

Emma Brown's



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CHAPTER ONE

Mommy & Daddy's Big News

There was a little yellow house in a small, quiet town, surrounded by big green hedges and red rose bushes. Living there with her Mommy and Daddy was a little girl named Emma Brown, who had just turned eight.

She didn't mind her small, quiet town, though, because Emma had her own room, a big backyard with a swing set, lots of friends at school, and a black-and-white dog named Sammy.

Emma was very happy in her little yellow house where she had her own room, which was decorated in Emma's favorite color—blue.

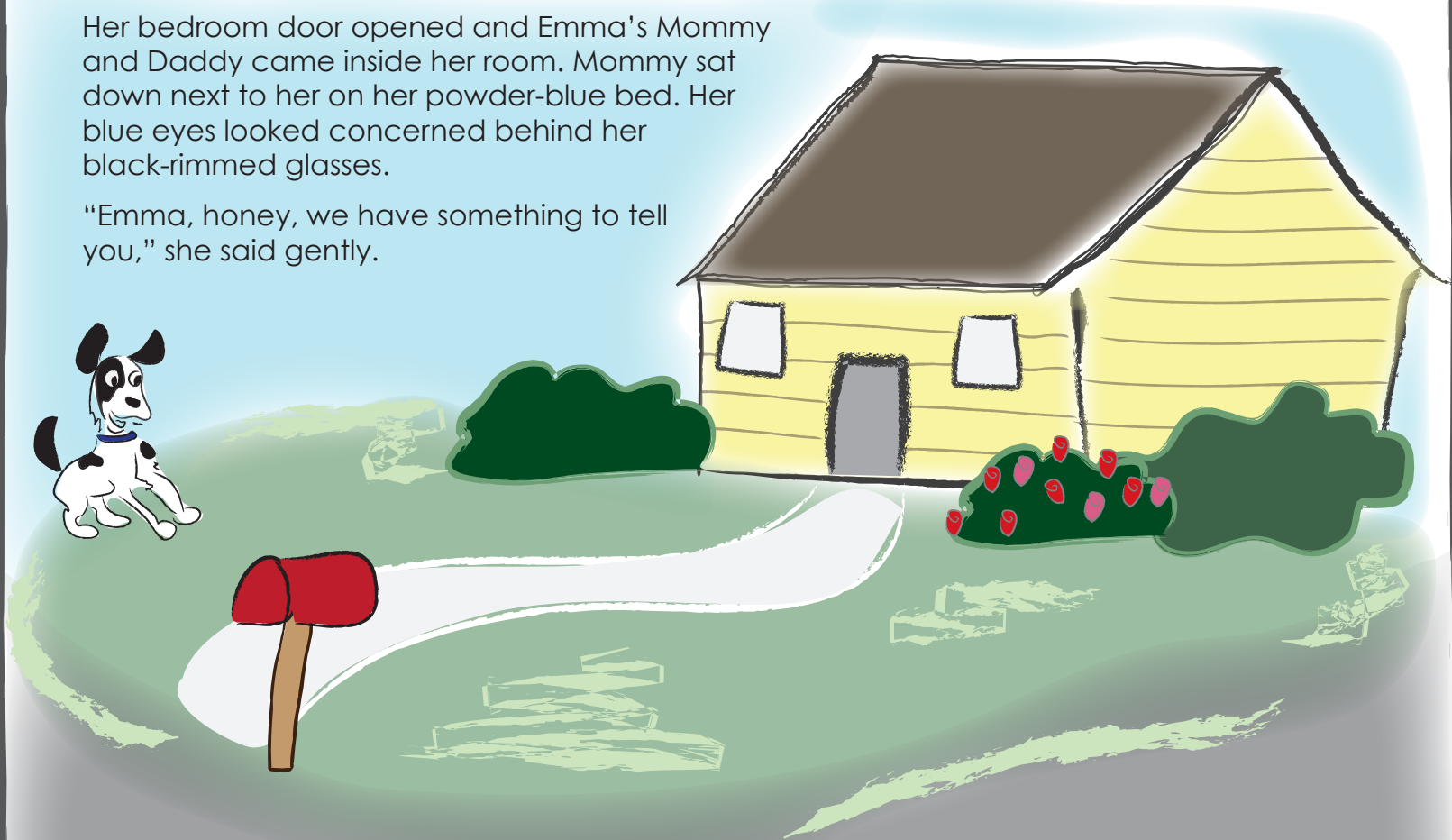
Emma was sitting in her room one day with her favorite doll, Olivia. She was pulling a green plastic hairbrush through Olivia's soft blonde curls, sitting cross-legged on her frilly, powder-blue bed. Emma heard a knock on her bedroom door.

