

AM@IZED

INNOCENT!

George Drivas



Express Publishing

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“Any day now!” Jonathan says with a sigh of anticipation. He and his high school friends, Elisa, Sheena and Paul, are enjoying a double scoop of chocolate ice cream at a coffee shop at Market Square in Rivertown. They like meeting up after their shifts at their summer jobs, catching up on their news and just chilling out with each other before going home.

“What are you talking about, Jon?” Elisa asks.

“The university entrance results. Remember? They’re supposed to come out at the end of the month! Why? Am I the only one who has this on his mind?” Jonathan asks.

“Relax! It is only the 11th of August. Give it some more time!” Elisa answers.

Jonathan and his friends finished school in June. They all took their university entrance exams at the end of May and are waiting for their results. Jonathan is hoping to study Computer Science. Sheena wants to study Psychology and Paul, Sheena’s brother, wants to study Sports Science. Elisa is interested in the School of Performing Arts. In addition to her exams, she had to prepare a portfolio. They all want to go to New Haven University or, NHU as students call it.

Suddenly, they hear their mobiles ping. All four of them at the same time.

“Hey, guys! My email is from NHU!” says Sheena. She is the first to speak.

“Me too!” Jonathan, Elisa and Paul say together. It is the news they have been waiting for. They read their emails in silence.

With a big smile on her face, Elisa jumps out of her chair, hands in the air, shouting, “Wow! I got in! School of Performing Arts, here I come! It says here that classes start the last week of September!”

“Me too!” says Paul. “They accepted me too! Sports Science, here I come! Orientation week is on the 3rd week of September.”

Not to be left out, Sheena reads her email aloud: “*I would like to congratulate you on your successful application to secure a placement in the Department of Psychology at New Haven University, which will begin on 15th September.*” She smiles proudly, her eyes shining. Her brother gives her a high five.

They turn to Jonathan. His eyes are glued to his phone. He looks serious. They wait for him to speak almost holding their breath.

“I don’t believe it!” says Jonathan. He reads: “*We would like to thank you for your interest to study Computer Science at New Haven University. Both your application and test results fit the criteria for a placement in the course. Due to the popularity of the course, we have placed you on the shortlist of possible students to start in September.*”

“Have they made a mistake? You’re exactly the kind of student they’re looking for!” says Paul.

“The School of Computer Science at NHU has placed me on a waiting list!” says Jonathan, shaking his head in disbelief. He is very disappointed.

“You know, Computer Science at NHU is the best in the country!” Jonathan continues. “I wonder what was wrong with my application and test scores...” he adds, trying to catch his breath. He holds back his tears.

“When will you know?” asks Elisa.

“It says in the email that they will make a final decision in the next two weeks.”

Jonathan looks at them, clearly upset. “Guys, I’m going for a walk. I need to be alone.” He gets up and leaves. Without much thought, Elisa runs after him.

“Let’s go tell Mum and Dad,” Paul says looking at Sheena. “And then we should celebrate with a party!”

“How can you be so selfish at a time like this?” Sheena says.



Think & Answer

1 True (T) or False (F)?

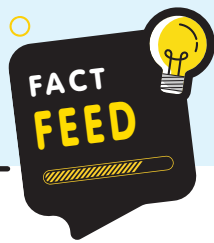
- a The four friends get an email from NHU on their mobiles.
- b The emails from NHU arrive later than expected.
- c Elisa will be at NHU the last week of September.
- d Jonathan is not happy with his NHU news.
- e Paul cannot believe Jonathan's news.

2 Discuss and give reasons.

- a Why does Elisa tell Jonathan to relax?
- b Why do their mobiles ping?
- c Why is Elisa smiling?
- d Why is Jonathan disappointed?
- e Why does Jonathan want to be alone?
- f Why do you think Elisa runs after him?
- g Why does Sheena call Paul selfish?

3 Continue the story.

- a What will Jonathan do next?
- b What will Paul do next?
- c What will Sheena do next?
- d What will Elisa do next?



Why Work in the Summer?

Jonathan and his friends Paul, Sheena and Elisa all got summer jobs in Rivertown for two main reasons: to save money for their time at university and to help their families and friends. Paul got a job with his mother, Christina, at the Rivertown Animal Clinic. He worked at reception or went with her when she visited a farm. Jonathan got a job at Lewis Mason's General Store. He cleaned up and updated the store's computer systems and he even installed a new program to organise the warehouse. Sheena decided to help with the Rivertown Summer Camp for Children. She worked as a team leader, organising sports activities and visits to various sites in the valley. Elisa helped organise the Rivertown Summer Festival. She trained the dance and singing groups and lent a hand with the stage props.

Are there any other reasons why teenagers should get a job during their summer holidays?

One reason is that a summer job helps teenagers learn more about themselves. They learn how to choose a profession, how to work under pressure, what they are good at and what skills they need to improve.

Another reason is that a summer job shows teenagers the type of person they would like to work with in the future, what their real interests are and how serious they are about them.

A third reason is that by working, teenagers become independent. They learn how to make choices on their own without parents or teachers guiding them every step of the way. They learn how their decisions can affect their future. They learn from their successes and mistakes at a time when these can easily be corrected.

Furthermore, working teenagers get in touch with colleagues from different backgrounds and experiences. They learn how to exchange ideas and how to best present their point of view and support their opinions.

In addition, working teenagers learn to appreciate criticism and suggestions for improvement in practice and not only in theory. This is very important experience at an age when you feel you know how to do things better than everybody else. You develop patience to try again and an understanding of where things can go wrong.

Finally, teenagers can save their own money and learn to manage it themselves. What working teenagers earn is not going to make them rich for life. That is why they need to make it last for as long as possible. They learn to prioritise their needs and wishes and act accordingly.

1 Find and answer.

- Who did Paul help in the summer?
- Where did Jonathan work?
- What was Sheena's summer job?
- What did Elisa do in the summer?

2 Consider and explain.

- Why is it a clever idea for teenagers to get a summer job?
- How can a summer job help teens learn themselves better?
- Can a summer job help teenagers choose a career?
- Is summer the time to work, relax or both?

3 Do you agree with the following statements? Why (not)?

- A summer job helps you discover yourself.
- A summer job shows others who you are.
- A summer job improves communication skills.
- A summer job makes you more patient.
- A summer job makes you better able to handle money.

4 Choose and discuss.

- Why would you get a summer job?
- Why would you not get a summer job?

Where to Next?

An Accidental Meeting



INNOCENT!

follows the journey of Jonathan and his friends – Elisa, Paul, and Sheena – during their first year at New Haven University. Jonathan, a computer science student, gets caught up in a plot to steal the work of two professors, Roger King and Katie Robinson.

As the story develops, hidden secrets within New Haven University come to light, affecting the lives of both students and those working for the university. What roles do Roger King, Katie Robinson and the mysterious Barbara Walker play in the events that take place? Meanwhile, the game 'Secrets of Shadows' takes the players into a strange world somewhere between reality and fantasy.

Surrounded by riddles and danger, the four friends navigate through the mysterious world of NHU and the 'Secrets of Shadows' game, revealing hidden truths about themselves.

COMPONENTS

- Reader
- Audio (downloadable)
- Key (downloadable)
- Glossary (downloadable)



A1/A2



A2/B1



B1/B2

AM@IZED

is a series of original stories featuring four teenagers as they progress through school and university. What sets these stories apart is the reader's ability to choose what happens next, moving forwards or backwards in the series of events.

Each chapter also includes factual information relevant to the story.

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