The Missing Keys



By Pauline Cartwright
Illustrations by Ben O'Hagan

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Chapter 1

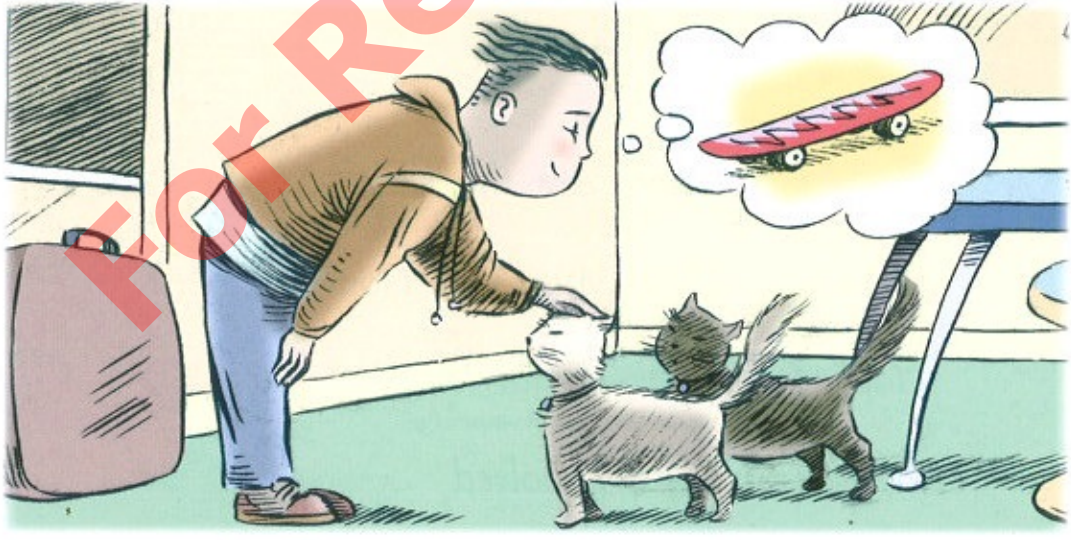
Where Are the Keys?

Chris and his parents were staying at Aunty Kate's house while she was away.

"It's been great, hasn't it, Chris?" said Mum.

"It's been okay," replied Chris.

Although he had liked going fishing with Dad, Chris would rather have been home practising on his skateboard. At the opening of the new skateboard park this afternoon, there were prizes for good skateboarders. Chris wanted to win one.

