POOF - Eli Hovdenak

1

– Oh! What's that floating over there, Bertil?

– Hm. A round thing. Where can it come from? Outer space? Is it the moon, or a planet? It's a mystery, Bettina!

2

– We'll let it be, Bertil.

– Let it be? Such a fine thing! There's not many of those in the universe. And it just happened to land right here! Don't stare at it Bettina.

3

– Maybe someone lost it, Bertil. Or they left it there on purpose. Hid it away, so no one would find it.

– But we found it, Bettina. Now it's *ours*.

4

– Aren't they called comets, these things that fall down, Bertil?

– Comets? No, comets, they're like streaks of lightening flashing across the sky and **POOF!** Vanishing. You can’t find things that are gone, Bettina.

5

– What's wrong now, Bettina?

– I'm worried about that thing, Bertil.

– You mean the planet, Bettina?

– I'm almost certain it's a bomb, Bertil. An atom bomb.

– Honestly Bettina. Everyone knows that when you find a round thing, it's almost never a bomb. You have to think straight.

 6

– Oh, Bertil! It's just lying there ... Waiting.

It's deadly!

– I think it's mostly round.

Let's wrap it up in something soft, Bettina.

Then it can just lie there in the cupboard and relax.

No one will find it there.

7

– I wrapped my duvet around it. It's nice and cozy. Let's go out then, Bettina.

– No, I need to look after it. It might go PUFF! Destroy our house, and the forest and ... the whole world! **POOF!**

8

– A poof here, poof there ... OK. We'll take it with us then. Take the rucksack, Bettina.

– Don't shove, Bertil.

– Watch me now, Bettina. Big old Bertil's got this! That's it!

– Be careful, Bertil! You might slip on the stairs. I think I'd rather stay home and look after it.

– The neighbour's got something clever, Bettina.

9

– Oh Bertil! I've always wanted one of those.

10

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11

– What a smashing day, Bettina. Is the planet ok?

– Yes it's fine. Its resting quietly. And so is the shovel ...

– The shovel?

12

– No not there, Bettina, it'll get mucky. It's not like it's a seed, is it. The least we can do is put it in a chest. One you can lock. Once we've left, a robber might come along …

– Or a badger… snuffling and scratching about, all curious about what's buried there. And then …**POOF!** No Bertil.

13

– The pier is perfect, Bettina. Exits all over!

– Yes. We'll lower the bomb ever so slowly and carefully, onto the sea bed. It will be safe there, Bertil. No chance of robbers or badgers down in the depths. It won't get mucky there either.

14

– Dump it in the deep? It'll get wet! It could rust, Bettina. A fish might come along, feeling peckish. A nice round brown thing might catch its eye. And it thinks: Ooh! A doughnut! And then our planet gets eaten. And then a fisherman comes along, and hooks the fish out of the sea. Then the fisherman goes home, to make fish dish for his brother. And then he finds *my* planet in the fish’s tummy.

15

– Look at all those packages on that big boat, Bertil!

 – It's called a ship, Bettina. A boat is something small. That ship there, is probably going far away. Right over the sea … to Denmark, maybe. If we had a ticket, we could go on a trip.

– Perhaps the bomb could go, Bertil.

16

– Lots of string and knots and nets, Bertil. Now it looks quite different.

– I hope they like our planet in Denmark, Bettina.

17

– Perhaps they´re waiting on the pier in Denmark, in white jackets and caps.

– They're called Harbour hats, Bettina.

– Yes, they're wearing Harbour hats. Because there's so many harbours in Denmark. They take the package. Then they shake the package, because they don't know it's a bomb. Then they start fooling around and throwing it back and forth to each other. Because they like throwing things, the Danish. And then it says ....

**– POOF?**

18

– Let's take it home again, Bettina.

– There comes a cloud. Quick! Home for dinner!

19

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20

– Urgh ... it's just lying there ... Waiting.

– Let's put it back where we found it, Bertil.

– All right. Everything was much nicer before, Bettina. Before the planet became so important.

21

– It was over there. Wasn't it, Bertil? Bobbing on that seaweed scrub over there.

22

– I think it's so rude. The kind of people who don't care about planets or anything, just dump stuff, wherever! Then *we* have to look after *their* things, again and again, all day long, Bettina. It shouldn't be allowed.

23

**PLUFF!**

– Oh no! The bomb!

24

– Did you hear that Bertil? It said **POOF!**

– I thought it said **PLOOF,** Bettina. My little planet! I hope it's all right.

25

– The world looks just the same, Bertil. And it sounds even better!

The woods creaking, the water chuckling.

– It's the afternoon breeze, Bettina, breathing on things.

26

– Where's the canoe, Bertil. Did it poof ... disappear.

– The canoe? We probably left it at home.

27

– Come on Bettina. You're pushing!

28

– Perhaps we could buy our own pram, Bertil?

– No need, Bettina. We've got this one.