

# Isolated

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*Frankie and the gang decided to go on a road trip, but something went wrong. Read and find out what happened!*

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# 1 - First day, Part 1

## Isolated

The following events takes place after the episode Bus the two of us and includes eight days. I do not own Foster's.

## First day

### Part 1

Beep...beep...beep...

The alarm clock rang; its sound filled the room. Bloo wake up first.

- Could somebody turn that thing off? I want to sleep!

There was no respond.

- Hey, hello! Earth calling Wilt! Houston we got a trouble here!

- Um... sorry, what's the problem? - Wilt awakened.

- The alarm clock is still ringing! Turn it off!

- I'm sorry, but have you considered about doing it by yourself? - Wilt questioned.

- Hmm... I don't think so.

- Ah, sometimes it's very difficult to get along with you! - said Wilt, turning the alarm off.

- Oh, come on, you should have thanked me for that physical exercise!

- I'm sorry?

- Well, don't blame me, when your fingers rot down because you don't train them enough!

While they were talking, Eduardo jumped down from his bed.

- Buenos Dias!

- Good morning Eduardo! - said Wilt.

- Yeah, yeah, morning! Hey, why do we get up so early, anyway? - expressed his displeasure Bloo.

- Co co cococo coco cocococo coco co! – replied Coco.

- You're going on a road trip? – Bloo shouted.

- Um... no... - denied Wilt.

- Is that a permission to wake me up in the middle of the night?

- I'm sorry, but it's 7 Am. I wouldn't say it's the middle of the night.

- Okay Mr. Perfect friend, who does not tells his best friends that he's going on a road trip! – Bloo yelled.

- It's not depending on us, Bloo! Maybe you could ask Frankie, and I'm sure she'll let you come! - explained Wilt.

- You bet I will!

- Cococo coco!- suggested Coco.

- Si, Let's go downstairs and have some breakfast!

They left Bloo alone in the room.

- They can't get rid of me that easy! - hissed he.

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- Frankie... - accosted her Bloo as he brought his unwashed to the kitchen. Frankie looked up behind from a tower of dirty dishes.

- Now is not a good time, Bloo! I'm full of trouble, don't need another one.

- But Frankie, I'd like to talk about something very important!

- That thing can wait a few hours, I suppose. - declared she.

- Frankie, pleeeeeeeeeeease!- wined Bloo.

- All right, what do you want?

- Can I go to for that road trip?

- What? Err... um... I don't know what you're talking about!

- Wilt, Coco and Eduardo said you're organizing a road trip!

- I've never heard of that!

- Yes you did! - said Eduardo shortly, who just entered the kitchen.

- No, I have not! - denied she.

- But Senorita Frankie, you told us to not to tell senor Bloo, that we're going on a camping... caramba! - He quickly put his hands before his mouth, but it was too late.

- What? I don't understand... why did you try to keep this back from me? I was born to do such cool things! You know how much I love to hang out with you and you wanted to leave me here! Now, you have hurt my feelings! I... I...I'm speechless... - said Bloo.

He slowly walked out. Frankie and Eduardo's eyes met. Frankie felt bad. She did not want to hurt Bloo's feelings; she thought Bloo would ruin the whole thing with his pranks and other Blooish stuff.

- Maybe you should talk to him. - Ed suggested.

- Yeah. But I have many chores now. I must finish the duties of the whole day; otherwise, the rabbit will not let us go! I will talk to him later!

- Okay. - agreed Ed, and left the kitchen.

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- Excuse me, but what's the matter with Bloo? - Wilt asked.

- Coco Cococo co cocococo! - explained Coco.

- Poor, Bloo! Yeah, I know he's really annoying sometimes, but he's our best friend. We must make it up to him! You should ask Frankie to change her mind and let Bloo come with us. I'll go and see how he's doing!

- Co co.

Wilt found his friend in their room. He was in his bed, covered with the green blanket. Wilt could not see his face, because Bloo turned to the other side.

- Bloo?

- Bloo's not here, leave a message after the beep. - said Bloo monotonously.

- Come on Bloo! It's not the end of the world!

- Yes, you're right. However, I thought we are friends. And Frankie... she tried to keep me back from this! Moreover, you were in it!

- Sorry! You can have my place, if you want...

- No, it doesn't matter. I'm... really disappointed in everyone who was in this.

- Well, Coco went downstairs to talk to Frankie. We're really sorry.

- Oh, yeah, I can imagine... - said Bloo.

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- I told Eduardo too, that I don't have time for this now! I said I'll talk to him later! - declared Frankie as Coco asked her about Bloo.

- Cococo Co cocococo!

- Yes, I know, I feel bad as well, but if I won't finish these chores soon, all of you can say goodbye to the whole road trip, because we aren't going anywhere then!

- Coco!

Mr. Herriman came in, interrupting their conversation.

- Miss Frances! I thought I made myself a hundred percent clear previously, that if you will not be able to accomplish all the duties listed here, you're certainly not allowed to make an excursion!

- Get off me, rodent! Don't you see I'm working in this moment too? - asked she.

- Hah, don't be ridiculous, Miss Frances! You are definitely wrong; you wouldn't have been talking to Miss Coco otherwise!

- Ah, for goodness sake, please Mr. Herriman, stop complaining with me, for one reason, I don't have time for that, because I'm doing your stupid chores, and in second, I wasn't talking to her, I just listened what she said!

- Chattering does not make you useful! Let me just remind you, Miss Frances, that you must finish all duties by the end of this hour, or there will be no excursion so far!

He hopped out leaving Frankie and Coco in the kitchen.

- Cococo Coco coco coco!

- Tell me about it! He certainly is in a bad mode today... – Frankie agreed.

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Wilt called Eduardo and Coco upstairs, trying to assure Bloo about their sorry, because he could not succeed by himself; he thought the others could help. But to no avail, Bloo didn't wish to talk to them.

- You were all in this! I only talk with Mac! - He declared.

His friends couldn't make him change his mind, he was so stubborn, so they went down to the foyer again. Mac has just arrived.

- Mac! We have a little problem here! Can you help us, if that's okay? – asked Wilt.

- Sure! What happened?

Mac went upstairs. Wilt accompanied him, telling the brief story.

- He's inside, and doesn't want to talk with us.

- Okay, I'll speak to him. I'm sure we can get over this.

Mac opened the door and stepped inside.

- If you don't mind, I'd like to do this without anyone else. – said he to Wilt.

- Of course, okay. - agreed the tall one and closed the door.

- Bloo... - accosted him Mac.

- Mac? Why are you here so early?

- It's Sunday, Bloo. I don't have school. – explained he.

- Oh, right.

- Now, let's talk a little. At least you could give me some respect, turning your head so I can look into your eyes!

Bloo stood up from the bed.

- You're also here to hurt me? - He asked.

- Stop it! None's hurting you! - declared Mac.

- Oh, yes they do!

- Who? Just name a few example!

- I can tell you, Mac! Our friends! Wilt, Coco and Ed, they were all in it, but the basic idea comes from Frankie! They all tried to go on a road trip without me!

- Is that a crime?

- No, it's not. However, I thought we were friends, and hang out together, Mac! They've hurt my feelings.

- You know, Bloo, you are my best friend and you're a really good person, but you usually care only about yourself! That is your main problem! Have you ever thought that you hurt other people's feelings too?

- Hmm... – He touched his head. - Actually no, because it's impossible. Probably they are just jealous of me.

- Don't you see? That's what I'm talking about!

- What?

Mac scratched his head.

- Ah... okay. Here is an example. When we made a lot of money because you sold Madame Foster's cookies, at the end you went crazy and fired everyone, including your best friends. how they could feel than? On the other hand, here is something else. You were jealous of Coco. She didn't give you her cards, so you hurt her several times...

- All right, that's enough. I see what you mean, but that gave Frankie the right to keep me back from an awesome road trip? Besides, I always said sorry after those cases!

-Yes, but at that specific moment, you have caused a lot of pain for their hearts, Bloo!

- Which side are you on?

- I'm only telling the truth.

- Okay, then what do you think, Mr. Justice, why they wanted to leave me here? – asked Bloo ironically.

-It's useless to make fun of me. Maybe she just wanted to relax, and don't take it seriously, but that's impossible, when you're around.

- Yes, because I'm such a party starter!

- Exactly. So how about to wait Frankie to finish her work, then we will sit down together and talk this over?

- Right.

- Come on pal! Let's go downstairs! - said Mac.

He opened the door, and they walked out.

- Everything's okay? - Wilt asked. He seemed quite worried.

- You bet. We solved the problem like adults... or we going to solve it like adults... doesn't matter. - replied Bloo, who got back his sense of humor.

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Frankie finished her duties eventually. As she came out from the kitchen, she recognized Mac.

- Hello Mac! - She greeted.

- Hi Frankie! We were waiting for you. Can we talk now?

- Sure. The chores are done for the day! – said she and stretched herself.

They have chosen the tearoom for the place for their conversation.

Frankie began.

- First of all, I must say, I did not hurt you on purpose. I thought it would be more relaxing, when I don't have to keep my eye on you. But if you can promise you won't do anything like you did on Picture day, or during Adopt-a-thought Saturday, you can come.

- Really?

Bloo cheered up.

- Yes. I'm sure you'll entertain us, so we won't get bored. Nevertheless, you must promise to leave your prankster side here, okay?

- I promise!

- In addition, you will not make faces at other people, will not throw paper balls, will not put spicy sauce on the food, will not try to drive the bus, will not collect insects and bring them home, and will not make pranks! Do you understand?

- It would be less work if you put the knife into my heart right now. - answered Bloo.

- Do you accept my terms or not? – questioned him Frankie.

- Okay, okay! I accept! How should I call you, Queen or Mistress?

- Cut that out and get ready, we're leaving about in an hour!

- Awesome! I'll go and get my paddleball!

Bloo ran out, only Frankie and Mac remained.

- Mac, would you like to come too?

- Sure I do! Just give Mom a call.

- Wait, she knows you come to Foster's every day? – surprised Frankie.

