

“Heetercotter All Gone”

Jeff was three. He lived on the fourth floor of an apartment building in Hong Kong.

His father was a doctor working in a mission hospital.

He had a baby sister named Susie.

She made him mad because she crawled around and messed up his towers of blocks or Lego cities.

He tried to build walls around her by moving furniture.

But she was very good at climbing and always got out.

When Jeff was mad, the meanest thing he could think to say was, “I’m not going to invite you to my birthday party!”

One time he was mad at his mom and dad and said that to them. They reminded him that if they did not come, there would be no party.

They also mentioned that everybody who comes to the party brings a present. Having guests is a good idea, Jeff thought.

One of his favorite toys was a toy Helicopter. But to him it a “heetercotter.”

Susie would sometimes get his heetercotter, carry it around and leave it in different places. He often had to hunt for it.

Do little kids sometimes annoy you by messing up your things at home or at school?

Do your parents or teachers say, “They can’t help it, they are babies.”

“It’s not fair,” Jeff said to himself. Whenever he said that to his mom, she said, “Life isn’t fair.”

Do you ever do something when you are mad that you are sorry about later?

Jeff was mad and he opened the window. There were bars on the window but he could put his hand through the spaces.

Below him was a sidewalk and a street. It was a long way down.

Cars were driving on the street but no people were walking on the sidewalk, at least right then.

Suddenly Jeff took his helicopter and threw it out the window.

Down, down, down it fell and bounced twice.

Then it just sat there in the middle of the sidewalk.

His mom could take him downstairs and get it. They always walked that way when they went to the store. He could get it back.

But just then a man came by, stopped and picked up the helicopter and looked it over, top, bottom and sides.

He then looked up at the windows on each floor above him.

Did he see Jeff and his open window on the 4th floor? If he did, it did not stop him.

He put the helicopter in his pocket and walked on.

Jeff was stunned. He wanted to shout but he could not make a sound.

Then he started crying. His mom heard his heart-broken cry and came into the room. She asked him “What’s the matter Jeffy?”

He didn’t really like being called “Jeffy.”

Jeff replied through his tears, “Heetercotter all gone!”

Life isn’t fair!