn was the youngest; she was 8. Macy was 10. They woke up and they thought to themselves, "I wonder if the... the day will be different today," with a big yawn. But when they left their bedroom, everything was different. How hadn't they realised they had no parents, no furniture and it was just floors and walls.

"Where has it all gone?" Macy said in fear and confusion.

"I don't know," said Autumn sadly.

They looked around the house for about 15 minutes and there was still no sign of furniture and no sign of parents.

"Where could they have gone?" wondered both sisters in serious confusion.

Suddenly, when they had gone around the corner, they saw something, although it wasn't the furniture and it wasn't their parents. It was an emerald golden portal glowing right in front of their faces.

"Should we go through it?" asked Macy in a cautious voice.

"Ummm, I'm not sure is it safe. Would mum let us do this?" said Autumn sounding unsure in her under-breath.

"I'm sure it's safe, plus mum and dad aren't here so I'm technically the boss," said Macy with great bravery.

So they went in the portal but Macy went first because if she didn't, Autumn wouldn't have gone through.

After about 13 minutes of travelling through the portal, they found themselves in a strange misty forest or village. They couldn't tell because there was too much mist covering the forest or village. Then, out of nowhere, there was a scatter in the bushes.

Rattle rattle! "Umm, Macy, what was that?" said Autumn in a terrified tone.

"I don't know," replied Macy sounding scared - but she knew that she wasn't allowed to be because God was with her and she was boss! They looked around and whenever they turned, a thing would go into the next bush. Something was following them, that's for sure.

After a while, the mist started to clear. They could see a blunt but dark shadow. It didn't make sense to them because it was tiny a shadow. Then they laughed, "Ha ha ha!"

"That thing is nothing to be scared of," said Macy with the giggles.

Then out of nowhere, the shadow spoke! It scared them to death. "Who goes there! I say, who goes there! You are intruders and this is our land!"

"I... I am umm, I mean my name is M-acy and th...is my s..ister Autumn," replied Macy with loss of her fear.

"What are you doing here; that's all I care about."

"I... umm... you see," said Macy while getting interrupted.

"Hurry up and speak, you're taking two years," said the shadow.

"Well, I'm here because I'm... well actually, a portal took me

here."

"Nonsense. ATTACK!" yelled the small thing.

Suddenly, a horrible feeling swept over Macy. "Get behind me," Macy said to Autumn.

Then a whole Army of... dwarfs? "Out of everything, it is dwarfs," Macy whispered to Autumn. "Why were we scared of a dwarf army?"

Then they realised why. The army was stronger than they had thought and picked both of them up and carried them off. They carried them for about 4 km and then they reached a cottage. The cottage was small and quiet but it had a bad feeling to it. As they walked further into the cottage, there was something that was not right. Suddenly, from a click of the finger, they were thrown into a cage that was barred with steel and lasers. The Cage was hung by golden chains onto the roof.

There were at least five cages. They were obviously not very happy and not very friendly dwarfs. The girls sat in the cage together just thinking, not caring about the world. Then they realised that they should look around the cages and see what was there.

They saw something... it looked like it was in the third or fourth cage! "If it was a dragon, it would breath fire and break the chains," but then they thought again.

"Wait, but if the bars are made out of steel then maybe a giant dragon couldn't help," sighed Macy.

"Let's think of another idea," though Autumn, determined to find a way out.

Then they thought they heard a soft voice in the distance, "Hey over here!"

Turns out the voice was right next to them. It was almost silent because it was only a small mouse although the mouse didn't

sound rude like those dwarfs. Then Macy thought a bit about the portal. Why did it send her there? It almost seemed like there was a mission for her and her sister. But you see, she was in a cage and there were things that needed help. After she'd thought about that, she looked around again... and there was nothing, nothing until...

Gasp! "Is that a key or something that will unlock the CAGE?" said Macy in great delight as well as yelling in Autumn's face.

"That was loud," said Autumn with a ring in her ear. "But you're right, that is something that will unlock the cage; just how do we get it?"

"I'm not sure," said Macy with a confused face.

Then they heard the mouse. It spoke and said, "Umm, excuse me, are you wondering how to get the key?"

"Yes indeed we are," they both said with interest.

"Well, I'm small and I umm, I could squeeze through the bars if that would help," she added.

"Thanks! May you please," said Macy.

So the mouse struggled but eventually got through the cage then used her tail to hook on the cage, then reached the key just with her finger tips, although unfortunately, the key started to drop and it slipped out of her fingers. Macy managed to catch the key just in time! You see, the dwarf had just come in and the key was almost scraping his head. Luckily, he didn't stay for long.

After the Dwarf left, they unlocked the cage and went out a small door that led them to another world. This world was interesting! It was colourful although it also smelt like spearmint!

"What's that smell? It smells so tangy and tasty," said Autumn as her tummy was grumbling.

"Oh Autumn, we will find food soon, just stay calm," said Macy

while thinking things through.

They walked for about 8 kilometres until they reached a shop. "Yes, there's food!" said Autumn.

"Calm down, Calm down! We will eat very soon," said Macy again.

Finally, they reached a shop that sold free food, bread, fresh fruit and some lollipops. They ate and packed some food just in case because they had been gone almost 2 days.

After they ate, they walked around to see if there was anything that they had seen before but there was nothing. Then they saw a thing in the distance. It kind of looked like a palace. The palace was decorated with gummy bears and mint leaves growing up the walls.

Macy, "Is this Candy Land?"

"I think it is," said Macy in great amazement.

They decided that they would go to the palace. It was a big walk there but after 6 minutes of walking, they had made it to the... (let's just call it the Gummy Bear Palace). When they went through, it was guarded by gummy bears. Macy stopped and stared for a while, then thought, "First dwarfs, then gummy bears; what's next?"

They entered the palace... "It's BEAUTIFUL!" whispered Autumn, but suddenly the gummy guards heard them.

"Intruders!" The guards started running after the girls with their tiny gummy legs but couldn't catch up. The girls ran into a room that was very colourful and it was silent and peaceful.

Then... "Hello. AHH!" A voice snuck behind them and had just said hello so they turned around slowly and carefully. It was the queen! They'd never seen a queen before. The queen had a golden dress with a pink and white diamond crown. The sisters bowed.

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“Your majesty,” they said.

“Yes,” the queen replied with a posh accent.

“Umm, we are wondering how to get out,” they said.

“You want to get out of here? Why, this place is amazing,” the queen replied. “Don’t you want to be gummy bears?”

“You’re saying that all of these gummy bears were once people?” they said, questioning themselves.

“Well obviously,” the queen said.

“Umm Autumn RUN!” said Macy loudly.

“Guards chase them!”

“Yes your majesty.”

They ran and ran until they saw a portal. They jumped in with no hesitation. Turns out, it took them right back to their street!

They walked calmly all the way back to their house then they prayed. Macy went first. “Dear Lord, thanks for helping us get free and find a way out; in Jesus name I pray, amen.”

Then Autumn went; “Dear, Heavenly Father, thanks for making my big sister and I have a safe adventure, in Jesus name, amen.”

They went home and saw their parents. “Mum! Dad!” said the sisters. “We missed you!” They went to bed that night feeling very proud and tired.

AROUND THE WORLD

By Arwyn B

Lilly’s mum had gone on an expedition in Australia, while Lilly and her father, Trevor, were still in England; boring, cold rainy England. Lilly and Trevor had only just bought a new boat. Their old one was perfectly fine, but apparently it was too small for any travelling. Their plans were to sail around the world! Even better, do it in 100 days!

Trevor was a marine biologist with charming blonde hair, with streaks of white and brown, even though he denied about the white! He was quite a young biologist (32), but to Lilly, that’s old.

Lilly’s name means daughter of the sea; chosen by her grandma. Sadly, her great grandma got kidnapped and they took her to Africa and sold her to be a slave, but recently Lilly got informed that they’d released a few of the older people. Lilly was hoping it was her grandma, but she wasn’t holding her breath. Since that day, she knew she would never be the same.

Trevor had been sent to do some research on a Bullgion Dundley. The Bullgion Dudley is a rare species of dolphin that no human has ever seen with their bare eyes. That’s why they sent Trevor (to see if the myth was true or not).

They were going to set off to the South Pacific Ocean because that’s where the last sighting of the Bullgion Dudley was. It was very early in the morning. As the father and daughter were getting the boat ready, some news reporters had heard of their

goal. There was interview after interview, and after that, they were finally ready to leave.

It was their first night in the ocean and Lilly couldn't really sleep well because of the rocking from side to side, and since her dad was snoring so loudly. It would make the boat shake!

Finally, Lilly's dad was getting ready to go scuba diving in his brand new canary yellow wet suit. Lilly thought it looked rather hilarious. It was still early in the morning, but her dad just couldn't wait. "Can I come with you?" said Lilly.

"Come with me. I don't think so as there could be dangerous creatures we don't yet know about. How about you set a two-hour timer and if I'm not up by then, you will know something has happened to me."

"All right, but I'm not happy about it."

"Now just be a good girl and don't cause any mischief."

As her dad jumped in, Lilly saw a great white shark from the corner of her eye following after her dad. "DAD, DAD STOP, THERE'S A GREAT WHITE SHARK, SHARK!"

