MISSING

By Emma Vorster, grade 5

"Thump," Violet slammed the table. "Heather has been missing for six weeks now!" "Violet, you know the police and FBI aren't going to get involved, they suspect Heather went to Egypt and that she has cut all contact with the outside world," Ben choked out. "Ben, you and I both know Heather went **MISSING** in Egypt!" Violet said, hitting the table HARD. "We are the only people who can find her!" "What do we do then? We don't even know if she went missing. She could have just cut all contact when she went to Egypt to meet her father," Ben argued. "Drop the act, we both know Heather went missing and we are the only people who can find her, "Violet said with so much intensity the world seemed to shake... "Listen, I bought us plane tickets to Egypt, you can come with me or stay behind!" Violet declared. Ben sighed, "fine, I'll come with."

Before Ben could even blink, Violet was running downstairs to the car. Ben hurriedly grabbed his backpack and rushed towards the car. By the time he had found himself in the tiny cramped vehicle, Violet was reversing out of the garage and just like that, they had begun their journey to find Heather... Silence seemed to take control of the car. Violet glared down with cold eyes, which would make anyone cower in fear, at the backpack that Ben was holding. "Why are you bringing Teddy, of all things, along? A Teddy Bear, for goodness sake!" Violet remarked. But when Ben looked into her emerald eyes, all he saw was playfulness. "Well you know the answer, after all, we've been friends since high school, which is, let me see, 7 years now," he laughed. "Wow, I can't believe I have been friends with a dimwit for 7 years," Violet joked. "That's a lot coming from the non engineer," Ben teased. "Just because you are a gadget engineer doesn't make you any less of a dimwit," Violet said, clearly insulted by Ben's

remark. "Remember how Heather always said she could do better than you when she couldn't even fold a paper airplane and all 3 of us would crack up. Good times when Heather was still around," both laughed. Once again silence filled the car. The only thought in their brains was that Heather was really gone... "Vroom," the car screeched to a halt at the airport as they jumped out. All Violet could think about was Heather, the 21 year old girl she had become friends with since birth...

In a blink of an eye they were boarding the plane to Egypt. They were really doing this; they were going to find Heather... After a confusing 5 minutes Ben finally figured out where they were sitting, towards the back of the plane in economy, beside each other. Ben sat down first, quickly followed by Violet. He dug through his bag until he found his light gray laptop and turned it on... Violet was staring at the picture of Teddy on Ben's computer. Then she whispered, "Teddy is special to you because your mother made it for you before she died. That's why you take Teddy along everywhere." Thinking about his late mother, icy claws seemed to grip Ben's heart and threatened to tear it open.

"Well, what's the plan?" said Ben, trying to change the subject. "What plan?" asked Violet. "You booked plane tickets to a strange country without a plan to find Heather," gasped Ben. "Well... you're the smart one, you should come up with a plan." "FINE, just let me think," Ben sighed... "We know Heather went to Egypt to meet up with her father and for some strange reason we haven't heard from her since. I think we should try and meet up with Peter Quinz, her dad, who lives in Alexandria, since Heather gave us his address," Ben stated. "When did Heather give us her father's address?" "Just before she left, but you weren't paying attention," Ben laughed. "How do we get to Alexandria?" asked Violet. "Simple, this plane will land in Cairo which is next to Alexandria, all we have to do is catch a train," Ben noted. "Look at us doing PLANNING... AND being SMART!" chuckled Violet. "What do you mean 'us'?" Ben questioned. "So sorry, I was clearly the one who did all the preparations," Violet sarcastically added.

"Get ready for landing, make sure all devices are stored in your carry on," buzzed the intercom. "Ring ring," went Ben's phone. "Who is this?" asked Ben, answering the device. "If you ever want to see your friend again, you have to steal the Mohammed Ali Pasha Golden Necklace, consisting of 16 decorative motives; 8 having the inscription," Mohammed Ali" and 8 in the shape of gold flowers with diamonds. This necklace is located in the Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandria." The plane touched the ground and the line went dead.

Their blood ran cold. "Welcome to Cairo," buzzed the intercom. "Violet's heart jumped up in her throat. She couldn't breathe, someone had KIDNAPPED Heather... Thoughts buzzed through her head at lightning speed. Before she could even process what was happening, they were in a Taxi driving to a Coffee Shop.

When they arrived at their destination, Ben jumped out and paid for the Taxi. Once in the cafe, they ordered two cups of coffee and 2 sandwiches and sat down at a tiny table. Ben voiced what he was thinking. "Violet, the call we got could have just been some 'random' guy"... "Ben, How would that 'random' guy know that Heather is MISSING? I mean the police and FBI didn't even get involved," Violet pointed out. Facing the facts Ben squeaked; "You're right, how would a random person who didn't even know Heather, knew that she was missing." Ben's hazel eyes were rimming with worry, his pale skin turning the colour of a ghost... The coffee shop went dead silent or was it just Ben's imagination. "Ok, we need a new plan," Violet began to speak. Ben's mind started to blur Violet's voice out... he knew at the back of his mind who this KIDNAPPER was ... if only he could put his finger on it. Ben snapped back to reality. "So

what are we going to do now?" Violet asked. "I think our best shot of finding Heather is agreeing to work with this person," Ben stuttered. "Well then It looks like we have a necklace to steal," Violet concluded, getting up from the table.

