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Chased by wolves



Lecti book studio

Chapter 5 Train

Egon walked slowly into the forest.
Lots of dragonflies chased mosquitoes on the lake.
Their wings whirled the air
and the air rippled the water surface.
Egon walked for at least twenty minutes.
Suddenly he stopped.
In the middle of the forest were rails.
What were they doing here?
Where rails are found, a train must
travel, Egon concluded.
There must be a station as well.

Egon started to follow the rails.
It was easier to walk along them,
than among the dense forest on both sides.
'Honk, honk,' Egon heard behind him.
He had to jump aside and wait,
while a train passed him.
Soon another train blew its horn.
There were trains from both directions.
The passengers in the coaches waved to him.

The rails went in a big semi-circle.
'Where is the station?' panted Egon.
He was getting warm and tired of
always jumping on the side of the rails.
At the end of the semi-circle

Egon arrived at a train station.
It said 'Duo' on a big sign.
Egon climbed up on the platform.
Such a strange train station!
There were no stairs,
and no city or village around the station.
It stood alone in the middle of a forest
among alders and other broad-leaved trees.
But there was a timetable
and lots of people on the platform.

A train drove into the station.
Some of the people disappeared into the coach,
while others got off and waited for the next train.
There were twelve different trains here,
Egon counted. A-trains, L-trains...
They had various letters.
Almost every minute a train arrived at the station.

Egon tried to read the timetable.
His Uptown was not on the list of stations.
Of course, there was not train to Uptown.
His home town did not have any station.
But he did not recognize any name at all
on the timetable.
Some trains were short with only
one engine and one coach.
They drove away quickly.
Other trains had many coaches.
They were slower and took a longer time.
Egon tried to get on a train,

but a conductor stopped him.
'Do you have a ticket?' he asked.
Egon looked around.
All the others who got on the train had a ticket.
Only he had no ticket.
'Where can I buy a ticket?' he asked.
Too late. The doors closed and the train left.
Egon asked a man who stepped out
of the next train. No reply.
Everyone hurried away, to get on or off the trains.

Where were they going?
Why did they change trains at this strange station?
And where did they buy their tickets?
Egon walked back and forth along the platform.
He felt dizzy because of people
and trains passing all the time.

Egon had to solve a problem, which could not
be solved. He could not travel by train,
because he had no ticket.
He could not buy a ticket, because nobody
sold any tickets. And where would he go?
He did not even know where the trains went.
His head felt empty.
Then a striped train arrived. It had only one coach.
No ticket controller was in sight.
What happens if I get on that train? Egon wondered.
The conductor can throw me out at the next station.
Perhaps there is a ticket office?
Never mind the ticket. Let's go!

Chapter 6 Great tits

Behind Egon a few girls jumped on the train.
They looked very pretty, he thought.
But they were exactly alike.
The girls had brown skin and big dark eyes.
'Where are you going?' the girls asked Egon.
'To the next station,' he replied.
'I need to buy a ticket.'

The girls giggled.
They were even prettier when they laughed.
He tried to talk to them.
But they spoke only between themselves
a language he did not understand.

The girls gathered around him.
'Don't you have a ticket?' they asked.
'Then you will not go any further.
You will not find tickets at the next station either.'
'Why not?' Egon wondered.
'Because nobody sells them,' the girls giggled.
'I don't understand.
Everybody has a ticket except I,' said Egon.
'Of course,' the girls laughed.
'You must be a stranger here.'
'Please explain to me,' Egon urged.
But the girls just smiled at him.
'Why don't you come with us?'

one of the girls asked. 'We are on our way
to a lake for a swim. Don't you also find
the weather too hot?
We are all melting.'

The girls laughed and danced around Egon.
He did not know what to do,
so he promised to go with them.
If only this lake is not full of acid, too,
he thought anxiously.
The train shook slowly on its way along the rails.
Egon was sweating and felt
that he would like to swim.

The train stopped beside a lake.
Beside the lake was a small station.
The girls jumped off the train and broke into a run.
Egon followed them to the lake.
The lake had a strong smell.
The girls danced on the beach.
They chirped and sang in their language.
Big yellow great tits flapped to them.
The girls probably talked the language of birds.

The great tits sat down on the girls' hands.
Then they flew out over the lake
and turned into crystals.
The crystals fell into the water
and disappeared. They simply dissolved.
'The birds,' Egon cried desperately.
'What happens to them?'

Egon loses his way in the forest.

**He has to find the way home,
but nobody can tell him
in which direction he should go.**

**Egon has to swim in a wild river,
finds a cave and walks into a jungle.**

**Behind him the white wolves
are howling...**



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