- No, she doesn't. I'll tell her, that I'm hanging out with the boys from school.

- Okay! Well, I have to pack some food, see you later!

This little argument was solved; they were all ready to take a great road trip.

## 2 - First day, Part 2

### Part 2

- This is going to be so exciting! - giggled Bloo as he was packing. In fact, he only carried a paddleball, and a tube of toothpaste.
- Um, Bloo? Why do you need toothpaste? - questioned him Mac.
- Err... Well, to prevent my teeth from being rotten, of course! It's personal hygiene, duh?
- Give me a break! Frankie told you, not to do pranks! – reminded him his creator.
- And who says I will? I need this in case of a serious thrush!
- You are planning to smudge the bus doors with it, aren't you?
- I'm really disappointed in you, Mac! How could you possibly imagine I would do such a thing?
- Bloo!
- All right! You have caught me! Be proud of yourself! Actually, I wanted to add toothpaste to the other's food, but now you have mentioned the bus door, I think it's a better idea! No wait, probably I could do both!
- Bloo! – Mac shouted.
- What?
- You really want to upset Frankie? Just think about it! If she recognizes the toothpaste, she'll know you are behind it, and she won't let you come!
- Hmm, you're right, Mac. Maybe I should do it later. However this is not the end of the war, I shall take revenge! Perhaps tomorrow, maybe next year...
- Cut that out, and get prepared! Frankie said we're leaving soon!

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- Wilt, could you help me with the sandwiches? I have to check if we have enough fuel and oil in the bus.
  - said Frankie.
  - Sure thing! - replied Wilt kindly.
  - Hola! - greeted him Ed, who just entered.
  - Oh, hi Ed!
  - When do we leave, Wilt?
  - I don't know, sorry. You should ask Frankie, she's outside.
  - Gracias!
  - Are you ready yet?
  - Si, I can't wait to go! I've always loved camping. Sleeping under la Luna, making a nice campfuego, telling ghost stories... - he gulped.
  - There's dark, and spiders and other vicious monstruo are out there! Waaaaaa!
  - Calm down, Ed! We're not going on a camping, we're taking a road trip! We'll be back by the evening! – informed him Wilt.
  - Oh. It's okay then! - declared Ed, and left the kitchen.
- Wilt made a lot of sandwiches during the conversation.

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Frankie pushed the door and came in. She had oil all over her clothes.

- What happened? - asked Wilt.

He just carried out the picnic bag filled with delicious food.

- Somebody has done some stuff with the bus. When I opened the hood to add some more oil, I had a big surprise; you can guess whose prank is it! - growled she.

- Do you think...

- Blooooo! - she roared.

- What? - Bloo came downstairs.

- This was your last throw! You've just ruined your place in the trip!

- Why? What did I do?

- Can't you see your creation? I'm covered with oil, and going to take weeks to get it's stench out of my hair!

- Frankie, it wasn't me! – apologized Bloo.

- Yeah, I've heard that too many times!

- Seriously, I didn't do anything!

- Of course! As always!

- Why would I do such a thing? To punish myself, duh!

- Right! You'll be punished, that's for sure!

- I can't say anything else: I did not make that prank! – said Bloo accentuating every single word.

- What's going on? Frankie! What happened to you? - asked Mac as he came down the stairs.

- Bloo did something with the bus and I got covered with oil. – Frankie gave the answer.

- Wait, Bloo couldn't have it done, he was upstairs with me.

- He probably prepared it before.

- I don't think so. He shares his secrets with me, and he didn't say anything about this. No, not at all.

- It doesn't mean, he's innocent.

Frankie still couldn't be assured. Mac got angry and opposed her..

- I trust him. He's my best friend, I know him best! For God's sake I've created him!

- Okay, okay! I didn't mean to hurt you! I believe what you're saying. - agreed Frankie.

When she left, Mac remained alone with Bloo. He questioned his friend.

- Is this really not your joke?

- Of course it's not! I don't know, who did it, there are other pranksters living in the house, Bendy, Valley...

- All right. But don't let me catch you doing some more! Let's get outside!

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The sun have not made its way upon the sky, it was shining below, but there was an enjoyable warm temperature.

Wilt, Coco, Eduardo, Bloo and Mac were all waiting for Frankie outside. They were in a little late, because Frankie had to take a shower and change clothes. They have packed in all the stuff they needed, only Frankie was missing. As they were standing before the door of the bus, suddenly, Goo appeared from nowhere.

Wilt recognized her first.

- Look! I'm sorry, but what does she doing here? - turned he to the friends.

- I don't know... - replied Bloo, and glanced at Mac.



- Frankie's going to be so upset, if she wants to come as well... - worried Wilt. They did not have more time to discuss this. Goo came down the street already and accosted them.

- Hey, hello! What's happening, why are you outside, I mean it's great to be outside, especially in this delightful weather, I love summer you can go swimming sun baiting, eat ice creams... Wait, what was I talking about? Oh yeah! Why are out here, you're waiting for someone, or what? Mac told me that everyone will be waiting inside!

- Mac invited you? - asked Wilt.

- Duh, why do you think I'm here by this time of the morning?

- Excuse me, Mac, can we talk a bit, if that's okay...

- Sure! What?

Wilt touched his shoulder and they walked a few steps away from the others.

- If Frankie recognizes her, she'll be outraged!

- Why?

- Because she didn't want to bring the whole house, she wanted to get away from Foster's, for a while, and not worry about anything! First, she didn't let Bloo come, then she changed her mind, now Goo's coming too, that's going to make her mad! I'm sorry, but why did you invite her, I mean she's a nice person, such as you, but...

- Because I thought it would be more funny with her around, besides I like being with her.

- I understand that, but...

- I can send her home, but then, you can forget me too, Wilt!

While Wilt and Mac were complaining and whispering, Goo turned to Bloo.

- Is there a problem here?

- Nope, don't think so.

- If the problem's me, I can go...

- No, you shouldn't! You know, boys will be boys, always having an argument on something.

- No, really. I am the problem... They started it when I turned up...

- Hmm. Why would you be a problem?

- Well, I'm really, really weird you know and always talk too much, I mean I love to talk, I love love love it, just to share stuff with my friends, but it's not depending on that, because I used to talk much when I didn't have any kind of friends like you... oops! See, I always include too much things!

- Well yeah, but I don't know, Goo, ask them! - lost Bloo his temper.

Frankie had just come out. She immediately recognized Goo and then she saw Mac and Wilt complaining silently.

- What is going on? – she asked.

Only Coco paid attention to her, Mac and Wilt were arguing, Goo tried to catch a few words from it, to know what the problem is, and Ed was busy with his toy, Pako.

- Co cocococ cococo coco co!

- What does she doing here? - questioned Frankie.

- Cocococo cococo!

- Mac invited her? Great! Now I can't tell her to go home. That's it for my relaxation! - sighed she.

- All right, that's enough, guys! Everyone get in the bus!

Goo looked up to her.

- What are you waiting for? Get in!

- So, it's not a problem if I come?

- No... Of course... not... - said Frankie with a distorted face.

Mac and Wilt stopped talking and seemed a bit surprised.

- I would never thought Frankie would surrender that easy! – whispered Mac to Wilt.

- Tell me about it!

When everyone got inside Frankie closed the door, and started the engine. She glanced at the house and recognized Herriman, who was looking out from the window, right into her eyes. She raised her hand. The rabbit returned the wave and then disappeared from her sight. Frankie peered at the steering wheel for a few seconds, until Bloo's voice woke her up.

- Are we going to leave today?

- Wha'... Oh, yes... - she stammered.

She turned the bus to the right direction and stepped on the accelerator. The road had a golden illumination as the vehicle welded into the sunshine.

### 3 - First day, Part 3

#### Part 3

The bus slowly clambered up to the crooked mountain road. Frankie looked in the rear view mirror. She saw happy faces. Bloo and Coco were playing cards, Wilt was having a discussion with Ed, about some undefined topic and Mac was busy with Goo. *Maybe this day won't be so bad!* She thought.

- Frankie do we know exactly where we are going? - asked Bloo.

- Oh you're done with the cards?

- Yeah, Coco wins all the time! Man, how can she do that?

- Well there are some mysteries in the universe that we'll never know. One of them is Coco.

- You're right. So, Frankie my dear, where are we going now?

- You'll see. It's a very nice place in the woods, but there's a gorgeous view to the city from there. Oh, and there's a little green field, where we can settle down to eat and play.

- Sounds great, although I can't see the funny part of it yet. - declared Bloo.

- Why did you want to come then? - asked back Frankie.

- Because, I thought it would be fun... - he didn't finish his sentence.

Frankie smiled.

- Okay, you got me.

He wanted to say something else, but suddenly changed his mind and closed his mouth.

She recognized Bloo's movement.

- What?

- Nothing.... I just wanted to ask...

- How do I know this place? - finished his sentence Frankie, like if she could see into Bloo's mind.

- Yup.

- Well, I used to spend some time here with my first boyfriend. He showed me this place.

- I see. And when will we get there?

- It's about an hour, Bloo. I have to drive carefully in these mountain roads; this old lady doesn't have as good handling as a sport car. - replied Frankie.

- An hour? What should I do to avoid the death because of serious boringness?

- Figure it out! And sit down! - She commanded.

The nice conversation between them ended, Bloo couldn't deny himself. He set down and mumbled a few things, only he understood them.

- Co cococo cococo? - challenged him Coco.

- You want an other game? Prepare to meet your doom! - Bloo accepted.

The hour passed rapidly. Coco won 56 times in Black Jack. Bloo only won 14 games. He didn't even recognize that they have arrived to their destination. Frankie was correct. The place was beautiful. Vivid green grass covered the ground and huge oak trees surrounded the field. The weather was fascinating. Frankie stopped the bus under a large tree. Everyone got out. Wilt carried the picnic basket. They have set down to the red blanket they had brought.

- Wow, Frankie! It's amazing out here! - declared Mac.

- Cocococo cococo! - Coco confirmed.

- Yeah! I haven't been here for ages! Now how about to eat something, then everyone can do whatever they want. - said Frankie.

