

#### CHAPTER 1:

It was 7:34pm when I realized that my platypus plush named Molly had disappeared. My favorite teacher and my best friend Mrs. Gabriela had bought it when she was on holiday with her family because she knew that my favorite animal was the platypus, I call her Gab since we were super close. I live in an orphanage 18 miles away from New Jersey. I lost my parents when I was 3, and I am now 11 years 7 months 18 days 4 hours and 37 minutes old . I don't know how they died yet. Miss Gabriela told me she would tell me when I'm a little older.

I lost my platypus, where could it be ? I remember putting it on my bed this morning before going to the painting activity , maybe someone stole it ?

I had already looked around the room and I couldn't find it, so I tried looking under my roommate's bed. He's also my best friend that I've known my whole entire life. We do everything together. I've been looking for Molly all day and still can't find her. Around one hour ago I asked Louis if he had seen her and he told me that I'd probably left it in the cafeteria but I remember putting her on my bed. Which is really weird since I'm a very organized person, I always have everything in order.

So I started to retrace all my steps that I had taken today, literally... I even walked backwards to try to remember where I lost Molly the platypus. I tried the cafeteria like Louis said...I found nothing, I tried all the classrooms I had been to today...still nothing, I even checked all 5 male bathroom stalls in my school...nothing at all. I was of course very upset, but I had to go to sleep at 8pm since I started

school at 7am the next morning, but I wouldn't let this go that easily, this had become a detective case, I would find that platypus.



### CHAPTER 2:

I woke up this morning and immediately started to think about where I had left that platypus. I tried to remember what I had done the day before, but it just didn't make sense because I know I never leave that platypus out of sight. I sleep with it, I take showers with it, I work with it...everything I do it does with me...EVERYTHING! But I cannot overthink this, I have school, it's going to help me become what I want to be in the future, a marine biologist, specifically river animals around the world, they're magnificent. Did you know that a group of platypus is called a paddle ? I think that's funny. It reminded me of a boat. Do platypodes like to go on boats? I think that would be amazing to see... If I were a platypus I would try and ride a boat and paddle to my heart's desire.

But I guess that everything considered, today wasn't the WORST day. Mrs. Gabriela did a science class on animals. I love animals, especially the ones that live in water, my favorite animal is the platypus. One of my biggest dreams is to see one in real life and maybe even touch it but apparently it has a venomous sting on its hind legs. It's very dangerous. I love them but I don't want to risk my life playing with them. God I miss molly. I wonder how she's doing. Does she miss me? Gab said that next week she'd bring us on a class trip to a river close to the orphanage to learn about how these rivers are formed. I really hope I can see some cool animals like capybaras, alligators, beavers, otters and maybe even the platypus. I'm very excited about the trip next week. Sadly, Molly isn't going to be here. But worry not, the investigation goes on.

## CHAPTER 3:

I woke up at 5:34 in the morning just to get ready for the field trip with my class. I always prefer to be advanced just to make sure I have everything prepared, like sneakers so my feet don't hurt, a big water bottle in case I get thirsty, a hat so it doesn't get too hot on my head and a manual fan in case it gets too hot. I was fully ready at 6:40 in the morning which leaves me exactly 20 minutes until the trip starts. On my way down the stairs to get to the place where I'm supposed to meet my class, Bryan the bully pushed me down the staircase because he wanted to get there before everyone. It's always him that hurts everybody's feelings, like last week, he took all my lunch money and gave it to this girl he had a crush on, he always picks on kids like me....outcasts. I just find it really annoying how he always does this to me, just because I'm different, he always makes fun of the fact that I'm autistic. I just wished he stopped.



Later on, the entire class arrived at the river. It was a beautiful sunny day with butterflies flying around, frogs jumping around the lily pads, dragonflies flying with the butterflies, it was beautiful. They looked like confetti going through the air after a party. Should I throw a party for Molly when she comes back? I think she would appreciate it. Gab taught us that rivers are created from water moving from a higher elevation to a lower elevation, all due to gravity. I find that really cool. Unexpectedly, I fell into the river, which really scared me, and I suddenly remembered the animals that could be living in the river, such as crocodiles, alligator snapping turtles, snakes and many more. I screamed for help, I was very scared, even more scared than the time I got chased by my friend wearing a Michael Myers costume. Michael Myers is such a scary being, my arts teacher showed me a movie of Michael and it was very scary. Gab quickly came to rescue me, got me out the river, dried me up and then calmed me down. I was super embarrassed but it's okay because things happen sometimes and it's totally okay.

#### CHAPTER 4:

Today I have a mathematics exam. It's about multiplication. In math, multiplication means the repeated addition of groups of equal sizes. Which basically is like, if i multiply myself by 2, there would be another me, two of me. I left my dorm very early to be the first in line for breakfast. On my way to

the cafeteria I was a little sad because I used to eat lunch with Molly everyday, she won't be with me. Is Molly hungry? I hope that she is ok. I started brainstorming to see where she could be, Louis helped me, but we both couldn't think of anything. Oddly enough, Louis was a bit nervous, I could see that he was sweating and stuttering when we were talking about Molly. I find that very suspicious, maybe he had a bad day at school, maybe he got in trouble, I don't know. Then he said that he had to go back to the dorm. I asked him if i could come with but he said not now, he said he had to do something very important and that I couldn't go now. Which is really weird because this has never happened before, so he left the dorm and let me connect some dots about my Molly case.