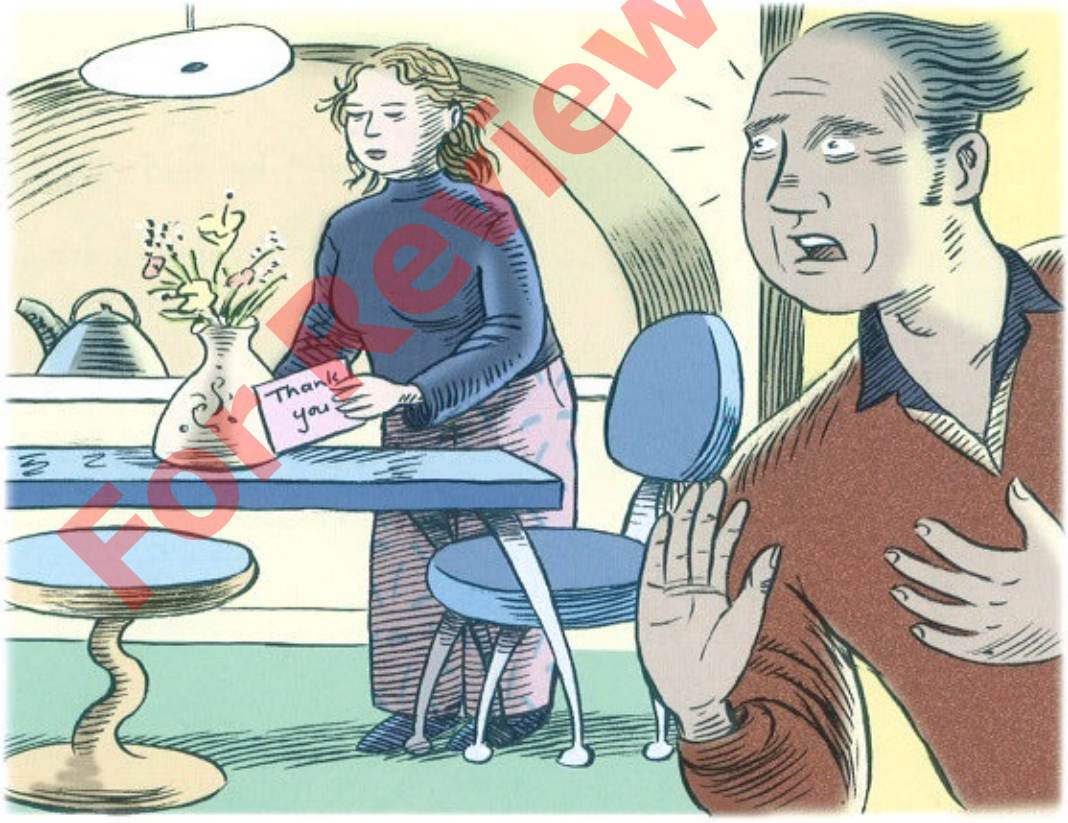


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Chris felt Aunty Kate's two cats sliding past his legs. "I'll miss Chocolate and Coffee when we go," he said, bending down to pat them.

Chris's dad came into the kitchen. "Kate's house keys have disappeared!" he said.

"Disappeared?" exclaimed Mum. "Do you mean you've lost them?"



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"No," said Dad crossly. "They've just disappeared. It's a mystery to me!"

Chris felt upset. They had to return home soon or he'd miss the skateboard park opening.

"We have to give the keys to the man next door," said Mum. "He's looking after the cats until Aunty Kate gets home."

"I'm sure I left the keys on the bookcase yesterday," said Dad.

Chris nodded. "I saw you put them there," he said.

"But the keys aren't there now," said Dad, shrugging his shoulders.

Chris was getting worried. *Where were the keys?*

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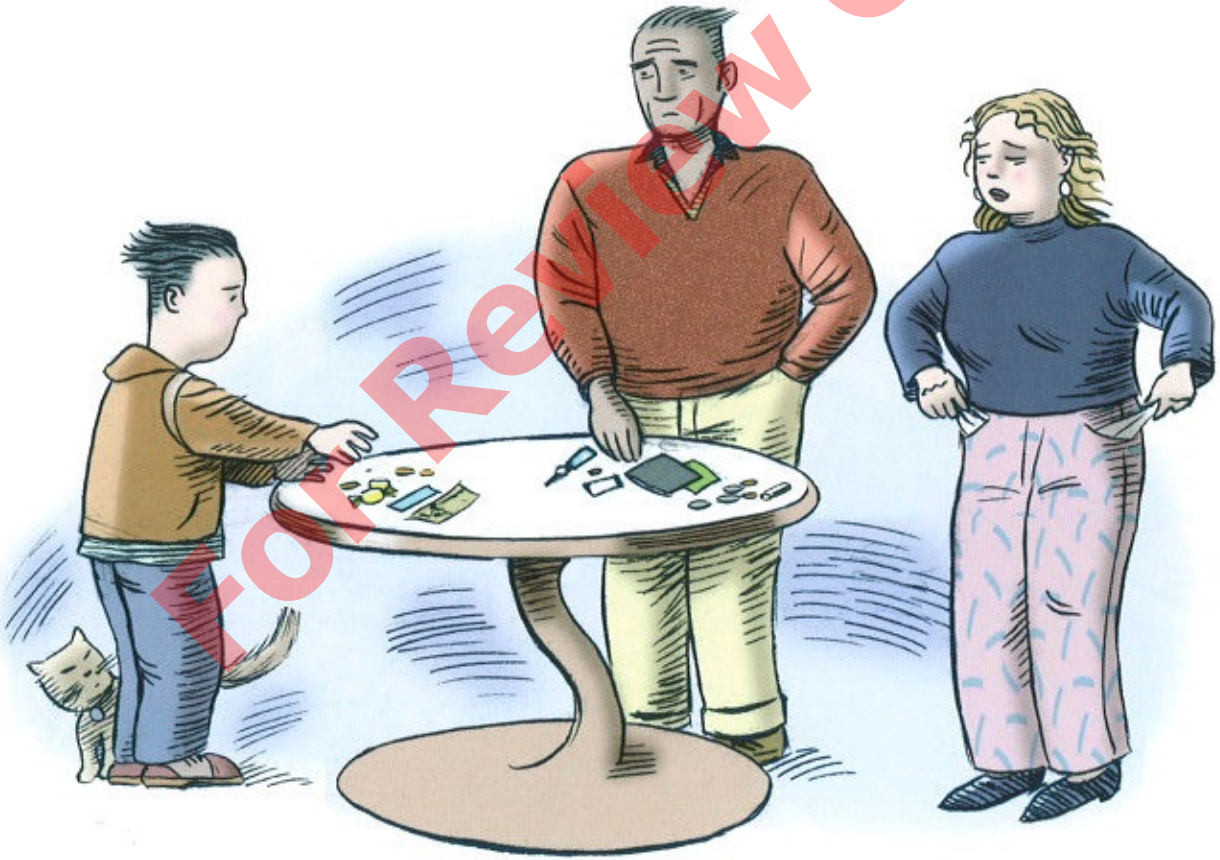
Chapter 2