She gave a sandwich to everyone.

- You forgot the cheese? You know how much I loved it! - complained Bloo.

- If you're hungry you'll eat it. - replied Frankie.

- Mmm, this food is muy delicious! - said Ed, who already vanished a sandwich.

- Well, thanks to Wilt, he made most of them.

- Oh, there's no need Frankie. I'm glad you all like it. - said Wilt.

- Yeah, its fine, but I can't believe you forgot the cheese though! - mumbled Bloo with his mouth full.

While they were eating, they've experienced something that they had never before. Mac recognized it first. Everyone looked at Goo. She was silent.

- What? What did I do? - She asked, she didn't know what's the reason of everyone's starring at her.

- I'm sorry, but I've never seen you in silence. It's just strange. - answered Wilt.

- Well, you should see me when I'm having lunch at home, I don't say a word for almost half an hour, can you believe that? My mom cooks great food, I just don't have to say anything! I mean, if I'd like to I could, but there's no need, I just eat and then start over...

Bloo smiled at Mac.

- Why are you smiling like that? - questioned Mac.

- Oh, nothing, pal!

- No, really!

- I was just wondering if...

- What?

- Okay, have you been to Goo's place so far? - Bloo was still smiling.

- Why does that related to here?

- Don't know just came into my mind. - said Bloo.

- To let ya know, I have not. And don't assume some crazy ideas like we're having a relationship or something! - declared the boy.

- Whatever you say, Mac! I didn't even had the idea of that. You said it... I just wanted to know how big her house is, because I'm planning to throw a surprise party for her... - Bloo explained.

- Why don't you ask Goo?

- Are you crazy? It wouldn't be a surprise party then! Mac, my old boy! Do you know what surprise means?

During their conversation Goo was still talking, her voice gave a perfect background to the other conversations. In fact, only Coco paid attention to her, everyone else was having other discussions. But all of then were having a great time, outside in the nature. It was about 10 AM when they finished eating, and since everybody got up so early, some of them lied down under the shadows of the trees. Especially Frankie was tired; she woke up at 5 AM, to finish all her duties. She was sleeping under a large tree, enjoying the fresh air and the cozy, warm weather. Bloo yawned, then followed her example and lied down next to Frankie. He clasped his hands behind his nap and watched the others playing.

- Okay, would you like to play basketball? The ground is quite flat here...- offered Wilt, spinning the ball on his finger.

- How we going to do that? - Eduardo asked.

- Oh, sorry, I've brought some equipments. I'll get them out in no time! - Wilt excused.

He ran to the bus and took out two little basketball backboard. He put them to the correct places and turned to the others.

- So, who's with who? - asked he.

- I'll be with Goo, and you'll be with Ed. Is that okay? - said Mac.

- Cocococo coco cocooco co!  
- Fine. Coco will be the umpire! - declared the boy.  
- But Mac, we have no match against Wilt! - said Goo.  
- Oh, come on! It's just for fun. Hey Wilt, don't destroy us, okay?  
- Right! - agreed Wilt and gave the ball to Coco.  
Coco laid a yellow egg, and picked out a whistle from it, and then she grabbed the ball.  
- Cococo cococo! Coco?  
- Si, we're ready Coco! - Ed said.  
- Coco! - She threw the ball into the air, of course Wilt managed to get it. He attacked and simply made a two score shot. Coco whistled and raised her leg.  
- Cococo coco!  
- See? Told ya! - Goo said.

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Bloo slowly fell asleep as he was watching the game. After an hour, the others got tired too, so they decided to eat more sandwiches. Then they enjoyed the cool climate of the shadows. The sun was shining upon the sky, the weather heated up. While Frankie and Bloo were sleeping, the others were having a light chitchat.

- Isn't this great? I mean it was an awesome idea to come here, don't ya think? - Wilt said.  
- Co co! Cocococo! - Coco agreed.  
- Si! This place es muy beautiful! - Ed declared.  
- Yes. I really enjoy being in the nature. - Mac said.  
- Yeah, you're right, Mac! This place is cool, no, not cool, more than cool. It reminds me of a place where I used to have vacations with my family, but I don't know where is it located, maybe in Wisconsin, we've been there several times, I was only four years old but I still remember... - Goo jabbered.  
Their conversation was disturbed by Frankie's snores. They all looked at her and laughed.  
- We must save Senorita Frankie! An evil alien monstruo is inside of her, preparing to control her mind! - Ed screamed in horror.  
- I'm sorry, but don't be silly Ed! She's just snoring. I can understand her; she's being so nice all the time, besides all of those duties. Sometimes I don't get it in my head: why does Mr. Herriman have to overload her so much... - shared his thoughts Wilt.  
Mac replied: - That's a good question. I don't know!  
- Cococo coco co cococococo cococococo coco!  
- Err... I've never thought this one... - said Mac with a distorted face.  
Everyone became mute, maybe they were thinking about Coco's idea. Until some unexplainable activities of Frankie got their attention. Perhaps she was dreaming, because she tossed and turned. Suddenly she grabbed Bloo like a dolly and hugged him. The blob immediately awakened.  
- Wha... Oh, my God, what the heck is going on??? - shouted he in fear.  
Bloo was like a prey of a snake; Frankie's arms captured and held him tightly. The others couldn't do anything, just watched Bloo's struggle to get out.  
- Frankie, Frankie let me go... Come on guys, don't just sit there! Do something... ouch... help me! - Bloo begged.  
His friends couldn't stand this funny act no longer. The laughter broke out of them.  
- Hahahaha, I'm sorry... hahaha hahah, sorry, Blohoho... I'll hehehelp haha...you... haha, just... haha...a sec... hahahahah! - Wilt laughed.  
- Hahahahaha! No more... hahaha! I cahahahan't take it... anymore hahaha! - Mac "admitted."

The rest of them, couldn't even manage to speak, they were wallowing and twitching on the ground because of their heavy laughter.

- Hehe, very funny! If I get out of here... ouch... I will just... ouch... Frankie you're really crossing the line!

- Bloo struggled

- Hahahahah! Just a moment, hahaha! - assured him Wilt.

- Ouch! Now you've gone too far Missy! - Bloo shouted.

One of Frankie's hands poked his head.

- You wanna fight? Bring it on! Oh no you don't - grabbed Bloo the rebellion hand.

Frankie was sleeping so deep like if somebody would have knocked her out. Eventually she woke up.

She saw everyone laughing. First, she didn't know what's going on, then she recognized Bloo.

- What happened? - She asked.

- I tell you what happened! You've tried to kill me! - Bloo raised her hand.

- With your bare hands!

-Oh, my gosh, I'm sorry Bloo, I was just sleeping, oh, it was great, then I had a dream or something... I didn't know what I was doing... - she blushed.

-Well, a nightmare is not an excuse for that! I was fighting for my life! Do you know my soul have sustained heavy mental and physical shock? - He shouted.

- I'm sorry, okay? What else do you want me to do?

- Hmm. Stand on your hands and say this Hungarian jaw-breaker: mit sütsz kis sz?cs, tán sós húst sütsz, kis sz?cs? Baszk szeparatisták Zaporozsec slusszkulcssal!

- What? Where do you learn such things?! Don't be nuts, Bloo!

- Okay, you don't have to stand on your hands, just say it! Then I'll forget what happened! - declared Bloo.

- All right! - Frankie repeated the jaw-breaker, but Bloo's was much better, however Bloo accepted this as an apology.

- Wow, Seniorita Frankie! Es was muy funny! - toweled his eyes Eduardo.

- Yeah, I'm sorry, but this was the most ridiculous thing I've ever seen! - confirmed Wilt.

Mac imitated Bloo: - Oh, no, what's going on, guys, help me! You want to fight? Take that, you bloodthirsty hand! - He grabbed Goo's hand and started to shake it. Goo imitated Frankie's snoring and said: - This is your fate, Bloo! Don't resist my power! Join me and we shall rule the galaxy as hand and son! Or be destroyed! Hahahaha!

Everyone laughed again, even Frankie and Bloo.

Their day passed by pretty fast. They were playing, eating, talking laughing; they did not even recognize that it's almost 1 PM, the afternoon slowly changed into evening.

\*\*\*

Frankie looked up to the sky.

- Oh, I almost forgot! You must see the sunset from here! It's awesome! Come!- said Frankie and headed into the forest.

- We have to go into the forest? But it's scary and there are evil zombies in every bush! - Ed screamed.

- Don't worry, Ed! There are no such things as zombies. And we'll be with you, if you got scared, okay?

- soothed him Wilt.

They followed Frankie who led them to a hill, where there was breathtaking scenery to the city and the sunset. They all said "wow" and set down, watching the nature's light show.

After the sun disappeared below the horizon, they could see the city lights as tiny glowing bugs.

Frankie looked around.

- Guys, we should go back and pack in the bus, ere night.

They all stood up, looked at the beautiful scenery once more and went back to the field.

Wilt, Coco and Mac companied Ed, who got really frightened by the forest.

Suddenly, Goo asked: - Do you smell it?

- Coco?

- I can always smell it in the air. It's going to rain soon! - She explained.

- Why do you think that? - Mac asked.

- I don't know, I just feel it, and smell it, it's going to rain soon, I'm telling ya!

- We better speed up ourselves then! - replied Frankie.

Goo was right, a few minutes later, dark clouds covered the sky, and they heard the first thunder. Almost everything was in the bus, when it started to rain. It turned into a heavy shower in a couple of seconds.

- Come on! Quick! - shouted Frankie.

With the rest of their stuff, they ran inside the bus. They were all wet.

- Darn! It's so cold! - said Bloo.

- Tell me about it! - agreed Mac.

Frankie closed the door and started the engine. She was freezing like the others. She let her hair down and said: - Don't worry, when we got home, we'll have a hot shower! I'll turn the heater on, until then.

She turned on the wiper and the lights then turned the bus around.

- It's gonna take more time to get home in this weather. - She declared.

