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Opening extract from

The Dragonsitter's Island

Written by

Josh Lacey

Published by

Andersen Press Ltd

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First published in 2014 by
Andersen Press Limited
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 2SA
www.andersenpress.co.uk

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available.

ISBN 978 1 78344 045 0

Printed and bound in Great Britain by
CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY



From: Edward Smith-Pickle

To: Morton Pickle

Date: Saturday 18 February

Subject: Please read this!



Attachments: Your new front door

Dear Uncle Morton

Where is the key to your house?

We arrived on your island this morning, but we couldn't get in.

Mum thought you might have left it under a stone or buried in a flowerpot, so we searched everywhere.

Emily discovered a silver necklace and I found one pound, but there was no sign of the key.

Through the window I could see your dragons going crazy. I don't know if they were happy to see us or just hungry, but Arthur was charging round and round the house, knocking over your furniture, and Ziggy wouldn't stop breathing fire.

Luckily Mr McDougall was still here. He was sure you wouldn't mind if he broke a window.

Unfortunately he couldn't open the front door from the inside, so we had to push the suitcases through the window and climb in after them.



Ziggy and Arthur are much happier now we've given them our presents (a big box of Maltesers for her and three packets of chocolate mini eggs for him).

They also ate our leftover sandwiches from the train and the book I was reading. Luckily it wasn't very good.

Emily and I are going to search your house for the key. Mum says if we can't find it, we'll have to go home tomorrow and the dragons can fend for themselves.

I said I wouldn't mind climbing in and out of the window for the whole week, but Mum told me not to be ridiculous.

Have you taken it by mistake? Didn't you leave a spare anywhere?

Love from

Your favourite nephew

Eddie

From: Edward Smith-Pickle
To: Morton Pickle
Date: Saturday 18 February
Subject: Your phone
Attachments: Selfie



Dear Uncle Morton

We haven't found the key, but I have found your phone. Mum rang you to leave another message and I heard it ringing behind the sofa.

I hope you don't need it in Outer Mongolia. I put it on the mantelpiece with the necklace and the pound.

Mr McDougall has gone back to the mainland in his boat. Emily says it's creepy being the only people here, but I like it.

Thanks for your instructions and the map. Emily and Mum took hours unpacking their bags, so I've been exploring.
I climbed Dead Man's Cairn and walked all the way along the beach to Lookout Point.



Arthur sat on my shoulder like a parrot. At first I was worried he might burn my ear off, but he hasn't been breathing any fire at all. Isn't he old enough?

Eddie