

-MISSING HALF IN NEW YORK-

“Ugh! Come on Ben. We're gonna be late!” says Sam eagerly.

“Sorry, I'll be right out”, responds Ben.

“Geez..Sam gets pretty mad in the morning, doesn't she?” *Snickers* Ben and Jaspa.

Ben sits back on to his bed..With a cold frown.

“Why did mom and dad make us come here anyways?”

“I was happy just where I was! We had something so good... Why would they ever want that to change?!”

“Hey, I know you're sad right now” Jaspa interrupts Ben nicely, “But it's the first day of highschool! Time to make new memories, just be patient..I promise.”

Jaspa nudges Ben on the way out..”Come on, let's go.”

“Well this is where we say goodbye.” Sam says with a reassuring smile.

One, that seems to distract everyone from the day to come.

“I don't want you to go”, wimpers Biscuits as he leaps from Sam's outer pocket on her backpack..

Followed by..Portia, Gravee, Ernest and mad.

“Don't you worry, we will see you at 3:05 pm when the bell rings”, Sam comforts Biscuits..

“Speaking of bells”, Sam says.. revisiting their conversation.

She turns to Ben..

“we should probably head inside now if we want to be on time”, she says annoyed with a slight eye roll.

Ben ignores Sam and bends down to give the group of ses.. A large bear hug.

Before Ben stands up once more.. He whispers ever so quite, “be careful, ok?”

Just like that, the bell buzzed and the doors closed.

Later on that day.. (10 minutes before school ends)

“Hey Jaspa”.. Mad says quite consciously and quietly. “Do you mind me asking, why you and Ben were taking so long this morning?”

“Oh of course not, Mads” informs Jaspa.

“Ben is still a little sad about leaving everything behind, back at our old town”.. finishes Jaspa.

“Sounds to me, says Gravee coming into the conversation..the boy needs a little bit of an adventure!”

“Good idea..Gravee,” invites Jaspa.. but how?

“Well you see the best adventures are the ones worth waiting for!” continues Gravee.

“Makes sense”, replies the group!

“Come on guys let's go wait for Ben and Sam near the doors”..

ERNEST WAIT FOR US! Cries everyone left behind.. In Ernests sudden rush of excitement towards the doors.

Before we knew it..

Ben and Sam are outside chatting with their friends.

We were just about to go and hop in Sam's backpack when..

“GUYS JUST LET ME EXPLAIN”!.. Comes a scream from the other side of the school entrance.

“Stop it Natasha. Just leave us alone!”.. The unfamiliar voices respond.

“What do you think is happening over there?”..Jaspa says, speaking for what the rest of the ses are thinking.

“No clue”, says Ernest..Worried but a bit curious at the same time.

“We should go over there”.. Says Ernest, breaking the silence.

“ARE YOU CRAZY”!! Yells the tiny group of animals.

“Come on guys! What if we were able to help her!”declares Ernest.

“But ern-”.. Says the ses.

“No buts.. I'm going over there”, stops Ernest.

“What about Ben and Sam?” they reply.

“They're talking to their friends.. They won't even notice me!”

“Well if you're going, we're coming too”.. Decide Jaspa.

“Ok then follow me”.. Marches Ernest.

“How do we even get her attention?” “Can she even see us?” questions Ernest.

“Don't worry Ernest, we'll figure it out.”

“How will we get her attention though if she's staring into a book?”

He questioned once more.

“Biscuits.. What are you doing?”

“Well preparing, of course!” he replies heroically

“For what are you preparing for?” Jaspa says nervously.

Biscuits was standing in a way that made it clear to Jaspa that he was getting ready to jump... or so it seemed?

“Biscuits I don't like what you're thinking”, says Jaspa, practically losing his cool.

“Please come he-” Jaspa pauses.

In a blink of an eye Biscuits leaped.. right into the crease of the girls book.

Everyone froze for a few seconds.

Even the girl was quiet.. She could see Biscuits!

As Biscuits was looking up at the girl he started to realize the book shaking.

Before anything could get worse, Biscuits placed his hand on her finger.

He spoke slowly to get her attention and calm her down.

“Hello there, I'm Biscuits..we heard you talking to your friends, and wondered if we could help you?”

“THERE'S MORE OF YOU! WHERE!?! WHAT EVEN ARE YOU!?” she screeches in fear.

“Shh please calm down..we weren't trying to scare you!” says biskuit trying to calm her down.

“B-BUT” says Natasha being cut off... “I'm Biscuits and these are my friends.. Gravee, mad, and earnest.. also my siblings Portia and Jaspa.”

