

The missing necklace

By Jack

"Go on Auntie Kim, open your presents!" begged Noodles. Noodles was 11 years old and everyone called her that because of her long, blond curly Hair. All the family at Auntie Kim's Welcome Home BBQ party watched as she opened her beautifully wrapped present... it was a Chinese vase.

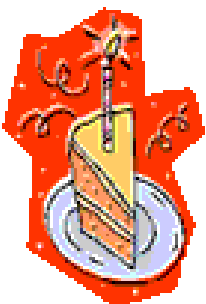


"I don't know what to say! Thank you Noodles" said Auntie Kim. Then she delved into her handbag and presented a tiny black box to Noodles.

"I brought this back from my homeland Australia, where I have lived since I was a little girl, whispered Auntie Kim.

As Noodles slowly and gently opened her present, Grandma complained about how hot it was in the front room. Reluctantly, mum opened the huge window.

Noodles sat down cross-legged on the floor in the centre of the room. She carefully and curiously opened the mysterious, small box. And inside the velvet interior was a gold and diamond necklace. After she had looked in the mirror and tried it on, she placed it on the marble windowsill. It sparkled in the sunlight and caught an old tramps eye. He crept over like a caterpillar, reached in and grabbed the necklace and ran as fast as his legs could carry him!



Little did he know that Noodles had spotted him and she immediately chased after him, with a chocolate filled cake in her hand. She aimed the cake at the moving

target, imagining she was doing archery. As the tramp ran in a strange zigzag way, he heard the running footsteps behind him. He turned just as the cake was flying towards his face; his bulgy eyes reminded Noodles of a codfish. SPLAT! The cake hit him in the face and chocolate dripped down his face!

"Now you definitely look like a fish...GIVE ME MY NECKLACE!" Noodles shouted. But there was no reply.

Instead the tatty tramp just kept on running. Suddenly he turned down a shady alley with Noodles following, like a wolf chasing a rabbit. Halfway down the alley, he quickly opened a sandstone door, looked back at Noodles and called out,

"Try to beat me to the top of the stairs, Spaghetti hair!!"

Angrily Noodles thought to herself, you're too old and useless, it will take you ages. Quickly, she ran through the door and was amazed to see a labyrinth of stairs. The man stood at the very top of a staircase. He held up the golden necklace.

"You have just ten minute to get to the top of the stairs or you will be trapped here forever!" he bellowed; his voice echoed around the never ending stairs. TICK TOCK! Suddenly a huge clock appeared from nowhere... it read 10:00.



How am I going to get out of here on time? Thought Noodles. There were at least 1000 stairs.

"Hey, I'll help you," whispered a voice from a small hand mirror, lying on the first step. She picked it up and when she looked into it, an Old English sheepdog appeared.

"I'll give you directions. Take the first left staircase...10 steps up, turn right...climb the upside-down staircase," the dog continued whispering directions. The clock now read 2:00.

Noodles fiddled nervously with her sweaty hands, as she approached the top staircase. Finally she was face to face with the tramp, who was teasing her with the necklace, waving it in her face. "You just try to get it Blondie," he laughed.

Angrily, Noodles lashed out at him, pushing him with her right hand and grabbing the necklace with her left hand. The tramp lost his balance and fell!

"AAAH!" he screamed, as he dropped like a stone.

"Close your eyes Noodles, and count to three," whispered the mirror dog.

"1, 2, 3."

Noodles opened her eyes, and she was standing by a door marked EXIT. Beside her feet lay a tasty looking black fish, with human eyes!

"I'll take that fish back for the barbeque," she said and picked it up.

As Noodles left the building with the fish in one hand and the mirror in the other, she felt sorry for the dog, trapped in the mirror. But as she walked down the alleyway, Noodles felt something hairy brush against her legs. Slowly, she turned and saw the Old English sheepdog who had been in the trapped mirror!



She bent down to stroke him and offered him the fish. Hungrily the dog ate it in three large bites.

"I'll call you Lucky. You can come to the barbeque with me instead!" she laughed and they walked home happily together.