

CHAPTER 1: THE MISSING

(Introduction)

1 (title)

Let me tell you one story of Droppy and Droppo.

- Hello! I am Droppy! I'm eleven years old! I am European.
 - Hello! I'm Droppo! I am Droppy's brother! I'm ten years old and I am European too.
 - We live in Le Havre, France - says Droppy.
 - We have finished school and we want to travel for holidays! - says Droppo.- Where can we go?
 - We can visit our friends in Europe!! - exclaims Droppy.
 - That's a great idea! I want to learn about their culture and traditions!
 - Let's start visiting Spain!
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First, they have to prepare their luggage.

- What can we bring to our trip? - asks Droppo.
- Let's think... - answers Droppy.- some trousers, jumpers, t-shirts, trainers, socks...
- And the pyjamas and a toothbrush! That is very important!
- Yes, Droppo, thank you!! And a map!
- I am happy! I love travelling! - says Droppo.
- Me too!

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Later, they go to the airport.

- We are at the airport. - says Droppo.
- Oh! The flight is delayed because there is a lot of traffic. - observes Droppy.
- Let's check our luggage. Do we have anything we need?
- Well, I think we should buy a tourist guide, so we can discover what cities and monuments are famous in each country.- answers Droppy.

After buying the tourist guide, they sit in the waiting room to check their luggage:

- Oh no! My bag is empty! Where are my things? - says Droppy very nervous.
- I don't know! Look! My bag is empty too! - Droppo starts crying.- What can we do now? Where are our clothes?
- I have an idea! I think we can buy new things in every country we visit. - proposes Droppy.

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Twelve minutes later, Droppy and Droppo take the plane and take off to Spain. From the plane, they see all their things in the beach of Le Havre!!

CHAPTER 2: FIRST SUCCESS

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Droppy and Droppo land in Spain. After a short nap, they decide to go sightseeing. They choose to visit a famous Spanish tower in Valencia.

- This is a beautiful place, don't you think? – says Droppy.
- Yes, it is really amazing!

Droppy and Droppo go and explore the tower. After a while they meet a lady dressed in a traditional costume wearing a crown. It turns out that she is a tour guide.

- Do you know that Serrano Tower was very important in medieval times? It used to defend the city. This was also a gate to the city where kings were warmly welcomed. – explains the lady.
- Oh! That's interesting! – says Droppy.
- Can we go up and see the panorama of the city? – asks Droppo.
- Yes, you can. – answers the lady.

They go to the top of the tower.

- Wow! What a breathtaking view! – says Droppy.
- Yes, you're right. – Droppo agrees.

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Suddenly Droppy receives a text message. It's from a secret friend that has got all their clothes. To get them back they have to collect six objects from different countries around Europe.

- What shall we buy for our secret friend? – asks Droppy.

- I think it would be a good idea to buy something typical from each country. – proposes Droppo.
- What do you suggest?
- How about a Spanish fan? It is associated with famous Spanish dance – flamenco.
- What a wonderful idea!
- Ok, let's buy one.

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After an hour.

- It's nice that we have our first object. Now, we are supposed to go to Poland. – says Droppy.
- Let's go by train. – proposes Droppo.

Droppy and Droppo go to the train station. They buy the tickets.

- I am so excited about our next journey. – says Droppy.
- Yes. I heard that Poland is really amazing.
- And people are very friendly and hospitable.
- We need to hurry. Go go go Droppo!
- Yes Droppy.

At 3 p.m. the train leaves the station and the boys travel to Poland.

CHAPTER 3: A POLISH EXPERIENCE

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Droppy and Droppo are walking in the city of Poznań, a city of Poland, enjoying the sunny day.

- Poznan a beautiful city of Poland, said Droppy.
- I have read that many tourists visit Poznań to see the famous Old Town Hall building. I think that we should go to see it too, proposed Droppo.

After a few minutes they came across a huge building.

- Wow! I am really impressed!!! said Droppy.
- I have never seen such a tall building! agreed Droppo.
- It looks the same from all sides, noticed Droppy.