Trevor didn't notice his daughter's cries and dived under. 5, 10, 15 minutes and there was still no sighting of her dad. When all hope was lost, she saw her dad, but not in a happy way. She saw a patch of canary yellow wet suite. "NO!" Lilly then loudly slumped herself on her lumpy bed in mourning, feeling like she could never move a single part of her body.

From that moment, she knew what she had to do. Sail around the world like her father's dream was. If he couldn't do it, then she would!

She started to try and figure out how to drive the boat. Her second attempt worked, and the propeller started rattling furiously. She looked at the fuel gage and, "Almost empty, looks like we're going to have to stop at Indonesia. Why am I talking to

myself?"

As Lilly arrived at the shore of Indonesia, she felt quite insecure. It was bombarded with scary looking men with muscles the size of a watermelon. As she walked into the human infested market, she saw the men looking suspiciously at her. She wondered, "Were they following me?"

She walked faster and faster, to the point where she was starting to run. The men were definitely following her. "I wonder what they want from me?" wondered Lilly.

She looked to her side and she saw an Indonesian girl grabbing her by the hand. She looked roughly about 15 years old. "Follow me!" said the Indonesian girl.

She quickly lead her to a strange smelling sewer, "Climb down, QUICKLY!" so Lilly did.

It looked spectacular; just like a little house. It smelt like lovely roses. Two young children ran up to the Indonesian girl, "Hi, my name is Hellen, sorry to startle you. Those men were army men; we hide down here from them."

"Hello, my name is Lilly. I'm travelling around the world. My dad died only 2 days ago. I thought I should finish his goal. But you see, we are out of food and fuel. Could you help me?"

"Only if we can come!" said Hellen happily.

"It's too dangerous, but okay. Wait hang on, who's children are those?"

"They're... they are mine." said Hellen in a shy way.

"How old are you?"

"I'm 16; I adopted them from Australia.

They're twins, but their parents died in a car crash on the way back home from their anniversary!"

"I'm heading to Australia, but there's not enough room for the kids to come as well!"

"Surely we can make room, we were actually saving up to move to Australia. And if you take us then we would have enough money to buy a house!"

"I don't know, won't security see them, and then we will all go to jail for trying to smuggle kids into a different country!"

"What if we *were* the security." suggested Lily.

"Even if we were the security, how would we pass!"

"Trust me, I have a magnificent plan!"

So off they went to the Secret Security Centre (or as it's known SSC). There were so many Police officers, and when I say so many I mean like hundreds and thousands! Lilly had a very interesting plan that was to sneak into the building, hack the password for the staff room and grab a costume and ID card. "Not that hard," said Lilly sarcastically.

Hellen had told the young children to stay at home so Lilly and Hellen could carry out the plan without any distractions. Off they went. Their tummies were feeling really sick but they got to the staff room in only 6 minutes.

"You would think they would install it somewhere else, not right next to the door," said Lilly.

Now they had to do the hard part; guessing the numbers. It was a very high security place, so they had to do it fast. Lilly and Hellen were scanning the room, looking for any numbers until Hellen saw a number from the corner of her eye. She saw 0098. Hellen quickly notified Lilly and then the girls dialled the number into the system. They both had their fingers crossed hoping that no one was inside.

The door slid open with a slow but long creak. The girls were relieved that no one was inside, but they knew that they had

to act fast. Hellen quickly zipped up her pants and put on the ID card. Hellen was now called Emma, and Lilly was now called Dorris. Now the hard part was over but they still had to finish the rest of their plan. They greeted themselves to one of the other guards and then they had their lunch break. But they didn't stay at the facility. Instead, they went home to grab the two children and head to Australia.

When they got back to the station, they ordered a private plane to Australia, but the man was looking at them very suspiciously. Lilly was thinking, "Had they figured out our plan?" But no, they were just staring at the children.

Lilly quickly answered, "We have to take these trouble makers to Australia so they can go to Juvy."

The man at the front desk replied, "Sorry for looking at you that way, here's your plane."

2 HOURS LATER... The trio were on the outskirts of Australia but there was still a problem. Lilly's mum was in Darwin. But the thing is, they couldn't actually land on Darwin land because they didn't have a licence. But luckily, she had a boat on the back of the plane. Although there were crocodiles, they would have to get on the boat.

Hellen thought of a really good idea, "What if we drop the boat in the water with a piece of rope on the end, then we can zip line down to the boat."

The plan surprisingly worked and they were in the boat in under 5 minutes. But they were about 10 meters away from shore. They also had to worry about crocodiles, but that was the least of their worries. They started to paddle with an old wooden plank, but as they were getting closer and closer to shore, they noticed that they were being followed. There was a huge figure in the gloomy water. It was about eight metres long. Everyone froze in fear as the crocodile was coming closer and closer, until it was only about one metre from the boat. Their hearts skipped a beat,

“CHOMP.” The boat snapped in half.

They now had to swim to shore with an eight metre crocodile behind them. The hardest part was that the kids didn't know how to swim, so Lilly and Hellen would be swimming really fast with a child on their back. They tried to paddle with what was left of the boat, until they were about six metres from shore. They slowly went into the cold water and the crocodile was gaining on them, until an idea struck into Lilly's head, “What if we get a rock and throw it into the water. Crocodiles find their food from vibrations?”

“I think that is a great idea!” answered Hellen.

The girls were struggling to stay afloat, but they only just managed. Lilly gave one of the children to Hellen and then dove under water. She came back up seconds later with a large log. “This should hold her off for a minute or so.”

Then Hellen quickly handed the child back to Lilly and they paddled as fast as they could back to land. Now they could only just stand on the soft sand. But they knew that the chase wasn't over yet as Sweetheart was coming after them. Everyone was on land, but the crocodile started to come up on land. “HELP, SOMEONE HELP!” said Lilly.

Then someone or something replied back, “I'm coming, is there a croc chasing you!” said the voice in a narrow tone.

“YES, YES THERE IS!” said Lilly. Then there was a familiar looking woman coming out of the bushes. “MUM!” shouted Lilly.

“LILLY!”

The mother and daughter had finally been reunited. But they still had to worry about the huge crocodile. They were getting closer and closer to the beach.

Lilly's mum grabbed the children first then grabbed Hellen and Lilly. They couldn't believe that they had made it. Sweetheart

finally lost interest in them and went off to get a school of salmon. Mother and daughter were finally reunited and Hellen and her children had made it safely to Australia.

THE LORD'S HELP

By Jeremy R

Jeremy looked down at the rushing water, wondering if he would ever get his friend back. Jeff had fallen off their fishing boat, into the crystal clear stream. Now, Jeremy felt lost without him. Jeff was Jeremy's best friend and Jeremy never had to go without having him nearby for very long. "Will I ever get him back, Jessica?" Jeremy asked his pet donkey. She couldn't understand him but he didn't care. He just wanted his friend back.

He ran down the stream, pushing tree branches and leaves out of the way. Nothing could stop him now. There was no turning back. Suddenly, he heard a sound; a twig snapping in the woods. It was the kind of sound that tells you that someone else is there. Jeremy cautiously walked towards the sound, peering to the left and right. He heard something behind him, an animal, most likely, but he ran anyway.

Soon, he could see a blinding light ahead of him. It looked like a portal to Jeremy. He had seen them in the picture books that he read to his little brother but he didn't think they were real. It was a strange evergreen colour. It matched the forest around him but it looked out of place at the same time. He pushed through it, feeling trapped among the swirling lights. After a few seconds, he was on the other side. He saw a stream right in front of him.

Just then, he realised that he had left Jessica behind. He leapt out of the portal again and went to find her. "Hold on. Last

time I was out here, I didn't think that the stream came up here. And it continues on the other side of the portal. How strange," Jeremy murmured to himself. He remembered his task, though, and went to find Jessica.

"Jessica? Are you there?" Jeremy asked to no one in particular. "Ahh! There you are. Come on Jessica. I found something," Jeremy said as he found the donkey. He and Jessica ran to the portal and slowly walked through it.

Jeremy decided to pray. "Dear Lord," he started. "Please help me to find my friend. I need him, but, most of all, I need you. If you're out there, if you're listening, I know you'll help me, Lord. I love you with all of my heart. In Jesus name, Amen," he finished.

On the other side of the portal, there was a land full of fish... they were actual fish, walking around on the grassy field. They were just going about their business like walking fish were totally normal. Jeremy fainted. Jessica felt dizzy. Fish couldn't walk? Could they?

An hour or so later, Jeremy woke up. Still in a daze, he looked up to see Jessica, who was looking at him with her innocent, blue eyes. "Woah. Where are we? How come...? Ha?" Jeremy said, looking at the fish in confusion. "They can walk!" Jeremy laughed out loud, rubbed his eyes and finally believed that the fish could walk.

They continued on their journey, wondering if they would soon come across Jeff. They kept walking, running and jogging though not letting their worries weigh them down.

Soon the river stopped. Jeff was just sitting there at the end of the river. Jeremy thought this was too easy but he went to grab Jeff anyway. He slowly edged towards him... and then... darkness.