"Emma? It's Mommy and Daddy."

"Come in," Emma called back cheerfully, continuing to brush Olivia's hair.

Her bedroom door opened and Emma's Mommy and Daddy came inside her room. Mommy sat down next to her on her powder-blue bed. Her blue eyes looked concerned behind her black-rimmed glasses.

"Emma, honey, we have something to tell you," she said gently.



CHAPTER ONE

Mommy & Daddy's Big News

"What, Mommy?" Emma asked.

"Daddy got a new job," Mommy said, as Emma's Daddy came and sat down on the other side of Emma.

"That's great, Daddy!" Emma exclaimed with a smile.

"Honey, Daddy's new job is in a different town," said Mommy. "The town is called Mapleton." Emma was confused. "Where is that?" she asked.

"It's very far away, Emma," said Daddy. "We will have to move to a new house soon."

A new house?

But what about my friends at school? And my big yard with my swing set? What about my room with my powder-blue bed? Emma's mind was filled with questions.

"Don't worry, Emma," said Mommy. "You will love our new house and our new town. You'll see."

A move sounded scary. What would her new house be like? Who would she play with after school? What if she didn't like her new teachers? Emma started to feel sad and worried.

"But that means everything will change," Emma said with a pout.

"Yes, it will," said Emma's Mommy. "But sometimes change is good."

Mommy kissed Emma and Olivia gently on the forehead before she and Daddy exited her room -- they had to start planning their big move.



CHAPTER TWO

Time to Start Packing

Emma's family began to prepare for their move to Mapleton. Mommy and Daddy called the movers and set the date for their move to their new home.

Slowly, they began wrapping everything in the house and placing it inside cardboard containers. It wasn't long before their little yellow house turned into a sea of boxes.

One day, Mommy and Daddy asked Emma to go into her room to start packing her things.

"Get all your clothes and toys together and put them into boxes," Mommy told Emma. "I'll help you tape everything up when you're all done."

Emma wasn't sure where to start. She looked around her room. A shelf on one side was stacked with fluffy stuffed animals, dolls, and all kinds of toys. In her closet hung dresses, blouses, and coats, and her shoes were organized neatly on the floor beneath them. In her dresser were neatly folded pants, pajamas, and socks.

She got down on her knees and reached underneath her powder blue bed. Emma pulled out a small cardboard shoebox. Stuffed inside the box were photographs of Emma since she was a little baby up until now.



CHAPTER TWO

Time to Start Packing

There were pictures of her Mommy bringing home a newborn Emma from the hospital, wrapped in a yellow blanket decorated with ducks. She was smiling happily as she sat on the big red couch in their living room.

There was a picture of five-year-old Emma playing in the backyard with her Daddy as he pushed her on the swing. She was laughing gleefully as she soared through the air.

There were pictures of Emma with her friends from school and her cousins, eating birthday cake at her slumber parties or splashing in the sprinklers in her front yard.

There were pictures of Emma playing Frisbee with Sammy and sitting on her Grandpa's lap at Thanksgiving.

Emma had so many memories in this house, and so many people that she loved close by. Mapleton was so far away.

Will my new house and new friends be as much fun? Will I make lots of new memories?

Emma stood up with the shoe box of photographs and placed them inside the first cardboard moving box. She began to fill the rest of the box with her favorite things—the teddy bear her Daddy brought to the hospital when she was born, the red-and-white jump rope she and her friends used in her yard for hours, and Olivia, her favorite doll.