The road was greasy and muddy. The rear-drive system was disadvantageous for this environment, the back of the bus were skidding all the time and Frankie had to use all her driving skills to keep the vehicle on the road.

- Don't worry; we'll be on the blacktop in no time! - said she nervously.

She was right. She took a left turn and the bus suddenly stopped the drifting, however, this road was greasy as well. The bus was quite stable on the road and there was no trouble until a headlight appeared on the horizon.

- Look at that dumb being! That driver's risking his life! - said Bloo.

The sport car buzzed off to the opposite direction. With that speed it could not make that turn, the car almost ran off the road. In the last moment, its driver stepped on the brake, and with jarring tires, the car crashed into the rocky wall. Frankie saw the rising flames in the rear view mirror. That tiny outage of her attention was enough to not recognize what's coming. It was a hairpin left turn. Everyone shouted: - Frankie! The road!

She reacted too late. She stepped on the brake and strain at the steering wheel, spinning it to the left. Nevertheless, the bus's handling was not agile enough to avoid the accident. Its huge body ran off the arch, broke through the border and fell down into the foggy darkness. The sound of the engine was followed by an enormous crunch, which echoed all over the place for a while, than died away. Only the quietness and the sound of the falling raindrops remained above the desolate road.

End of the first day.

## 4 - Second day, Part 1

### Second day

### Part 1

The morning arrived. It was not raining, but the fog wreathed above the landscape. The sun could not break through the stiff blanket of clouds, only a pale, glowing disk on the sky remained. A crow cawed far away, except that, no living thing showed up. After a few hours when the fog cleared away a little, a shape of a crashed car evolved from it. To the left side of the distorted cabin, footsteps in the mud could be recognized. Maybe they belong to the car's insane driver. A few steps from the right side of the vehicle, there were two black, huge stripes on the road. They led to a bend. But after that bend, there was nothing. Just the destroyed border and some debris informed anyone who could see, about the events of the previous night. That was the problem. Nobody was there. Except a bus, hanging between life and death...

\*\*\*

Frankie came to. She had a terrible headache. She touched her forehead. Her palm was bloody. She did not remember what happened; she thought she has just crashed into another driver. She looked around in the bus. The others seemed okay no one had serious injuries.

*Oh, Frankie, what are you doing? You forgot how to drive?* She thought and started the engine. By that sound, Mac awakened, and quickly looked around. He immediately shouted:

- Frankie, don't!

If he realizes the situation a nanosecond later, when Frankie pushes the accelerator, their lives would have ended right there. But that's not how what happened. Frankie looked back to the boy, who seemed quite frightened.

- Oh, I'm so sorry, Mac, we just had an accident! Are you okay? I'll take all of you to the hospital right away! - jabbered Frankie.

- No, no, no, no, no! Frankie! Forget that! We are not going anywhere! Please stop the engine, right now! - said Mac slowly.

- What are you talking about? Of course, we're going, and that's final! - declared Frankie and wanted to put the bus in first.

- Frankie, you don't understand! If you step on that pedal, we're doomed!

- What is this nonsense? Everyone needs to see the doctor...

Mac realized, Frankie doesn't remember what happened. He told her the situation. She stopped the engine and looked out, through the broken windshield.

Mac was correct. Above them, there was the abandoned road, below them there was the abyss. When the bus fell down, it impacted into a stone ledge, which slowed it down, so the old, thick, massive tree below the ledge could hold the weight of the bus. However, the vehicle remained hidden; nobody could



recognize it from the road.

- What are we going to do? - asked Mac.

- I don't know. First, we have to wake up the others, and check their injuries. Then we have to figure out something, to give life signs with, because until then, we're isolated! - said Frankie.

\*\*\*

Meanwhile at Foster's:

Mr. Herriman hopped in the foyer and looked out from the window. The Foster's bus wasn't there at all.

- That is completely unacceptable! - He said.

- What's the problem, Funny, Bunny? - asked Madame Foster from behind.

- Madame, I'm glad you are here. I suppose, it is necessary for us, to have a discussion about your granddaughter's reckless disobedience against the house rules, and against my authority.

- Oh, come on, Herriman, I thought we cleared this up a thousand times!

- Madame, I certainly cannot leave this petty offence unpunished! - The bunny declared.

- Why, what did that poor girl do again? - Madame Foster asked.

- I defined the exact period, which is expendable for such free time activities as road trips. I stated clearly, that the excursion must end by this evening! As you may notice, Miss Frances have not returned, therefore I must say that this ignorance of rules is not acceptable! In addition, the unauthorized occupancy of our only transportation device is an outrageous manifestation of selfishness! - Mr. Herriman spoke his thoughts.

- They have not returned? I could swear I spoke to Frankie last night... Ha-ha, maybe it was just a dream... Well, it rained hard yesterday, maybe they couldn't manage to come home and stayed in a motel or something! Don't worry, they'll be back soon! I hope they are not in trouble! - Madame Foster worried.

- I don't think there's a case of emergency. I suppose Miss Frances knows exactly that she could not fulfill her obligations to me, as such; she does not want to face the consequences.

- Oh Herriman, I didn't know you have that kind of colorful imagination!

\*\*\*

The fog cleared away completely. Frankie could estimate their situation better. The bus trapped among the pinny boughs of the old tree, which saved their lives. Below them there was a deep, rocky cleft, there was no escape that way. However, they could not escape to up way, because the hillside was smooth and covered with moss. Frankie looked back to Mac, who was busy with the others. As she expected, Eduardo began to panic, after he was informed about the desperate accident.

Wilt and Coco tried to calm him down, while the others had a serious argument.

- Maybe we should try to give signs with the headlights! - Mac suggested.

- That's a crazy idea, congratulations, Mac! - Bloo shouted. - If there's nobody on the road in the daytime, then, why do you think, that somebody will recognize our signs in the night? That would only work in the dark, duh!

- Oh, yeah? Then what's your idea?! I bet you don't have any kind of plans! You're just criticizing everyone, like you do all the time! - Mac declared.

- This, time you're wrong, I must say! I have a plan!

- And what is it? - Goo asked.

- Okay. We'll just sit down and wait for the rescue team to save us. - Bloo smiled.

-That's bad even for a joke! You must be kidding, right? - Mac questioned.

- Of course, I'm not! Think about it! Someone at Foster's will recognize our disappearance, and call the police. It's just a matter of time, when they will find us!
  - You're telling me, to do nothing, just wait until we starve to death? - The boy yelled.
  - We're going to die?! Waaaaaaa! - Ed cried from the back.
  - Don't be silly, no one's going to die! - assured him Wilt.
- Frankie wanted to say something, but Goo was faster.
- Wait, guys; Bloo has a point. You see, tons of people lives at Foster's, mostly, we know all of them, at least the badger or the crazy lady will recognize, that we're lost! I agree with Bloo, so don't worry, we'll be rescued in no time!
  - I guess you're right... There's nothing else to do... - said Mac.
  - But you thought it was necessary to yell at me! - Bloo said.
  - I'm sorry, Bloo! I didn't mean it seriously! I'm just scared and don't know what to do.
  - At least we survived! - sighed Frankie.
  - Well, yeah, but what if they won't find us? What could we do then? - Mac worried.
  - We'll discuss that, when this problem becomes to existence. - replied Frankie.
  - Yes... - said the boy doubtfully.
  - You should try to do something, which attracts your thoughts away from our situation... - Frankie suggested.
  - Yeah, come on, Mac! Let's help the others with Ed! - Goo grabbed the boy's hand.

\*\*\*

It took almost an hour to calm Ed down. Bloo and Frankie were sitting in the front, the others surrounded Eduardo to keep him busy, otherwise he'd scream again. As the sun occupied its place upon the sky, they soon experienced their first problem. The cabin's temperature warmed up, the heat was beyond endurance. Everyone got rid of the unnecessary clothes. They were all lying on the seats, when Bloo suddenly stood up, and went to the picnic basket. He picked out a bottle of water and wanted to drink from it. But Frankie grabbed it out of his hands.

- No, Bloo! We have to spare the water! - She explained
- Why? I'm thirsty! - Bloo said.
- It'll take days to find us. I suppose nobody can recognize us from the road. That's why we have to save water, to survive!
- But I'm thirsty!
- All right... use only a little! - She gave the bottle to Bloo.

Then they went back to their places and set down quietly. None wished to talk or do something. Especially Eduardo was in a bad condition. His huge fur multiplied the power of the heat for him. Wilt and Coco took care of him as they could in their disadvantageous circumstances. However, they seemed quite worried. Mac and Goo were sitting in front of each other. Their eyes met several times, but none of them said a word. It was quiet in the bus; Ed's rhythmical breathing was the only sound. No cars, not even a single bicycle showed up. The prisoners of the bus just waited and waited for the non-existing rescue team...

The day slowly passed by, it was even slower for them.

- What can possibly the time be? - Goo asked.
- I don't know, my watch broke when we crashed...- Frankie replied.

After this short conversation, which broke the quietness, that ruled the atmosphere, they subsided into silence again. The afternoon turned into evening and nothing has happened.

Just the heat retreated for their relief.

\*\*\*

Meanwhile at Foster's:

- Something has happened with them, I can feel it! - declared Madame Foster.

- I'm quite not sure of that, Madame. In my opinion, Miss Frances prefers not to return to Foster's, because she would have to face her duties and her punishment for not retreating the residents in due time. - Herriman said.

- Maybe you're right. I've tried to call Frankie on her cell phone, but she turned it off I suppose.

Perhaps she just wanted a few days without chores. Nevertheless, if she won't come home by tomorrow afternoon, I'll call the police. But she'll get a big discipline for not informing me! - Madame Foster spoke.

