

The Missing One

By Katie McClennan

“What!” Yelled Portia, still half asleep. When she opened her eyes, immediately she saw Jaspa standing beside the bed. As soon as Jaspa noticed she was up, he was going to say that they were late but then he heard Sam and Ben’s mom yell.

“Hurry up we’re going to be late!” Portia heard her yell and they all got up right away.

At the hotel there wasn’t a lot of space so the Ses had all of their beds on the table. The beds were made up of wash clothes and mini doll like blankets. As Portia was getting ready she almost tripped over Jaspa’s bed. She slid down the post of the table and onto the rough carpet. When she was running she had to try and dodge a lot of different things like beds and chairs to walls and desks.

It was hard to run on the carpet because her feet kept getting caught under the threads of the carpet, but she ran as fast as she could to the door.

“Hurry up!” Called Biscuits.

“I’m going as fast as I can but my feet keep get caught in this carpet.”Portia yelled back.

“Ben, don’t leave without us!” Called Jaspa.

“Hey mom, I want to check the room to make sure I didn’t forget anything first ” Said Ben

“Okay, but hurry up we are already really late and can’t miss our flight.” Said Ben and Sam’s mom.

Ben walks over to Portia and bends down next to her. He lets Portia climb onto his shoe.

“Thank you.” Whispers Portia.

“No problem.”Ben whispers back. Ben takes a quick walk around, and goes back to the hall where everyone else is waiting. The hall had cream coloured walls and the lights were lanterns and they were sticking out of the walls.

“I’m ready now.” Says Ben as he lifts Portia onto his shoulder.

“Okay let’s go, and quick!” Says their dad. They all run down the hall to the elevator. The Ses almost fall off Ben’s shoulders because he is running so fast. When they get into the elevator they all barely fit. The elevator was bright from all the sharp lights that wrap around the top.

“I can’t wait to go to all the places like the resort, Punta Nizuc and the Archaeological Zone.” said Ben excited.

“Me too! Since the resort is all inclusive we can eat as much as we want and they have a arcade so we can play games all day!” said Sam also very excited.

“You probably shouldn’t play games all day but there are lots of other things to do like inside high ropes, 9 pools, a lazy river, wave pool, 16 restaurants, fun drinks and even a beach. I think you will want to do other things than just games.” said their mom.

“Okay.” said Sam.

Once they got off the elevator and into the lobby their mom went to check out of the hotel.

The lobby had this huge chandelier that was hanging from the ceiling. The floor was a very slippery marble and their mom almost fell walking on it with her also very slippery shoes. There was a huge restaurant that was packed full since it was morning time. It was big buffet that has everything you could ever want for breakfast. The restaurant had a lot of people working at it

and the all wore big blue aprons. All of the signs were also that same colour, and the restaurant's name was all in bright lights.

They ran out of the hotel doors and flagged down the first bright yellow taxi they saw. When they got into the taxi, there was an older man driving it with a beard down to his elbows. He was wearing a bright yellow shirt that was the same colour as the taxi and his pants were black like his beard.

When they entered the taxi there wasn't enough room for all of them to sit in the back so their dad went and sat in the front with the taxi driver.

"Where are you going on this fine day?" Asked the taxi driver.

"We would like to go to the airport" reported their dad.

"Ok, next stop the airport!" Announce the taxi driver!

"But we're in a big hurry!" yelled their mom.

As they were heading to the airport Jaspa and Portia were sitting on Sam's shoulders, and Biscuits was sitting on Ben's shoulders. While their dad was sitting in the front with the driver talking about the weather, their mom was sitting in the back between Ben and Sam panicking that they will be late.

"What are you doing?!" questioned Portia.

She looked over and saw Biscuits had climbed up onto the massive seat their dad was sitting in. Before she knew it Biscuits was already at the top.

"I'm just going to look around up here." answered Biscuits.

"Don't press any buttons!" insisted Portia.

"Okay!" yelled Biscuits from the front.

By this time he was on top of the steering wheel holding on tight as they went around a corner. He could barely hang on to the slippery steering wheel. The taxi drivers hands almost knocked Biscuits off of the wheel.

Now they had to go around, a roundabout.