“we are as you humans know us.. ses.” “You though.. are very special, and some may call you a seer.. Capable to see us even when we're blending!” Biscuits explains. Do you know of Ben and Sam by any chance? He continues.

“Yes indeed, Bens in my class!” Natasha says Natasha nervously.

“Well they're with us..They take us everywhere”.. Biscuits says with a very friendly smile.

“That's so cool!” Says Natasha, starting to catch on.

“Anyways”, Biscuits begin.. “We saw you earlier and wondered if we could be of any help?!” says Biscuits.

“Oh well there is one thing” says Natasha brainstroing.

“WHERE ARE THEY!!?” Screeches Ben in worry.

“They said they'd be here when we came out”, says Ben only getting more and more worked up.

“Please don't get all worried Ben, they are probably around here somewhere!” Said Sam

“Umm hello, Ben.”Natasha says nervously, trying to get Bens attention.

“Oh hi Natasha, do you mind if we speak later.. Im kinda busy right now”. Says Ben is agitated, and barely listening.

“BEN!!”

The group of ses screams from the palm of Natashas hand. “We're right here, Ben!”

Ben sees them right away..

“WHERE WERE YOU GUYS!” you know how I feel about you guys wondering off!” Ben continuous.

“We were talking to Natasha, says Biscuits fearfully.”

“Oh” says Ben a little shocked..” is everything ok?”

“Yes it is”, Natasha takes over.. “I just need some help.”

“Oh ok, how can we help you?” says Ben, still in shock.

“Come” .. Natasha says taking the ses with her.

Natahsa walks up to the science lab cafe.. Just 2 minutes away from the highschool.

“I thought it would be a good idea if we could talk a bit?”

she says after 2 minutes of awkward silence.

“Sounds great”, Ben says trying to keep it positive.

Once everyone was seated Natasha started telling them about what had happened earlier.. She told them she found this necklace one night on her way home, but the other half of it was missing. She was curious to figure out where it had gone.. But her friends didn't want anything to do with that idea.

Before nataha could explain herself, her friends dashed off.

“And that's when the ses came along”, says Natasha with a smile of hope, and a bit of despair from the lack of trust her friends gave her.

Biscuits giggle from sugar rush..

“So what do ya say, can we help her find the other half of her necklace?!” cheers Biscuits, wobbling from all the candy he ate.

“I would love to”.. Ben says cheerfully.

“Also, Biscuits?” been observing.

“Yeah Ben?” Biscuits replies.

“How many of those chocolate hearts have you had?!” says Ben, starting to get a little worried.

“Eh I'd say a good 20 of em”.. Biscuits replies as he flops onto his back, looking very full!

“Oh boy”...says Sam knowing she'll be the one responsible for his goofy energy..later on that day.

Jaspa looks at biskuit, who is still lying comfortably on his back. He notices one of the rappers has dark black writing on it. At first Jaspa thinks he's hallucinating, but then he looks again... There are for sure letters and words on that rapper!

“Hey Biscuits!” Jaspa says loud enough to get his attention

“Oh hey Jaspa”.. Replies, Biscuits half awake and still giggle as ever.

Jaspa sneaks around Biscuits and holds the red heart raper in his hand.

It reads..

“You're lost right now but you're not alone.. Just get started and time will flow.

The books are endless and ever so neat, maybe that will be where you and your next clue will meet!”

“Umm guys you need to see this!”Jaspa says, in shock.

“This is amazing”! Says Natasha, grasping to keep her cool.

“It’s just like I imagined it.” she adds on.

“What exactly do you mean by that Natasha”, Ben asks.

“Well you see, this is our quest.. and it has chosen us to solve it!” she smiles.

“These clues will lead us to the other half of my necklace.. you see, I wasn’t losing my mind, I’m not going crazy, I was right all along!” she celebrates.

“But what does it mean?”.. says mad and Gravee, sorta half listening to the conversation.

“Well from my knowledge.. I assume our next clue will be in the New York public library.” Natasha says, thrilled.

“What do you say team”, says Natasha Gaining confidence as we get to know her more and more.

“meet here tomorrow?”

“Then from here we’ll head to the library.” she finishes.

“Perfect!”... replies the ses.

Sam and Ben smile along and nod,

“I guess I’ll See you, then!” Says Natasha

“Bye!” Replies the rest of the gang.

~Next morning at the cafe~

“Guys Natashas here!” jumps Biscuits.

“Hi Natasha”, says Ben and Sam.. excited for the day to bring them.