Jeremy finally came to, waking up from another black out. Jeff

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explained to him that they were safe... As for Jessica... she was not. And that he was meant to be the bait for a trap and that Jeremy had blacked out because someone wanted Jessica. She was a rare type of donkey and someone had taken her. Now, the boys had to find her.

The two best friends got up and walked into a large building. "It's a bit dark in here, isn't it Jeremy?" Jeff asked his friend.

"Mmmmmm," Jeremy murmured in agreement.

They continued on. Finally, they found Jessica. A man was touching her soft, brown fur. He walked away and, as soon as the boys were sure that he was gone, they leaped towards Jessica. Jessica followed them outside and they had escaped. "It was that easy?" Jeremy asked to no one in particular.

"Yes. I guess so." Jeff replied.

They escaped through the portal and went back to fishing. They had been reunited and they were happy.

God had helped them that day. And they had learnt something too; that God helps the people that want him in their lives. Jeremy had prayed to God and God helped him. God is the King of all kings, the saviour of the world and the helping hand for us.

THE ISLAND ESCAPE

By Jeremy R and Shades O

Jeremy and John were marooned on a jungle island. Their ship had gone down in a storm, leaving all the crew to swim to the island. But only two made it; Jeremy and John.

"We need to escape. We need to make a plan," John said to Jeremy.

"I agree," Jeremy replied, tiredly.

"First of all..." Jeremy said looking around. "Wood! We'll make a raft!" he finally said, letting his eyes focus on a nearby palm tree.

"But how will we cut the wood from the palm tree?" John asked.

"I know! let's pray and hope that God will help us figure it out," Jeremy said eventually.

"Dear Lord, please help us figure out how to cut the palm tree. Please help us to trust that you will help us and that we get off this Island soon. In Jesus name, amen," John prayed.

The fifteen year old boys looked around to find bamboo sticks lying on the sand. They also saw some hay on the sand. They used the sticks to hit the tree until a coconut fell. Then they used the hay to tie the bamboo sticks together and pushed a coconut in the small y-shape, creating a slingshot. They then pulled back the coconut and released it so that it hit the tree.

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The tree fell over after a few goes and they used the bamboo sticks and their hands and feet to break the wood.

Jeremy and John tied the wood together, knowing that the bamboo sticks were too weak to use for the raft. They finished making the raft. They thanked God, then, before hopping on the raft. "Yes! We did it!" Jeremy yelled. But then a big wave crashed down on them... breaking the raft.

John watched as his friend sank to the bottom of the ocean. He could see the island in the distance but he had to save his friend. John dived down and pulled Jeremy to the surface. He swam him back to the island and did CPR to get Jeremy back from the unconscious.

Just then, they saw a cruise ship with many holidaying people on it. "Help us! We're over here!" screamed Jeremy. The ship turned and came towards them.

Then, it rescued them. "Thank you so much!" John said.

The ship took them back to their home town in Brazil. "Thank you Lord for saving us! We will tell people about this, about what you've done! Thank you Lord!" John prayed.

"Lord! You are amazing! You have saved us from an island and we will tell everyone that you are the Saviour!" Jeremy added.

The boys learnt something that day; that the Lord is the Saviour. He can save people from the middle of nowhere. He loves everyone and even gave his life for us. God is the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit and He loves us. He is the Saviour.

MISSING PARENTS

By Gym Queen

About the author...

Gym Queen is a young author who has lots of friends and is deeply loved by her family. She has one pet, many sports and loves writing stories. This story is to tell you that when bad things happen, don't give up because if you do, you will find things harder than ever. I hope that this story helps you to understand that if you lose a loved one, it's okay to cry but it's not okay to get angry at the Lord because he loves you dearly. So remember this verse and it will help you. "Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future

Hi, my name is Sapphire and this is my story. Let me introduce you to my family. There's me, my two step brothers Sam and Noah, my step mum and dad and lastly, my pet fish Scales. I live in a small house and I share my bedroom with my brothers. I'm 13 and when I was 3 my parents sadly passed away. That's how I was left with my step parents and brothers.

The story starts like this. When I was born, my parents would go from place to place. It was about 1987 when this happened. It was war time and all I heard as a child was gun fires and booms. I could only hear because my mum and dad would hide me almost always like I wasn't meant to be there.

It was my first birthday which meant my first time seeing

light. The war had slowed down by then, although I still heard shouting, screaming and gun fires. It wasn't very nice, especially because it was my birthday. My first sights weren't pleasant. All I saw were dead people, blood and old buildings.

Then suddenly, a twenty-year-old looking woman holding a child shouted out, "Help me! My child will die if someone won't grab him!" Then the woman came from around the corner and dropped a tiny basket with her only child in it at my parent's feet. I stared at them and they were looking at me. I didn't get why I had anything to do with this. So I looked away and my mum looked down at the basket. "What should we do with this boy," mum asked.

"Take it and give him to an orphanage," replied dad. Then no noise, just silence.

BANG! Suddenly I was picked up again and thrown into mum's jacket and we started running. We ran through bombed houses and libraries. After 5 kilometres, we reached an apartment building. I felt myself walking up stairs and into a small space. I didn't understand, weren't all the buildings bombed and destroyed?

Suddenly, mum put me down, looked at me and said, "We have saved this place for you and this baby boy." I stared at mum back. She looked sad and disappointed.

We stayed in this small apartment building for two years and yes, that made me three. But this is where things get tricky. Mum, dad (day and night) were on the phone trying to find the baby boy (that they had currently called John) a home or space at the orphanage. Then I remembered something they told me

"Psalm 27:1: The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? Proverbs 18:10: The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it."

I remembered that calming saying so I went up to mum and dad

and I said, "Mum, dad, listen! Pray; remember?"

"Thanks darling, we needed that." So they did what I asked and prayed.

After praying we sat in silence then... DING! The phone rang and they got a space for John. Sadly, the space was in Africa but we were only in Australia. They looked at me. Then at each other and... suddenly it all went dark and I heard the door SLAM! I looked around for a switch. I eventually found one and turned it on. I was all alone.

"Mum, dad," I cry, "Are you here and where is John?" There was absolute silence. "I'm all alone. They've taken John with them just like I had said."

I didn't like silence or darkness or being alone. It wasn't fair until I saw it (tools, food and enough to survive so that I could find my parents).

"YES," though before I left, I prayed for God to guide me. After I did that, I headed off. Because I was only three, it was hard for me to navigate my way around. I went in circles for a bit then figured it all out. I went through sewers, libraries, houses, hotels and then all of the above.

After five long and tiring years of searching, I almost gave up and threw a big tantrum. Then I saw a shadow on a roof. He or she looked like an 8 year old kid. I tried going up to the kid to see if he or she could help me find my parents. So I yelled out, "Hay, over here!" The kid just looked at me and started walking off. "Wait!" I shouted.

The kid just stared at me from the roof so I said, "Come to me. I don't have weapons." So the kid came closer. I asked, "What are you looking for?"

The kid answered, "My mum and dad."

"OH ME TOO!" I explained. I couldn't believe that I'd met

somebody who was also looking for their parents.

3 years later... I was getting older by now and so was my friend Lucy. We'd gotten to know each other way better during the previous 3 years. We'd been together for so long that we found a half good building. Although sadly, we still hadn't found our parents. We were getting quite worried by then. What if our parents got shot or wounded on their journey? Although we were scared for our parents, we wouldn't cry or complain.

We had only stayed in our small apartment. We hadn't even moved. We basically gave up on looking for our parents. But today was the day we would continue searching. So we walked out of our apartment then prayed. After that we headed off.

All we had to survive on was on loaf of bread and a single water bottle. We traveled 6 kilometres and there was still no sign of our parents. Then we saw a trail of my mum and dad's stuff. So we followed the trail and it led us to something disastrous.

It was a 90 foot wall with a 20 foot gate. There stood about 100 soldiers holding guns and shields. They were looking at us like there was something behind the gate that we shouldn't see, although we wanted to see what was in there because it could be our parents.

We walked away and then got the rope. We packed and jumped over the guards. And guess what? We saw our parents trapped and getting forced to clean the floor. Shrouding them were hundreds upon thousands of weapons. That only meant one thing. It looked like our parents would never see us again and I would just have step bothers and parents for my family.

Except, I know that when things get rough, just pray and God will guide you. Never give up searching for what your heart desires; but follow it!

A LESSON LEARNT

By Jeremy R, Bruce M, Gym Queen and A Star

There once lived two girls called Isabella and her cousin Chloe and they lived in a small shack in the woods. They were quite alike, as in they loved to play in their secret cubby that not even their mum and dads knew about. The cubby was hidden in a huge bush at the end of the woods near the back of Isabella's house. They went in it almost every day when they had sleepovers and when they went to the cubby they packed mattresses and loads of lollies.

"Girls!" their mums yelled. "Dinner time!"

"Ok, ok, Mum, we're coming!"

The girls walked up to the house and ate the most delicious meal ever. After they ate their marvellous dinner, they roasted marshmallows then went to bed. They talked and talked for hours but their dads heard and weren't happy.

"Girls! Quiet! Get to sleep or no more sleepovers!" Chloe's dad yelled tiredly.