Emma closed the flaps to her box and picked up the red magic marker her Mommy gave her to label what was inside.

On the front of the box, she wrote in large letters, "Memories."



CHAPTER THREE

Emma Says Goodbye

On a bright and sunny Friday morning, Emma arrived at school. It was just two weeks until her family's move to Mapleton, and she still hadn't told her friends.

Emma trudged up the concrete stairs leading up to Kendall Elementary's main entrance. She imagined the conversation she would have with her friends in her mind as she walked down the hall to her classroom. She wasn't sure what they would say.

Emma opened the door to Ms. Madison's third grade class. The walls were decorated with colorful paper flowers and bright yellow suns to celebrate the approaching summer. Emma's desk was in the back, next to her two best friends Ashley and Fiona. The two girls were already seated at their desks, chatting excitedly as they waited for the bell to ring.

Emma joined her friends and sat down at her desk.



CHAPTER THREE

Emma Says Goodbye

"Hi, Emma!" Fiona greeted her happily, her coppery curls bouncing.

"Hi, Emma," Ashley echoed, her brown eyes lighting up. "Are you coming over to swim tomorrow?"

"Yeah, sure," Emma said. "Can I borrow a bathing suit?"

"Why? You have your own, silly," Fiona giggled. Ashley began to giggle too.

Emma's bathing suit was already packed.

"I have to tell you both something," said Emma softly, her eyes glancing at the floor. "My family is moving to Mapleton after the school year ends in two weeks."

Fiona and Ashley stopped giggling, and looked at each other, confused.

"Where is Mapleton?" Ashley asked.

"It's far away," said Emma. "We can visit and talk on the phone, but I won't be able to see you every day at school or play together as much."

"I'll miss you, Emma," Fiona said, as she leaned over and wrapped Emma in a hug.

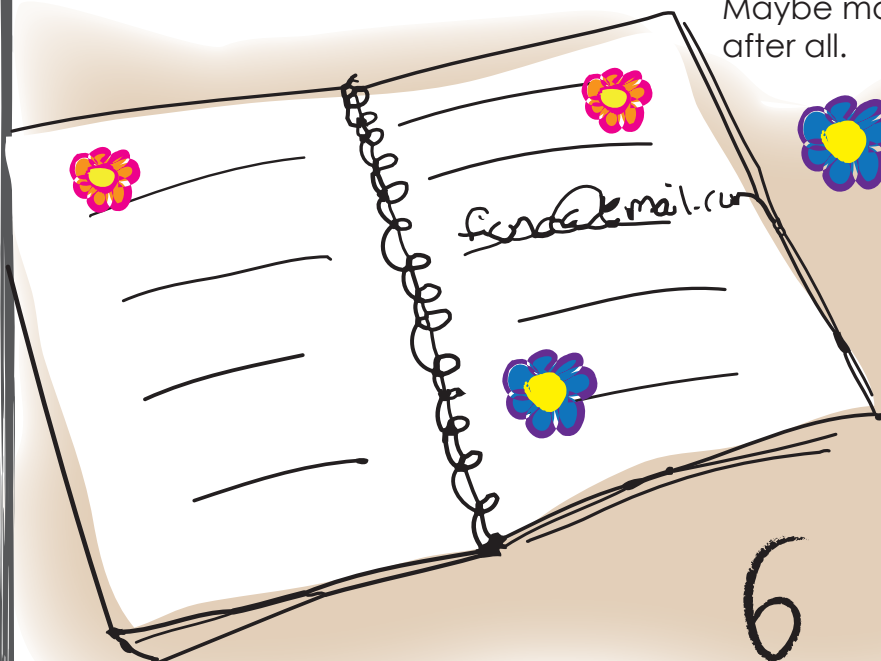
"I'll miss you, too," said Ashley, as she threw her arms around both girls and hugged them tightly.

"Call us every day," Fiona requested, "and you can send me emails!" She broke free of the hug and pulled out her notebook. "My parents just got me a computer. I'll write down my email address for you."

"You can come visit me whenever you want," said Ashley. "We can have sleepovers and you can tell us all about your new house and school."

