



CONSTANCE ØRBECK-NILSSEN  
& RAGNAR AALBU

# Uncle Frank's NOSE



'Good morning,' says Casper.

He is standing on a stool with his mouth wide open. Soon there will be no front teeth left. Just one at the bottom. He wiggles his loose tooth.

'What if it falls out today?'

Wait a minute! Was there something white in his upper gum? He catches a glimpse of it! Two white dots are butting out of his gum. He's getting new teeth too!

'Casper!' Mom is calling, 'Breakfast.'



Casper chews very carefully. He doesn't want the loose tooth to fall out.

'Wow, now you look like your uncle Frank,' says Mom.

Uncle Frank is Mom's little brother.

Dad pops his head over the paper and stares at Casper.

'How's that?' Dad asks.

Casper stops eating, his spoonful of cornflakes hovering in midair. A drop of milk spills onto the tablecloth.

'Something about the nose,' says Mom, 'something about the curve at the tip.'

Casper tries to look at his nose, but he can't quite manage.

'No, I don't see it,' says Dad.





'Sure,' says Mom, 'only uncle Frank has a curve like that at the tip of his nose. Look. When he chews it moves.'

'The boy isn't chewing,' Dad says.

'Eat a little, Casper, so Dad can see,' Mom says.





Casper chews slowly. A little on the right side and a little on the left.

'No,' Dad says, 'I always thought he looked like my side of the family. Casper and my dad are like peas in a pod.'

'Pod?' Casper asks.

'Especially when you smile,' Dad says. 'Smile for us Casper.'



Casper tightens his lips. He doesn't want to smile. Not when he looks like Granddad. Grand-dad's teeth are just as big as horses' teeth. Casper feels his new teeth with the tip of his tongue; they are barely sticking out.

'Could it be that new teeth don't stop growing?' he asks.



'Only your ears and nose continue to grow throughout your life,' Dad says.

He looks at Casper.

'You've got my ears, by the way.'

'I've got my own,' Casper answers.

'I meant, they look like mine,' explains Dad.

Mom gets up from the table.

'I see I have to get pictures of uncle Frank,' she says.







Casper takes a look at Dad's ears. What if they grow as big as the elephant ears Casper had seen on TV? They reached clear down to the ground. I hope I don't get ears as big as that, Casper thinks.