"Yeah, we will!" winked the girls secretly.

So they went to sleep and about 2 minutes later they woke up and whispered so their dads would not yell. They then realised that their dads were gone so they went through the back door and ran through the night. They then saw something and they were so terrified because they saw a wolf and the wolf looked like it was getting closer by the minute. The girls hugged

each other as if they would hug all the air out of each other. They cried and screamed inside their five-year-old bodies and they were so scared. They slowly edged towards the wolf; they could see its baring fangs.

But then they noticed it was just a log.

"Phew," they said, wiping the tears away and un-attaching themselves. Because they saw it was a log, they laughed and laughed for about 5 minutes until it started to glow and they were curious so they went closer to the log and looked inside. It made noises. But it was just a rabbit. Suddenly, the rabbit ran out of the way and the girls were immediately sucked in before they could stop themselves.

As soon as they arrived at the new place they saw a girl their age named Haley. The place they were at was mysterious and colourful. But the girl was sassy and so was the world. All there was were hair salons and fancy shops.

"Eww dirty girls! Get out! This is my palace!" spoke Haley with disgustance.

"Umm well," they said.

"What do you mean dirty girls? Speak up!"

"Well..."

"I'm going to take you shopping and get those filthy clothes off you!"

And the girls awkwardly walked off, trailing behind Haley.

Later on, Haley said, "There's something for \$1000 over there! It's so underpriced! Put this on!"

The girls put it on and Haley bought one each for them and forced them to keep it on.

Then the girls said, "Woah! It's for \$1000,000! We would never

be able to buy that!" And they looked at something overpriced.

But Haley replied rudely, "What do you mean! It's so underpriced! But I wouldn't buy that for you girls! I've already bought so much! You don't deserve it! But I'll buy it! Fine!"

Then the girls put it on. Then Haley said, "Come on girls! Hair time! Now, you're getting better by the hour." So the girls walked over to the hair salon and Haley demanded the hairdressers do one of the top ten best hairstyles.

It came to hair drying time and the girls sat down. Then suddenly, as the hair dryer was turned on, they started to get sucked up. Haley stared at Isabella and Chloe as they were getting sucked up, then jumped in after them.

They fell through about a mile of a black hypnotising portal and after that mile they dropped from the blackness into a world of misery and hate. They all felt awful, sick and scared.

In the world around them were lots of people getting forced to work by an evil looking guy. Haley suddenly changed her ways because she realised how the girls would've felt. She used kinder words and became un-sassy. She was a kind and loving person from that day forward. They lived in that misery for a couple of weeks before they realised they should all pray for no more misery in the world.

Haley started, "Dear Lord I'm sorry for being such a mean sassy queen and being so rude to Isabella and Chloe and to everyone else. I pray that you can forgive me for my sin and I'll be nice again, Amen.

Then Chloe added, "Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for being here with us even though we forgot to thank you for turning Haley into a kind gentle girl and thank you for giving us the hell experience to teach us. In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

And then Isabella finished, "Dear Lord, I thank you for taking

care of us and for bringing Haley to be kind. I thank you for teaching us how to be more like you. Please help this world to become happy. I'm sorry for forgetting you. In Jesus, name Amen."

Suddenly God answered their prayers. The world started shaking then the world collapsed to the ground and the girls found themselves back on their old world - except it was new. Even Haley was there in the girl's world.

"Guys! Your world is scrumptious!" Haley said.

Then God spoke to them, "Good job girls. You have learnt a lesson and have seen what I can do." And the girls were happy. The girls then unpacked their bags, set up their sleepover cubby and told their parents. Then they happily went to sleep with Haley after a long day.

THE GREAT REALISATION

By Jeremy R and Bruce M

Anna was a thirteen year old girl. She lived with her sister, Mia, and, when they had time, they went to the lake near the front of their house. Their parents were very modern and had no time to play with them or look after them. So the girls kept themselves busy, fishing in the pond with sticks, creating new ways to try and get the fish to come to them. They also made cubbies around the side of their house and played games on the deck.

Mia was a smart seven year old girl and even so, she didn't want to be sent to boarding school. But her parents packed her and her sister away and sent them off, without even a wave. The girls sat down in their seats and miserably talked about how they longed to be home. But as Mia lifted her heavy bag up off her lap and put it up the top of the bag rack, everything started to go wrong.

Suddenly, the scene of the train changed. Everyone disappeared and they were no longer on a train. They were standing on the plain grass of a field, only without their bags. All that was near them was a mysterious set of bow and arrows. Anna, who was lucky enough to be enrolled in a school that taught her how to shoot, picked up the bow and arrows. She looked at a duck in front of her, took aim and shot it.

The girls, not knowing what else to do, ran to the duck. They

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collected sticks and Anna got a box of matches out of her pocket, as she was lucky enough to go to a school that taught her to never go anywhere without a box of matches - although they didn't learn much maths or English or proper school stuff.

They lit a fire and roasted the duck after plucking its feathers out. It was a messy business but it needed to be done and it was a part of life - their lives. After they ate their meal, they didn't feel sorry for the duck at all because it was a delicious lunch or dinner. They weren't sure which but it was getting dark so they decided it was dinner.

The girls tried to find a place to sleep and didn't dare keep walking because they were afraid of what might be in the woods in front of them. But they also didn't know where to go for sleep. After they had decided this, they walked to the woods and let the trees close up on the exit.

The woods had a magical feeling about it. It was filled with luscious ponds and great big evergreens and beautifully rich pads of grass spotted here and there. The girls loved walking through there. It was really what they needed after being shoved off a train, having no one to look after them at home and being sent to boarding school without a wave goodbye. But as they stooped down for a drink in a nearby pool of water in front of them, they realised there were three girls in the reflection, not two.

The other girl was beautiful. She had long, straight blond hair and deep blue eyes with a splurge of green in them. Her clothes were almost as beautiful as her freckled face. She was wearing blue shorts the colour of the pond in front of them. She also had on a pink shirt, as bright as the flowers on a Pamilia. Suddenly, it seemed as if everything had paused as the girls took it all in.

The girl introduced herself as Helen. Helen was eighteen

and had been in the woods, walking and travelling for over four years. She had no friends because her parents were overprotective. She was upset and hadn't talked to anyone but the trees and the animals that later on she killed to eat. She also got into that place the same way as they did, when she was fourteen. She had also received a set of bow and arrows as soon as she arrived.

Luckily, on the words, "Travelling for four years," the girls remembered the way back to the entrance, and their exit - they didn't want to walk for four years in that place! They took Helen with them only to find the trees would not let them pass. They were all clamped together and the magical feeling of the woods grew stronger inside each one of them.

They headed back and looked in another pool to take a drink. As they kneeled down, they saw another girl who wasn't there before. She had short green dyed hair and a flowing dress on her - a blue one. She too, had one bow and arrow and had got there the same way they had.

Now, it was about afternoon tea time, or snack hour as the sisters Mia and Anna called it. The fourth girl was named Marlee. The girls discovered she had arrived seven years ago, when she was four. Now she was eleven. She was going on a family trip, on a train, and had got there the same way they all did.

Mia, Anna, Helen and Marlee decided to not drink in the pools of water, and Helen and Marlee showed them what the difference was between the drinkable lakes and the pools. And from that day forward, they drank from the deep blue lakes. The three older girls shot animals whilst Mia lit the fire for the night. They ate the food and marched on, all through the night.

On the second day, when morning had come, they saw that the trees that were towering over them last night, blocking out

the stars, had cleared and now they could see the sun so warm and hear the waves of the ocean. They could see a clearing far ahead of them, an exit to a murky pond.

They ran toward the exit, glad to get out of the forest. But Helen and Marlee knew better. They had been there before and dipped their hands in, only to find the mud was stickier than glue. But as they looked to the left, there was a small bridge, just wide enough and thick enough for them to cross over it. They carefully crossed, one by one, thinking whether they would make it to the other side. Helen went first, then Marlee, then Mia, then Anna. Anna went last because she wanted to protect her sister. Helen went first because she wanted to protect everyone.

But this time, Anna was unlucky and the bridge broke under her weight. It had taken everyone else's but now it had taken too much. For on the second step, the bridge broke in half! Anna swam to the edge but found that she was stuck. The girls tried to pull her out but it took a while. Finally she got out and bathed in a lake, much to her relief.

The girls, shaken after Anna's fall, followed Helen, the oldest, then Anna behind her, the third oldest, then the youngest, Mia and finally Marlee, the second oldest. Helen tested all the bridges they crossed first, with courage. Then, still shaken, went Anna. Then the scared Mia and after her, Marlee. They stayed in this order for a while, until Marlee asked to be in the front. Everyone wanted to know why and Marlee explained that she felt guilty being last to cross, once she knew it was safe. So Helen and Marlee swapped and the girls were bored of discussing their places.

Finally, they saw a large mountain. Its snow capped peak shone in the sunset glow. The girls kept trailing on until they reached the foot of the mountain.

There were three doors and a sign that said they had to pick the

JEREMY R

right one or doom would fall upon them. Anna picked the first door and so did Mia but Marlee and Helen wanted the third. But the girls prayed to God and God lead them to the second door.

