**A Child’s Imagination**

It’s a beautiful sunny day. Christy Miller is lying in the **ham­mock** in the back yard. She can hear the **woodpeckers** in the trees. Peck.. .peck.. .peck. She can smell the beautiful flowers near the **stream.** She can hear the roar of the crocodiles com­ing from the stream. What! Crocodiles! Christy looks. Four big crocodiles are walking toward the hammock!

“What can I do?” Christy says. She sees the big chestnut tree near her house. She runs to it, and climbs to the first branch. She hears another roar. There is a leopard in the tree with her! The crocodiles are under the tree. There is no place to go!

Christy climbs higher and higher. Soon, she is at the top of the tree. Where can she go now? She looks down, and sees a gorilla sitting near her. It looks very hungry. Christy can’t fly. Where can she go?

Suddenly, a purple airplane comes out from behind the clouds. It stops near the top of the tree. Christy gets in the plane. Christy sits down in a pink seat. It has yellow **stripes.** She is the only passenger on the plane. There is only a little window. Christy looks out. The plane is going very fast. She can see white clouds. That’s all.

The door to the **cockpit** opens. A very strange alien is walks out. It looks like “E.T.” Its body is very little, but its head is very big. It has big red eyes. It has green, pointed ears. It makes strange noises. It is wearing an orange hat and green Converse sneakers.

Christy smiles at the strange man. “Can you speak English?”

“Of course, I can. I can speak 45,000 languages from 1,200 different planets.”

“Wow! You are very clever. I can only speak English.”

“Do you like our airplane?”

“Yes, but it is very cold. Are there any **heaters** on this plane?”

“Heat? What is heat?” the strange thing says. “That is a new word.”

“It’s what you use when you are cold. Like fire,” Christy answers.

“Ah, I see. I don’t know if there are heaters here. We can look.”

“Okay. First of all, my name is Christy. I’m 5 years old. What is your name?”

“Name? We don’t have names. I am 31AA. My brother is 32AA. He is flying the plane.”

“It’s nice to meet you,” Christy says.

Christy and 31AA look in the back of the plane. They look in the front of the plane. They look on the top, and on the bottom. There are no heaters.

“Maybe we can open the window,” Christy says. She walks to the one little window.

“Don’t do that. We only weigh a little. There will be a big problem if...”

It’s too late. Christy opened the window. Everyone knows you should never open a window in an airplane. Poor Christy didn’t know—it’s her first time on a plane! The two aliens, 31AA and 32AA, are sucked through the window!

Christy closes the window, and walks to the front of the air­plane. She looks at the **controls.**

“I don’t know how to fly an airplane,” Christy says. “I don’t even know how to ride a bicycle!”

She puts her hand on one lever, and pushes it up. The plane goes up.

“I must learn how to fly this. I should be home before dinner. Mommy will be very sad if I don’t come home!”

She looks at all the levers and buttons. One button says “T,” and she presses it. A big TV comes on with a football match. She pushes the “R” button, and a radio comes on. Britney Spears is singing “Baby One More Time.”

She looks at the other buttons. One has a big “L” on it. “Maybe that means land,” Christy thinks. She presses it. The plane starts to go down. She hears a loud knock, and the plane stops. Christy walks to the window, and looks outside. She is near a big, blue lake. There are lots of people swimming. Some people are sailing. Many people are lying in the sun.

Christy gets out of the airplane. The airplane isn’t pink now. It is red with black **polka dots.** “I like it better now,” she says to herself. Red is Christy’s favorite color.

She walks to a sandy spot under a big blue tree. There are some children playing near the tree.

“Excuse me, do you know where I am?” Christy asks the children.

“You are on the beach, silly girl,” one of the children says. He has purple hair and no nose.

“Thanks a lot,” Christy says.

She lies on the sand, and starts to cry. She is very sad. She misses her parents. She misses Ross and Kevin. Will she ever see them again? She hears a noise and looks up. There is another pink airplane in the sky. A door opens, and two objects fall from the sky. They land near Christy. It is 31AA and 32AA! Now she is happy. The two aliens are very excited to see Christy. She hasn’t seen 32AA before. He looks like his brother except that he has some lavender hair on his head.