Around 30 minutes and 24 seconds after my anxious friend left the dorm, I started getting bored, so I started going back to my room. As I was walking back to my sleeping accommodation, I saw Louis suspiciously hide something in his backpack when we made eye contact in front of our door. So I asked him "What's that ?"

Louis anxiously replied with "Nothing at all, I'm just looking for my math book because I have homework for tomorrow"

So I told him "Oh okay, well I'm gonna go study for arts"

That was the most unwieldy conversation I've ever had, but that's okay, he was probably just stressed out for the math homework for tomorrow. That's when it dawned on me, we don't even have math class for the next couple of days because Mr. Hennessy is sick. So what was he truly hiding in his bag ? Why is he lying to me ? I thought we were best friends ?

#### CHAPTER 5:

I woke up at 6:00 am to get first in line for breakfast, but Louis wasn't in the room. I couldn't find him anywhere, I did find his diary on the desk though, out of curiosity I opened it to read it. I noticed he wrote something on the 12th of february at 9:57 pm, that is the day i lost Molly, As I was reading it, Louis got in our room and immediately snatched the diary out of my hands.

Louis angrily asked me "What the hell are you doing with my diary ?! This is supposed to be something personal !"

I told him "I'm sorry, I didn't know, i was just curious, please don't be mad"

Louis said "it's okay, just don't touch my belongings without asking me"

Louis quickly left the room after our argument, I noticed that Louis has been trying to ignore me recently, especially after Molly disappeared. I started to think that Louis stole Molly from me, but that can't be possible, he's my best friend. I started to connect some dots, and surprisingly Louis is my number one suspect now. I must investigate a bit more to be sure that he stole Molly from me before I confront him about it.

#### CHAPTER 6:

My investigation started early in the morning shortly after Louis and I left the dorm room. I was following Louis around the orphanage, but I had to make sure he didn't notice me spying on him because he would not be my friend anymore, and I don't want that to happen because Louis is like a brother to me.

At 12:39 when we had our lunch break, Louis went to the bathroom. I waited 1 minute and 45 seconds precisely before I followed him in the bathroom, so it wouldn't be suspicious, I saw this on a spy documentary I watched 8 months 2 weeks 25 days ago.

When I got in the bathroom, I could hear Louis speaking to someone, which is weird because why would anyone talk to a person in the bathroom unless they're trying to hide something. But I didn't hear a second voice. Was he talking to himself?

Then I heard him say "He'll never find you, you're safe with me"

That's when I slipped on some wet paper towels, and hurt my elbow.

Louis got out of the bathroom stall and saw me on the floor.

He asked me "What are you doing ? Are you spying on me ?"

I anxiously said "No of course not, I was just about to use the bathroom because my stomach hurts"

Louis left the bathroom without saying a word, thankfully he didn't think I was spying on him. The investigation goes on.

## CHAPTER 7:

I'm ready to confront Louis about this situation. I don't want to jump into conclusions but I have enough evidence to prove that he actually stole it .

As soon as I woke up, around 6:34 I was ready to go and talk to him to see if he did take it . The moment I left the dorm to try to find Louis , Bryan saw me and pushed me on the wall. I was so confused but wasn't surprised at all because It's how Bryan acts everyday. He said that if I continued to spy on Louis he'd beat me up. I found it really suspicious that Louis is friends with BRYAN , he used to hate him , what could've happened for them to be close friends ? I think I know , Louis probably promised Bryan the bully something .

I know that Bryan loves playing football, but nobody plays with him since he's mean to everyone. Louis probably asked Bryan to threaten me and that in exchange they would play football together. After I did my little investigation, I had to check if I was right.

So around 4:17 pm ,when the sky was as blue as the sea and the clouds were as fluffy as cotton balls, floating and moving in the sky , I went near the football field to see if Louis and Bryan were there

I was shocked, I was shocked to have been right, at that moment I ran towards Louis' bag, which was on the third wooden table on the right of the football field and I opened his gray Eastpak backpack and I couldn't believe my eyes. Louis ran towards me, I looked at him with anger and I was disappointed in him, I always thought he was my best friend. Molly the Platypus was in his backpack, Louis had lost all the trust I had in him. He explained to me that the reason he had taken it was because my relationship with Madame Gabriela was too close and he dreamed of having the same. But the fact that she bought me a stuffed animal of my favorite animal made him even more jealous. At that moment I didn't know what to answer so I went back to the dorms to think about my final decision, Bryan followed me he pushed me and started hitting me because I had interrupted his football game with "his new friend", and that's when Louis arrived and hit Bryan to help me, I saw him as a hero, no one had ever dared to get in Bryans way, Louis, he did it, it looked like two gladiators fighting, it was unbelievable.

At that moment Mrs. Gab arrived and separated the two fighters, she called us, we explained to her all the details of the story from the beginning, she reassured us by explaining to us that she loved us

both as much, Bryan the bully was expelled from the orphanage for hurting many children. Louis and I became best friends for life again and Miss Gab gave Louis a red dragon plush.



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# THE END.