

LOST

It felt like I was being suffocated. The blaring lights and the big crowd walked around, whisking me with them, taking me where they were going. I held my Mum's hand as she pushed the pram so we would not be separated. It was the hottest day in Melbourne. It seemed like the whole world was in this shopping centre. I was not used to the big shopping centers. Coming from Ayres Rock, there wasn't one.

My little brother, Jason, began to cry. Mum stopped and pushed the pram into the nearest café. I followed. She reached for his milk in the pram, but he had already drunk it all. "Can you please go and buy some more?" she asked me. Being me, I went to get it. I walked into the current of people. I looked at the nearest map then I jumped on the moving staircase to go to the third floor. The Coles store you could not miss, it was like a huge cave. I walked in and bought a small bottle of cow's milk.

Oh horrors of horrors! I had forgotten where Mum was! It felt like I had missed a step on the staircase, and my mouth went dry. I ran to the staircase and went down to the second floor. I tried with all my might to remember what café it was. My mind went all fuzzy, so did my eyes. I started looking for my Mum, but every one started to look like my slim, brunette Mum and blonde Jason. I thought about calling her but a lot of the women could be Mums.

My mind swam back to a book I had read. About a girl who got lost in the shopping centre, like me. She had been locked in Target over night. She had a glorious night I started to feel a bit excited. What if that happened to me? Then I started to feel scared again. What if I never saw my Mum again?

I ran to a booth where a man had a microphone. I told him what my name was and who my Mum was. His booming voice rang all over the shopping center. "Stacy Briggs, Stacy Briggs your daughter is waiting for you at the Telstra booth, I repeat your daughter is waiting for you at the Telstra booth, Stacy Briggs."

I waited for five minutes then I spotted my Mum, but Jason wasn't there. It wasn't Mum. The man made another announcement. I hoped that Mum would hurry up. Then I saw her. Thank goodness! I breathed a sigh of relief, like when you hold your breath for so long under water then you come up for air. I ran to her and we both clutched each other.

Mum gave Jason to Dad and we strolled of together. I didn't notice the crowd or the blaring lights. I was just happy to be back with Mum.

By Emma Nowak