"HELP!!!" cried out Biscuits.

"What did you do now?" Portia screamed back.

Portia stood up on Ben's shoulders and looked at the steering wheel, but couldn't see Biscuits.

"Where are you?" questioned Portia.

"Down here!" yelled Biscuits. He quickly stood up to see where Biscuits was and noticed he was on the steering wheel, then he saw that there was a roundabout up ahead. When he stood up he quickly put his hand beside the steering wheel acting like he was changing the radio.

"What are you doing?!?" asked his dad.

"I just want to change the music." answered Sam.

"Okay, but next time tell me and I can." said his father.

When Sam was standing up he noticed his mom was frantically whispering to herself that's it's going to be okay and that they will make it.

"Are you okay mom?" asked Ben.

She wasn't paying attention and didn't hear him, it was like she was in a trance.

"MOM!" yelled Ben.

"What?!" said his mom confused.

"Are you okay?" asked Ben for the second time now.

"Oh yes, why?" asked his mom.

"You just seemed really worried and didn't hear me when I first asked you if you were okay." said Ben.

"Oh yeah, I'm perfect just a little worried about our flight, but that's it," said his mom.

"Okay, if you say your good I'll trust you. We will make it," said Ben.

When they got to the airport they noticed it was very busy and the taxi driver had a hard time trying to find a place to park because of all the people.

When they got out of the car their dad gave the driver 30 dollars and he drove away.

The ground was very orange and was made of bricks, with the odd piece of grass peeking through the cracks, and had a line of poles about 2 metres tall sticking out of the ground in a line about 8 ft from the doors to get in the airport. The front of the airport had a huge sign reading "Edinburgh Airport" and right under that it read "Where Scotland meets the world".

The sign was brown and had big white letters. It was on the wall of the second floor and took up half of it.

The whole first floor had glass walls so everyone could see everything inside. The front doors were also glass and slid open, but most of the time they were open because of everyone going in and out of them.

"I would hate to work right inside the doors." said their dad trying to be funny, but their mom was determined not to be late so she basically grabbed everyone and pulled them inside. They all ran to security which had a long line that ended right where some shops were.

Sam was bored of waiting in line and they still had a long way to go so he hopped out of the line and walked around. He stopped and saw a few different things like a duty free and a few other restaurants.

He decided to get back to the security, after looking in at duty free.

When he got back they were only a few people away from the front so it worked well.

They all got through good and still had a little bit of time.

Since they were in a big rush they hadn't eaten breakfast, so their mom said they could get something to eat, but be fast.

Sam looked to the right and saw shops but then looked to the left and saw a Starbucks with muffins sitting right out on display. They all ran over to get some food, luckily there was no line. They got everything and went straight to their gate.

When they got there it was time to board the plane. They got on the plane and found seats 22 A,B,C, and D.

"I call window seat!" yelled Sam, and he raced to sit there.

They all sat down and immediately fell asleep. They had a 14 hour and 55 minute flight ahead of them.

When they woke up the stewardess was just bringing around lunch, perfect timing. The rest of the plane ride went by quickly and before they knew it they were in Mexico.

They all gathered up their things and got off the humid smelly airplane and got into the hot Cancun airport. They ran through the airport and got out as fast as they came in.

When they got outside they saw a lot of buses that would take you to specific resorts.

"This way." said their Dad.

They all followed him to the right van, labeled Palace Resorts and they gave them their luggage to put in the back of the van. But then Ben noticed he dropped his phone back over at the doors.

"Oh no! My mom wont let me leave or she thinks I will be late for the bus!" said Ben.

"I can go and get your phone for you." said Portia as she ran away to get it. Ben's mom told him to hurry up and get on the bus. He sat there and waited for her to get back. When he got into the van, he noticed that the van held 10 people and that almost everything was inside was blue, the seats, the seat belts and even the walls.. Everyone was getting buckled into their seat and the driver was just waiting for Ben to buckle up. As soon as he clicked his seatbelt the bus started to move and within seconds the bus was pulling away and Portia was stuck all alone at the airport.

"Oh no!" whispered Ben.

MEANWHILE

Portia had got his phone and turned around just to see that the bus had left!

"Oh no!" said Portia.