It lead them out to the grassy plain they first arrived on and Marlee realised she had a phone in her pocket for the whole time! So she gave it to Anna and all the girls said, "You could have told us!"

But then all the girls except for the youngest, Mia, realised they had phones too. So Anna dialled her cousins from New Zealand, caught a passing train that God sent them and all the girls went to live with Anna and Mia's cousins.

THE MYSTERIOUS OLD MAN

By Gym Queen and Kanga Lover

This story begins in a small and quiet cottage town...

In this town there lived the two best sisters for ever. They absolutely loved to hang out with each other. Their names were Keira and Emma. Keira was 9 and Emma was 14. Even though they were five years apart, they still loved to hang out.

So one morning they decided that they were going to go on a big adventure. To start their awesome adventure, they had to talk. Keira went to Emma's hide out and they talked. They said to each other at the same time, "If are going on an adventure then we need to pack!"

"Yes indeed you do," said Emma's mum. So they packed! It took them up to 10 minutes to pack but they eventually got to finish.

The next morning they left and they first arrived at the wet lands and it was muggy and gross. The only reason they went there was because it was only 13 km away from their hometown. "It smells gross out here," said Keira whilst blocking her nose.

"I know, but we will be out soon. We just need to walk a bit further but this time into the wet lands," Emma said.

"REALY!" said Keira in misery.

So they went through the wet lands and got drenched though it was worth it because on the other side was an amazing story.

After walking through the wet lands they found a pile of leaves. They rested the night on the leaves and the next morning they thought, "Should we go west or south?"

Then they both said at the same time, "South, west."

"Wait, you want to go south," said Emma.

"And you want to go west?" said Keira in confusion. "Umm, how can we solve this?" asked Keira.

"I know, we can umm... maybe we can... I mean we can pray," said Emma feeling great.

"Yeah, great idea," said Keira in delight. So they prayed first.

The oldest, Emma, went, "Dear, Heavenly Father, please help us get through our struggles and fear and figure out a way to see the path south or west, amen.

Then Keira prayed, "Dear, father, please bless us through where we walk and come closer to you, in Jesus name amen."

Then something dropped from the sky. They were glowing signs. One was red and said, "This is the great path of danger."

The other one was green and it said, "A peaceful walk ahead."

"Which one should we go through," said Keira sounding so confused.

"I know, green because God told me to choose the green one."

So they went through the green path and the path was right. It was a peaceful walk until they entered... a swamp. The swamp was spooky with vines growing up shacks and trees. After a while of silence, there was a noisy wind that blew the vines in their faces.

"Emma, I'm scared," said Keira with a scared tone.

"I know, I'm scared too but we need to stay calm because God will protect us," answered Emma.

Then the wind calmed down and there was a glimpse of a glowing shack. It was glowing because someone was living in it. They walked over to it and knocked on the door. Knock, knock! There was no answer so they knocked again. Knock knock! This time there was an answer!

There was an old but kind looking man who had answered the door who said, "Yes who is it?"

"Us, we're sisters!"

"Oh, ok, come in then."

They went and warmed up with the fire and drank hot chocolate with jumbo marshmallows in it. After they had finished, the man asked them if they could follow him so they did. He took them into his kitchen then he opened a small door that was hidden inside a cupboard. It was a portal that was coloured like a rainbow. Suddenly, in a click of a finger, they were pushed into the portal by the man.

"Ahh stop!" they said just before they were pushed in. But it was too late because they'd already been long gone from the shack.

After a while of travelling through the portal, they entered a place in the portal that was filled with sharp rocks. Slowly, they realised they weren't rocks but they were gems and crystals.

After they'd realised they were crystals, the portal stopped and dropped them in a cave - although the cave wasn't any ordinary cave. It was a wonderful one and surrounding them were gems and crystals flashing like flashlights. Then they realised that there were moving gems. It didn't make sense to them because they didn't think that gems moved. Because gems can't move, they must have been gem guards or creatures.

After a while of wondering, the creatures decided to come out.

"Gasp Gasp. Are those dogs but crystal Versions?" they said in great amazement.

The Crystal dogs then replied with, "Roof roof roof!"

They decided that because the crystal dogs were so cute, they would pull out their cameras and take pics. But the dogs didn't like that so they darted further into the cave. The girls didn't understand why they didn't want pics. Didn't they think they were cute?

After the dogs left, they just stood there and waited but they didn't come back. They decided that they would find them although this time not take photos just to make sure they didn't run away again.

Eventually, they found a place in the cave that was so magical, there were all sorts of things; gold, pearls, rainbow gems, diamond crowns and even more. After staring for at least 2 minutes, they saw something in the distance that looked like the gem dogs but they were asleep. The girls slowly approached the creatures so they wouldn't be woken. But that didn't work because they had their parents and they weren't happy about the girl in their home so the dogs growled and barked, "Grrrr woof woof woof!"

"Ok ok, calm down dogs, we don't want to hurt you," said Emma in a calm tone.

The girls left but they were happy that their friends (gem dogs) found their parents and home.

The question was, how would they get home? After working that idea for a while, they saw the same portal again so they jumped through it quite cautiously. But turned out, they didn't need to be cautious because the portal took them back to Emma's hide out.

They climbed out of the treehouse and told their parents about their crazy adventure. Sadly, they had to tell half of the story

because when they had got back it was 11: 00 at night. They had to tell their mum and dad that they would say the rest tomorrow. That night they certainly felt proud and amazingly tired.

AUDREY AND OLIVIA'S STRANGE HOLIDAY

By Gym Queen, D E Lightful and A. Star

One snowy and cold morning, two 16 year old girls named Audrey and Olivia lived together in a warm and cozy hut. They were such inseparable twins. Audrey was creative and good at sport. On the other hand, Olivia was a very adventurous teenager. That morning, they woke up only to realise that it was the school holidays. "Yay," screamed both of them furiously. "It's school holidays," they said at the exact same time.

"Well come on, let's go an adventure Olivia," said Audrey with excitement.

So they packed to go on a holiday trip to Canada. They reached the airport and went on to their flight and sat down in their seat B3. Their flight took off and took nearly 6 hours and to manage the six hours they watched the movie Chupa.

In the airplane, something suddenly came upon the screen. It was a mysterious, mythical creature. It was a thing that looked like a dragon cross dog with golden wings and a white fluffy body, with snake teeth but they were not curved.

"Warning, keep your doors and windows closed!" came the captain's voice.

Then suddenly something big knocked the plane around and

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turned it up side down and all around. "Ahh help!" they screamed loudly. Then they turned their heads towards the window in the plane and saw a glimpse of a golden wing. They wondered what it could have been. Was it the mysterious creature? Then they saw it again and it was the full body of the creature this time.

Gasp! "Look, we found the creature," they said in delight.

A while after, their plane started to land. When they got off the plane they called the taxi and it drove them to their hotel. The girls unpacked then went to the out of town area. When they got there, they saw the same creature they saw on the airplane.

They saw it getting hunted down by people in camo uniform with great powerful guns. The hunters managed to shoot the terrified creature in the leg and the creature fell right into Audrey's hands. So she and Olivia ran away with the creature. She tried to bandage the creature's leg while Olivia cleaned up the wound and let the creature know they were friendly.

"Where's your mother," said Olivia sadly.

"Grrra Grrra Grrr!"

"Okay, I guess you can't understand us and what we are saying," winked Audrey.

"Grrra Grrrrra"

"Wait, maybe it can understand, it just speaks a different language," said Olivia questioning herself.

"What should we call it?" the girls said.

"I know, let's call it Milly," Audrey said excitedly.

"Yeah great name," said Olivia.

After they named the creature, they hid her and snuck her in a small and cramped back pack. Then they hid themselves in a quiet cave that had a bad feeling to it. Suddenly, something was

behind them... It was a man!

"What are you doing here, this is the cave I research in?" growled the stranger.

"Umm, we are here because, well actually, we were just leaving," they said terrifiedly.

"No, you weren't! What's in that backpack!" he asked curiously.

"Nothing sir!"

But the man forced them to drop the bag on the ground so they did. Then he looked in the bag and realised they were the girls he was chasing. So he snatched the heavy bag and threw the creature in a laser beamed cage, then shooed the girls out of the cave and sent them far away. But they weren't giving up and they were determined to get Milly home to her precious family.

As they were walking home, they heard a voice say, "HEY OVER HERE!" They thought the voice was familiar but they didn't know who it was.

"What's your name?" asked Audrey.

"Hi, my name is Amanda," said the girl.

"Nice to know. Hey, I think I know you from somewhere?"

"Yeah you do. I'm your friend from way back," answered Amanda.

"Oh yeah, in that case, would you like help us to get our creature back?" replied Olivia.

"Sure thing, but what creature, I haven't heard about a creature?" answered Amanda.

"Well long story short, we saw this creature getting hunted. We saved her and named her Milly," replied Audrey.

After that whole conversation they planned how to get their beloved Milly back. They planned and planned until they

thought of an idea.

"Let's go to the back of the cave."

"Great idea Amanda," said Olivia.

"But any other ideas Amanda?" answered Audrey.

"No sorry."

