

**TWO TWINS,
TWO VILLAINS...**

Marie and Lukas are **twins** who live with their parents in a small house in a small town. It's usually a very peaceful place. Until the twins receive a puzzling letter...

Percy Pan and Lucy Lid are a pair of villains. Together, they are known as '**Pot and Lid**'. Percy is tall and thin and loves chocolate. Lucy is short and fat and always has a good excuse at the ready. Both of them are masters of disguise. Watch out, children! Pan and Lid could be lurking behind any corner.

... AND A MYSTERIOUS SUITCASE

An old **suitcase** – but what could be inside?

MAGIC AND SURPRISES

The Boot family lives in a little red terraced house at 13 Moon Street. The one with the colourful balloons on the garden gate and the delicious smell of freshly baked cake. You see, today is Lukas and Marie's seventh birthday.

And the magic show in the living room is about to start!

Quick, come and see! Look, everyone is already here: Mum, Dad, Grandpa Eugene and cousin Fred. Even Socrates the dog, Paws the cat and Biscuit the budgie have made themselves comfortable on the sofa and are waiting in excitement for the performance to begin.

It's starting! The two children take the stage as the audience applauds. Marie is wearing an oversized top hat with a gold band and sparkling stars on it. Lukas has one of Dad's ties round his neck.

'Hello, we are the unbelievable... err, sensational, magic, fantastic, unique twin magicians Marie and Lukas!' Lukas announces to the guests.

Marie takes off her top hat and shows it to the onlookers. 'Ladies and gentlemen, children, pets! As you can see, this hat is empty! Prepare to watch me conjure a toy rabbit out of it,' she declares. 'I wouldn't be so sure,' murmurs cousin Fred quietly, with a crooked grin. Meanwhile, Grandpa Eugene has just fallen asleep and is snoring to himself.

Lukas hurls confetti in the air and shouts loudly: 'Get ready to experience real magic!' Marie reaches into her top hat – **TADAAA!!!** – she pulls something out of it. Err, what is that? It's definitely not a rabbit, in fact it's not a cuddly toy of any description. It is... a smelly old sock!!! At this precise moment, Grandpa Eugene wakes up and croaks,

'Ahh, my favourite sock! You've finally found it. Thank you, children!'
Everyone bursts out laughing!

And what about cousin Fred? He waves the toy rabbit at them.

'Hahaha, you two, I guess I'm the better magician!' he says, grinning.

Two birthday cakes, a lot of lemonade and an exciting treasure hunt later, the Boot family has just said goodbye to their guests when the doorbell rings.

DING, DING, DING, DONG, DONG, DONG!

What's this, has someone forgotten something? No, it's the friendly postwoman. And she has a letter. 'The post is here!' Dad trills, taking the letter.

STOP THE THIEVES!

The letter Dad is holding in his hands looks mysterious.

'Look how colourful the stamps are,' says Marie in amazement.

'In-do-na-sia,' Lukas reads from the postmark. 'No, wait, In-do-ne-si-a!'

'Well I never, this letter has travelled half way around the world,' says Dad. 'Indonesia is on the other side of the planet, right on the equator, in the Pacific Ocean. Did you know that?'

'There are many islands, volcanoes and jungles in Indonesia, and tigers, elephants and orang-utans live there too,' Mum continues.

The twins listen in amazement.

'We want to go there too!' shouts Marie, and Lukas nods enthusiastically. Dad turns the letter over.

'Interesting! It doesn't say who it's from.' He looks puzzled.

'Who is writing to us from Indonesia? Mmm... ah! I bet this letter is from your Aunt Gundula! She travels all over the world with her job!'

'Quick, open it,' urges Lukas. 'We want to know what it says!'

THIS IS NO ORDINARY LETTER, I CAN SMELL IT!

Dad gets the paper knife and opens the envelope. Marie grabs the letter and reads it out:

MARIE & LUKAS BOOT
13 MOON STREET
QUAFFLETOWN 12712
GERMANY

Dear Marie and Lukas,

If you are reading this, then you are reading my letter. That makes me very happy.

Firstly, let me wish you a happy 7th birthday! Seven is a very special, magical number.

Many adventures lie in store.

Soon you will receive a surprise package from me. Then you will find out more. Take care of yourselves and the package!

Yours, Aunt Gundula

P.S. One more thing... If you see little and large together, be very careful!

'A surprise?' cheers Marie. 'I loooooove surprises!'

'Hmmm, why she didn't send the surprise along with the letter?' wonders Lukas.

'Yes, your dear aunt has always been a little secretive,' Dad replies.

Aunt Gundula is Dad Boot's sister, and by the way, her real name is Professor Gundula Quentine LaCrux. She is a researcher and a vet and she has led expeditions and even looked after wild rhinos. She has been crazy about adventures since she was a child.

But what about 'if you see little and large together, be very careful!' What is that supposed to mean?

Strange, very strange...

They don't have to wait long for the next surprise. The very next day, Dad gets another message in the post.

'It is a letter from customs. It says that we have a shipment to collect at the airport. From Desk 17,' Dad reads the note out loud.

'That has to be the package from Aunt Gundula!' shout the twins in unison.

'Well, let's go!' says Mum, happily.

Die Jagd nach dem magischen Detektivkoffer, Band 1: Die Jagd beginnt!

The Hunt for the Magic Detective Suitcase (Vol. 1): The Hunt Begins!

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Moments later, Mum, Dad, the children, Socrates, Paws and Biscuit are sitting in the car. Fortunately, there's no school today, because the teachers have gone on a trip without the children. 'To the airport!' shouts Dad. And with that, they are on their way to customs.

The car ride takes quite a long time. But finally, they arrive at the airport. The twins look out of the car window in excitement, watching the aeroplanes taking off and landing. They have no idea they're not the only ones currently on the lookout for Aunt Gundula's package. If the children turned around, perhaps they would notice that someone is following them...

Dad parks the car and all seven of them hop out. They have to find Desk 17. But where is it?

Can you find the right way?

Ah, I think Socrates is on the right track!