After about 5 minutes of thinking what to do she had an idea. Since the next bus to the resort is going to be 3 hours and then she would still have to find them, she saw a bus that was going to the Archaeological Zone and it was leaving in 2 minutes. She ran over to the bus and snuck on. She was going to meet them there.

MEANWHILE

"What are we going to do?" asked Jaspa worried.

"Let's go on with our vacation and hopefully she will find us." said Ben.

The bus ride was only about 20 minutes and when they pulled into the lane they saw it was a massive resort. I heard Portia saying that the resort has 17 buffets, 2,000 feet of beach, 123 acres of tropical greenery and 2,314 rooms and some with double Jacuzzi." said Jaspa.

"Wow!" said Ben in amazement.

They all filed out of the bus and got all their luggage. The Ses were still on Ben's shoulders. While they waited for their luggage there was someone there to greet them, he gave them all a cold towel which felt really nice, a rose for the girls and some punch and they were lead to the front desk to check in.

When they looked around the lobby there were lots of couches and tables and so many beautiful lights. It was a huge room with a really tall roof and a huge chandelier that looked like it had little glass balls for lights.

As they walked further they saw a bar with another big chandelier but this time the little balls looked pink and red, it was right above the bar which was in the middle of the room. There were lots of seats around the bar and lots of tables and chairs around the bar. In front of the bar there was a sign reading go this way to the cafe and arcade.

"Can we please go to the arcade?" asked Ben.

"No, let's go to our room now then we can go in the morning because it's getting late." said their mom really excited.

They all walked out of the building and outside where they saw a golf cart waiting to take them to their room.

"Hola, where would you like to go?" asked the driver.

"Building 81, room 405?" said their Dad.

"Sure get in."

They all got in the grey golf cart and headed to their room. When they were driving they could see a waterpark and a lot of different buildings.

When they got to their room they all got out and said thank you and went into their room.

When they went in they saw two big beds, a double Jacuzzi tub and a big bathroom. The floor was very slippery and very shiny. The room also had a porch, that was covered and a desk. The room was 2 floors connected by 4 stairs.

They were all exhausted from travelling and went straight to bed.

The next morning the family was going to go to Punta Nizuc while the Ses go to the Archaeological Zone which is located just past Punta Nizuc.

They all got ready and the Ses huddled up to make a plan while they sat on the shiny marble floor.

“So we are going to the Archaeological Zone and they are going to Punta Nizuc. The Archaeological Zone is just past where the family is going, so we can get a ride with someone there.” said Jaspa.

“Okay.” said Biscuits.

Once everyone was ready they all got a golf cart to take them to the front lobby to go on their tours. It didn't take very long to get to the lobby, they were there before they knew it.

They all went back through the front doors, the same way they went last night but now almost all the lights were off now because of the windows letting in all the light. The marble floors was a little wet from someone who must have just come from the pool. Their mom almost slipped and fell on the floor.

“Are you okay mom?” asked Sam.

“Oh yeah I'm fine.” said their mom as she was getting up.

They found their bus and got on and away they went. They all sat together and were all talking with excitement for the 18 minute bus ride.

The bus was very hot and was packed full of people with not one seat to spare. It was a 1 story blue bus with lots of windows. The seats were orange and the floor was blue.

When they got to Punta Nizuc they saw that it was almost all beach because it was a peninsula. It had a few big buildings like hotels and restaurants.

When they got there, there were people to guide them and help them find their way. Everyone was shuffling off the bus, but when Ben was standing up Biscuits fell off of his shoulder, onto the seat and then fell onto the ground. When he fell to the ground he hurt his head. As soon as Ben saw him fall he rushed and picked him up, but he was unconscious. Ben quickly picked him up and ran off the bus.

“Wake up Biscuits, wake up!” Whisper-yelled Ben.

He ran over and set Biscuits on a table that he found that was only a few feet away from his family. It was under an umbrella type structure made of sticks. There were 4 other tables just like it. He set Biscuits on the table and got some water to put on his face. The Ses were going to take a bus together to the Archaeological Zone, but now Biscuits might have to stay with the family here.