So because nobody could think of anything else, they keep planning. Suddenly, they heard a rattling noise coming from the bush. At first they didn't care because in all movies it ends up just being a bunny but then, "Hello again," replied Milly's kidnapper.

"Oh no!"

"What, it's just a man."

"No it's not, it's the kidnapper."

Oh let's run then," said Amanda."

So they ran but they ran straight into a trap.

"Thought you could escape?"

The girl's didn't answer, they just stood there stranded. They couldn't believe their eyes... five thirsty eyes gleamed at them from the bushes.

"Hold," Milly's kidnapper said to the eyes. They must have been there all along.

About 6 minutes later, an old, dusty rag was thrown onto the trap and the girls got picked up and thrown. There was a tiny hole in the rag that was small enough to see through.

Amanda peeked through the hole and saw another cage. It looked familiar. Then BAM CRASH BOOM! They were thrown around side to side. After the racket stopped, Olivia looked through the hole and also saw the cage.

“We’re up in the air hanging up,” Olivia said swallowing all her spit.

“What? How, when, where,” the other two said in shock.

“Calm down!” Then Audrey peeked through the hole and Amanda could see that she didn’t feel right. She was unsteady and wobbly. Suddenly, Audrey fell to the metal cage floor and was breathing heavily.

“Audrey, calm down, slow breathing!” said Olivia. But she didn’t listen. She was too stressed and worried.

Olivia decided she would take another look through the hole. No wonder Audrey was so stressed, Milly was in the cage next door with a sleep dart in her wing. Whilst Olivia looked through the hole again she saw a key on the roof of the cage with a mouse trying to unravel it. The mouse made such a big racket trying to get that key it woke up Milly which was actually quite helpful. After Milly woke up, Audrey said to Milly to please use her claw to unlock her cage and then fly up and unlock the girl’s cage. So Milly did as Audrey said.

After they hopped out of the cage, they saw a long tunnel that led to a different world. They went through the tunnel and saw the most amazing thing they’d ever seen. Hundreds of thousands of dragon dogs; maybe even Milly’s parents. Just then, as they were speaking, they spotted Milly’s parents on the other side of a rainbow bridge that looked a bit unstable.

“If that bridge breaks, Milly won’t make it,” they said in fear.

Milly crossed the bridge unstably each time she took a step. The second piece of wood broke. Then CRASH CRACK, the bridge broke and Milly fell through.

“NOO NOO!”

5 MINUTES LATER... The girls all saw a wing. It was Milly’s wing. She’d learnt how to fly and thankfully made it. Milly’s family

waited at the other end for Milly and the girls said goodbye.

“Bye Milly, we’re going to miss you, see you later!”

“Grrra Grrra.”

Milly’s mum and dad thanked the girls for looking after Milly then they flew away together. Tears dropped as the girls waved goodbye and walked away to their own type of world.

The whole way home, only tears and no talking; just silence. Then suddenly, BASH! Milly came back to say her last goodbye and that was the last the girl’s ever saw or heard of Milly.

HOW DREAMLAND CHANGED FOR EVER

By Arwyn B

Arwyn B wrote this story because many people aren't grateful for their family and friends. This story is based upon sometimes you have to leave your friend...

Bella, the soon to be Dreamland keeper, stepped through the silent night air into the old abandoned library, closely followed by her spectacular friends Amaya and Shyla (the secret agents!). But you see this wasn't a normal library. There was something weird and quirky about it. As they stepped in, Shyla saw an old book on a thick wooden desk. The book was shackled tightly with golden chains. Obviously, someone or something must have wanted them to stay out of it!

Bella is by day an inquisitive, smart girl who is compassionate to everyone, even the not so nice ones. Amaya, on the other hand, is 1 year younger than Bella and incredibly brave and intelligent. Shyla, the quietest of the three, is the complete the opposite of Bella and Amaya. She runs from everything that is new to her. As they prepared for what may lie ahead, Bella, Amaya and Shyla knew they would need to rely on each other more than ever!

As Amaya and Bella looked through the library, Shyla thought, "Why would anyone try to lock this amazing book away?" Later she would probably think completely differently! Little did she know, Amaya was about to unlock a secret they would never forget! As Shyla was lost in her thoughts, Amaya sneakily picked the lock with Shyla's favourite bobby pin. Seconds later, a blinding beam of light filled the library!

"Amaya, what did you do?" Shyla exclaimed, with a surprised but uneasy voice.

"Um nothing much, except teleport us to a completely different place, NOTHIN MUCH!"

"Bella, Bella where are you?" cried Shyla with a streak of fear in her voice.

"I'm right here," said Bella. "But I think I hurt my leg."

As Amaya approached Bella, "EWE, THAT'S DISGUSTING!"

There was a sort of blue glowing gloop sliding out of Bella's shin. Bella was wondering... "Why is my shin covered in disturbing blue coloured gloop?"

When Bella was trying to get up, her shin didn't ache anymore. "OK, THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS WORLD!" said Bella in the sound of disgust!

"Okay, first my leg was oozing out with blue gloop, and after 5 minutes, it's all better," she thought to herself.

"Yeah, this place is seriously weird," shrieked Amaya. For once she seemed to have a bit of concern in her high pitched voice!

As Shyla climbed a boulder to get a better view, she saw something she never thought she would ever see again!

It was the magical book from the library but there seemed to be something even more mysterious about it this time! The chains on the book had gold engraved writing that said, "ABORT YOUR

MISSION NOW OR ELSE!" Amaya obviously couldn't have read that in the dark!

"OKAY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW, WE ARE STUCK IN THIS PLACE. NO ONE KNOWS WHERE WE ARE!" said Shyla crankily. "WE HAVE NO FOOD AND WATER, NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!"

"Calm down Shyla, there is nothing we need to be worried about," said Amaya peacefully.

"Wait, if we came in through the book, maybe we can get out through it?" replied Shyla hopefully!

Amaya and Bella held the book wide open. Shyla obviously ran straight towards the book. And of course, she ran right into it! Feeling frustrated, Shyla kicked and tried to rip out the pages, but the magical paper refused to budge. Her head began to ache and froth in pain. That's when Shyla realised the chapter had a picture of what they were doing! "WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN THAT WE ARE A PART OF THE BOOK?"

Amaya quietly and slowly added, "Wait, so if we're a part of the book, then that means there's going to be a problem, and in ancient stories there's usually a BIG PROBLEM!"

"OKAY, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AT ALL!" said Shyla with sarcasm. "We are still in the first couple of chapters aren't we?"

"Maybe we should try to read ahead so we have a better idea of what is happening?" said Bella.

Shyla turned the first couple of pages. "ANYTHING YET!" said Amaya impatiently. Shyla was looking very confused!

"WHAT'S WRONG?" said Bella.

"I don't understand, there's no pages, just plain old blank!" said Shyla in worry.

"Wait, I've read about these types of books, they're called the

NOT SO HAPPILY EVER AFTER," said Bella.

"Great, now I am scared. Thanks a lot!" replied Amaya sarcastically.

But suddenly Bella had a brilliant idea. "Wait, I think I know how we can get out of here." All of a sudden, Bella stopped talking, her lush green eyes turned black, her mouth widened, light shone behind her and they heard the voice of a strange, mysterious creature speak, "WE NEED YOUR HELP IN DREAMLAND AS THERE'S A BIG THREAT HERE. PLEASE, I WILL TELL YOU MORE WHEN I SEE YOU!"

"Okay that's something you don't hear everyday," thought three girls together.

"Let's go now!"

As they made their way through the strange forest, the girls noticed that even the pixies were looking nervous. They were hiding in the trees and bumping into each other. "Wow," thought Shyla, "something scary must have happened here!"

Suddenly, a large winged deer with gentle eyes appeared ahead. It was silently perched in a tree. Shyla knew at once that it was the same creature that had asked for their help in Dreamland. The creature's gentle and expectant eyes suggested it was expecting them.

"FINALLY, YOU HAVE COME HERE!"

"Why did you want us?" replied Bella.

"Okay, I will tell you but we have to be very quiet as this story is forbidden to tell!" whispered the deer.

She hesitated before beginning; "It all started 548 years ago when our world used to be all covered in flowers and had every animal drinking at the Redmond Billabong. That was until Hayden arrived. He didn't like how our peaceful and magical world was being run. So he decided to lock up all the animals

in a high security palace with two guards at each cell. Not only that, he put a toxic algae bloom in the Great Redmond Billabong, so our animal friends could no longer drink clean water. Next he tried to strip all the pixies of their magic and sell it at the black market for up to 1 million dollars for each tiny pinch. PLEASE, WE NEED YOU TO DEFEAT HAYDEN AND RESTORE OUR WORLD. WE KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!"

The winged creature had filled the girl's hearts with courage. YES, they would help and they were determined to succeed! The now brave girls set off on their mission, promising the winged deer they would find the missing animals!

As the girls continued on the forest path, they spotted a big muscular man knocking on a big rock. Knock-y knock-y knock knock!

"That's actually kind of catchy," said Shyla.

"DON'T GET DISTRACTED!" said Amaya with annoyance in her voice.

The girls crept silently towards what they could now see was an old, stone jail entrance leading to a massive animal stables. It was surrounded by what appeared to be deadly razor wire.

