

Chapter 1

Sent away!

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The accident changed everything. One week Lucy was living with her mum and dad in Chester. The next week she was on a plane heading for the other side of the world ... to New Zealand. And all because of the accident.

“Your parents are lucky to be alive,” the doctor at the intensive care unit had told Lucy. “Luckily, they were wearing their safety belts. They’re going to be all right but they’ll have to stay in hospital for a month or two.”

Mrs Ferguson, the hospital social worker, had asked Lucy about her relatives. “We’ll have to find you someone to stay with until your parents have recovered,” she had said. “Have you got an aunt or a grandmother or someone like that who you could stay with?”
“We haven’t got many relatives in England,” Lucy had told her. “I’ve got an uncle in Scotland, but most of my relatives are in New Zealand. My mother’s a New Zealander.”



A week later, Lucy got off the plane at Auckland airport. Her uncle was waiting at the arrivals exit with her cousins, Sam and Katy.

"How was the flight?" asked her uncle.

"OK, but it was very long," replied Lucy.

"How long?" asked Katy.

"About twenty-four hours."

"Awesome!" said Sam.

As they drove towards her new home, Lucy stared out of the car window. She saw green fields, cows and sheep. It looked rather like the countryside in England.

And yet it was also different. For one thing, most of the houses were made of wood - and even in the towns, they all had gardens. For another thing, it was sunny and the light was very bright. Everything looked very clean.

The last part of the journey was along the Coromandel coast. There were a lot of bends in the road and Lucy soon began to feel ill. They stopped to take a walk along one of the beaches until she felt better. "Not much further now," said her uncle as they got back in the car. "We'll be there in less than half an hour." They passed over some hills ... and then they were in Coromandel.



Coromandel
20th January

Dear Mum and Dad,

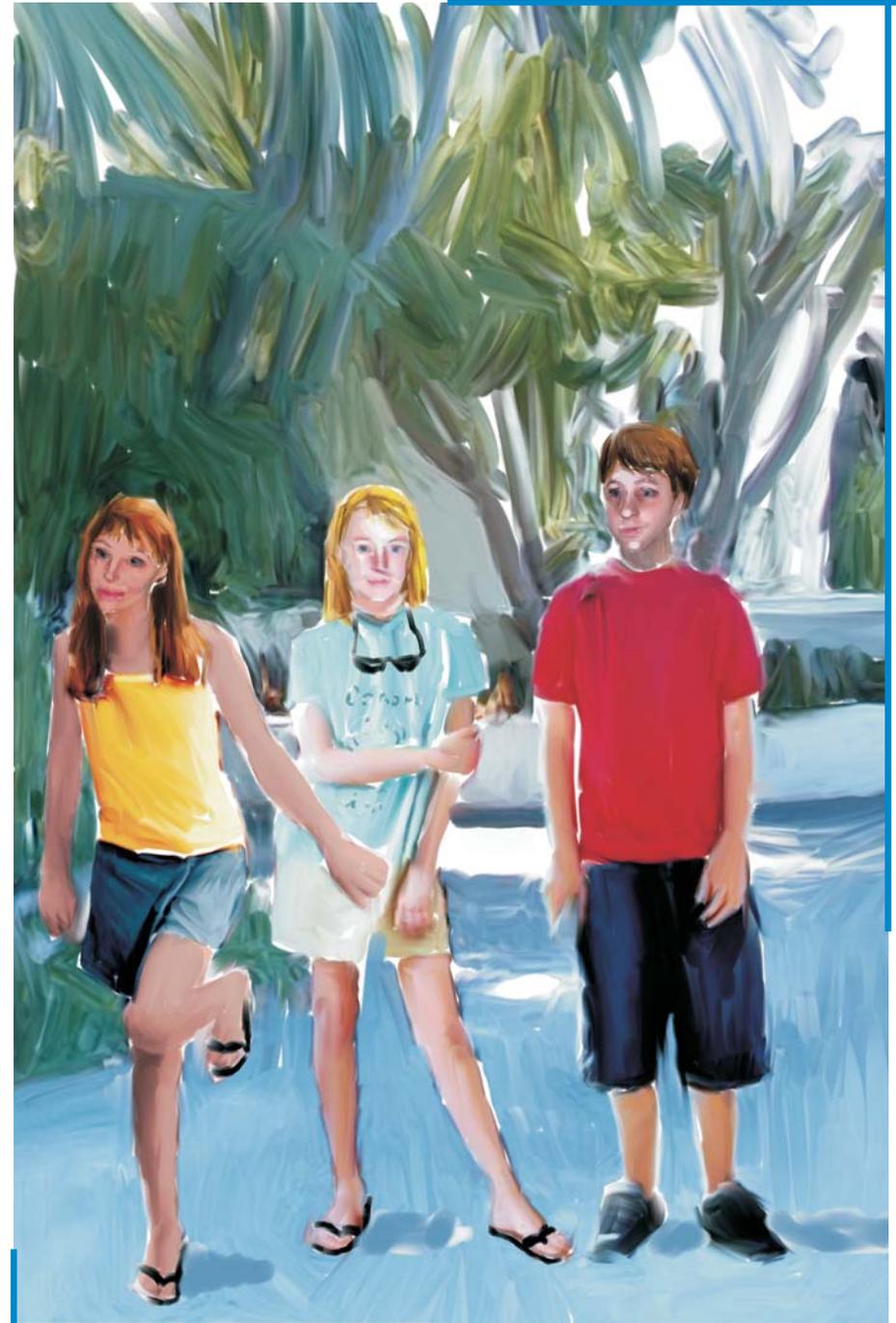
I've arrived safely in Auckland. No problems on the way here. Uncle Jack, Katy and Sam met me at the airport. We phoned the hospital when we got home - I hope you got the message. And I also hope you're well enough to read this letter!