“You might have to go by yourself and I will take Biscuits because we've tried to wake him up for 5 minutes now and if you wait much longer you are going to miss the one bus that goes to the Archaeological Zone today.” said Ben.

“I guess if we don't have a choice, then sure.” said Jaspa sadly.

Jaspa ran over to where the bus was about to leave and got on to someone's shoe that was going on the bus and held onto their shoelace as they climbed on.

"What's going on Ben? Come on we have to get going we only have 3 hours so we have to get going." yelled their mom.

"Okay!" yelled Ben back as he grabbed Biscuits and went over to his family.

When he went over they all walked over to where they could snorkel and see all of the underwater artwork.

When they were done walking on all the trails, which only took them about 10 minutes, they headed over to the snorkel shack and got everything they needed. The shack was on the beach only about 7 metres from the water and was more like a circle hut with what looked like sticks for a roof. It had a huge pile of life jackets to the left of the shack. There had suit sizes from 3 year olds to XXXL. To the right of the shack there was all of the lifeguard things like 2 jet skis and 3 surf boards. They went up to the shack and they got everything they needed, like life jackets and goggles and flippers. They all walked over to a set of table and chairs and set everything down, to put everything on and then they went to meet their guide.

They all climbed onto this white boat that had the odd blue or green streak on it. There were three different people on the boat that were workers, the driver, the medical person and their guide.

It was about a five minute ride from the awesome beach with white silk sand and gorgeous bright blue clear water out to the place where they were going to snorkel.

"We have almost arrived at our location, it will be about 1 more minute." said the guide.

They all were waiting excitedly to go diving. The inside of the boat was all white and it had five benches for people to sit on. It had a "basement" to hold all the extra equipment. The basement had three little steps down to it and it had one rail on the right side.

"We are now here, you guys can put on all of your equipment and diving gear on. When you are done you can sit on the benches again and wait for everyone to be ready." Said the guide. Everyone got up and went to the pile of equipment and got their suits, put them on and sat down again.

"Here you go." Said their mom as she was passing Ben and Sam all of their equipment.

When everyone was ready they all got up and went to the edge of the boat.

"When I say go you guys can all jump in and look around for thirty minutes." Said the instructor.

"But first I have to go over all of the rules." Said the instructor.

They all sigh but don't have a choice. They all listen to the instructions and do everything he says to do. It took him five minutes to get through everything and then everyone lined up and got ready to jump in.

"Three, two, one, GO!" Said the guide as all ten of them jump in.

During all of this Biscuits was wrapped up in Ben's towel, which was now on the seat where he was sitting.

When they dived into the ice cold water they instantly got chills throughout their entire body. It was like they were diving into a huge ice bath.

When they went under the first thing that they saw were all of the underwater statues. There were at least 10 of them and most of them are the same size as Ben and Sam. They were all people and looked really real. There were also a lot of cool colourful fish surrounding them. Some of the fish were big bright fish and some were small and dull. But most of them were big and bright.

"This is so cool!" said Sam muffled from the water.

“Yeah I love this one!” said Ben also muffled.

He was pointing at a big crowd of people that were made of sand, they were all different sizes but most of them were adults. Some were sitting and some were “running”. All of the statues were 30 feet down under the water.

There was a lot of seaweed and grass everywhere surrounding a lot of the statues.

But overall the biggest one was the one with all the people. Sam and Ben swam together to the one little boy that looked like Sam and Ben. He was sitting on a “chair” and the boy had table beside him. On the other side of him is what looked like his sister and she was holding a baby.

The baby was wrapped up in what looked like a “blanket” and was sound asleep

The whole thing looked like it was frozen in time and made into one big sculpture.

Then Ben remembered he heard the guide say something about there was over 400 sculptures in the waters. He also remembered that the creators name was Jason de Caires Taylor.

They had a few more minutes left to swim around and look at the sculptures so Ben wanted to go back and swim around the sculpture where all of the people were.

When he got over there he saw everyone was over looking at something in the middle of everyone.

He swam over and it turns out it was a statue of a little boy that was kneeled down beside a square table that had a clock.

Just then they turned around and saw through the crystal clear blue water that everyone was swimming to the surface and getting ready to go back on the huge boat again.