- The tourist guide mentions that the Old Town Hall is 90 metres high. It used to serve as the Seat of local government until 1939. At the top of the clock you can see two mechanical goats fighting one another.
- Many festivals and performances by famous international artists are hosted at the square outside of the building!! Said Droppo.
- I think we have to go inside and see the most important parts of it, proposed Droppy.
- There are too many offices inside, but the most interesting is that there is a historical museum. We have to go up to the terrace on the last floor as well, to enjoy the panoramic view of the city.
- That's a wonderful idea!!!

As long as they were on the roof of the tall building, Droppy and Droppo enjoyed a traditional folk festival with Polska dances in the square.

- Hey, Droppo! I think we should buy a pair of red dancing boots for our secret friend. It is a very typical gift designed for the traditional Polska dances.
- What a great idea Droppy! You are so right! The Polish folk dance is the most joyful spectacle for any tourist and the red hand- made boots are so related to them. Let's buy them for our secret friend.

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- Just on time! Here is the new text from our friend, Droppo. We have to get ready for our next stop to Cyprus!

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The next morning they got on the plane and they started their trip to Cyprus. They were really happy and anxious to meet and explore a new country.

They were staring from the window, talking about everything new they have learnt from every country they visited so far.

- Droppo! Look! What's that? It looks like a big forest!
- Yes, that is a forest! In fact it is Troodos! I've heard that Troodos is the largest mountain of Cyprus.
- Wow! We are going very fast! That means that we are really close to Cyprus! I can't wait to meet new places and new people!
- Yes Droppy!!! I am ready!!!

Chapter 4: Chalice of Water

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Droppy and Droppo arrive at Pafos. They see a fortress, which was built into the sea. They are very interested in this monument. They decide to visit it.

First they go to the throne chamber. After that, they climb the tower to have a magnificent view over the whole city. From there they also see the beautiful colored fishing boats in the port.

Droppy and Droppo love the sea, so they decide to go to the beach. Both of them like swimming.

In the evening they come back to Pafos and surprisingly they see a firework. A group of young Cyprian tells them:

- We are celebrating a big festival because Pafos became Europe's Capital of Culture this year. We are very proud. Come and join us. We will teach you one of our most famous dances.

Droppy and Droppo enjoy the party and they are amusing the whole night. On top, both got a typical traditional costume as a present. This costume looks amazingly good on them.

As they go to bed late after midnight, they remember to buy a souvenir, which has to be typical for Cyprus.

- Let's have a sleep. Maybe tomorrow we will come up with an idea.
- Allright! Good night, Droppy.
- Good night, Droppo.

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The next day at breakfast, they are still brainstorming what kind of souvenir they can get for their secret friend. The waiter recognizes the desperate friends and he recommends them to go to the famous fountain of Peyia.

- Who has a pain in his heart, can heal it by drinking a chalice of water from the fountain.
- Thank you! That is exactly what we needed.

They go out immediately by taking a cap to quickly drink from this miracle water. At the beautiful square in front of the fountain they recognize beautiful young girls getting water in lovely clay jugs. Droppy likes that.

Suddenly he shouts:

- I got it! Now I know, which object becomes our souvenir. Let's buy such a jar.

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- Puh! Just in time!
- Yeah, we have to hurry. Our flight to Germany is in two hours.

Droppy and Droppo leave Cyprus happily and satisfied. That was a beautiful trip.

- Thank you for this great time, Droppy!
- Thank you, too, Droppo!

Chapter 5: Adventures in castles and at Legoland

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Droppy and Droppo land in Bavaria, Germany.

- Hey, it's 31st October! (Droppo)
- You are right, it's Halloween. (Droppy)
- But we haven't got a Halloween costume!
- How can we make one?
- I've got an idea! We can use sheets and dress up as ghosts!

They go tricking and treating through Bavaria Castles and they arrive at the beautiful Neuschwanstein Castle.

They knock at the door and two children open. The girl is dressed in the typical dirndl costume. The girl says:

- Hello, my name's Agnes and this is my brother Emil. Neuschwanstein is one of the most popular castles in Europe. Every year 1.4 million people visit it. Ludwig II, King of Bavaria built it. It is based on Christian kingship in the Middle Ages.

Droppy and Droppo have dinner with their new friends.

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The day after Droppo and Droppy decide to go to Legoland.

They take a map with all the attractions.

First, they take a ride on a roller coaster.

After a long morning, it's lunch time.

- I'm very hungry! (Droppo)

- Let's eat: A la Carte Steakhouse in Legoland. (Droppy)
- We can eat the delicious Brotsuppe!

