

Siobhan CB

ED. I ask you to do one thing for me, Christopher. One thing.

CHRISTOPHER. I didn't want to talk to Mrs. Alexander. It was Mrs. Alexander who ...

*Ed grabs Christopher's arm.*

*Christopher screams.*

*Ed and Christopher tussle.*

*Ed hits Christopher hard.*

*Christopher falls.*

*Ed stands above him.*

ED. I need a drink.

*He goes and picks up the book.*

*He leaves.*

*He comes back without the book.*

I'm sorry I hit you. I didn't mean to.

I love you very much Christopher. Don't ever forget that. I worry about you, because I don't want to see you getting into trouble, because I don't want you to get hurt.

CHRISTOPHER. Where's my book?

ED. Christopher, do you understand that I love you?

*Ed holds his right hand up and spreads his fingers out in a fan.*

*Christopher does the same with his left hand. They make their fingers and thumbs touch each other.*

CHRISTOPHER. Is it in the dustbin at the front of the house?

START

## 23. MAP OF HOUSE

SIOBHAN. "The next day, when I got home from school, Father was still at work so I went outside and looked inside the dustbin.

But the book wasn't there.

I wondered if Father had put it into his van and driven to the dump and put it into one of the big bins there but I did not want that to be true because then I would never see it again. One other possibility was that Father had hidden my book somewhere in the house. So I decided to do some detecting and see if I could find it.

I started by looking in the kitchen.

Then I detected in the laundry room.

Then I detected in the dining room.

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Then I detected in the living room where I found the missing wheel from my Airfix Messerschmitt Bf109G-6 model under the sofa.

Then I went upstairs but I didn't do any detecting in my own room because I reasoned that Father wouldn't hide something from me in my own room unless he was being very clever and doing what is called a Double Bluff like in a real murder-mystery novel, so I decided to look in my own room only if I couldn't find the book anywhere else.

I detected in the bathroom, but the only place to look was in the medicine cabinet and there was nothing in there.

Which meant the only room left to detect in was Father's bedroom. I started by looking under the bed.

There were 5 shoes and a comb with lots of hair in it and a monkey wrench and a chocolate chip cookie and a magazine called *Men Only* and a pair of underpants from TJ Maxx with a little bit of pee left in them and a Scooby-Doo tie and a wooden spoon, but not my book. Then I looked in the drawers on either side of the dressing table. But these only contained aspirin and nail clippers and batteries and dental floss and tissues and a spare false tooth and a tampon but my book wasn't there either.

Then I looked in his wardrobe. In the bottom of the wardrobe was a large plastic toolbox, which was full of tools for 'DIY' which means doing-it-yourself, but I could see these without opening the box because it was made of transparent grey plastic. Then I saw that there was another box underneath the toolbox.

The other box was an old cardboard box that is called a shirt box because people used to buy shirts in them."

*Christopher finds these things including, finally, the shirt box.*

"And when I opened the shirt box I saw my book was inside it."

*Christopher finds his book.*

"Then I heard Father's van pulling up outside the house and I knew that I had to think fast and be clever.

I heard Father shutting the door of the van.

And that is when I saw the envelope.

It was an envelope addressed to me and it was lying under my book in the shirt box with some other envelopes. I picked it up."

*Christopher finds the envelope.*

"It had never been opened.

It said:"

JUDY. Christopher Boone, 36 Randolph Street, Swindon, Wiltshire.

SIOBHAN. "Then I noticed there were lots of envelopes and they

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were all addressed to me. And this was interesting and confusing. And then I noticed how the words Christopher and Swindon were written. They were written like this.”

JUDY. Christopher. Swindon.

SIOBHAN. “I only know 3 people who do little circles instead of dots over the letter *i*. And one of them is Siobhan. And one of them was Mr. Loxley who used to teach at the school. And one of them was Mother.”

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END

## 24. BACK TO REALITY

ED. Christopher?

CHRISTOPHER. Hello.

ED. So what have you been up to young man?

CHRISTOPHER. Today we did Life Skills with Siobhan. Which was Using Money and Public Transport. And I had tomato soup for lunch and 3 apples. And I practised some maths in the afternoon and we went for a walk in the park with Mrs. Peters and collected leaves for making collages.

ED. Excellent, excellent. What do you fancy for chow tonight?

CHRISTOPHER. Baked beans and broccoli.

ED. I think that can be very easily arranged.

I'm just going to put those shelves up in the living room if that's all right with you. I'll make a bit of a racket I'm afraid so if you want to watch television we're going to have to shift it upstairs.

CHRISTOPHER. I'll go and be on my own in my room.

ED. Good man.

SIOBHAN. “So, I went into my room. And when I was in the room I shut the door and took out the envelope. I opened the envelope. Inside there was a letter. And this was what was written in the letter:”

JUDY. 451c Chapter Road, Willesden, London NW2 5NG. 0208 887 8907. Dear Christopher. I was looking through some old photos last night, which made me sad. Then I found a photo of you playing with the train set we bought for you a couple of Christmases ago. And that made me happy because it was one of the really good times we had together. Do you remember how you played with it all day and you refused to go to bed at night because you were still playing with it. We told you about train timetables and you made a train timetable