## 5 - Second day, Part 2

### Part 2

- So, what do we have for dinner? - Bloo asked.
  - You still not understand right? - Frankie said angrily.
  - What?
  - Our situation!!! - Frankie screamed.
- The blob blinked twice.
- Okay... - touched Frankie her head. - We're trapped here, it's really difficult to recognize us from the road, we have only leftovers for food, and just one bottle of water! That's the case now! - explained she.
  - All right, all right! Why didn't you tell me before? - Bloo replied.
  - I did...ah, forget it! - sighed Frankie.
  - Um... Senorita Frankie... - Ed interrupted them. - I'm afraid in the dark!
  - What? - The girl looked out, and saw the setting sun. Then she turned to Wilt.
  - Wilt, there's a blanket under the last seat, could you take it out please? The night's going to be cold!
  - Certainly! Here it is! Hmm... I'm sorry but, that's not big enough for everyone! - said the tall one.
  - We'll need the other blanket that we used during the picnic! - declared Frankie.
  - Thanks, Wilt! - Frankie smiled.
  - There's no need. - smiled back the imaginary friend.
- Frankie turned to the others. - Listen up everyone! It's going to be cold outside, so I suggest to lie down very close to each other, so everyone can have a place under the blanket, okay?
- But, Frankie! It's too early to go to bed! - Bloo said.
  - What else can we do? - asked Mac.
  - I came prepared ladies and gentleman! Just a moment! - Bloo ran at the back of the bus.
- He came back with a portable TV.
- May I present, the all-mighty television itself! - He made a huge grin.
  - Wow, Bloo! - Wilt said.
  - Why did you bring that thing? - Mac asked.
  - In case of emergency, duh! And thanks to me, we can watch the late night horror movie! - smiled Bloo pridefully. - The batteries are full, so we have enough energy to watch it for two whole days, without stopping, yeah!
  - I just can't believe it, isn't that just weird to bring a portable TV to a picnic, I mean not weird-weird, just simply weird, you know what I mean? - Goo jabbered.
  - Noooo! - everyone replied.
  - No, no, it's great! - enthused Frankie.
  - Oh, she wants to see the late night movie soooo bad! - Bloo whispered to Mac.
  - I heard that! I meant "great" in a different way. If we have a television, we can watch the news, to see that they started to look for us or not... - explained Frankie.
  - News are boring, what about thrillers, like Zombie Fighter 7, oh, man that was awesome! - Bloo said.
  - No, Bloo Frankie's right. We can only turn it on during the 7 pm news, to spare the energy.
  - No fair, it's my TV. - Bloo mumbled.

\*\*\*

Half an hour later, they were all sleeping at the back of the bus, because only there was enough space for everyone to lie next to each other. They were all tired so all of them quickly fell asleep. Except one. Bloo slowly sneaked to the front and turned his TV on. The late night movie already began. He set down to one of the seats. A few minutes later, he heard a noise from the back. He looked at his sleeping friends, then he turned to the TV again.

Another couple of minutes passed by, when a feminine voice accosted Bloo.

- What are you doing?

At first, Bloo thought it was Frankie. He sighed when he recognized Goo, sitting behind him.

- What are YOU doing? I thought you were sleeping. - said Bloo.

- I couldn't, I just pretended sleeping. - Goo admitted.

- You're good at sneaking. - Bloo replied.

- Thanks. I knew you'll try to watch the late night movie.

- You got me. Do you want to join me? - Bloo offered.

- Okay.

- This will be our little secret! No one will ever have to know! - Bloo hissed.

They looked back to Frankie. She didn't wake up.

After the movie, Bloo and Goo felt sleepy, so they carefully crawled back under the blanket and easily fell asleep.

Their first day in the trap was over.

## 6 - Third day, Part 1

### Third day

### Part 1

It was raining again. The whole house was in dead asleep, except one person. Only one light sifted out to the darkness. It was very early, but his seething thoughts didn't let the bunny sleep. Mr. Herriman was walking back and forth in his office nervously.

He created theories what might have happened to the missing residents. He set down to his desk and looked into the rain.

- Something is definitely wrong... - mumbled he slowly under his mustache.

\*\*\*

Coco startled out of her sleep. She was freezing. Frankie's prediction was right; the night was cold, indeed. She looked around and recognized that Wilt wasn't under the blanket.

- Coco! Cococo!

Wilt woke up.

- Wha'? Um... Sorry... - he stammered he.

- Cococo co coco? - asked she.

- There wasn't enough space for all of us, so I decided to let the others occupy my place. Don't worry, it's comfortable here as well! - replied Wilt.

- Cococococo! - She whispered.

- No, I'm not freezing! Brrr...sorry! - said the tall one and frayed his arm.

- Co, Coco! - commanded Coco. She allowed no resistance. She stared at Wilt for a few seconds.

- Okay, if you want it so bad! - agreed Wilt and crawled back under the warm blanket.

They tried to sleep. But Wilt was just lying with opened eyes, sunk in his thoughts. He knew this bus would be there cage for a long time.

\*\*\*

The clouds continued to stream the heavy rain.

I was 8 Am, when Madame Foster opened the office's door. She found Mr. Herriman sitting behind his desk in his pajamas. He looked a bit deranged. She questioned him.

- I couldn't get to sleep last night, Madame. I reckon enough time has passed by to inform the local authorities about our beloved residents' unexplainable disappearance!

- Yes, I agree. Something went wrong that's for sure. - replied Madame Foster.

She picked up Mr. Herriman's old-fashioned phone and reported the gang's disappearance.

\*\*\*

Bloo was sitting in the back with an angry face.

-What's the matter? - Mac asked him.

- No fair! Frankie denies me the breakfast. That is unacceptable, how do I suppose to work then? - raised his hands the blob.

- Well, we have only a little food and if we just eat it all, we'll starve to death! - Mac whispered the last words, because if Ed would hear that he'd panic again.

- So you're taking her up, aren't you? - Bloo asked.

- No, I'm just saying if we eat up everything, days before somebody finds us...

-Yup, you're against me, traitor! - Bloo declared.

Mac wanted to say something, but changed his mind and left Bloo alone.

\*\*\*

A featureless, dark blue car stopped before the Foster mansion. Two men got out from it. Both of them wore drab raincoats. They slowly walked to the Foster's house and rang the bell.

Mr. Herriman opened the door.

- Good morning, I'm Officer Thomas Bradley, from the Wilson District's Police Department; this is my partner, Officer Steve Mason. We have received a notice about a possible case of disappearance. Officer Tom Bradley was a tall guy, with intelligent and emphatic brown eyes, dark brown hair and determined character. His partner was a bit shorter and fatter, with intent blue eyes, and a discreet goatee.

- Yes... Welcome to Foster's gentlemen! Please, come in! - greeted them Mr. Herriman.

The sight of the huge bunny surprised the two men; they glanced at each other, and then stepped inside the foyer. They were shaking hands with Mr. Herriman, when Madame Foster appeared. She invited them into the tearoom. They set down and the leaders of the Foster home told the whole story, how it all began, when Bloo stole the bus and returned it only a few hours later, how Frankie got the idea to do almost the same and have a day of relaxation, and how they prepared for the trip and when they left. Steve Mason wrote the basic informations into a pocketbook, while his partner asked a few questions. After they finished, the police officers stood up and prepared to leave.

- We will send a patrol to their destination first, and search the surrounding areas. - said Bradley.

- I'd like to thank you once more, Mr. Bradley. - Said Mr. Herriman, when he opened the door.

- Oh, call me Tom. - replied Bradley.

The rabbit surprised and blinked twice. Bradley just laughed and said good-bye. The officers got into their car and drove away.

\*\*\*

- Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa! - screamed Eduardo in horror. - Spider! Spider! Spider!

- Okay, Ed! Calm down! See, it's just a tiny little insect! - said Goo and picked up the spider from the floor. She continued: - Isn't he just cute? I don't understand why you are afraid of these little creatures. I always liked them; maybe because I've seen a lot in Wisconsin, you know I spent so much time there! At first, I was like oh-no-spider-get-it-off-get-it-off, but after a few encounters I started to like them. They won't hurt you if you don't hurt them...

- No, this es an evil monstruo, it can suck out all your organs if you let it close to your ear! - stammered Ed.

- Duh, this is ridiculous! Where did you see that? Spiders like that only exist in horror movies.

While they were complaining about spiders, at the front of the bus, the others had some different

argument.

- News is booooring! It only contains blablabla... - declared Bloo. - We should spare the batteries for the exciting late night movies!

- Of course not, Bloo! We will watch the news and that's final! We must know if they are looking for us, or not! - Frankie said.

Bloo looked at Frankie with pure fury, but accepted her authority...Yet...

Frankie turned on the TV, all the friends set down close to it. They watched the news silently.

After it was over Frankie turned off the device. She looked a bit disappointed.

- Not even a single word from us... - she whispered.

- Don't worry, Frankie! – Said Wilt – Only two days passed by...

- Yes, I know. – replied she. – Only two days... and we haven't got much to survive...

\*\*\*

On that night she had a nightmare. She was driving the bus in the massive rain, just before that critical moment. She saw the black sport car once again. She saw an explosion, which blinded her for a second. After she could see again, she looked in the rear view mirror. Her eyes grew large, the fear distorted her face. She saw terrible manifestations in that mirror.

All the friends were dead, some of them got burnt, and some of them were rotting. She stared at Bloo, who wasn't blue, but black instead. He was sitting on his seat; he stared into nothing, with veiled, lifeless eyes. Suddenly, the paleness disappeared, and Bloo turned his head to Frankie. A delirious light flashed in his eyes and he made a devilish grin.

His voice was deep and raspy as he spoke:

- After all these years, we finally meet, Frankie my dear!

At the back, the others came to life as well... with the same menacing semidarkness in their eyes. Bloo jumped off the seat, and began to approach Frankie. As he came closer, she could smell the stench of the burnt flesh. The others slowly formed into a line behind Bloo.

- It was all your fault! – Bloo rattled. Eduardo repeated. Half of his body was burnt, his fur disappeared there. His other side was muddy, and fusty. Even Wilt, was furious. His body was burnt; only some of his face remained red.

- It was all your fault! – declared Bloo again. The others chanted the same.

- No! Noo! Nooo! – Frankie screamed.

-Yes, my dear! It was all your fault, and you're gonna pay, 'cause this route goes right in the hell! – he laughed. As he said the last words, everything started to flame, the road turned into a flaming path. It was getting hotter and hotter as the orange flames grew larger and larger.

