

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press
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Margaret Johnson
Excerpt
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CAMBRIDGE



Cambridge
Discovery
Readers

Gone!

Margaret Johnson



People in the story

Tom: a boy with a birthday

Mum: Tom's mother

Annie: Tom's sister

Dad: Tom's father

Neil: Tom's friend

BEFORE YOU READ



- 1** Look at the pictures in Chapter 1. What do you think?

Answer the questions.

- 1 How old is Tom?

.....

- 2 Has Tom got a big sister?

.....

- 3 Does Tom's mother work?

.....

Chapter 1

Birthday boy

‘I’m sorry I’m working on your birthday, Tom.’

Tom’s mother is leaving the house. She isn’t looking at Tom. She’s thinking about work.

‘Have a nice day, love. See you tonight,’ she says.



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‘Goodbye, Mum,’ Tom says. He feels sad. He doesn’t want her to go.

Tom’s sister, Annie, comes down from her room. ‘Happy birthday, little brother!’ she says. ‘Twelve today!’



Tom smiles. He likes being twelve.

‘Can I give you your birthday present¹ this afternoon?’ Annie asks. ‘I’m going shopping this morning with my friends.’ She goes to the door.

‘I want to go shopping,’ Tom starts to say, but Annie doesn’t hear.

‘Enjoy your birthday,’ she says. Then she leaves too.



Now Tom’s father is the only person at home.² Tom finds him at his desk. He’s working on his computer. Tom’s father works at home, and he works all the time. Tom walks into his father’s office and his father turns and looks at him. ‘Hello, Tom,’ he says. ‘What are you going to do with your birthday money?’

‘I don’t know, Dad,’ Tom says. ‘Can we go shopping?’

Tom’s father is looking at his computer again. ‘Not today, Tom,’ he says. ‘I must finish this work. Where’s Annie?’

‘She’s shopping with her friends,’ Tom says.

He knows his father isn’t listening. He’s reading an email on his computer.

‘That’s nice,’ he says, but he doesn’t look at Tom. ‘Have a good time!’

‘OK,’ says Tom and he leaves the room.

Tom phones his friend Neil. Neil’s mother answers.

‘Can I speak to Neil?’ Tom asks.



‘I’m sorry,’ Neil’s mother says. ‘He’s playing football in Winston Park.’³ Is that Tom?’

‘Yes,’ says Tom.

‘Neil tells me it’s your birthday today,’ Neil’s mother says. ‘Happy birthday!’

‘Thank you,’ says Tom.

‘I must go, but have a good day!’ says Neil’s mother.

‘Thank you,’ Tom says again and he puts the phone down.

‘No one has any time for me today,’ he thinks. ‘It’s my birthday and no one has any time for me.’

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Tom (x3)	Mum	Dad	Annie (x2)	Neil (x2)
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- 1 Mum leaves the house and goes to work.
 - 2 is Tom's sister.
 - 3 It's 's birthday.
 - 4 is twelve today.
 - 5 is going shopping.
 - 6 works at home.
 - 7 is Tom's friend.
 - 8 is at the park.
 - 9 isn't happy.
- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.
- 1 Mum is thinking about her work / *Tom's birthday*.
 - 2 Annie *has* / *hasn't* got a present for Tom.
 - 3 Tom's *father* / *mother* has got a computer.
 - 4 Tom *has got some* / *hasn't got any* birthday money.
 - 5 Tom's father *can* / *can't* go shopping.
 - 6 Dad is *listening to Tom* / *reading his email*.
 - 7 Tom speaks to *Neil* / *Neil's mother*.
 - 8 Neil *knows* / *doesn't know* it's Tom's birthday.

- 4 Who do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?

Annie (x2)	Tom	Dad
Mum	Tom and Dad	Neil

- 'See you tonight.' (page 5)*Tom*.....
 - He doesn't want her to go. (page 6)
 - She goes to the door. (page 7)
 - Tom finds him at his desk. (page 7)
 - 'Can we go shopping?' (page 8)
 - 'She's shopping with her friends.' (page 8)
 - 'He's playing football in Winston Park.' (page 9)
- 5 Match the questions with the answers.
- Why is today a special day for Tom? b
 - What has Tom got for his birthday?
 - What does Tom's dad do at home?
 - Who does Tom talk to on the phone?
 - Who is playing football?
- He works.
 - ~~b~~ It's his birthday.
 - Neil's mother.
 - He's got money.
 - Neil.

LOOKING FORWARD

- 6 Tick (✓) what you think happens in Chapter 2.
- Tom goes to the park.
 - Tom stays at home.