

Going for a walk

‘Josh, what time are you leaving?’ called Mum.

‘Soon,’ I called back. ‘Tyler will be here in ten minutes.’ My phone was on my bed. I grabbed it and looked for buses to Pendlesham Forest. ‘There’s a bus at one o’clock. We’ll leave then.’

Tyler is my best friend. Every weekend we go walking. It’s nice to get out of the city and walk through the forest or the fields. We can forget about school and all our work. We just walk and talk, and look at the trees and the sky. Last year, Tyler got an app on his phone. The app has a list of GPS coordinates in nearly every country of the world. You can follow the coordinates and look for hidden containers, called *caches*. It’s fun to find them. Some containers are hidden in the city but a lot of them are in the countryside. So, these days we go for a walk and look for a cache too.

The doorbell rang.

‘I’ll get it,’ I called. I ran to the front door and opened it. Tyler was there. With a girl!

‘This is my cousin Abbie,’ he said unhappily. He walked past me, into the house. ‘She’s staying at my place. Mum told me to bring her.’ He glared back at Abbie.

‘Poor Tyler,’ said Abbie with a smile. ‘Stuck with his nasty cousin.’ She had a nice smile and her long hair shone in the sunshine.

‘Um ... come in,’ I said. ‘Or ... wait a minute ... no. Sorry. The bus leaves soon. We have to walk to the bus stop. Um ... I’ll get my things.’ I ran to my room and grabbed my backpack. Then I ran back to the door. ‘Um ... I only have



two bottles of water. Will I get another one? Yes, we'll need another one. Yes ... Yes ... I'll just go ... and get another one.'

Tyler followed me into the kitchen. 'You're being weird,' he said.

'Huh?'

'You're being weird. Are you going to be weird all afternoon?' he asked. 'She's just my cousin.'

I looked at him and we laughed.

'No. I'll stop now,' I said.

I grabbed another bottle of water and put it in my backpack. Then I grabbed three apples too. 'Let's go.'

It was a ten-minute walk to the bus stop. The sun was warm and Abbie was full of questions. 'Where is Pendlesham Forest? I've never been there. Does it take a long time to get there?'

'An hour,' I said.

'And we're going there because you and Tyler want to find treasure in a hidden container?' She tried not to laugh.

Tyler glared at her. 'It's not treasure,' he said. 'I told you that. It's not treasure. The container is called the *cache*. And there's only something small in there. Not treasure.'

'Okay, okay.' Abbie held up her hands and laughed. 'You don't need to get angry.'

Tyler turned to me. 'Hey, did you bring something to trade? I forgot.'

'Something to trade?' asked Abbie.

'We take something out of the cache and we leave something else in there,' I told her. 'A lot of people do it.' I turned to Tyler. 'Yeah,' I said to him. 'I brought a little ship from an old game.' I took the ship out of my pocket to show him.

‘That’s good,’ he said. He took out his phone to look at the time. ‘When does the bus come?’

‘Oh, no!’ I said. ‘I forgot my phone. I left it on my bed.’

‘It doesn’t matter. We don’t need it.’

Abbie took out her phone too. ‘That’s good because my phone is nearly dead.’

‘Hey, look,’ I said. ‘The bus is coming. Quick, run!’

The bus ride was fun. Tyler was nice to Abbie. The day was warm. We were going to have a good walk.

Then the bus broke down.

‘Sorry, everyone,’ said the driver. ‘We’ll have to wait for another bus. It’ll be here in thirty to forty minutes.’

‘Oh, no,’ I said. ‘Tyler, where are we?’

He showed us the map on his phone. ‘Look, there’s Pendlesham Forest. It’s not far. We’re nearly there. Let’s get off the bus and walk.’

So we left the bus and started walking.

The sun was very warm. I took off my jacket. Tyler and Abbie took off their jackets too. I put them in the backpack. But, soon, under my backpack, I started to sweat.

‘Ugh, I’m hot,’ said Abbie. ‘I’m sweating.’ She grabbed her hair and put it in a knot on the top of her head and it stayed there – in a bun.

‘How do girls do that?’ I whispered to Tyler.

‘I don’t know,’ he whispered back.

Then Abbie slapped her leg. ‘Ow. Something bit me. Careful, there are midges here.’

Tyler waved a hand. ‘Ugh. They’re flying into my face.’

And suddenly there were hundreds of midges! I was in a cloud of midges. There were midges in my eyes and up my nose. There were midges in my hair. I waved my arms in the



air and danced from foot to foot. I slapped my arms and legs and ran along the road. Abbie and Tyler ran too. They laughed at me.

‘The midges love you!’ called Tyler.

I looked back. The cloud of midges was behind me now. I was safe.

I scratched my arm. ‘Ow.’ I looked down. There were three big red bites on my arm. I scratched again. ‘Ow.’

Abbie took my arm. ‘Ooh, those bites are bad,’ she said. ‘Don’t scratch them. You’ll make them worse.’

‘Hey, look,’ said Tyler. ‘There’s the sign for Pendlesham Forest. Let’s go.’

We walked further along the road and followed the sign into the forest.

I scratched my arm. The bites were very red now.

Tyler took out his phone and opened the app. ‘Hey, there are *two* caches in this forest,’ he said. He showed us. He copied the GPS coordinates for the first cache into the map on his phone. ‘Let’s find this one. It’ll be a four-mile walk. There and back.’ He looked at Abbie. ‘Can you do that?’

‘Ha, ha. Very funny.’

I took Tyler’s phone and looked at the walking trail. It went deep into the forest.

This is the German version of **Finding the Cache**

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