Bella noticed the same guard she has seen previously. Shyla spotted six guards walk out from one stable! Suddenly, one of the guards spotted Shyla in the corner of his big bulgy eye!

"LOOK OVER THERE, A GIRL, OVER THERE, OVER THERE! ARE YOU BLIND, CAN'T YOU SEE HER?"

"UM BOSHQWEEW, ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?"

"YES I'M FINE!"

The guards rushed towards the spot where Shyla had been hiding but when they got there she was nowhere to be seen. The guards stared left and right but saw nothing, absolutely nothing. "You don't understand, she was there!"

"Sure she was," said one of the other guards!

As the girls crouched behind one of the weird looking plants, they caught sight of a familiar animal in the distance. It looked very similar to a normal deer except it had magnificently beautiful feathered wings. "YES! GIRLS, WE MIGHT HAVE OUR TICKET OUT HERE!" Bella exclaimed.

"Okay, let's head to the stables to find our ticket," responded Shyla with an excited but bold voice.

The stables were dark and had only one window in the whole building.

"I don't think the animals have been cared for very well!" remarked Amaya.

As they explored through the dimly lit stable, they kept stepping on something crunchy, but had absolutely no idea what they were stepping on. Pen after pen, the determined girls flicked the little latch on the doors, hoping that any animals that lived there may be able to escape. Surprisingly, none of the guards were paying attention and the girls got away with their mission, until the last pen!

Suddenly, there it was. The magnificent creature! The winged deer was in the last stable. At the same time, the girls became aware of a herd of animals of all shapes and sizes walking behind them. It was as if all the animals knew what the girls were thinking and they were slowly following them out.

As the girls shoved the last of the animals towards an escape route, Bella's very favourite creature, the winged deer, tumbled to the ground. There was a big thud and the guards looked down and suddenly noticed what was happening.

All the animals ran out the door like there was no tomorrow! Amaya and Shyla raced with the animals to make sure none were left behind. But Bella stayed with the creature. She tried to lift it up but as soon as she did it would just toppled down seconds

later.

“DON'T GIVE UP ON ME!” its gentle eyes pleaded.

The creature would try with all its might to get up but it just couldn't.

The guards were moving quickly in their direction so Bella, thinking quickly, dragged the creature to the window and grabbed out a weed and fed it to the poor creature.

“Here have this!”

The creature ate it with absolute delight, and then licked its big, bulgy lips. It stood up, and lifted its hoof, like it wanted Bella to get on it. So she did! The creature jumped out of the small window and galloped until it could glide in the air. Bella and the creature were in the air gliding together, just the creature and her! They gracefully headed back towards earth and their friends, and landed perfectly.

“Come on, let's see if our new friend can take us back home!” said Amaya.

Bella responded, “Actually, I've been thinking about that. Maybe I should stay here and take care of the animals. We need to make sure Hayden doesn't take over again. Someone needs to do it!”

“Buttttt... what about us, we're the inseparable sisters. How could you do this to us - whaaat?” pleaded Shyla.

Suddenly, a quiet voice in Shyla's head seemed to say, “Let her do what she wants. It's her decision.”

“How can you just let her go?” yelled Amaya, clearly frustrated.

Suddenly, Shyla's eyes filled with tears, but she tried to smile through them.

As Shyla's face was filling with tears, “Don't cry for me, feel happy for me!”

Then Shyla gave Bella the biggest hug she had ever done! “Shyla, it's time to go!” said Amaya.

“Goodbye, remember me!” said Shyla, overcome with emotion as her and Amaya stepped back through the portal.

Shyla hit something hard and she was on the ground in her room. She quickly got up and called Bella's parents. She wasn't there!

“But I don't understand, I was just dreaming, you mean she's actually gone?”

“Yes, I'm afraid she hasn't woken up yet and we've been trying since 5.30 this morning!”

So remember...

Don't ever let go of your friends, they will always be there for you!

TWO WEEKS LATER...

It was finally time to say good bye to Bella. The rain was pouring down on Shyla's face and she knew it was time. The worst part of it all, was that Amaya wasn't there, she was on a holiday in Hawaii. Looks like it's just me, AGAIN!

I was walking down the small pavers to Bella's house. All the memories here used to be good, but now I can never forget the sharp pain! I knew I shouldn't have let her stay! After the funeral I was never the same. Never was, never will be!

DREAMLAND: THE RETURNING OF THE LOST

By Arwyn B

Shyla still hadn't gotten over the death of Bella and things were just getting worse by the day. Shyla's dad died in a car fire, and she saw it happen. Amaya enjoyed her holiday so much that her family had decided to move to Hawaii. Now Shyla had to face even more challenging challenges than ever before.

Shyla had just about snapped, but she thought of an amazing plan that no one would ever know. She would escape the world and go back to Dreamland so she could be reunited with her one and only best friend. She was sure her family wouldn't miss her. She was going to do it at 12:30 at night; going to escape to the old library and find Bella, once again.

Shyla had missed her so much and all her family blamed Shyla for her dad's death, so there was only one way, and that was to run away from them. At that time, Shyla thought her plan was cunning and amazing, and that no one would find out or follow her, but clearly she was wrong. It would just cause more pain.

As Shyla packed her bags ready to leave, she had to think through her plan all over again. She had recited the plan so many times that she'd almost memorised it, so off she went. It was quite a

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hard track, but Shyla managed to make it to the Library in only three hours.

She had to do it fast because the next day it would be demolished. An idea struck into Shyla's head. If they demolish the Library, they demolish the portal! She would have to find the source of the portal and take it with her, so she would have a connection with the two different realms.

Shyla had to sneak past all the rusty machinery until she finally got to a padlocked door. She got her dad's bolt cutters out of her bag, and she took her chances and cut it open. It was empty!

Looking over the library again and again, there seemed to be nothing, so Shyla stepped in, and the floorboard creaked. It sounded like a scream but she didn't have time to think of that. Shyla stepped in more courageously than ever, forgetting her whole plan. Instead of stepping in the path of faith in God, she was stepping in fury and greed, until she saw one floor board that looked familiar. She picked it up and the book was under there. As soon as Shyla saw it, she picked it up with greed, not thinking of the consequences. She grabbed the book and opened it, and the light shone once again in the old library.

Closing her eyes, Shyla tried to remember what Dreamland was like. In no time at all, she was there, but there was something different. Had Bella stayed in Dreamland all for nothing?

It was dark like it had been before the trio had come. There were no animals in sight; there was no greenery. Shyla was infuriated and she just couldn't believe what had happened there. She walked on, until she saw what was the old jail, except it had turned into a ragged looking palace. What had happened to the kind hearted Bella? Had she turned evil, or did she just betray her friends?

Shyla's lips were trembling but she walked on until she was at the steps of the palace. She knocked on the door more courageously than ever, prepared to see what had happened to

Bella. There was this familiar girl that answered the door. It was Amaya. Shyla was seriously confused as she had thought that Amaya was in Hawaii living her dreams. But no, Amaya was Bella's slave. Shyla just couldn't believe it. She asked, "What happened here, why are you here?"

Amaya replied, "I don't think it's best to ask questions around here, it's not safe to."

"What's not safe about it?" Shyla said in furry.

"Just promise me you won't," said Amaya sadly.

"Fine, but I'm not happy about it."

Shyla walked in forcefully, finally scared for what she may be about to see. But, she walked into this strange room with a huge throne in the middle. She couldn't believe her eyes as in that throne, was Bella.

She looked so different. Instead of the kind gentle eyes, she had eyes full of putrid and hate. Instead of a kind smile, she had a smile that said, "I don't care." Shyla was just struggling to take it all in. What had happened to the sweetest person in the world?

Shyla asked, "What happened to you?"

Bella just didn't reply, she just stared, but by that stare, Shyla knew what it meant. Before Shyla could talk again, Amaya took her out of the room.

"I told you not to ask questions!" Amaya said seeming annoyed.

"Why did you lie to me?"

"I had to. It was the only way of keeping you safe!"

"What happened to Bella?"

"It's a long, but painful story."

Then silence fell in between them. Just then her eyes went

blurry, and then it all went black.

Shyla found herself in the small narrow room that was painted white and had a picture of a horse on the wall. She was tied up on the small chair, and had rope tied around her hands. She had been kidnapped by her own best friends! What could she do now? Just then she remembered a Bible verse; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse to you, pray for those who mistreat you. That Bible verse she had remembered from kid's church the week earlier.

Shyla realised she was so sad about her life, and she forgot about the good things in life, but there was still one question to be asked - what had happened to Bella?

Shyla knew that she needed to ask this question straight away, but needed to make it sound like it wasn't a question, but instead of thinking of what she was about to say, she just blurted out the one question Bella didn't want to be asked. She didn't remember that the tongue is the most powerful part of your body. "What happened to you, not a day goes by without me thinking of you Bella, and since you died, I've never been the same!" said Shyla in a very dramatic voice.

"What, I died!" shrieked Bella.

"I had this voice inside me that was telling me to do all these wrong things, such as put every animal back in labour, drain all the Redmond Billabong, and do much more horrid things. I could never forgive myself for what I had done. Since I had done putrid things, I thought I might as well live the rest of my life as a horrible person, so that's what happened!"