Time seemed to fly by like a butterfly that had just sprouted wings and before they knew it, they were on a train to the Royal Jewelry Museum. Violet was sitting on a black seat lined with blue edges, staring outside as the capital of Egypt slid by. Violet took a breath, it was nice to stop worrying for a little bid. Just then, a wave of anxiety radiating from Ben, washed over her and made her feel like she was drowning in it. Ben looked down at his feet, he knew who this kidnapper was. He was just missing one puzzle piece, if only he could connect the dots. The train came to a stop. Ben dragged his feet through the train door, Violet in front. She gawked at the museum, it was stunning!

Once in the museum, Ben paid attention to security cameras and the layout of the museum, analyzing every detail, looking at maps and making a mental note of the room in which the necklace was contained. A plan slowly formed at the back of his mind. Ben walked over to a quiet corner, signaling to Violet to do the same. "While inspecting this place, I realized there is too much security and we have too little equipment to do a proper heist. I think our best shot is to break a window tonight, grab the necklace and run," Ben stated. "Won't there be guards patrolling the area?" Violet questioned. "Of course there will be guards, we will have to inject them with Propofol, a chemical that will cause them to fall asleep." Ben, we don't I have Propofol," Violet remarked. "A while back my Engineering Company was experimenting with chemicals. I took some home and accidentally left it in my backpack," Ben sheeplesly stated. On their way to a hotel, Ben was yet again thinking of

Heather's kidnapper and what lay ahead of them. Violet finally found the perfect stone to smash the window that night and shoved it into Ben's backpack.

After some time they found a standard hotel and decided to call it home for the rest of the day... "Are you ready to steal a priceless artifact?" Violet asked. Ben was terrified, battling to breathe. He tried to swallow his worries and with a grin he said "yes!" But Ben couldn't get rid of the thought that he too was evil. _

A few hours later they sneaked out of the hotel and soon found themselves right next to the window that separated them from the glass cabinet containing the precious necklace. Violet dug through Ben's backpack until she got hold of the stone. It felt like the whole world was watching! With one deep breath she hurled the rock... Smash, the museum buzzed with energy. They both jumped into the building, their eyes the only thing visible behind the masks they were wearing. In an instant Ben met the startled blue eyes of a guard. Before he knew it his syringe containing the chemical had found its way into the guard's neck. The lookout fell to the ground, asleep. Ben looked at his trembling hands still holding the syringe. He couldn't move, all he could do was stare at the guard! Violet heard footsteps approaching. She banged on the glass containing the artifact, the glass wouldn't break. No, she thought. Then she saw a black weapon on the floor, the guard's gun. Without thinking, Violet leaped at the weapon. She shot at the glass encasing the necklace and prayed the glass wasn't bulletproof. "Smash," the glass broke and Violet grabbed the necklace. Violet was leaping towards the window when she noticed Ben wasn't moving, still looking down at the guard, paralyzed with fear. Thoughts whirled in her head to save Ben or to run! At that moment she realized that she couldn't leave Ben. She dove at Ben and slapped him across the face. That seemed to do the trick. Ben snapped back to reality

and together they dived through the window, running to the hotel with the necklace, praying that the guards wouldn't see them in the dark.

They ran their legs on fire all the way to their hotel... Once in the hotel room Ben was shaking; it was like he was falling into a pit of crime and lies that he would never be able to crawl out of. Violet was experiencing adrenaline pumping through her veins and she loved it. She began to speak, leaving the necklace on a counter. "I'm exhausted, I think I will try to get some sleep." Ben drifted to the couch trying to relax. He tossed and turned, he couldn't fall asleep. His mind was yet again thinking about Heather's kidnapper. Then it clicked, the dots aligned, the final puzzle piece placed! His heart skipped a beat... the KIDNAPPER was Heather's dad! It all made sense.

The next morning a stresssed Violet walked to the couch Ben was sitting on, twiddling his thumbs. Violet yawned and grabbed the necklace off the counter. Ben's mind was reeling about the discovery he had made last night. It would make perfect sense that this kidnapper was Heather's dad. Heather had never met her dad. Her parents divorced each other when she was just a baby. Her dad could have easily kidnapped her and called Violet and him. Ben knew he couldn't tell Violet as she tended to get agitated when hearing shocking information. Just then Ben's phone began to ring, Heather's KIDNAPPER: "Good job at stealing the necklace, meet me at these coordinates 31' 13' 47''N 29' 58'12''E today at 1pm with the necklace and don't bring any back up." Violet's heart turned to lead and it dawned on her that all three of them might die today. She couldn't let that happen, just as Ben looked away, she grabbed a kitchen knife that the hotel supplied and tucked it in her back pocket. If it came to a life or death situation she wouldn't hesitate to use it.

