



Ursula at Kindergarten

Ursula's kindergarten teacher adjusted her flowery dress and invited the Benjamins into her office. It was small with just enough room for a desk, an office chair and two seats for visitors.

"Thank you for coming in today," she said and beckoned the Benjamins to sit down.

Ursula's grandparents sat down and then her grandmother picked her up. Ursula had just turned three years old and weighed very little. Mémé balanced Ursula on her knee and waited for the nervous looking teacher to begin.

"Unfortunately I do not think I am able to look after Ursula anymore. She is a lovely girl – polite, well-mannered, bright, eloquent and in many ways a model child at our kindergarten but..."

The teacher's paint-stained hands started to shake as she looked across at the thin girl on the other side of her desk. Ursula smiled and lit up the windowless room.

"But what...?" Mémé asked sternly and gripped Ursula tightly. "Is she naughty? Is she a bad girl?"

"No," replied the teacher.

"Then what is it?" demanded Mémé and would have banged her fist on the desk if she had not seen the warning look Granddad Benjamin was giving her.

The teacher stuttered and erred, "She goes missing. She is there, you turn your back for a split second and she has gone! Even when there are more members of staff near her she disappears. We can't keep track of her. My nerves can't take it."

Mémé passed Ursula to Granddad Benjamin and crossed her arms defiantly.

"Are you telling me that you can't watch my three year old granddaughter?"

"Yes," replied the teacher uncomfortably. "But maybe we could try something, you could help me. Maybe you could talk to Ursula about not running away."

Mémé looked down at Ursula who was now standing next to her. She had a lollipop in her hand and was looking up at the ceiling. Mémé turned back to face the teacher.

"We will talk to Ursula when we get home. We will explain to her that she has to stay where she is put."

Granddad Benjamin coughed.

"What is it Jerome?" snapped Mémé and as she looked across she saw that Ursula was gone.



Published only in Welcome Newsletter 1



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