He swam over to the big white boat with Sam and he let Sam go up the ladder first. When Sam got up the ladder it was Ben's turn and he hated any type of ladder, big or small. He hated them, but he knew he had to climb it. He gripped onto the cold wet metal ladder. It only had six rungs but it was still bad. He started to pull himself up and put his feet on the slimy ladder.

Slowly but surely he made his way up. As soon as he got up and back onto the boat he grabbed his towel, which Biscuits was still wrapped in, and sat down with it in his arms. Ben got a little more water and splashed on Biscuits face just as the loud motor started rumbling again. Biscuits slowly started to open his eyes, and Ben celebrated silently. He held Biscuits tight as the boat ride was very bumpy.

“What's going on?” asked Biscuits very confused.

“We just went diving and it was awesome! You fell and hit your head when we were getting off the bus, you're okay but you got knocked out.” whispered Ben, worried someone will hear him.

Biscuits was very tired and fell right back to sleep.

When they got back to the dock on Punta Nizuc they all walked off the boat, Biscuits was still sound asleep.

“How was that?” asked their Mom.

“It was so fun!” said Ben and Sam.

They all walked back to the bus stop , and talked about everything they saw.

Their next stop was the Archaeological Zone.

A few minutes later the bus came rolling down the street and then stopped right in front of them, they all hopped onto the bus and they were off to the Archaeological Zone. The bus looked identical to the bus they were on before, just this one had a different driver.

About ten minutes later they got there and they all shuffled off the bus and onto the ground which was a mix of rocks and grass.

The first thing they saw was a lot of huge towering trees. You could barely see the top of the huge trees. At the bottom of the trees were big bright green bushes, they had a lot of them and it was mixed in with all of the trunks.

Another thing they saw was a sign with a lot of facts about the Archaeological Zone.

"Come over here and let's read some of these facts!" said their mom very excited.

"Fine." said Ben and Sam.

"These ruins date back to 250 A.D. As you can see, some are complete structures and some are just rocks on the ground. There are 47 ruins and one of them is a pyramid shaped temple, although it's not as tall as a real pyramid. Also there are iguanas everywhere so be sure to watch out for them! They are all over all the ruins and everywhere in the rocks and grass." said their mom.

"The Archaeological Zone is open from 8-5pm and admission is 50 pesos." said their mom as she kept reading.

"It takes around 20-30 minutes to walk around everywhere and or you can go slower and have tours." said their Mom as she finished reading the sign.

"Wow! I can't believe all the iguanas here!" said Sam looking around.

"Yeah and looking at the time, we better get going." said their Mom as she had started to walk around.

They walked around, in between all the ruins there were dirt paths for people to follow there also lots of trees and bushes around everything. Ben was climbing up the pyramid-like temple and when he was about half way up climbing it he saw a girl that looked about fifteen. Something made him look down at her feet, and when he did he saw Portia sitting there on her shoe with the bright sun on her face.

Ben slowly started walking over to her leaving the family but with Biscuits till sleeping in his arms.

"Where are you going?" asked his Dad.

"I'm just climbing up a little higher." yelled Ben back.

As he walked over he was overwhelmed with excitement but couldn't show it otherwise the girl would think he was crazy. He walked over right beside her and bent down to tie his shoe.

Portia had just noticed Ben and quickly jumped off the girls shoe and onto Ben's hand which he was holding out for her. He stood up and walked away to one of the ruins where it was a closed in shelter. It had a roof which helped keep the sun off of them, and gave them a nice quiet place to talk.

"I can't believe you found me!" said Portia very excited.

"I know!" whispered Ben.

"There's no time to talk right now let's talk more when we get back to the resort." said Ben.

They both walked back over to the family and walked around. They walked in the same spot where Ben and Portia had just been talking. It had a roof that was made of straw and sticks.

Some of the walls had clay on them to keep them strong and to protect them from the weather.

Then they heard someone say the bus was going to leave so they all ran to the bus with both of the Ses in Ben's hands. When they got on the bus they all sat down and started talking about the fun day, they had. But that's all Ben remembered because after that he fell right asleep.

After about a 45 minute bus ride they finally arrived back at the hotel and they took a golf cart back to their room and everyone snuggled into bed and fell right to sleep.