It's amazingly different here. For one thing, the weather is quite hot. When I left London it was snowing, but I arrived here on a boiling hot summer's day. It was quite a shock. For another, the air is so bright here. I could hardly open my eyes at first. Now I've bought some sunglasses.

Everyone is being very nice to me. Aunty Jill took me to the shops to buy some summer clothes, including a new swimsuit. They call it 'togs' here. And I've got some 'jandals' - those rubber sandals that everyone wears in the summer. Well, not everyone - a lot of people go around in bare feet. I know you told me about it, Mum, but it still seems strange.

I've more or less recovered from jet lag, though I still wake up in the middle of the night. Don't worry about me. I'm fine. More news soon.

Love,
Lucy





Chapter 2

A New Life

The first days of Lucy's new life in Coromandel were great fun. It was the summer holidays and her cousins showed her around the town. They went swimming almost every day and hung out at home with their friends. At the weekends, Uncle Jack took the whole family out in his boat. They went for picnics in beautiful, remote bays. Sometimes they went fishing and usually caught lots of fish. Uncle Jack cooked the fish on the barbecue. Lucy loved this new life; it was like a dream and she wanted it to go on for ever.

But one day her aunt said: "School starts next week. We have to get you a school uniform." Suddenly Lucy woke up from her dream. She felt nervous about starting at this strange new school. She was amazed by the uniform. It was a light blue T-shirt and navy blue shorts!

"Do the kids really wear shorts to school?" she asked her aunt.

"Yes, but they're quite long shorts," her aunt replied.

Lucy felt better when her aunt also bought a navy blue track suit with the school logo.

VOCABULARY

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- 3 *heading for* going towards
intensive care unit the part of a hospital where people who are very ill have special medical care and are watched very carefully
social worker sb who is trained to give help and advice to people with problems, especially in a hospital
recovered got better (after an illness or injury)
New Zealander sb from New Zealand
- 4 *exit* the door that leads out of a place
awesome very impressive and a little frightening; used by some young people to mean 'extremely good'
- 5 *And yet ...* However, ... ; But at the same time ...
For one thing, ... One reason for this is ...
bends places where the road curves
- 6 *I could hardly open* It was very difficult for me to open
jet lag a feeling of tiredness and confusion that you get when you travel in an aeroplane to a place where the time is different
- 9 *hung out* spent time together in a place (informal)
remote far away from towns or people
bays areas of the sea coast where the land curves inwards
- 10 *assembly* a regular meeting of teachers and students in a school, often held in the morning
hymn a religious song
counsellor sb whose job is to give advice and help to people with problems, especially in a school
- 11 *Form 5B* Class 5B
desperately in a very worried way
spotted noticed
- 12 *We're all getting along fine.* We all like each other and are being friendly to each other.
proper real, serious
- 14 *It's just that ...* The only problem is that ...
tribes large groups of families who are related to one another, live in the same area and all have the same language, customs and religion
mining getting metal or coal from under the ground
pottery making plates, cups, etc. out of baked clay
crafts traditional skills of making things (e.g., jewellery or furniture) by hand

QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES

Chapter 1

Before reading

- 1 What do you know about New Zealand?
- 2 Find New Zealand on a map of the world.
- 3 Have you ever been on a plane journey? How long was the flight? How did you feel afterwards?

After reading

- 1 What happened to Lucy's parents?
- 2 Why did Lucy go to New Zealand?
- 3 How did New Zealand look different from England?
- 4 It was snowing in London but it was hot in New Zealand. Why?
- 5 Fill in the blanks.
 - a "Your parents are _____ to be alive."
" _____ , they were wearing their safety belts."
 - b I've arrived _____ in Auckland.
 - c It's _____ different here.

Chapter 2

Before reading

- 1 What is your school uniform like?
- 2 Who are the Maoris?

After reading

- 1 How did Lucy spend her first days in Coromandel?
- 2 What was surprising about the school uniform?
- 3 Was the school in New Zealand very different from Lucy's school in England? What was similar and what was different?
- 4 Why did Lucy join the Maori club?
- 5 Fill in the blanks.
 - a Lucy loved this new life; it was like a dream and she wanted it to go on _____ .
 - b The counsellor took Lucy to 5B's classroom and _____ her to the class. The room seemed to _____ very full. Everyone stared as Lucy looked around _____ for a seat.
 - c Katy and Sam have been great. They've shown me _____ Coromandel and I've met all their friends. We're all getting _____ fine.