Later...

- Let's go and see the exhibitions: Star Wars characters including Yoda, and Darth Vader, R2D2, Luke, Mincity Germany and Lego zoo. (Droppy)
- Ok, I'm sure I'll love them!

Droppy and Droppo are very tired, but they go on the last roller coaster before leaving the park.

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In the end, they go to the parking site and catch the bus to Italy.

- I can't wait! (Droppo)
- Me too! Who knows what Italy will be like!

However, the two boys are worried, because they can't find a souvenir.

- I'm worried, we haven't found a souvenir (Droppy)
- Let's wait and hope! (Droppo)

The bus stops at a motorway service area in Bavaria. Droppy and Droppo are hungry and they have a glass of milk with traditional German biscuits: Lebkuchen.

- These biscuits are fantastic! (Droppo)
- Yes, they are! I love them! (Droppy)
- Let's buy them! (Droppo)
- Can you tell us about these biscuits? - Droppy asks the shop assistant.
- They are typical German zingy biscuits. They are made at Christmas, but we also have them all the year round. (Shop assistant)
- Wow! (Droppo)

They buy the biscuits and get on the bus.

- It's time to go to Italy!

CHAPTER 6: souvenir from Italy

Droppy asks Droppo :

- Can we visit the Lanterna? I've just heard an old couple talking about it, it's in Genova.

Droppo takes time to answer.

- Please can we go to the Lanterna? Many people go and come back saying that the Lanterna is fantastic, beautiful and big! Can we go, please, Droppo?
- Ok we will go when we reach Italy.

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Once in Genova, they walk up a steep slope that leads to the Lanterna. They see a tour guide with a group of tourists. They approach and ask some questions :

- How high is the Lanterna ?
- It's 117 meters high, answers the guide.
- How many steps ? asks Droppy
- There are 172 steps, answers the guide.
- Wow ! It's a lot !
- Is it true that the Lanterna was rebuilt in 1543 ?
- It's true but it was built in 1128.

They visit the lighthouse and become friends with a group of young people. Then they leave.

- It was great! exclaims Droppy
- It made me hungry! says Droppo

They decide to go to the restaurant.

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In front of the restaurant, they see a man and his Ferrari.

- Look at this beautiful car, Droppo!
- Wow !

They go towards the Ferrari.

- Hello Mister, can we take a ride, please? It's to visit Italy.

The man thinks about it and says to himself « they look nice... »

- Yes, you can get on my Ferrari, answers the man.

1h30 later, the friends ask:

- Where are we?
- We are in Pisa.
- The view is beautiful. Look at this funny tower !

The man shows them the city and goes with them to the airport.

- It was very funny. We should find a gift that makes us think about the Ferrari. It's an Italian brand after all.
- Wow, this model car is beautiful. Can we buy it Droppo?
- Yes !

Droppy and Droppo proceed to the boarding gate. Suddenly, Droppy gets a message from the secret friend:

Think about my Italian gift if you want your clothes back. Saturday, 6pm on the beach of Le Havre.

- Phew! We have already found the gift...

In the plane to France, Droppo asks Droppy:

- Who can it be? A girl or a boy ?
- We will know tomorrow.
- Do you think we will really get our clothes back?
- I hope so, answers Droppy.

EPILOGUE

On Saturday, around 5:55 pm, Droppy and Droppo arrive to the beach. They see a lot of people and they don't know where their secret friend is.

Suddenly, Droppy receives a message:

I am on the left of the big rock that looks like a bear.

The two brothers go close to the rock. They see someone sitting. They get closer and recognize their friend.

- Why, it's you, Droppa! Why did you do that? Where are our clothes? says Droppy
- Give me the presents first and I will give you your clothes. Answers Droppa.

Droppa opens every present. She likes them a lot!

- Why did you do that? asks Droppy
- It was to play and have fun! And I am sure that you also enjoyed it. says Droppa. It's a win win adventure!
- It's true. It was fun! And we will keep wonderful memories of our trip, adds Droppo.
- Let's go and eat an icecream. And you will tell me how you had the idea of the fan, the boots, the calice of water, the model car and these delicious biscuits!

The three friends go back together, happy with their adventure and the souvenirs they brought.

THE END