“Lead the way”, cheers the ses!

As they walk into the large library they see shelves filled with many books of all colours, sizes and labels.. Oval and rectangular desks, and many people every way you look.

You can tell Natasha is rehearsing the clue over and over again, studying the place around her. She reads..

“you’re lost right now, but you’re not alone”.. Once more..and then again.

“I GOT IT!” She screams.

“Shhhhh”, replies to the people trying to read.

“Oops sorry”.. Natasha says, unaware that they were even there in the first place.

“So tell us what you figured out”, Sam says already really engaged.

“Well I think what it means by, ***you're not alone.*** Is that it's talking about a book titled just that (you're not alone).”

“Me and my dad used to read that evernight.. It's very special to me!” says Natasha with a slight frown.

“Would you know where it would be in a library this big?” Says Ben hoping for a yes.

“Actually no.. they rearranged the books a few weeks ago but.. I may have a good idea of where it could be now!”

“Great”, says both Sam and Ben.

“It should be in this aisle,” Natasha says.

“Wow these rows are huge”, screams Biscuits of disbelief

“Well I guess all we can do now is look around this aisle and see if we find anything close to what we're looking for”, implies Sam.

“We should split into groups”, Ben adds on.

“Good idea, Natasha says, we'll find it in no time!”

“Natasha , Biscuits, and Portia.. You start down there.” orders Sam.

“Ben, Jaspa and Ernest, Go check at the start of the aisle.”

“Gravee and mad, you're with me”.. Says Sam with a warm smile.

“Ben?” Says Jaspa excitedly.

“I found it!”

“Look right up there,” he says to Ben and Ernest.

Jaspa points to the eith shelf, way out of Ben's reach!

"I cant reach", Ben says half way up on his tippy toes

"I can do it", Ernest says.. Feeling quite heroic.

"Are you sure Ben says quick to respond, it's pretty high, enest!"

"Yes I'm sure" he says, relieving some tension.

"But I need a favor." Ernest says with an um convinciblke smile.

"What is it?" Ben says fearfully.

Ernest starts with an uncertain sigh.. "I'm going to need you to jolt me up there."

"WHAT IF YOU GET HURT!" Ben says quite loudly.

"Please Ben, I really want to do this!" Ernest says while giving and his best pouty face.

"Fine, but please pay attention to where you land." Ben says.

"I can do that!" enerst says trying to convince himself.

"Ready," Ben says, panicked.

1,2,3!

"Hey guys.. you ready to go?" she replies.

"Woah!" Ernest stumbles, almost falling off the shelf.

"CAREFUL!" Ben repeats.

"Yeah, yeah".. replies earnest.

As Ernest looks for the book he can't help but read a few others on his way.

"Wow!" Says Ernest.

"What!?"

"Did you find it!?" Says both Ben and Jaspa in relief.

“no”.. says Ernest sidetracked from all the various books to read.
 “But did you know.. that in this very library, the original winnie the pooh and his friends..have lived right here in the building!”
 “SO COOOOL,” Ernest says, talking to himself.
 “Also that this library has been around for 125 years!”

“Hey, Ernest.. Hate to burst your bubble but, we really need to find that book”..says Ben a little frustrated.

“Aww ok.. I'll start looking.”

“GOT IT,” says Ernest.. About 4 minutes after searching.
 “I'm passing it down..CATCH!”

Without time to prepare for the falling book, Ben thankfully still managed to catch it.

“Traronabo!” Says Ernest following the book, down to the ground.

“OUCH!”

Ernest lands right on Ben's head.

“WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY!” Ben says rubbing his head.

“Any who.. lets go tell the others”, Ernest says while nusing Ben.

“Hello miss rene”.. Natasha says to the librarian over the top of the large desk.

“We would like to rent this book please”,says Natasha quite comfortably..
 She must come here a lot.. we all quietly think to ourselves

“Can do”.. She replies from the other side of the large desk.

Now that the group was finally back outside.. Natasha opened the book.
 She searched the pages, almost reaching the end and still no sign of any clue.
 Then there it was, she pulled it out and it read..

“Great now you're finding your way, but now it's almost the end of day. In the morning it will wait, a story behind the oil paints.

In the frame you'll see clouds, don't worry you won't miss it. it's quiet but loud!”

“Hmm if only I knew what that means”, Natasha says with a frown.

“Well it did make a good point it is getting late and we should probably call it a day”, says Sam with a face of disappointment, dark as a sea of cold, crisp water.

“Your right” says Natasha in rilization, also uncontrollably frowning.