Before the flames could consume the bus, Frankie saw a white flash, and it was over.

She startled out of her sleep. The night was cold, but she was sweating. She looked around in the bus. *It was a dream... merely a nightmare...* she thought. While they were sleeping it has stopped raining, and the wind blew away the clouds. Frankie recognized Bloo's shape in the light of the full moon. First she got scared, she thought Bloo was burnt black, just like in her nightmare. It was just the play of the shades. She calmed herself down, and tried to sleep.

But to no avail...

The rising sun found her lying, with seething thoughts. She slowly turned her head to see the sunrise.

*Another day in prison begins...* she thought.



## 7 - Third day, Part 2

### Third day

### Part 2

The heat... the heat... Frankie couldn't concentrate on nothing else. It has stopped raining hours ago, but that made things even worse. The sun effused its warm rays upon the bus. Frankie was sitting on the front seat, trying to figure a way out of there. Suddenly, a red ball whooshed in front of her nose. She was sunk in her thoughts, she didn't notice it first. Then the ball came back and hit her face. She looked around in surprise and recognized Bloo flailing with his paddleball.

- Bloo! Can't you just play somewhere else?! – yelled Frankie.

- Ssssh! You're hurting her feelings! – replied the blob, stroking the paddleball. – Don't worry, It'll all be all right!

- Ah, man! – sighed Frankie. – How are we ever gonna get out of here?

- Well, if you ask me... – Bloo began.

- No! I don't want to hear any single word from helicopters, flying saucers, teleportation, or pizzas! – declared Frankie.

- But all these things could get us out! – wined Bloo. – And I'm hungry!

- One more word and you are so getting a knuckle sandwich! – hissed Frankie.

- Fine! Come on! We will not listen to this unmannerly talk! – said the imaginary friend to his paddleball.

He went to the back of the bus huffily.

Frankie sighed again and toweled her forehead with the green sweater.

- Senor Mac! I'm thirsty! – said Eduardo.

- Here you go, Ed! – The boy gave him their last bottle of water.

- Drink only a little, Ed! I mean if that's okay... – Wilt said.

Suddenly, Coco stood up.

- Coco?

- Hear what? – asked Wilt. Soon they all heard the sound Coco was talking about.

- A car! – exclaimed Goo.

- Oh, my gosh! A car, a car, a car! – repeated Frankie monotonously.

Everyone began to shout as hard as they could. They could hear that the car stopped and its driver stepped out.

- Probably, he's recognized our tire tracks! We have to make sure he'll hear us, Frankie! Open the door! – jabbered Mac.

Frankie pulled the switch, but the door did not open. It was stuck between two boughs. She tried again, but the door remained closed.

- Darn! The door doesn't work! We need another idea! – cursed Frankie.

- Hold still woman! Superbloo to the rescue! – exclaimed Bloo and jumped into the air, but he crushed into the windshield. He fell down.

- I did that on purpose! – said he lying on the floor.

- I'd never thought I'd say this, but good idea! – enthused Frankie. – Everyone get to the back!

She raised her foot and kicked the windshield. It was already full of cracks before, they just grew bigger. The girl repeated the action. And again. And again... Finally, the windshield gave it up and broke into pieces; a bigger one fell onto the distorted hood.

Everyone exclaimed “yeah”. Frankie shouted from the window, but she received no respond.

- I'll have to go out! – determined she.

- No, Senorita Frankie! It's very dangerous! – warned her Ed.

- I have to!

- Be careful! – said Mac.

Frankie looked back once more and crawled out through the hole, but she unknowingly grabbed the steering wheel. The front wheels of the bus turned right and pulled its weight to the bough, which held it. Frankie got out and stood up on the hood. She kicked the piece of the windshield off to free more space. She looked down and saw the thick boughs and limbs of the tree. Under that, there was the abyss. She wanted to call for help, but suddenly, the bus quickened. She heard a clashing noise. A few seconds later, the right wheel came away from the bus and the vehicle slowly lost its stable balance. Everyone wanted to run in front to save Frankie, but she stopped them.

- No, no, no, no! Stay right where you are! Don't move! – She said.

The wheel detached from the axis and fell down, and the bus slipped forward on the only bough, which kept it back from a big dive. Frankie crawled back into the cabin as careful as she could.

- Wow, that was close! – She sighed, when she was inside.

Unexpectedly, the bough broke apart with a loud crack. The bus tilted and then fell down...

Frankie opened her eyes. She thought she was already dead. Luckily, there was another thick and even stronger bough was below them. The old tree saved their lives two times. The bus was stable again, but the impact destroyed its front which drilled itself in between two pinny boughs. The distorted hood blocked the entire windshield, even the hole where Frankie crawled out before.

Everyone was totally freaked out, except Bloo. He was jumping around and said:

- Wow, this was so awesome, do it again, do it again!

- Oh, my gosh, I never wanna live this trough again, I thought we were goners, and I said to myself, I'm too young to die, but then realized I'm not dead, and now I guess, this tree must be our friend, because we would have fallen down ages ago... – gabbled Goo.

- I'm sorry, but we're even lower than we were before... – noticed Wilt.

- Noone will see us now! Waaaaa! – cried Ed.

- At least we're still alive! – said Mac.

- Coco! – approved Coco.

- Sure everyone okay? – asked Frankie.

- We have to be more careful! That action nearly cost our life! Besides, I think that car is long gone though. I can't hear any noises. – assumed Mac.

- Yes, and we're still here! And it's still warm! – yelled Frankie. She checked if anyone has injuries or not, but except of little scratches, she found nothing serious. She tried to calm herself down. It's all going to be okay soon... hopefully...

\*\*\*

A black and white police car stopped before the building of the Wilson District Police Department. The police officer has returned from his mountain road patrol. He knocked on the door then entered his

superior's office. He was alone inside. Officer Thomas Bradley looked up from his paperwork. He took his glasses off and threw it on the bench. He rubbed his eyes and drunk a gulp of coffee, but he put the jar down and cursed.

- Damn it, it's cold... – Then he realized, the policeman who stood in front of his desk. He reported.

- I've found traces, which are assuming the vehicle ran off the road, although I could not detect the wreck. I also found a burnt out sport car crashed into the rocky wall, no license plate.

Tom listened patiently; then he gave the instructions.

- Give out a warrant of caption for the disappeared bus's registration number. Take more men, search in a ten-mile circle of the mountain area and hunt up that vehicle or the wreck.

The police officer left the room and Tom continued his paperwork.

- Like I didn't have enough work already... – mumbled he glumly.

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Mr. Herriman hung up the phone. He hopped out of his office and found Madame Foster in the foyer.

- Oh, Madame, I'm glad you're here.

- What's the problem? – asked Madame Foster.

- I'm afraid I have to tell unpleasant, moreover catastrophic news.

- Something happened with Frankie, right?

- Indeed. I've just received a call from Officer Steve Mason, one of the gentlemen who visited yesterday. He informed me, that they assuming Miss Frances had an accident.

- What kind of accident???

Herriamn paused.

- She... ran off the mountain road. – The bunny finished quietly.

Madame Foster didn't say anything.

- The authority says there are some hope, they have not found the bus yet. – annexed Mr. Herriman.

The Madame put her coat on.

- May I ask you, where are you planning to go?

- I'm going to see what's going on up there myself! – declared the old lady.

- In my opinion, we should let the authorities handle this case. What we could possibly do, Madame?

- Aren't you worried just a little? Maybe Frankie's not among the living by now! I'm going and that's it!

– yelled Madame Foster.

- Yes, I am worried! Miss Frances, Master Mac, Miss Goo and four other residents of Foster's are missing!

If you really insist on visiting the mountain road, in that case, I feel my duty to accompany you to the premises. – replied Herriman.

- No, you must stay here and run the house! I must go alone. Who knows when I'll be back...

Madame Foster slowly walked to the garage. She started her Pontiac Firebird's engine and stormed out at the direction of the mountain road...

## 8 - Third day, Part 3

### Third Day

### Part 3

- Mac! I'm hungry!

The boy didn't reply.

- Hear me what I say? Hungry! – Bloo wined.

But Mac did not hear it at all. His mind was far away from here. He gazed out through the broken window. It was late afternoon; the heat retreated for a little. Suddenly he recognized something among the leaves. He blinked to see more clearly.

- No it can't be... but still... – mumbled the boy to himself. Then he turned to Bloo.

- ... I can't believe you just sit here and do nothing, while I'm hungry! We're supposed to be best friends and best friends don't let each other starve to death you know... – Bloo was complaining for five minutes, but Mac ignored his words.

- Yeah, what ever! Look out! What do you see? – asked Mac.

- A tree, duh! But I'm still hungryyyyyyyyyy! – yelled the blob.

- No, no, there! – said Mac, pointing to a black spot in the green leaves.

- That's nonsense! I'm hungry and you make me look at a stupid... thing... – Bloo stopped arguing. His eyes grew larger.

- Is that?

- Yes, I think it is... – replied Mac.

- Hey, everyone! Look, look! A cell phone! – Bloo shouted.

Frankie almost fell asleep, when she was roused by the blob's voice. She quickly stood up.

- Where, where?

Mac showed them.

- Wilt, you have the longest arm! Can you reach it? – asked Frankie.

- We have to break another window! – noticed Goo.

- No ,that's not a bueno idea! Last time, we almost died! – Eduardo said.

- Bla bla bla! This piece of junk should do it! – replied Bloo holding the first aid kit.

- No, not that! – scared Frankie and pulled it out of his hands.

- Coco! – exclaimed Coco and laid a red egg, with a hammer within.

- Okay, everyone behind me! – said Frankie.

- Here it goes! – She threw the hammer. The glass broke into pieces.

- Good job Seniorita Frankie! You're muy strong! – Ed exclaimed.

- Oh that's strange! When I break something, I'm the public enemy, when she breaks something she's a hero? – yelled Bloo.

- She had to do it. Perhaps our lives depend on that phone. – said Mac.