"Okay today is the day," Ben said in a shaky voice, turning to face her. "It is 12pm, we better get going," Ben noted, typing the coordinates into google maps and picking up the syringe he had used on the guard. He could still see those startled blue eyes. He grabbed his backpack, Teddy attached. They left the hotel in a daze, Ben's mind racing! The one thought that consumed his whole being was that maybe he was just as bad as Heather's dad. It was like digging his own grave for the criminal he was becoming. Eventually Google maps lead to the same coordinates the man talked about, just as Ben's watch turned to 1pm.

Weirdly enough Violet was excited, she could finally kick this kidnapper's butt, reunite with Heather and get an adrenaline rush just like the one in the museum. Ben was freaking out, this very door knob could determine their fate. He wanted to fly back home and curl up in his bed, but he knew they were too far involved. "Well this must be the right place, boarded up windows and a steel door," Violet said, twisting the knob. A part of Ben wanted to stop her but it was too late! They stepped inside and the door swung shut behind them. The room was pitch dark until a lonely light started to flicker on and off. Ben spotted a man in his fifties with jet black hair, evil blue eyes and a terrible smirk on his face. Behind him stood a 21 year old girl with yellow hair and eyes resembling the man's eyes. It was Heather, her hands were tied together and she wore only one expression... shock! "Heather," Violet screamed in delight. "Yes, yes, happiness is such a fragile thing," The man muttered.

"Anyway give me the necklace, I will give you Heather, my daughter... and we can go our separate ways." Then it struck Violet, she couldn't move, Heather's own father kidnapped her! After what felt like eternity, Violet spoke, "why do you want the necklace so badly?" "What kind of question is that? I intend to sell it on the black market for millions!! Now I won't ask again, give me the necklace," demanded the man, looking straight into Violet's eyes. She cautiously grabbed the necklace from her pocket and threw it at the man. Heather's father caught the necklace and proceeded to untie Heather and thrusted her towards Ben. Heather collided with Ben and they both fell down in a heap. Both jumped up, quick as lightning. Ben met Heather's gaze, her blue eyes terrified just like those of the guard. Ben grabbed the syringe out of his pocket and leaped at Peter Quinz. Ben's backpack flew off his shoulders and landed on the floor with Teddy staring straight at Heather's dad. Quinz kicked Ben so hard that he flew towards the door, the syringe flying out of his hand. "Thump," Ben collided with the door and barely managed to stand up. "The deal is done, can we go now?" said Violet, looking at Ben.

"I can't really leave loose ends for the police to investigate, so no hard feelings, but all three of you have to die! My friend Billy, will do that for me." The man spoke with no emotion. "Billy?" squirmed Violet. "Billy is that statue in the corner, he is a robot who kills in many different ways, to list a few; strangling, stabbing, crushing! You can pick if you want," announced Quinz with an evil grin. "How did a robot wind up in your possession? "asked Ben, trying to win time.

"Me and Billy go way back, you see I had a friend who was named Billy, he created Billy here, for those who need extra protection. My parents wanted me to be like my friend Billy. Billy was smart and perfect. Jealousy got the better of me! One day I hired an assassin to take my friend Billy out of the picture. I then took control of the other Billy and made him loyal to me only. Since then he has been eliminating any one who got in my way." "I thought you had some humanity but you are a two faced, evil person." Heather scoffed.

"Billy, you can do it now," commanded Quinz... He looked down at the necklace, "I wouldn't want this to get bloody," he laughed, putting the necklace in the back of the room. Ben knew what Violet was going to do even before she did it. She dove at the statue that was coming

towards them, a knife in her hand. Ben met her fierce eyes, the same determined expression his mom had when she died, saving him from the fire. Ben breathed his late mother's name, " Mary!" Two beams of light erupted from each of Teddy's uneven eyes, one hit the statue, the other one hit Heather's dad! Only 2 piles of ashes remained.

Ben walked over to his backpack, Teddy, the savior of the day, still attached. "Wait how, how did Teddy do that?" Violet asked, still in shock. "Some years ago I constructed the beams to activate, should I call my mother's name." Just then Heather leaped at them and hugged them so fiercely that they thought they were all 3 going to die because of lack of air." You have no idea how much I missed you," Heather sobbed, not being able to stop crying."

Heather looked down at the ashes that used to be her father. "I'm so sorry Heather," Violet whispered. "It was for the best, he deserved that fate," Heather sniffed. Then the realization hit Ben, Heather's father was a victim of childhood abuse who became an evil human being. All three of them looked down at the pile of ashes. Ben felt empty and tired and was experiencing many other emotions he couldn't put into words. They stood there for what felt like hours, in silence. Finally Violet spoke with a sad but determined voice, "I think we have a necklace to return"...