“Welcome, 31AA and 32AA. I don’t know where we are, but I am so happy to see you,” Christy says.

“We are happy to see you,” 32AA says.

Many people are looking at the strange men.

“I think you need some clothes,” Christy says. “Then, you will look like everyone else. Let’s find a store.”

Christy and the two aliens walk down the beach. There are no stores. Christy sees a bright orange taxi parked in front of a **foun­tain** with green water spraying out of it.

“Let’s take a cab. The driver will know where to buy clothes,” Christy says.

They walk to the cab.

“Can you take us to a clothes store?” Christy asks.

“I can take you,” the driver says, “but those two strange-look- ing guys will have to ride on top.”

So, 31AA and 32AA sit on top of the cab. Christy sits in the front seat. Soon, they stop in front of a big store.

“There you go,” the driver says. “Don’t forget your friends!”

“I won’t,” says Christy. “Oh, no! I have a problem! I haven’t any money to pay for the ride.”

“Money? Everything is free here,” says the driver.

“Wow! What a wonderful place! C’mon 31AA and 32AA. Let’s get you some clothes.”

Thirty minutes later, Christy and the two aliens leave the store. 31AA is wearing a red suit with a pink tie. 32AA is wearing a soldier’s uniform. Christy thinks they look very funny.

“That solves one problem,” Christy says. “We have another one. I am hungry. Do you eat on your planet?” “No, we get **injections** to live. Our people stopped eating food about two million years ago,” 31AA says. “We can go with you. We will try to eat.”

Christy and the two aliens go to a restaurant. Its name is “Don’t Eat Here.” Christy can’t read it because she is too young.

They sit in a small **booth** near the window. A black creature with eleven red eyes walks over to them.

“Can I get you something to eat?” it asks.

“I want a chocolate milk shake,” Christy says. She looks at 31AA and 32AA. They are eating the forks and knives!

“You can’t eat those,” Christy says. “They will give you a ؛؛، tummy ache!”

“They are very delicious,” 32AA says. “Better than our boring injections.”

“Oh boy,” Christy says. “I’m very sorry. It’s time to leave. C’mon my friends.”

“That was very quick,” 31AA says. “What do you want to do now?” “Let’s go to the park,” Christy answers. “I want to think.” They walk to a small park. There are strange birds in it. Big people are playing games in the **sandbox** while little children sit in the grass and read!

“This is a very strange place,” Christy says. She starts to cry. “I want to go home. I miss my Mommy!”

“What is a ‘mommy’?” 31 AA asks.

“She is my friend. She cooks my food, and helps me color and paint. I miss her very much!”

“Where does she live?” 32AA asks.

“She lives in a big house with my Daddy and two brothers, Ross and Kevin. Kevin is very mean sometimes, but I still love him.”

“Do you really want to go home?”

“Yes, very much.”

The alien reaches into his suit pocket. “Here, take this magic **pill,** and everything will be okay.”

Christy takes the pill in her hand. “Can I go home now?

“Take the pill, and you will be home in seconds,” 32AA says. “We will miss you. We don’t want you to leave. That is why I didn’t give you the pill before.”

“I will miss you, too, but I miss my Mommy more,” Christy says. She takes the pill. “Maybe you can come and visit me and my...” Christy closes her eyes. “Wake up, Princess. Wake up. It’s time for dinner.” Christy opens her eyes. She is in her hammock again! Mr. Miller is looking at her. She sits up, and gives her father a big hug. “I’m home again! I’m home again! I went to a very strange place, Daddy! There were crocodiles and waitresses with eleven eyes. And pink airplanes. And 31AA. And”

“C’mon, little lady. We’ll be late for dinner.” Mr. Miller takes Christy’s hand.

“Can 31AA come? And 32AA, too?” Christy asks. “Not tonight,” Mr. Miller says, looking down at her. “Who are they?” “They are brothers. One of them, 32AA, flies a pink airplane, and his brother, 31 AA, wears a red suit.” Mr. Miller looks down at his daughter. “Maybe they can have dinner with us some other time. I know one thing, Princess, you have been watching too many cartoons!”