- Yeah, so?

- You break things because you enjoy destroying them.
- I still don't see your point. – Bloo declared.

Wilt tried his best to reach the cell phone, but his attempts have failed.

- I'm so sorry! Maybe I didn't try hard enough. – excused the imaginary friend.
- It's not your fault, Wilt. But we have to find another way to get it! – said Frankie.
- Co cocococo cococo cococococococo!
- You're loco? – screamed Ed.
- No, she's right. Someone must climb out to get it... That's our only hope! – agreed Frankie. – I'll go.
- You can't go, okay, I know you're an adult I can't tell you what to do, but I mean you literally can't, you're too big to get out on the window, I must go, I've climbed lots of trees in Wisconsin... – jabbered Goo.
- Not an option! You don't know this tree, if you step onto a weak bough... – Frankie began.
- Coco! – exclaimed the bird and laid a blue egg. There was a band of rope inside.
- It's still too dangerous! There must be another way out! – speculated Frankie. – Of course! The emergency back door!

She went to the back of the bus and opened the door. She backed down immediately. Suddenly, the bumper came away and fell down to the abyss. The last bough that held the vehicle was under the rear wheels. She closed the door.

- So much for that idea... – she sighed and looked into Goo's eyes.
- You feel you can do it for sure? – asked Frankie.
- I'll try! – declared Goo. The others encouraged her. They tied the rope around her haunch and the other end was tied to a seat.
- Are you ready?
- Yes I am! – replied Goo and stepped out of the broken window. She looked down and saw the deepness below. She carefully put her foot on the nearest bough. It held her weight. She slowly made a step ahead. Everyone in the bus watched her with bated breath, they were mesmerized by her movements.

Then they heard a crack. Goo jumped off the limb just in time, a moment later it was on its way to the bottom of the gulch. Her arms encompassed the pinny bough. She carried on, getting closer and closer to the cell phone. She raised her hand... and grabbed it.

- I got it! I got it! – yelled she victoriously.
- Way to go Goo! – said Mac.
- I'm sorry, but that's really great! – said Wilt.
- Muy awesome! – exclaimed Ed.
- Good job! Now come back here and be careful! – Frankie said.
- Yeah you're cool, but hurry it up will ya? I'm hungry! – shouted Bloo.

A few anxious minutes later, Goo safely returned to the bus, with the cell phone in her possession.

- We're saved! – enthused Eduardo.
- Let's order a pepperoni-cheese pizza! – giggled Bloo.
- Coco co!
- Yeah, I wonder too, how it could fall out from here! – agreed Wilt.

Goo gave the dell phone to Frankie. A moment later, she roared and put it away in her pocket.

- What's the matter? – asked Mac.
- There's no reception... – replied Frankie.
- Can I see that? – When Mac got the phone, he went to the broken window and held it out. Nothing changed.

- Maybe we should try from the top of the bus, it's higher... – he suggested.
  - We can use the roof blow-hole! – realized Frankie. She stood up to the driver's seat and raised her hand as high as she could.
  - Nothing! – yelled she.
  - Keep trying! – encouraged her Mac.
- After a few minutes, Frankie wanted to give it up. Suddenly the phone received a weak signal.
- Oh, my gosh! Thank you, thank you, thank you! – whispered she.
- She dialed the only number that came to her mind.
- Please work, please work, please work! – prayed Frankie.

\*\*\*

The old-fashioned phone rang. Mr. Herriman picked it up.

- Hallo, Foster's home for imaginary friends, Mr. Herriman speaking, how may I help you? – said he monotonously.
- Yes, Mr. Herriman, finally!
- Miss Frances? – surprised the bunny.
- Yes it's me! Now, listen...
- You are not in that situation to give orders to me! Where are you? – asked Herriman.
- We're trapped on a...
- Miss Frances! I can hear you quite badly! Repeat it please!
- We're... on a... tree... mo... road... Nobo... recognize us... help, hel... Tell... Ma... Foster... police! Help, He...

Mr. Herriman heard rasping in the phone.

- Miss Frances, are you there? Miss Frances! The Madame has just left the house! Do you hear me?! Frankie!!!

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- Tell Madame Foster and call the police! Help, help! – shouted Frankie into the phone.
  - Mr. Herriman?! Do you hear me? Mr. Herriman!
- The phone beeped four times and the battery went dead.
- No, not yet, damn you! – cursed she and threw the cell-phone on the floor. Then she collapsed. She buried her face into her palms and cried. The others watched silently, then led her to a seat.
  - Are you okay? – asked Mac after a few minutes.
- Frankie touched his cheek.
- It's so nice of you to care about me... Yes, I'm better now... It's just... – she turned her head and peered the sunset.
  - What?
  - I'm ashamed to admit, but I feel... we're not going to make it...
- Suddenly, Bloo showed up.
- You bet we won't, without the pizza!

## 9 - Third day, Part 4

### Third Day

### Part 4

His phone rang.

- Bradley! – said Officer Thomas Bradley into the phone.
- Greetings, Mr. Bradley! I'm Mr. Herriman, calling from Foster's home for imaginary friends. – replied a deep voice with British accent.
- Oh, yes, I know. Have the disappeared persons returned? – asked Tom.
- No, not quite. This is the reason why I called you, Mr. Bradley.
- I'm listening... - sighed the officer. He was driving home.
- One of our missing residents has given life sign. – informed him Herriman.
- What happened?
- I've received a phone call from Miss Frances Foster a few minutes ago. She made me aware of the fact, that she's alive, but the line was unacceptably bad and raspy. She could not inform me about her present location, although she said something about a tree and a road. Unfortunately, I was unable to understand her other words, and the call ended after a few seconds. – explained Herriman.
- I see. We have already sent out a patrol and made arrangements to find them as soon as possible. If they are in the mountain area, we'll bring them home. – said Tom.
- Thank you very much, Mr. Bradley. I'll inform Madame Foster, as soon as she returns. – answered the bunny.
- This is our job. Call me if you have any new information.
- Indeed I will. Well, goodbye Mr. Bradley. – said Herriman formally and after Tom said bye as well, he put down the phone. He turned around with his chair and watched the sunset through the window.
- Where are you? – whispered he under his mustache.

It was already evening, when Madam Foster's sport car stopped at the back of the Foster Mansion. She kicked the door in. Mr. Herriman heard the noise and hopped into the foyer.

- I can't believe it! I found out nothing! I drove up to the mountain road, and met a bunch of police officers there. They told me nothing, but I've seen tire tracks on the road. They have run off the road I'm telling ya! – shouted Madame Foster. Herriman listened to her patiently and waited until she calmed down a bit. Then he shared the details of Frankie's call with her.
- She called you?! – surprised the old lady.
- Exactly, Madame. Nevertheless, I could only catch a few words, because the line was oddly bad, as I mentioned it to Officer Bradley. After Francis' call, I've let him know the event. – The bunny said. He also told her about Frankie's mysterious words... tree... road... What could they mean?
- She's still up there, I can feel. Maybe she's trapped or something. – said Madame Foster.
- In my opinion, this is mere speculation, Madame. Mr. Bradley has already initiated the search for them.

- I guess you're right... There's nothing else we can do. Oh, I hope she and the others are all okay...

\*\*\*

The night has come again. The freezing cold replaced the heat. The prisoners of the bus ate up all their supplies, even the slightest piece of food. Only a little water remained. They tried to sleep, but the hunger, the thirst and the cold did not really let them. Little did they know, they have not been through the worst part yet...



## 10 - Fourth Day, Part 1

### Fourth Day

### Part 1

The new day has come and it seemed very cruel to the prisoners of the bus. The heat was beyond endurance, although it was only about nine. They were tired, because their sleep was hard-pressed and dreamless. The sun only multiplied their sufferings.

Frankie's mouth was dry; she looked for the last bottle of water. She couldn't find it anywhere.

- Where's the water? – She asked.

- I took it... – replied Bloo shortly.

- Where is it then?

- In here. – said Bloo, pointing at his stomach.

- What?! You drunk all the water???! – shouted Frankie in horror.

- Don't need to thank me.

- What are you talking about???

- I had to drink the water to put this message in the bottle! I know it's a dirty job, but I sacrificed myself for the others. – smiled Bloo proudly.

- Give me that! – exclaimed Frankie and took the bottle out of the blob's hands.

She looked at the childish letters on the message. "Help! We need a big pepperoni pizza!"

- Pretty smart idea, ha? Oh yeah! – enthused Bloo.

- And how do you want to get this up there? – asked Frankie. She felt she's going to lose her temper.

- A... um... well... I was... You don't need to criticize me you know!

Frankie's eyes grew narrow.

- Okay, perhaps my plan needs a tiny bit of correction, but if you have a better one, why didn't you say so? – Bloo admitted.

Suddenly, Frankie crunched the bottle in her hand, the pieces rolled apart on the floor. She didn't do anything else, just stared at Bloo in a way that made the imaginary friend retreat.

Mac noticed Frankie's strange behavior and asked her what problem was. After he got no respond, he turned to Bloo.

- What did you do?

- Nothing, nothing. She just went mad; I don't know why, I have nothing to do with it. – said the blob.

- Oh really? – Mac raised his eyebrow.

- Well, yeah. I've just wasted all of our water, that's all, no biggy. – answered Bloo.

- You did what?!

Bloo had to repeat it.

- But I did it for our own good! I just wanted to help! – The blob excused.

Before Mac could strike back, Coco joined the conversation.

- Co cocococco cococo cocococococ coco!