Emma felt a little better. Even though she was moving away, she could still visit her friends sometimes and talk to them whenever she wanted. Plus, she would make even more friends at her new school.

Maybe moving to Mapleton wouldn't be so bad after all.



CHAPTER FOUR

Emma Meets the Movers

The day to move to Mapleton had finally arrived for Emma and her family.

Emma woke up that morning feeling a mixture of excitement and nervousness. She climbed out of bed and looked around her nearly empty room.

"Emma!" Mommy's voice called from downstairs. "Come have some breakfast! The movers will be here soon."

Emma hurried down the stairs and made her way into the kitchen. The smell of pancakes, eggs, and bacon wafted through the air. Mommy and Daddy had ordered breakfast to-go from the diner down the street and set the table with paper plates and plastic cups.

Emma sat down as Mommy spooned some scrambled eggs onto her plate. "The movers will be here soon, Emma," she said.

"Remember what we told you about being safe," added Daddy.

"Make sure I stay out of the movers' way," Emma said, taking a bite of pancake.

"And what else?" asked Mommy.

"To come tell you if I get hurt or if I see someone else get hurt," said Emma.

"Do you know where the first-aid kit is?" asked Daddy.

"In the bathroom closet," Emma announced, smiling proudly.

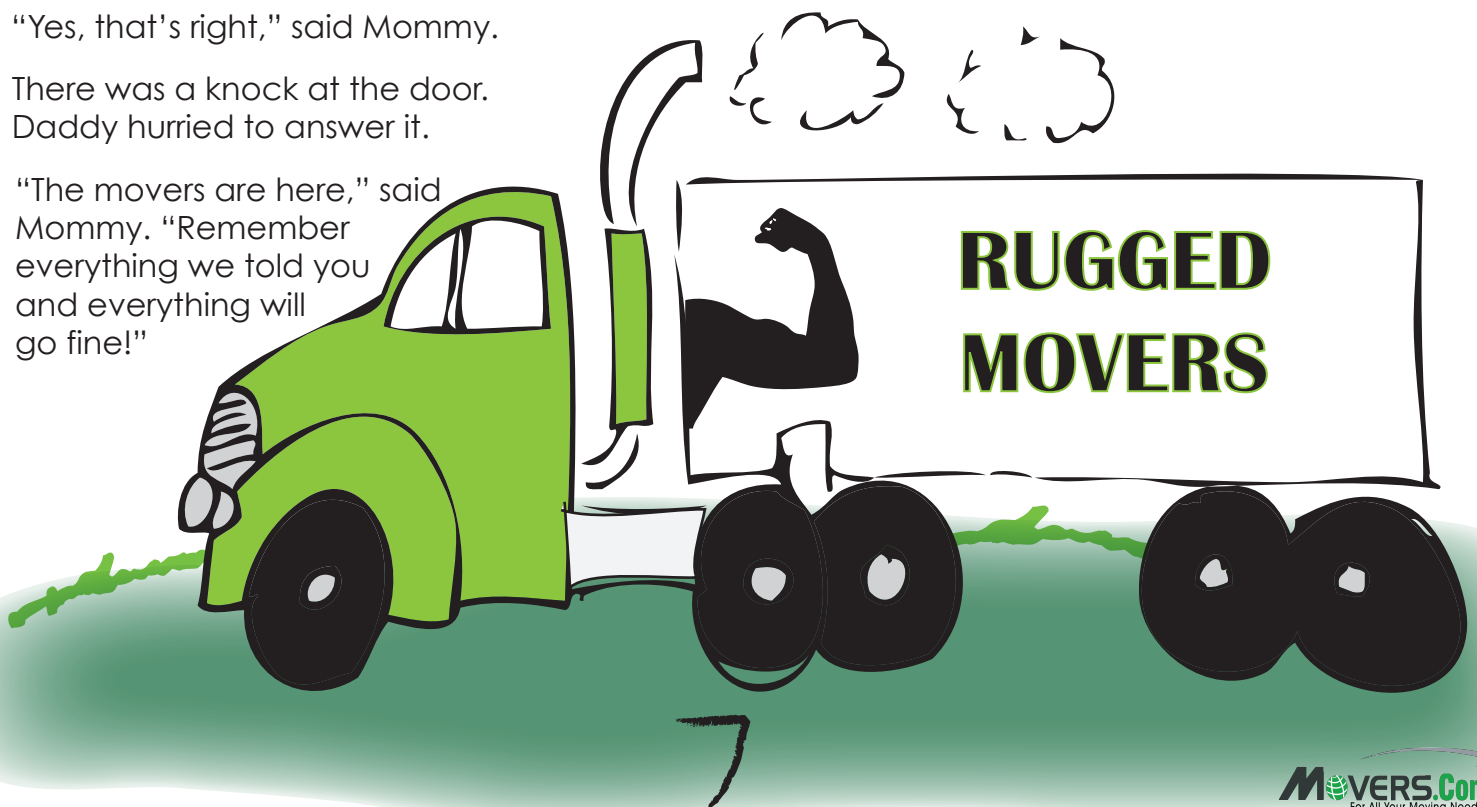
"What can you help with today?" asked Mommy.

