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Philip and the fog



Lecti

book studio

**Philip's grandmother
is acting strangely.**

**She disappears from home
and believes someone
steals her money.**

**The family has to take
an important decision.
Is it all just imagination?
What should they do about Grandma?**

**One day Philip finds her lying on the
floor.**



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Chapter 3

A few days later Philip buys a pot.
He brings it to Grandma.
Grandma is very happy and gives Philip a hug.
'Thank you, Philip! How kind of you.
How did you get the idea to bring me a pot?'
'You asked me to,' Philip says, surprised.

He does not really understand what is going on.
Does Grandma not remember
that she destroyed the old pot by mistake?
He looks closely at Grandma.
Something is wrong with her.
She has changed. She looks terrible.
The hair has not been washed for a long time.
There is a bad smell in the apartment.

Grandma apparently does no cleaning.
The kitchen is a total mess.
Plates and cutlery are stacked
on the wash basin and the table.
'Grandma, do you want me to help you?'
Philip asks.
'I can carry out the garbage and wash up.'
'No need,' says Grandma.
'I went out yesterday with the garbage.'
Philip checks. Grandma is wrong.

She has not taken out the garbage
for at least a week.
'I'll take it with me,' he says. 'Good bye. Take care.'

Philip feels uncomfortable.
He throws away the stinking bag
and walks home with heavy steps.
Why is Grandma so odd?
Why does she not clean her apartment?
When Grandpa was alive their house
was always very clean and neat.
Grandma took care of everything,
while Grandpa was ill.
She always carried the garbage out
straight after dinner.

I must talk to Mum, Philip thinks.
She should know what it is.
But when Philip arrives home
he has no chance to talk with Mum.
Uncle Alfred is sitting on the sofa.
His telephone is on the table.
Alfred stares at it. He looks grim.

Mum's eyes are red.
'Philip! There you are,' says Mum.
'We were just talking about you.
How could you be so shameless?
Don't you know that Grandma's pension

is very small?’

‘I don’t think Philip has stolen any money,’

Alfred says.

‘What are you talking about?’ Philip asks.

‘Grandma called Aunt Kate.

Money has disappeared from her home.

Aunt believes that you stole the money,’

Mum says.

‘Aunt Kate called just now,’ Alfred adds.

‘I think Grandma made a mistake.’

‘Grandma has always been honest,’ says Mum.

‘She is the most honest person I know.

She would not blame anybody without reason.’

‘It is Aunt who accuses Philip, not Grandma,’
reminds Alfred.

‘I still don’t understand,’ Philip says.

‘Grandma noticed after your visit

that money was missing in her purse,’ Alfred says.

‘Nobody else visited her during the weekend,’
says Mum.

‘But I...’ starts Philip, but Mum interrupts:

‘Philip, give back the money at once!

How can you do such a thing?

How can you steal from your Grandma?

You get pocket money. Is it not enough?’

‘I trust Philip,’ says Alfred.

‘There is surely another explanation.

Am I right, Philip?’
Philip draws his breath.
How can Mum trust Aunt Kate?
Why does Mum believe at all
that he would steal from Grandma?
It would never occur to him.
Why does Aunt Kate accuse him? Typical for Aunt.
She does not like Philip
and she always draws the wrong conclusions.

‘I received the money from Grandma,’ Philip says.
‘That is not true,’ interrupts Mum.
‘Grandma says that she did not give you money.
Grandma never lies.’
‘Listen to Philip,’ says Alfred severely.

Philip thinks for a second.
Should he tell them about their secret?
He promised Grandma not to say anything.
It does not feel right to reveal a secret.
Philip feels like a traitor.
But it is probably better to tell the truth.

‘Grandma burned a pot by mistake.
She gave me money to buy a new one.
I have just brought it to Grandma.
But she did not remember
that she asked for it,’ Philip explains.
‘Philip, if you are lying, you’ll suffer,’

Mum threatens.

‘Stop exaggerating,’ says Uncle Alfred.

‘Philip may sometimes invent stories, but he would not tell an untruth about money or something else serious.’

Uncle Alfred gets up from the sofa.

‘We will walk over to Grandma and check that everything is all right there,’ he says.

‘I am beginning to worry about her.’

Mum, Philip and Alfred walk to Grandma’s house.

Mum presses the doorbell, but nobody opens.

Mum takes out her key and unlocks the door.

Grandma is not at home.

Philip walks straight into the kitchen.

‘Here is the pot I bought and the receipt for it.

There are the leftover coins.’

The pot is still packed in plastic.

‘I knew it,’ says Uncle Alfred.

‘Philip is innocent.

What is it that horrible smell?’

‘Grandma has stopped cleaning,’ says Philip.