“Hey”, says Ben getting both of the girls attention..

“we have time, if we need to meet up after school hours we can.”

“Actually, speaks Natasha.. dreading the topic.. we only have 2 days.”

The group of both the friends and ses are shocked.

“What do you mean”, says Jaspa quietly.

Natasha leans down to Jaspa, “well you see Jaspa.. I have to leave in 2 days.”

Completely shocked, Jaspa says..”But why Natasha?”

“I have to go and live with my dad, Jaspa.”

“I’m sorry I didn’t tell you guys”.. says Natasha standing back up again.

“That’s alright, says Ben.. we're not going anywhere!”

“Really”, says Natasha almost as shocked as everyone earlier.

“Of course”.. joins in the. Rest of the group.

“We're going to find that half!” Cheers the group of friends.

“Well we should go home now. Well see you in the morning Natasha?”says Sam while gathering the ses.

“Sounds great”, says Natasha with a great big smile.

“Bye!”

~The next morning~

“Morning! You guys ready”, cheers Natasha ever so joyfully.

“More than ever”, bounces Gravee.

“You ok, Gravee?” Asks mad

“{Eh, I’m feeling a little off today”, confesses Gravee.. with a small grin.

“Thought so, giggles mad.. you're not usually the cheerleader of the group”, she smiles.

“Anyways, laughs Sam.. I thought about the clue last night.”

Sam.. tells the group she believes the next clue is at the metropolitan museum of art. She thinks the riddle has to do with one of the oil paintings, she’s seen there before.

“Then that's where we will go”, says Natasha fully believing in Sam's theory.

“Really! Ok!” Says Sam, suddenly all excited.

Once they reach the museum, they head inside and look around.

“It’s quiet but loud, it's quiet but loud, it's quiet but loud.. what does it mean”...says Natasha baffled.

“Oh I know! Do you see that painting just down the hall?”

“Yes,” says Natasha, not seeing Ben's point.

“Well it's quiet.. but hard to miss, with all those security ropes around it,” Ben guesses.

“Plus i think i can make out some clouds from here,” says Ben very confidentially.

“Well there's only one way to find out”.. Says Natasha as she walks towards it.

“Well, what do you know..You're right, I think this is the painting that we're looking for”, Natasha cheers.

“I knew it!” Says Ben.

“Do you guys see a clue anywhere on this painting by chance”, says Natasha slowly losing hope.

“Yes actually, the bottom right corner has a sheet of white paper, just barely peeking out the frame”..replies Ernest.

“Well says Natasha softly.. I don't think they would mind if I just grabbe-”

“HEY DON'T TOUCH THAT”, yells the security guard.

Natsha jolts backwards in complete shock.

“I'm going to have to ask you to leave, young lady”.. says the unfamiliar face.

He speaks again..”We don't allow people to touch our art here.”

With a deep sigh, Natasha replies,

“I understand”.. and makes her way to the doorway, followed by the rest of her friends.

~outside~

“THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!” Natsha says almost in tears.

“Hey, says Sam.. Looking right at Natasha.. We'll find another way!”

“But how will we do that?” says Natasha..interested to see the response.

“UMM GUYS!” said mad alarmed.

“What's wrong”, Mads.. Asks the rest.

“BISCUITS ISN'T HERE!!”

“What!” Screeches Sam.

“I would have swore he was right behind me!”she says in shock.

“DID WE LEAVE HIM BEHIND”..Sam says relatively fighting back tears.

“Great! Continued Sam, we left biskuit behind.. And we don't have the next clue!”

“This one?” Says a very friendly, familiar voice.

Everyone turns to meet the mysterious figure.

“BISCUITS WHERE WERE YOU? ARE YOU HURT?”

Ben and Sam go on and on.

Despite the rufful mad steps in..

“Hey Biscuits mind me asking, what's in your hand?”

“Well Mads, the next clue of course!” he announces.

“But how!?” Reponds the group.

“ No time to answer questions”, bikuits says.

“We have a necklace to find!” he cheers!

“Can you read it for us Biscuits”, says Sam creditably.

Buikuits looks at the paper then back at, Sam.. “I can't”, he says.

“W-what do you mean, you can't” .. Stutters Sam.

Sam picks the clue up and looks to find a blank piece of paper.

Natasha clears her throat.. “I think it's fait.”

“I think we should move on. Give up. There's no use!” she says weeping.

“Natasha please don't say tha-”

“NO SAM, ITS DONE”, wails Natasha.