"I can help you pack our bags for the car trip and our first night in our new house." Emma took a sip from her red plastic cup filled with orange juice. "Right, Mommy?"

"Yes, that's right," said Mommy.

There was a knock at the door. Daddy hurried to answer it.

"The movers are here," said Mommy. "Remember everything we told you and everything will go fine!"



CHAPTER FOUR

Emma Meets the Movers

Two brawny men with muscular arms came walking into the kitchen. They were dressed in blue jeans and white T-shirts that said "Rugged Movers" across the front. One of them had black hair covered by a baseball hat, and the other had sandy-colored hair and bright blue eyes. They both had thick beards and friendly, smiling faces.

"Hiya," said the mover with the hat, as he stuck out his hand to introduce himself. "I'm Ben, and this is my partner Donny." He gestured towards the other mover.

Donny squatted down to Emma's eye-level. "What's your name?" he asked.

"Emma," Emma replied shyly.

"Where are you moving to, Emma?" Ben asked.

"Mapleton," said Emma.

"Wow, Mapleton?" Donny's blue eyes flashed. "That's my favorite town I have ever been to!"

Emma smiled.

"Don't worry Emma," said Ben. "We are going to get all your things safely to your new house in Mapleton. Which boxes are yours?"

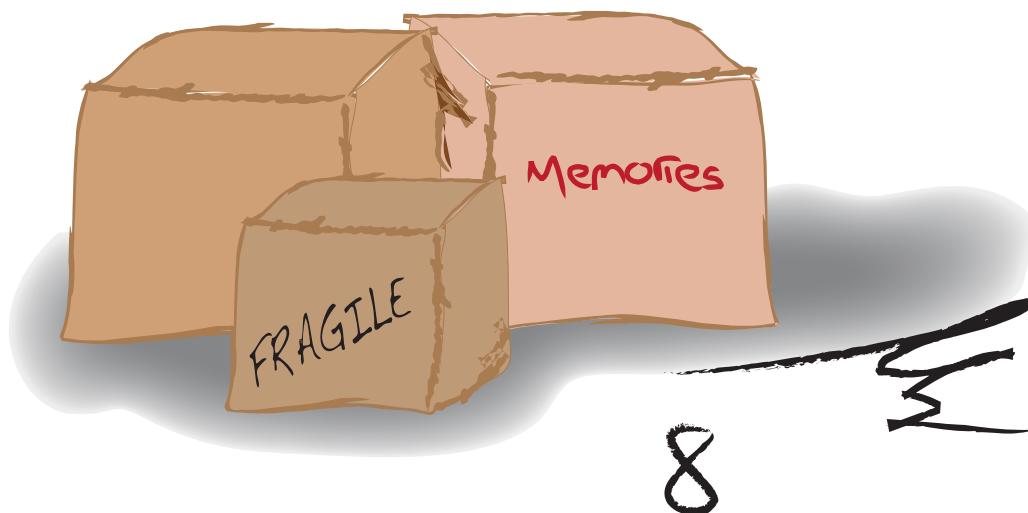
Emma walked over to her stack of cardboard boxes near the kitchen doorway and pointed. Ben picked the top box up off the pile. It read "Memories" across the side in large red letters.