- What? That was too fast... No abla English... – mocked Bloo.  
- Stop it, Bloo! Coco's right! We have to make an advantage out of your foolishness! – yelled Mac.  
Bloo's reply was a skeptic expression.  
- All right! Coco gave me an idea... – Mac began, but he was interrupted.  
Suddenly, Eduardo stood up.  
- I can't take it anymore! I have to get out of here! Muerto, muerto!!! – He screamed.  
He rushed forward, he ran through between Mac, Bloo and Coco, he ran beside Frankie, who was still standing still, gazing into the nothingness. He reached the front of the bus, and then started to punch the door with his strong paws. The whole vehicle teetered by his blows.  
- Ed, stop, you're dooming us all! – shouted Goo, who tried to bring Frankie back from wherever she was at the time. All the others ran to the huge imaginary friend grabbing his fur to pull him back. They couldn't have succeeded without a little help. All of a sudden, Ed recognized a bigger spider at his feet.  
- Spider!!! – He cried and drew back. Then he fainted.  
Frankie awakened by Ed's scream.  
- What happened? – She asked. Then she realized she was still holding some pieces of the bottle in her palm.  
- Ed went crazy and wanted to kill us! – replied Bloo.  
- You'd better shut up! - hissed Frankie. The blob escaped behind Mac.  
- I'm sorry, but what was this all about? I've never seen Ed so frightened. – Wilt said.  
Only Mac answered.  
- This situation... This situation slowly makes everyone of us mad...  
The gang coincidentally bowed their heads down.

\*\*\*

Officer Thomas Bradley visited the premises of the accident for the first time. As he stepped out of the car, the heat immediately struck his skin. His partner, Officer Steve Mason followed him.  
- Man, it's hot, even up here... – declared Mason.  
- Tell me about it. Now, what do we have here? – said Bradley walking to the border. He saw the black stripes on the road.  
- What do you think? – asked he.  
- It's quite unambiguous to me. – replied Mason. – The girl had a great time with her friends, got drunk and ran off the road. The wreck must be down there, somewhere under the trees. Case closed.  
He picked out a cigarette and a Zippo lighter from his inner pocket.  
- I don't know... That sounds too obvious. – answered Bradley and took his sunglasses down.  
- Nah... We have dozens of cases like this in every year! Youngsters... – reasoned Mason and made a deep gulp.  
- Maybe you're right, but my intuition says something else.  
- Intuitions? You cannot rely only on intuitions in this job. – declared Mason.  
Bradley ignored his partner's statement, just looked down, but he couldn't see under the green blanket of trees.  
- Our troops have just entered the other side of the forest. Believe me! One or two days and they'll find a wreck with seven corpse in it. I know it sounds cold and unsympathetic, but I'm just realistic. – Mason continued.  
- Yeah, that's possible. We'll see what the searchers will come up with. – replied Bradley.  
Mason has finished his cigarette. He dropped and stepped on it.  
- Hey, you want a coffee? I could use one! – offered he and walked to the front of the car.

- Sure. It's gonna be a long day... – Bradley made a weak smile. He looked at the scenery once more, while his partner got in. He put his sunglasses back on, got in as well, and started the engine. He turned the car around and drove back to the city.

\*\*\*

When every single resident of Foster's came together in the cafeteria, Madame Foster and Mr. Herriman informed them about Frankie's and the other's disappearance. Everyone began to talk and set up their own theories what might have happened to Frankie. The chitchat grew more and more intense, as the imaginary friends wanted to outdone the other's voice. Madame Foster raised her hand and soon, everyone stopped talking. After the residents had lunch, the Madame and Mr. Herriman remained alone in the huge cafeteria.

- That's terrible, Herriman! If something bad happened to them, everyone will blame me, because I let them go on a trip! And they are right! It's my fault...

- I'm afraid I cannot agree with you this time. – said the bunny. He always used wide range of vocabulary. – I've authorized the excursion, without examining the bus's mechanic condition. In my opinion, there was a malfunction, which caused the accident, or whatever has happened. If there's a person who's responsible, I am!

Madame Foster smiled at him.

- We'll going to see them again, won't we?

- Yes Madame... Of course... – replied Herriman, but he was not convinced about this.

## 11 - Fourth Day, Part 2

### Fourth Day

### Part 2

Eduardo came to. He rubbed his head.

- Guys? What happened?

- I'm sorry to say this, but you were insane. You've almost killed us... – replied Wilt.

- Co cococo? – asked Coco.

- I don't remember... I was scared... – Ed stuttered.

- Coco cococococo?

- No, I'm not loco! I just want to go home, like anyone else. – said Eduardo huffily and put his arms together.

- You are mistaken Ed. She didn't say *you're* crazy, she said everyone's getting crazy... – Wilt explained.

- Cococo! – confirmed Coco.

- Yeah... Some kind of cabin fever.

- Cabin fever?! Waaa! – screamed Ed. Then he stopped. – What's that? – He asked.

Meanwhile, Mac and Goo were sitting beside each other. Both of them stared out to the landscape. Suddenly Goo broke the silence between them.

- Mac?

- Yes?

- Do you think we're gonna ever get out of here? – The girl questioned.

- I don't know... At least we have to believe in that. We can't just give up... – replied Mac.

- Okay. I'm glad we have the same point of view, it's great, I just asked, because I wanted to know how you feel about it, you know... – Goo jabbered.

Mac turned his head around and smiled at her. All of a sudden, Bloo showed up from behind their seat.

- Love is in the air! Mac and Goo sitting on a tree... hahahaha! – laughed the blob.

- Get lost, Bloo! – yelled Mac.

- Are you having a good time with your girlfriend? – mocked Bloo.

- She's not my girlfriend!!! – shouted Mac.

- Are to! – replied Bloo shortly and before Mac could do anything, he disappeared.

- It's okay, Mac. Don't get upset! – advised Goo.

- Yes, you're right... Normally I just ignore him, when he's being a doofus, but now I can't... – sighed the boy.

- It's hard for everyone. I mean, it's not literally hard, because we'd get squeezed that way, no, it's emotionally hard to stand the other's personality...

- True. When Bloo lived with me, I've handled far more difficult problems related to him... But since he's

been living at Foster's, I got used to the lack of his presence and his dumb things... – explained Mac.

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- Madame, may I ask where are you going? – asked Mr. Herriman.

- To the Police Department, where else? It has been a long time, since we've reported their disappearance, now I want answers. – replied Madame Foster.

- No person could prohibit you from doing such thing. Nevertheless, we should let the authorities do their investigation, I'm convinced, they will inform us soon enough, if they discover something. – said Herriman.

- Yes, maybe you're right. But I can't just sit here and do nothing! – exclaimed the Madame, heading to the door.

Herriman hopped through the foyer and opened the wide door to her.

- I hope your visit will be successful, Madame!

- Me too. – smiled Madame Foster. She got in to her car and stormed out.

\*\*\*

As the others were playing cards at the back of the bus, Frankie rapt. She tried to think of something else than their desperate situation and more importantly, the hunger. They have not eaten anything hearty for days. Moreover, they are out of water as well, thanks to Bloo...

Frankie tried to use the luckily found cell phone, but to no avail. The battery was as empty as her stomach. She felt she could scream, shout her fears aloud, however she knew she couldn't afford such luxury. If the others see, she's collapsed, they will follow her example soon. As far as she remembers, she's always been the engine and the soul of Foster's home for imaginary friends. She thought no matter what, she could handle any kind of problem. But this time, she was helpless against the fate's will. They have spent only three days in the bus together, but it seemed like ages. And who knows when it's going to end? *If it ever ends...*

Suddenly, a picture nestled itself in her brain, challenging her rational mind. She imagined that no one has ever discovered them, decades passed by, but the bus remained in the trap of the tree. The rust consumed the metal; the nature slowly vaporized their skeletons...

Until the tree dies and rots, no longer keeping the bus away from falling down...

Frankie dispelled the sinister thought. No! She can't give up like this! They *are* gonna get out of here! Be positive!

Then, recognition flashed through her mind. Of course! Why didn't she think of it the first time?

The others looked up from their cards and turned around. They all gazed at Frankie with a questioning expression. The reason was her intense laughter. She even hit the steering wheel with her arms, as she laughed.

- Lost her mind she has... – declared Bloo.

- Senorita Frankie... Are you okay? – asked Ed.

- We got gotta do something! – exclaimed Mac.

- But what? – Goo asked back.

- I don't know! – The boy replied.

- I know just a thing! – enthused Bloo and ran to Frankie. He jumped on the steering wheel and softly slapped her on the face. Frankie reacted very fast; she immediately grabbed Bloo's hand.

- Maybe you wish to tell me exactly, what the heck are you doing?! – yelled she.

- You should be grateful! I've brought ya back from the madness! – answered the blob, still hanging in the air.

- Grateful? For what? Oh, wait, I know! For wasting the rest of our water!

- Frankie, let him go! – said Mac.

Frankie released Bloo, who fell down.

- Next time, I'll let you suffer... – mumbled the imaginary friend after he stood up. But he ran behind Mac, when Frankie roared at him. Everyone knew, the chasm between her and the blue imaginary friend was getting bigger and deeper.

- Sorry, if I ask, but what was this all about? – Wilt asked.

- No, no, the question's rightful... I laughed, because... I think I know a way out... – smiled Frankie.

\*\*\*

Officer Steve Mason sighed, rubbing his temporal. He drank a little coffee. The old lady, who set in front of him, at the other side of his desk was getting on his nerves. He described the status of the search for the second time.

- Have you found my granddaughter or not? – asked Madame Foster repeatedly.

- Our searchers are examining the forest in this moment as well. We sent out patrol and a warrant of caption on your vehicle. We'll do everything we can, Mrs. Foster, but I can't give you any new information right now.

- A clear answer at last! I don't like when someone holds something back, just because of my age. I'm old, but I'm not stupid, deary. So, if you find something...

- I'll inform you as soon as we know more. – assured her Mason.

That was enough for her; Madame Foster slowly toddled to the door and left the office.

\*\*\*

Their glee filled the bus, when Frankie revealed the reason of her mysterious laughter. She dragged out a trunk from under the last seat. She raised the long towrope as a symbol of her victory. It was long, elastic and it had two hooks on its endings.

- Perfecto! – mumbled Ed.

- Beautiful! Pepperoni pizza, here I come! – Bloo enthused.

The others just stared at it, like if it was a priceless diamond. The new star of hope arose.

- How exactly are we going to use it? – asked Wilt.

Nobody knew the answer. After a few minutes of silence, Mac exclaimed.

- I have an idea!