Chris Must Get Home

"Perhaps you picked up the keys again last night. You might have put them in your pocket," said Chris.

"Let's all look in our pockets," said Mum.

Nobody found the keys.

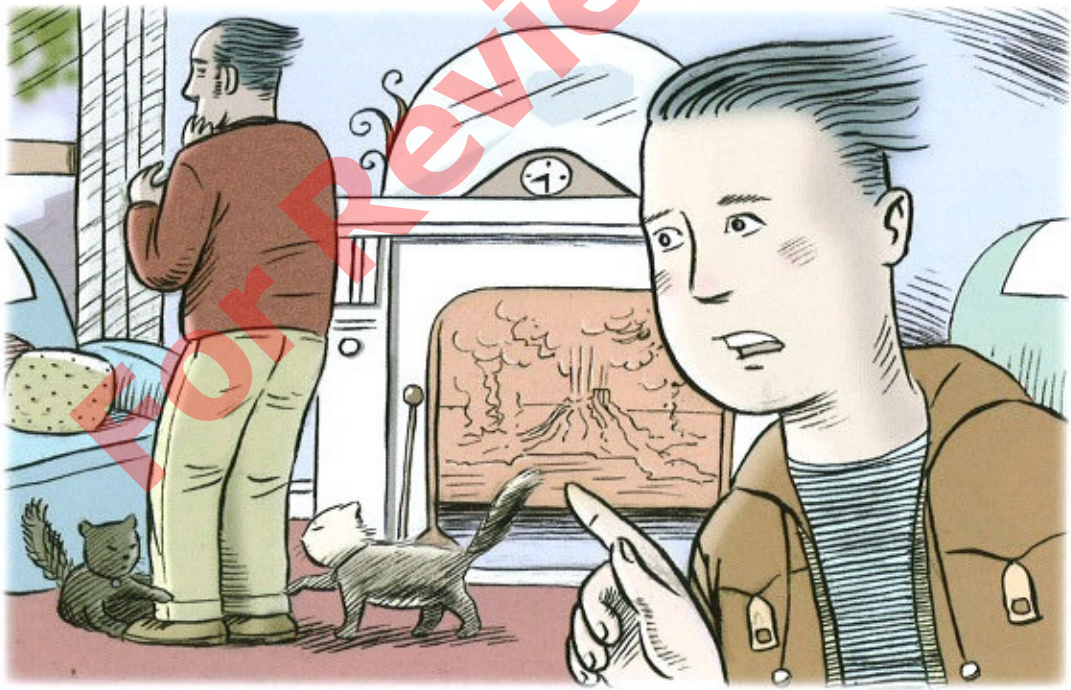


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"We mustn't leave the house unlocked," Mum said, looking very concerned.

I *have* to go to the opening of the skateboard park, thought Chris. We *must* find the keys so that we can get home. He looked at the cats pawing at his father's trousers.

"Dad!" said Chris. "Those are different trousers to the ones you had on yesterday! Perhaps the keys are in your other trousers."



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