"What's in here?" Ben asked.

"All my favorite things ever," Emma said.

Ben grinned and hugged the box closely. "I'll guard it with my life," he assured Emma.

Mommy came up behind Emma and placed her hand on her shoulder. "Come on, Emma," she said. "Let's leave the movers to their work and get your bag packed."



CHAPTER FIVE

Emma's family Roadtrip

As Ben and Donny drove off in their white moving truck, Emma's family began loading their bags into their car to begin their trip to Mapleton.

Since the movers wouldn't be delivering her family's things that same day, they had to make sure they packed enough to keep them comfortable their first few nights in their new home.

Emma climbed into the back seat with her overnight bag and buckled her seatbelt. Sammy sat in his crate on the seat beside her, looking glum.

Daddy started the engine and began to back out of the driveway.

Emma snuck one last glance at her little yellow house through her window as the family drove away.

"What did you bring to keep busy on the ride?" Daddy asked Emma, his eyes meeting hers in the rearview mirror.

Emma reached into her bag. "Lots of stuff!" she said. "Story books, coloring books, crossword puzzles—I won't be bored!"

Several hours later, the family was gliding along the highway. Emma had finished an entire coloring book, and was halfway through her crossword puzzles.

She tossed the book aside. "Mommy and Daddy—I'm bored," she announced.

"Would you like a snack?" Mommy offered Emma a granola bar.

Emma accepted the treat, and began to unwrap the foil. "Can we play a game?" she asked.

"Sure, Emma," Daddy replied. "What would you like to play?"



CHAPTER FIVE

Emma's family Roadtrip

"How about 'I Spy'?" asked Mommy.

"No..."

"'20 Questions'?" asked Daddy.

"No..." Emma trailed off. After a few moments, her face lit up in a smile. "I know! Let's play 'Going on a Picnic'. I'll start."

Emma thought for a minute. "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing—Arthur!" Arthur was Emma's favorite Teddy bear from the day she was born.

Daddy smiled. "I'm going on a picnic, and I'm bringing Arthur and my baseball glove," he said, referring to the old leather glove he'd had since he played baseball as a child.

Mommy continued, "I'm going on a picnic, and I'm bringing Arthur, a baseball glove and my china." Mommy's china was the set of elegant dinner plates she received as her wedding gift.

The family continued with the game-- naming all of their most treasured possessions they were bringing along with them to Mapleton-- as they drove towards their new life.



CHAPTER SIX

Emma's Brand New House

It was dark outside when Emma's family's car rolled up into the winding paved driveway of their new home. Emma had fallen asleep in the backseat, dreaming of baseball gloves and Teddy bears.

"Emma," Mommy said softly from the front seat. "We're home."

Emma rubbed her eyes sleepily and looked around. Her new house loomed in front of her in the dark. It was white, with black shutters and a bright red door.

Emma's parents climbed out of the car and began removing luggage from the trunk. Emma pushed her door open, grabbed her overnight bag, and slid out. Sammy woke up from his nap and began to whimper.

"It's okay, boy," said Daddy, removing Sammy's cage from the car. He set it down on the driveway and unlatched it. Sammy ventured out and Daddy immediately hooked his long blue leash onto his collar.

The family began to walk up the path to their new home. Sammy excitedly sniffed every flower and rock as they approached the bright red door.

Emma felt uneasy. The house looked scary and unfamiliar.

Mommy sensed Emma's nervousness, and placed a comforting hand on her shoulder.

Daddy pulled a key ring that held one single shiny key out of his pocket and unlocked the red door. The inside of the house was pitch black. Emma clung to Mommy as Daddy stepped inside with Sammy.

Sammy began to bark. "Ssh, it's okay, boy," Daddy said soothingly, as he flipped a light switch.

The house was flooded with warm, soft light. Emma followed Mommy into the empty living room, which seemed vast without any furniture. Mommy set down the suitcase she had been carrying and took Emma's bag from her hands. Daddy headed towards the kitchen with Sammy to turn on more lights.

