

## The Reunion

It was a normal day in Dawn's ice castle far away in the Swiss Alps. Dawn was bundled up, reading a book in one of her favorite ice chairs, floating away into a library book with stories about dogs. Her puppy, Janet, was sitting next to her, trying to make sense of the lines and curves on the paper. Dawn found herself getting more and more bored with every single day that passed. Busying herself with hot chocolate, skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and building snowmen had just tired her out.

Suddenly, as she turned the page, a picture fell out of the book. She picked it up and scratched her head. How could it be? It was a picture of someone that she knew from 10 years ago. It was Connie Martin, who was her best friend in 12th grade. They were always there for each other, always shared their secrets with one another. But they had gone their separate ways because they had different dreams of what they wanted to be in the future. They had always seen the world differently, and they sadly said farewell, each wanting to find their own purpose in the world.

When they had parted, they had given each other a gift, so they would always remember each other. Dawn had given Connie an envelope containing the keys to a beach mansion in Hawaii, and Connie had given Dawn the keys to an ice castle in the Swiss Alps.

Connie was in her beach mansion bored with life and what had been happy days of vacation that never ended with surfing, paddleboarding, swimming, boogie boarding, and catching the latest wave. Now she was sick and tired of the beach. She was trying to enjoy a shaved ice one day when she glanced down at her flip-flops and spotted

something on the ground. She bent down to pick it up, and stared at it more carefully. It looked like a picture that had been long forgotten. It was Dawn, her best friend from high school. She was sure that she had left the old photo in her beach bag, but it must have fallen out by some mistake.

Connie quickly got her phone out and called Dawn's phone number, which had been unused for 10 years.

Back at Dawn's ice castle, her phone rang. What a coincidence! It was Connie calling her. She answered right away. Connie was the first to say something.

"Dawn! I haven't seen you in forever! How are you doing? Are you enjoying life?" (Connie was more talkative than Dawn.)

"Connie! I actually can't believe it's you! To be honest, I really want to talk to you in person more than on my phone. Let's meet this weekend at the Fairfield Cafe in our old neighborhood." And with that, she hung up and started packing her clothes in a pastel blue-colored suitcase and reserved a last minute seat to her hometown.

Connie was sad. She had wanted to talk to Dawn. She hadn't seen, heard from, or talked to her in years! And then Dawn had hung up. Connie quickly packed her clothes in a baby pink-colored suitcase and then booked her flight to Fairfield, Connecticut.

A day later, Dawn and Connie met at the Fairfield Cafe on Main Street, and chatted. There were no hot chocolates or shaved ices, just plain old cups of coffee.

"Dawn, I'm not sure if it's just me, or are both of us bored?" Dawn yawned.

“I know. It’s just boring, everyday stuff ALL DAY LONG.” Connie smiled and said, “You know, I think that I have an idea. What if you and I traded places? I could go to your ice castle, and you could come to my beach mansion!”

“That sounds PERFECT, Connie. Of course I agree. And maybe, every year, we could meet for a month. You know, I missed you,”

“I missed you too, Dawn.”

### The Swiss Alps

Connie was enjoying a nice day, drinking hot chocolate with a candy cane. She went skiing, and built a snow fort outside the ice castle with lots of blankets for coziness. She sent a picture of it to Dawn, who loved it. Connie enjoyed all the winter activities that she hadn’t been able to enjoy at her beach mansion, and was snug and comfortable all year long.

### Hawaii

Dawn enjoyed the beach, surfing, playing with Janet, and slurping shaved ice. She built a huge, elaborate sand castle, but Janet thought that it was a bed for her to take a nap on, and destroyed it by jumping on top of it. Dawn realized that she was having more fun than she had ever had, and was very glad that they had switched.

The two friends rarely felt bored again, and if they did, they knew they just needed a change of scenery – and each other’s company.