

Moving to a New House

By Sevim Ak

1 Yiğit was excited about moving to a new house. He hadn't seen his new room or the house. Mum said 'It's bigger and brighter than the previous one'. This was the only clue she had given. He had learnt about moving to a new house very late. He only found out about it when his father was talking to his grandfather on the phone. He left his grandfather's house in a rush. When he arrived at the new house, all the rooms had already been chosen. He punched the door when he learnt that he had been given the smallest room in the house. The house had three rooms. Father didn't need the biggest room. A small table and a chair would be enough for him to write his reports on the computer. What about his sister's toys? Couldn't they fit in the smallest room? Mum had hung a pillow-shaped door sign on the bedroom door, a cook hat shaped door sign for the kitchen and a brush-shaped door sign on the bathroom door. On the door of his room, the sign was of a curly blonde haired boy. He immediately took off the door sign. There was a keyboard door sign on the door of his father's study. He switched their places. His mother realized the changes at once. She changed their places back. Yiğit insisted 'I have more stuff than my father has.' He was determined not to give in. His mother assumed that a lot of stuff had been thrown out of his room. But now his room was full of boxes. She opened one of the boxes. 'Oohh! What are they doing here? I thought we had thrown them away! The things that we used to have when you were a little boy ... paper toys ... puppets ... robot ... you are a big boy now!' 'You threw them away, but I got them back ... otherwise I'd be in the room all on my own...' Her mother took the boxes out of the room without listening to Yiğit. 20 Five minutes later the cry of 'Yigit is missing' was heard...His mother knew how sensitive her son was. She looked in the laundry basket, in the boxes and in the washing machine. She was expecting him to scare her with a 'Booo! ... Haha!...' The smile froze on her face. Then she took the lid of the biggest cooking pot in the house. She imagined him jumping from a cloud. Instead a little water drop splashed on her hand from the lid. Father wasn't alarmed about Yiğit's disappearance yet. Because he used many electronic devices, he considered everything to be remote controlled. He dialled Yiğit's number on his phone and he wandered around the house. He expected him to come out from wherever he was hiding and say 'Beep beep'. He didn't hear it. He wandered around the house, then he went into the garden. He saw a shadow behind the tree. He shouted his name with a smile on his face.... He imagined hugging him. At the same time a cute little dog with a long nose ran away wagging its tail. 30 The empty boxes had been carried back to the lorry and it was moving away... The father dreamed that his son was in one of those boxes. He ran after the lorry in hurry. He shouted 'Yiğit'. But the lorry had already gone far away. In front of the door Father bumped into a woman who had black hair streaked with white. She was carrying a bundle of newspapers under her arm, reading one at the same time. 'Hello... You ... Our new neighbour....' stuttered the father. 'Aaaah ... yes...' said the woman. 'Mine is the house next door. Welcome to our street.' The neighbour had a long neck and big blue eyes. She turned her head to look at the house and the furniture. 'Hmmm ... There are four people in the family ... Is your older child a boy?' 40 'How did you know?' 'Have you seen Yiğit?' 'I can see inside your house... children's bedrooms, your bedroom, the kitchen ...' 'We can't find our son ... He is lost ... He was wearing red shorts and a blue t-shirt Sometimes he is as slow as a tortoise and sometimes as fast as a rabbit...' The woman turned to the third page of the newspaper... She showed a picture of a boy.

`Ah yes ... Look! This boy is just like the one you have described.... Red shorts ... Blue sweater...` The father shook his head.

`No no... It`s wrong ...!`

`This boy is in Izmir now.` said the woman. `He was found on the beach!` The father looked at the picture once more and smiled with relief.

50 `Oo... No no ... When I said he is fast, I didn`t mean that fast! He was here just ten minutes ago.`

The woman looked at the house again. `Hmm ... This house had been empty for a long time... Look, there`s a bird`s nest on the roof.... Aaaaah! This seagull is a new one. It will bring you good luck!`

`A bird... My son loves birds. He`s crazy about flying ... Thank you...`

The father looked at the room with renewed hope.... He imagined Yiğit waving at him from the seagull`s nest... He excitedly waved both arms. .. He imagined Yiğit turning into a seagull. As the seagull flapped its wings, the father looked down. The woman called him.

`You`ve dropped something from your pocket... Be careful! Don`t lose it...` It was a small notebook with a pen.

`Ahh... It`s nothing important`

60 `Don`t say that ... There is crime everywhere these days... They might do something terrible if they get your pen and notebook.`

`Do you read detective stories?`

`All the time.`

The father ran to the house fanning his face with his hands to keep cool.

The dinner table in front of the house under the tree had been set. Mother was carrying a big pot of pasta.

`We`re tired and hungry...Let`s eat something and get some energy...`

`Hmm ... Is it pasta with cheese?` asked Yıldız. `Yiğit loves that...`

`I don`t want to eat anything... I wish we had found him...` said the father.

A drop of water fell down on to the table from the tree...

`Is it rain?` asked the mother.

70 The father looked at the sky.

`The sun`s shining.`

Yıldız caught the drop with her fingertip and smelt it.

`It smells like strawberry... Just like Yiğit`s toothpaste ...`

They all looked puzzled ...

The drops kept falling and they were getting bigger.

`Sun and the rain together mean there will be a rainbow... It`s good luck for the new house...` said the mother.

They all looked for the rainbow. At that moment, Yıldız was holding one of the drops on her fingertip. In the drop, she thought she saw Yiğit.

`Yeesssssss.....Our rainbow is coming`

80 The drop got bigger and bigger ... Yiğit in the drop got bigger and bigger ... Suddenly, the boy fell onto the middle of the table.

The mother clapped her hands, and cheered for her son.

Yiğit breathed in the smell of the food.

`I`m so hungry ... Will this be enough for all of us?` he asked.

The father speared a bit of pasta on his fork. He sighed with relief,

`Welcome to our new house!` he said.