"Want to see your room?" Mommy asked. Emma nodded.



CHAPTER SIX

Emma's Brand New House

Mommy took Emma's hand and led her up the winding wooden staircase. "Be careful," she warned, as they reached the dark upstairs landing. Mommy reached out and turned on the light, illuminating a long hallway with doors on both sides.

Mommy led Emma to the first door on the right. "This room is yours," she said, as she pushed open the door and flipped the light switch.

Emma cautiously stepped out from behind Mommy and entered the room. It was larger than her old room, with a big window facing the backyard. There was a window seat where she could sit and read, color, or just daydream.

Emma's Mommy pointed to the corner across from the window. "That's where we can put your bed," she said. She put down Emma's bag and walked towards the window. "And we'll get you some pretty blue curtains for the window—and some nice pillows for the window seat to match."

Mommy sat down on the window seat and motioned for Emma to come closer. Emma walked over and Mommy pulled her into her lap.

"Look," she said pointing outside into the yard. "I know it's dark, but see that tree?"

A large oak tree stood proudly in the middle of the yard, lit up by the moonlight.

"I know you were sad we couldn't bring your swing set, but Daddy and I are going to get you a great big tire swing to hang from that tree. And see all that open space over there?"

Emma looked out into the yard. It was much bigger than her old one.

"We are thinking about maybe getting a pool for next summer," Mommy said. "What do you think about that?"

Emma smiled and looked around her new room. "Can I paint the walls any color I want?" she asked.

"Any color," Mommy said with a smile. "As long as I can help."

Emma laughed. "I think I'm going to like it here, Mommy," she said.



CHAPTER SEVEN

Emma Explores the New Town

A week later, Emma's family was beginning to settle into their new home in Mapleton. Ben and Donny had delivered all of their belongings, and almost everything was unpacked and put in its place.

Emma's Mommy had helped Emma put up new blue curtains like she promised, and bought Emma three oversized blue pillows with white polka dots for her window seat. Her powder blue bed was all set up, and all of her toys displayed on the same shelf she had in her old home.

On Saturday morning, Emma woke up in her new room, sunlight streaming through her new blue curtains. She got out of bed and put on her favorite shorts and yellow tank top scattered with sunflowers. She hurried downstairs for breakfast.

Daddy was standing at the stove preparing waffles. Mommy sat at the kitchen table, leafing through a magazine. She turned around and smiled. "Good morning, Emma," she said. "Would you like to go explore Mapleton today?"

"Okay!" Emma agreed gleefully.

After her breakfast of waffles with bananas and maple syrup, Emma left with Mommy to see what Mapleton had to offer. Their first stop was the nearby park.

Emma ran up to the playground. There was a jungle gym, swings, a spiral orange slide, a sandbox, a see-saw, and monkey bars. Little girls and boys ran, climbed, shouted and laughed. Emma joined and began climbing on the jungle gym.