"Why didn't you just pray? Everyone does bad things. Just talk to God and apologise for doing wrong. God will always forgive us no matter what for we are his children?"

Bella was still trying to get over the fact that she was dead, but why hadn't she gone up to Heaven? Bella was extremely

confused and had no idea what to do next, but Shyla had a fantastic idea. “What if we fix all the wrong things you have done?”

“That’s a great idea!” said Bella with enthusiasm and hope.

First, they let out all the animals and gave them fresh hay and water. Then they filled the Redmond Billabong with only the freshest water in the world, only from the finest of rain in all of Dreamland. Then they sat quietly and asked for God’s forgiveness.

It was almost sunset, but instead of it getting darker, it just got lighter and the cross that had always been in Dreamland lit up. It started vibrating and then Bella went off the ground. She was getting higher and higher and when she was about 30 centimetres off the ground, she started to glow in a vibrant gold colour. But she was just too overjoyed that she was finally going to Heaven.

Shyla was happy for Bella, but deep down, she was sad and angry that she would have to leave her friend all over again. Shyla thought everything was getting better, but she knew what was best for her friend although she was still struggling to let go of Bella this time. She knew this would definitely be the last time seeing her, but she knew what was right for her friend. Forcefully smiling, she manage to hold back bucket loads of tears.

Before Shyla could say goodbye to Bella, Shyla felt something warm inside her chest, and she knew God’s plan. But when she opened her eyes again, Bella was gone, and so was Amaya.

Shyla had thought she had lost everything. She lost her dad, her two best friends, and her family’s love and trust. But the one thing she didn’t lose, was God’s love. God will never leave us stranded. He loves us so much that he gave his one and only son to save our souls.

From that moment on, Shyla had remembered a Bible verse Bella always used to say; “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not lean on your understanding! In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight paths.” She took this Bible verse with her for the rest of her life. She found it hard to convince her family that it wasn’t her fault that her dad had died, but in the end they believed her.

A few months later...

Shyla had moved to Donnybrook with her family. She had to go to a new school, a new house, but most of all, make new friends. Shyla knew she could never ever replace Bella and Amaya, but thought it would be good to try and make new friends. Shyla thought that she might as well not dread in the past.

From that day forward, she had the best life she could ever ask for. She got married, got a great job, had many children and lived to a very old age.

Dreamland will be discovered, but will it be discovered by the right people. Or will it fall into the hands of evil?

About the Author...

Arwyn B is a young horse loving girl from Western Australia. She got her pen name from one of the horses she absolutely adores! Even though she is a young author, she believes that young people can write just as well as adults.

She is also a Christian girl and has a very supporting family. She lives on a big and beautiful farm! Arwyn B has faced a lot of challenges in her life so far, but has a very bright and enthusiastic personality.

JEREMY R

Arwyn B tries to find the good in everyone. She has ADHD and people think that because of that, people aren't smart, but she likes to prove them wrong!

THE DRAGON'S HELP

By Jeremy R

About the author...

Jeremy R is a young author who has written about a million amazing stories so far and is still yet to write even more. She is inspiring in every way and loves to help others so much! She is a Christian and hopes that her stories inspire you to learn more about the Lord.

You are a promising middle-aged Marine Biologist. You're on a trip to Wiley Beach in Esperance, WA (It's your favourite place!). You need to uncover what lies beyond the sea floor. A feeling something is lurking at your favourite beach has been bugging you for ages. You can stop that feeling when your mission is complete.

Under the sea's surface, things look completely normal. But something smells fishy even though you are wearing a diving mask! You feel cornered although nothing is in front of you. So you look behind and see the biggest sea serpent to be known in anyone's life (also the only one). You are concerned! Out in that empty ocean, your phobia of sharks becomes more terrifying than ever. You would never swim with sharks, let alone sea

JEREMY R

serpents.

You turn away and suddenly a dragon slashes the monster with its tail, killing it. Now you're astonished. But you feel like God had sent help and he'll protect you. So you carry on, still shaken, until before you two trenches lay.

You try to swim away but suddenly you are sucked in front of the trenches. You try to turn but find you are bounded and held back by chains attached to a shipwreck. You can only see blackness and suddenly a voice speaks out, "Pick a trench. The first will lead to innumerable amounts of treasure and freedom if you are not greedy. The second leads straight to freedom."

You decide to go to the treasure and your greediness brings you to take it. Instantly, chains hold you down and you find you can't breathe.

You drop the treasure and instantly you are free! You swim out of the dark opening, opposite to the way you came. And then you think, "I have no idea how to get back to any civilisation." But overhead, a big shadow overpowers you. You look up and see the same dragon that helped you with the sea serpent. He claws for you and grabs for you. His giant claws stick into your skin but you don't mind because land is near. Finally, your feet touch wet land. It's wet because you're on the sand just in front of the lapping waves. You run away from that beach, looking back.

The dragon is gone. As you run out, you see a sign saying, "RECENT SHARK SIGHTING." You never return to your 'favourite' beach. You didn't know there were sharks!

As soon as the waves can't be heard or seen, you drop and kiss the road in front of you. You are so glad to be home. You thank God for his help and you think of the funny times you had in the ocean. God gave you faith!

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ANTI-GRAVITY CATASTROPHE

By The Bubbly Butterfly

I have never told a soul about the day that our entire school turned upside down all because of a tiny seed. Maria and Harry were sitting in class staring at the ticking clock. Tick! Tock! “So first you pour in the sparkling water and sprinkle some salt on top,” said Professor Scum, as the whole class were slumping into their chairs waiting for the bell to ring. Maria and Harry were so bored that they would rather be watching paint dry.

“Hey, Professor, what is that?” questioned Harry, staring at a tiny purple seed that was locked in a glass box.

“Oh that! That’s just one of my failed experiments,” replied Professor Scum. “You can have it if you want, but just to be safe, I’ll try it out with you.”

“What is it meant to do?” said Maria trying not to seem worried.

“Well, it was meant to grow into a big tree that could lift up anything that’s precious to you, put it inside it’s very own bark and keep it safe in case of any thieves. It’s quite useful actually, but I find it hard to believe that it’ll work, although I know it won’t because I mixed up the ingredients.”

Ding-a-ling! went the bell. All the students scurried out and went home.

As Maria and Harry walked to school the next day, they entered

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the school and Harry was holding the tiny purple seed in his hand. They ran in to Professor Scum who was dressed in full protection. “What’s that for?” asked Maria like she had just seen a ghost.

“Well, we are doing an experiment that could go extremely wrong,” replied Professor Scum.

“Or, nothing could happen,” said Harry feeling confident.

“Well you don’t know that for sure,” said Professor Scum as he planted the purple seed with caution.

The day passed, then the next and the next. By Professor Scum’s surprise the tree grew in just a week! On Monday, students were standing all around the swishing purple tree.

“Now, the moment we’ve been waiting for,” said Professor Scum holding out a paper clip that lay in his hand. With their surprise, the tree reached out for the paperclip, but, instead it grasped Professor Scum! “Ahhhhh!” he yelled as he dropped the paper clip. Dr Scum was now completely covered in purple dust as he floated higher and higher up into the sky.

As the mighty beast started to grow a face it reached for children, and one by one they all started floating high up into the air, some grabbing onto whatever they could find. As the children got so high up they started to come down, but immediately rose up again once they hit the ground. It was complete mayhem! As terror struck, the terrifying tree took hold of the school and, you guessed it, the school floated into the air! There was nothing to do as everyone was floating up and down... except for...

... Maria and Harry, who were hiding behind the playground equipment ever since this catastrophe started. Soon Dr Scum came down and hit the ground and all the purple dust came off, but Dr Scum was wearing a tank top with shorts. “This was the only way that I could escape this Gravity!” shouted Professor

JEREMY R

Scum feeling embarrassed. As Maria and Harry looked up they saw Professor Scum's protective suit soar higher and higher.

"Well now what do we do?" said Maria stressfully.

"You'll see," said Professor Scum as he was trying to act heroic.

"Now kids, tell me what a tree's biggest weakness is?" said Professor Scum.

"Ummmm... a saw?" requested Harry.

"Think bigger!"

"A chainsaw?" replied Maria.

"Think bigger!"

"A shredder?" said Harry.

"Oh for goodness sake! A mulcher!" said Professor Scum finally because he was starting to burn up.

As quick as a flash, they got to the shop and loaded the massive mulcher onto the back of a truck, brought it to the lawn and started wondering how they were going to get the purple beast to fall into their trap.

"Ok, so what lures a tree. Actually don't answer that, we can't waste any more time," said Professor Scum.

Rushing, Professor Scum bought some fertiliser and started sprinkling it in one long line that led to the mulcher. As soon as the tree glanced to the left and sniffed the air, it was walking with big steps; "THUMP, THUMP!" all the way to its doom.

"Everyone take cover!" yelled Professor Scum, "in case little pieces of wood come flying everywhere."

"CrUSh!" went the tree as it got destroyed by the mulcher. With no force from the tree, everything and everyone were safely on the ground.

Proof