

The Australian Portal

Our story starts with four seventh graders. Emma, Byron, Sophia, and Jack. It was the first day of school. The day every kid dreaded.

Emma and Sophia were walking to school together, like they always did. To them, school was a few things: Sadness, gloom, and despair. Why wasn't school illegal? It should be. Meanwhile, Byron and Jack were walking to school together, which was their regular routine. They thought the same way as Emma and Sophia did about school. And lastly, I'm Stacey. I'm the narrator, so you shouldn't have to worry about me. Back to our story now! Emma, Sophia, Byron, and Jack all agreed that school was horrible! But the most agreeable thing was... When it was over was the best part.

Finally! School had ended. Another day of suffering, done. "Hey! Emma!" Sophia yelled, looking in the direction of her best friend. "Oh hey, Sophia! I found this cool new restaurant on 15th avenue! It's called "Crostini"!" Emma responded, running to Sophia. "Why Crostini?" replied Sophia, not surprised that Emma's response was, "How would I know?". "Are we going today?" asked Sophia. "Of course! With Jack and Byron tonight."

It was finally 6:00 pm, and it was time to go to the new restaurant "Crostini". The seventh graders had promised their parents that they would be home by 8:00 pm. A promise that seemed easy enough to keep. Or was it? You'll just have to keep reading to find out. When they arrived at "Crostini", they waved at each other and smiled. "Hey, guys!" Byron said, as he walked to his

best friends. “Hi!” The others responded in unison. There was an awkward silence. You could hear a pin drop. “Sooo...” Sophia said. “Should we go in?” The rest nodded their heads, and began walking towards the restaurant, suddenly distracted by the fart that Jack had just emitted. They burst out laughing, and did not realize what was happening a short distance away from them, until... “Whip!” Four sacks went over their four heads. “Help!” They screamed, voices muffled. They were dragged up in their sacks by what felt like a claw from a machine in an arcade.

They were all terrified. “Let us out!” Sophia yelled. They were shoved into a vehicle, and then... silence. All they could hear was the crunching of gravel, and trucks, cars, and buses all around them.

“What should we do?” Emma asked, feeling astonished, terrified, and about a million other emotions all at once. “I don’t know!” Sophia said. “Okay, what about this?” Jack had finally come up with a plan. “I feel a lot of slabs of wood around us...so everyone grab one, and we can use them as self defense!” Jack wasn’t very smart. “You seem to have forgotten that we are in sacks!” Byron yelled. “Okay... does anyone still have their phones?” He said. Everyone checked their pockets. Finally, Emma yelled in glory, “Yes! I have mine! And... There’s a signal!” This was a moment of relief for the group. “Okay, check where we are!” Sophia said. “We are... In the middle of the ocean...and we are heading for Australia.” Emma quietly said, now practically hyperventilating. “How in the world are we in the middle of the ocean?” Byron asked, astonished as well. “Oh...I think I know! We must have gotten loaded into a boat while we were talking!” Jack responded.

The four waited for a while, until finally, they were dragged through what felt like a yacht, into a room. Then, one by one, the sacks were pulled off their heads. They were “welcomed” with the sight of a white room, with about 10 chairs around an arched-shaped table. In the middle of the arch, there was a long screen with a green map of what looked like Australia. A thickset man stood in front of them. He was wearing a t-shirt that had tropical green palm trees on it. He wore round glasses, and had an Australian accent. “G’DAY, MATE!” He almost yelled in a booming voice. The four had no words to say to him. The man acted like he was NOT a kidnapper. Our heroes had no choice but to explain what they were feeling. By yelling. “WHY DID YOU DO THAT?!” “KIDNAPPER!” “WE WERE JUST TRYING TO HAVE SOME FUN!” Their voices overlapped like a thousand tv shows playing at once. “Calm down!” The man said, much more quietly than before. “I can explain.”

The kids didn’t feel like listening, but hastily did so. “First, we are not kidnappers. We are good people.” He said. “My name is Euphorious. My team and I will protect you.” A couple of other men in sleek black suits and dark sunglasses appeared. “Now, let me explain why you are here. We have found a portal in the east of Australia. We have also been trying to figure out who can help open it, so that we can get inside. We have been working with the CIA. They tracked you down, and our team followed you to a restaurant. We brought you here, and you know the rest. Capice?” The four felt like they had been stunned. There was a long silence, and, after a few minutes, Byron finally said, “Er... Capice?” Euphorious stumbled across to the map in the middle of the arch. “Here.” He said. “Here is where the portal is. We are going there, and you will open it.” The kids looked confused. “Erm...What do you mean by open the portal? How do

we do that?” Sophia asked. Euphorious and his team blinked. “What do you mean, how do you open the portal? With your necklace, of course!” The team rolled their eyes. The four looked down at their necks. “Emma! You’re wearing a necklace!” Sophia exclaimed. “You mean this one? With the key? My granny gave it to me. I was wondering what it unlocked!” Emma laughed. “Be quiet! This is serious business! Yes, of course I mean your necklace. Hand it over.” One of the men beside Euphorious snatched the necklace from Emma.

“We will show you to your rooms now. There is a TV for entertainment. We will let you know when we arrive.” The man stomped ahead, and walked them to their rooms. He opened the door, and motioned for them to step in. “Man, this room is awesome!” Jack said. The team of black suited men brought them food, which looked like it came out of a Michelin-star restaurant, and then the rest of the ride was smooth sailing. When the group arrived in Australia, the team walked them out with blindfolds, leading them out of the yacht, and into a limousine. The window blinds were rolled in for security purposes, and so that the four didn’t have the location of the portal in their hands. Then, their blindfolds were taken off. “Woah! Cool!” Jack said excitedly. “Yeah! This is fancy!” Sophia exclaimed, helping herself to a candy bowl. Emma, Sophia, Byron, and Jack were taken to the secret location of the portal. “Wow, I’m back in my home country!” Byron happily said. “Ten years since I’ve been here!” The team opened the doors of the limousine. “Put on your blindfolds, and we will lead you to the location of the portal.” Euphorious said. The group put on their blindfolds, muttering under their breath: “Ugh, just when we got to the fun part”. They were led into a dense forest that seemed as if it would go on forever. The four heard the sounds of stubble quails and koalas. “Ohhhh! I wish I could see a koala!” Sophia and Emma cooed.

Suddenly, a large breath of wind swept through the forest, and up to this large group of people. “STOP!” They heard a tough voice say. “Take off your blindfolds!”, it said. The ensemble of kids took off their blindfolds and gasped. “Wow...” They all opened their eyes wide, as if they were being hypnotized. A ten foot tall purple blazing portal was looming in front of them. “Snap out of it!” Euphorious said. The man who had taken the necklace from Emma reached out his heavy hand, and gave it up. “You got your necklace. Now use it!” He said. Emma, Jack, Sophia, and Byron approached the portal. Jack gestured towards the keyhole levitating on the side, which seemed like the most obvious thing to do. Emma hesitated, then received a nod from her friends, and continued to approach it. She locked in the key, and...

“WHOOOOOOOOOOOSSSSSHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!” The biggest gush of wind sucked them into the portal! “AAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!” They screamed. This seems like the time of the story to add a sound effect. DUN DUN DUNNNNN! They were sucked in, and, leaving the team behind, the portal closed.

And that, my friends, is only the beginning of the end. Just you wait and see.