As she leaves the group behind it starts to rain, we could see her, but now she's gone.

The next day passed and we didn't see Natasha anywhere.

We didn't want our journey together to end like this,

We wanted to find that other half and we wanted to be with Natasha when we found it.

~The last day~

There's a knock at Natashas front door, she goes to answer it and is slightly surprised to see..

“Natasha, we were worried about you”, says Sam..with a scared look on her face.

“Oh, Hi guys”, this time Natasha speaks very quietly.

She continues..”look, I'm really sorry for the other night, you guys are my friends and you've done so much for me! I thought about visiting but I didn't think you would want to see me, she frowns.”

“Of course we would”, says Sam correcting Natasha.

“Now come,’ they say to her.

“Where are we going?” Natasha says quite shocked.

“WERE GOING SKATING” says Portia dancing around in her tiny sized ,fluffy coat and snow boots.

“We wanted to make it special and all since you're leaving today”, says Portia, slightly frowning.

“Thanks guys,” says Natasha with a heart warming smile and maybe a few tears.

~At wollman rink~

They laughed and played, sometimes they fell, but it made them realize what these fews days were really about.

They laughed so much they forgot about everything, they were just there, in the moment together.

“Miss?”Says a small voice.

Natasha turns around to see a small girl holding out a piece of paper to her.

“Here, miss, I believe this is yours”.. She speaks again.

“I saw it drop from your pocket and thought you would want it back”.. She speaks once more.

Natasha reaches out to grab the paper, and finally she thanks to the little girl.

As she skates away.. Natahsa plans on putting it back in her pocket.

But , somethings different.

She stops and puts it in front of her once more.

I'm hallucinating, she thinks to herself!

This can't be, there's words!

“But how could this be?” said Ben and Sam.

“I d-don't k-know” says Natasha is still in shock.

“What does it say’, says the ses in full curiosity.
Natasha reads...

***“Keep going! One more step , you and the half will have met!
Go and look where you can see it all, where everything is seen from a
different perspective..***

“Hmm where we can see it all”, Sam says.

“You don't think it means the statue of liberty do you!?” Says Natasha in sudden worry.
Natsha looks down at her watch, then back at Sam and Ben.. “We're out of time.
My dad will be here in 30 minutes, I have to meet him in central park.”
“If only I could have more time with you guys!” Whimpers Natasha..
“I'm gonna miss you guys so much!” Says Natasha once more but this time before a tear
rolls down her cheek.

“Come on, let's go.. we don't want you to late you for your dad,”says Ben motivates
Natasha.

“O-ok”, says Natasha holding back tears.

~At Central Park~

“I'm sorry Ben and Sam.. It seems i've let you down, says Natasha with despeer

“No you didn't, we made a great friend.. so thank you”, says Sam.. now fighting her
tears.

Ben holds out his arms, “group hug?”
Both girls run into his arms.

“Wow Ben says, this place is beautiful!”

“All the friends and family.. it’s so special”, says Sam joining in.

“THAT’S IT!” says Natasha startling Ben and Sam.

“IT’S HERE”..says Natasha at last.

“We can see it all here”, she rambles.

“All along all we needed was each other..and you made me see that.”

“When it means **where you can see it all from a different perspective**.. it means a place filled with people who love one another..And with them you see it all!” she cries with happiness.

“Your right, says Ben and Sam in disbelief.. It was here all along!”

“Natahsa?” Says the tiny voices of the ses.

“Here”, They say.

They hold out a silver heart identical to the half Natasha wears around her neck.

She bends down, and holds it tightly in her palm.

She stares at it for a while.

Then she smiles.

Just then she hears the calls of her father.. “Natasha is that you?”

“Dad!” says Natasha with glee.

Natahsa runs into the arms of her fathers.

“Ready to go,” he says quietly.

“Yep, just give me one more minute”.. says Natasha as she runs back to her friends.

They share one last hug.

All of them (even the ses).. together.

When they let go, Natasha holds out her hand.. in it is the **other half**.

“Here”, she speaks in a soft tone.

“But it’s yours”, replies the group.

“It’s meant to be here, in New York City, with my friends,” she says.. With tears in her eyes.

Ben and Sam, take the necklace from her gentle hands.

“Don’t go.” Says Biscuits.

“Oh Biscuits, I’m not going anywhere..I’m right here”..she smiles and points to the necklace Ben and Sam are holding.
She wipes the tears from her cheek.

“Until our next journey!” Natasha smiles.

With a wave of her hand, and another smile from the distance.
She was gone.

***“But only Until..
our next journey.”***