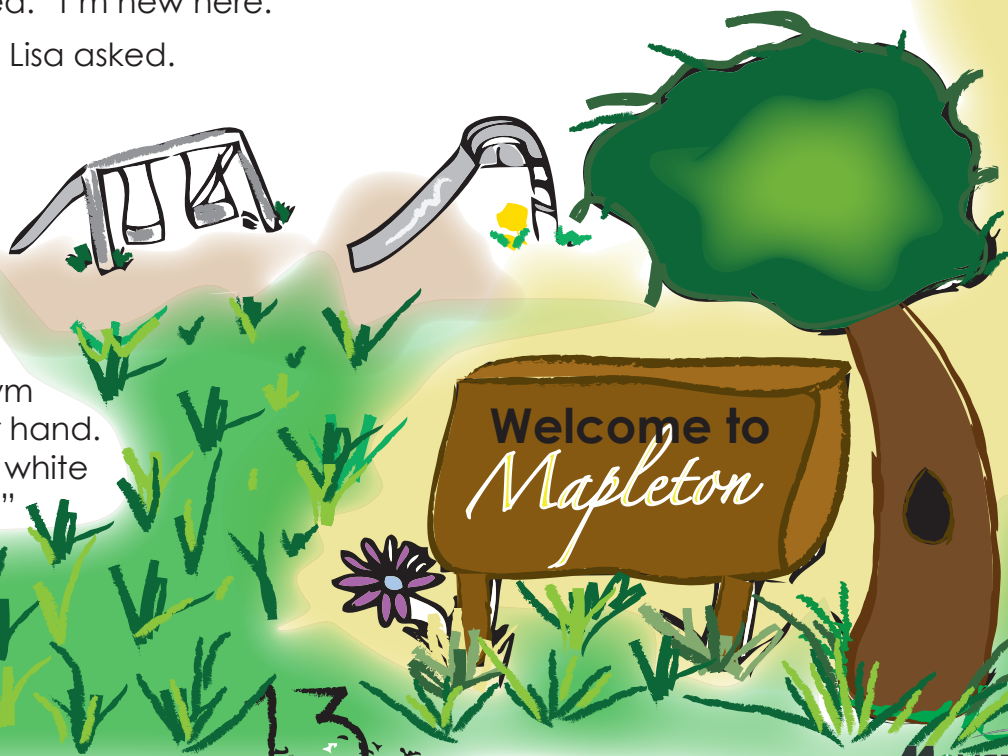
A little girl Emma's age began to climb up the other side. She had black hair twisted into two braids and big brown eyes.

"Hi! I'm Lisa," she greeted Emma. "What's your name? I haven't seen you before."

"I'm Emma," Emma replied. "I'm new here."

"Oh! Where do you live?" Lisa asked.

Emma continued to climb her way to the top of the jungle gym. "I live down that way." Emma pointed south down the street, holding onto the jungle gym bar tightly with her other hand. "On Oak Avenue. In the white house with the red door."



CHAPTER SEVEN

Emma Explores the New Town

"That's right by my house!" Lisa exclaimed. "I live around the corner on Sunny Street. You can come over one day and go swimming in my pool!"

Emma grinned. "Okay! I just got a new tire swing in my backyard if you want to come over and play today."

"Sure," Lisa agreed.

"I'll go ask my Mommy," Emma said excitedly. She jumped off the jungle gym and ran back to Mommy, who was sitting on the bench watching her play.

Mommy smiled. "Did you make a new friend?" Mommy asked.

Emma nodded. "Can she come over and play today?" she asked.

"Of course," Mommy said. "Make sure it's okay with her mommy."

Emma ran back to Lisa, who had already gotten her mommy's approval. The two skipped back to Emma's house, while both their mommies walked along and chatted.

Emma and Lisa ran into the backyard, where the tire swing swayed in the breeze. Both girls jumped on the tire and began to swing back and forth, laughing gleefully—just like Emma was in the picture from her old house.



★ We're Moving ★

Write down how you felt when you found out you were moving



I felt _____



I am moving to _____

My new address is _____



★ Time to Pack ★

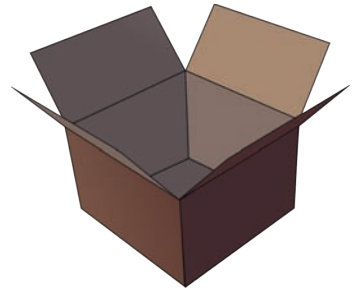
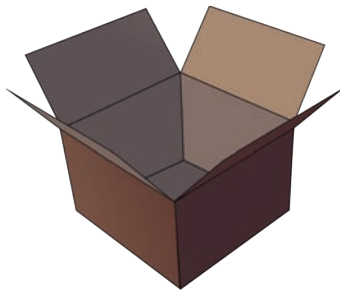
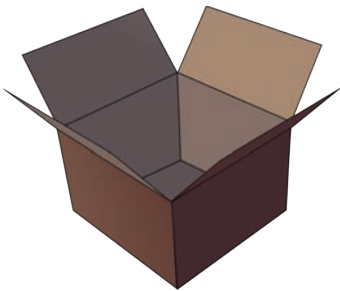
Can you make a list of what Emma should pack in each box?



Toys

School Supplies

Clothes



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