

The End of Summer

It all began so well. Andy couldn't believe his luck. The phone rang. Andy's father answered it. He said 'Yes... No...' and, 'OK, see you later', and hung up. Andy's mother asked, 'Who was that?' and his father broke the news. It was Andy's sister. She was in some kind of trouble and they had to go and see her – today. Andy's heart sank. Kris was at university in Manchester. The journey from London was a bore (especially on a hot day like today), his sister was always in one kind of crisis or another (usually financial), and all Andy wanted to do was hang out with friends and maybe watch a film. But then the miracle happened. His mother turned to him and said...

'You don't have to come with us.'

Andy looked up from his magazine. He played it cool.

'Uhh?'

'You can stay here. There's plenty of food in the freezer and you know how to use the microwave.'

'Uh huh.'

'Why don't you ask some friends over and watch a DVD?'

Andy wasn't interested in watching a film anymore. Andy's mind worked quickly. He had plans.

'When will you get back?'

'By tomorrow lunchtime,' replied his father. 'I've got to get some work ready for Monday.'

Andy nodded and looked back at his magazine.

At three o'clock, the front door clicked shut.

What do you think Andy wanted to do ?

At two minutes past, the car engine started. At three past three, the car drove away. At five past three, Andy went outside and checked the road for cars in both directions. At six minutes past, he was on the phone and by half past, everything was arranged. At nine o'clock, Andy turned up the music, turned down the lights, and the party started.

The world was a beautiful place. The sky was blue, the sea was bluer, and the sun was a shining golden circle in the middle of the sky. Andy swallowed. He felt thirsty. In fact, he felt very thirsty. He opened his eyes and woke up.

Andy went downstairs to the kitchen to get some juice and discovered that the world wasn't as beautiful as the place in his dreams. He was immediately on the phone. Well, not quite immediately. He had to find the phone first and that wasn't easy.

Andy phoned Baz who called Tina who rang Mo who sent an text to Liam who called round at Joe's. At 11 o'clock, with pink eyes and pale faces from too little sleep, they were all sitting in the kitchen of Andy's house. It wasn't a pleasant sight. There were dirty plates, and broken plates, empty bottles and half-empty bottles, crisps and cold bits of pizza everywhere. The living room and dining room were even worse. The house was a disaster area.

'We've got about an hour,' Andy told them. He tried to sound in control but he felt sick. He would be in big trouble with his parents. No going out and no pocket money for the rest of the summer.

'Let's go.'

How do you think the story finishes ?

'Hi, Andy, is everything OK?'

Andy looked up from his maths homework as his parents walked into the clean and shining kitchen.

'Yeah, fine. How was Kris?'

They didn't answer. They both stared at the ceiling. What was wrong with them? Andy looked up and saw three words written in bright red lipstick.

MO LUVS ANDY

He stood up silently and went to get a cloth. He knew that his summer was over.

What do you think happened next ?

Read the whole story and put these events in the correct order.

- Andy had a dream of a beautiful summer day.
- Andy's father explained the problem to Andy's mother.
- Andy held an emergency meeting in the kitchen.
- Andy realized he was in big trouble.
- Andy phoned his friends.
- Andy checked the road outside his house.
- Andy went downstairs and discovered that he had a problem.
- Andy's parents returned from Manchester.
- Andy's father talked to Andy's sister on the phone.
- Andy looked for the phone.

Discuss the questions

1. At the beginning of the story, Andy just wanted to watch a film and hang out with friends. What changed his mind ?
2. Why did Andy act cool when his mother said, 'You don't have to come with us' ?
3. Why did Andy contact Baz the morning after the party ?
4. Why is the story called 'The end of summer' ?
5. Was Andy wrong to arrange a secret party ? Why? / Why not ?

Write Andy's email to his sister Kris in which he explains what happened.