Our Dad is in Atlantis

by

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Characters

Big Brother : an eleven year old boy

Little Brother : an eight year old boy

Place

Mexico

Time

The present
Stuff about the countryside

<: Forty-two, Forty-three.

>: It's so hot!

<: Forty-four cows.

>: Why are you doing that?

<: What?

>: Counting cows. Counting cows is stupid. Stop it.

<: I've never seen so many cows in my whole life.

>: I hate cows. Stop counting cows.

<: All right. I'll count horses.

>: Don't count horses. Don't count sheep, or goats, or anything. Don't count animals. I hate animals.

<: ...

>: ...

<: You think Grandma has horses?

>: It's so hot here.
<: You told me she has chickens. If she has chickens, maybe she also has a horse.

>: Are you sure you can't open that window?

<: You saw yourself it's stuck.

>: One thing I hate about the country, is the heat. Your clothes stick to your body. And everything smells bad.

<: You think Grandma will let us ride her horses?

>: Grandma doesn't have horses.

<: How do you know?

>: The only thing she has is a chicken coop which always stinks like chicken turds.

<: Maybe she does have a horse. Maybe a small one.

>: You don't even remember Grandma. That's why you're so happy. When you see her again, you'll realize how truly horrible a human being can be.

<: She can't be that bad.

>: Dad says she used to hit her kids with a cane whenever they cried. He says once she split open Uncle Rodrigo's head and they were pretty sure he started leaking brain juice.

>: I don't think she's going to treat us bad, after all we're her guests.
<: Guests. What do you think we're doing, taking a vacation?

<: Of course we're taking a vacation.

>: We're not taking a vacation.

<: Yes we are.

>: In our entire lives, we've never taken a vacation.

<: There's a first time for everything right? That's what people say.

>: Oh yeah? And why now? In the middle of the school year?

<: If Grandma has a little horse, I'm going to ride it everyday. I'll feed him alfalfa and we'll be best friends, watch.

>: I already told you, we're not going on vacation.

<: What difference will that make to the horse?

>: Enough about animals.

<: …

>: …

<: If we're not going on vacation, then why are we going to Grandma's house?

>: You really are dumb.
<: I'm going to tell Dad you're calling me names again.

>: Go ahead, bother him. See what happens. He meant it when he said he wanted us to sit down and keep our seat belts on.

<: How come you keep saying we aren't going on vacation?

>: …

<: …

>: Dad is going to drop us off there.

<: With Grandma?

>: I heard him talking with her on the phone. He said stuff like, “It'll just be a month, Mother”, “I guarantee they won't give you any problems”

<: Where's he going?

>: I don't know. But he can't take us with him. That's for sure.

<: You're lying. I'm going to ask him and you'll see it's not true.

>: Why do you think he made us pack all of our clothes?

<: Dad wouldn't do that. He wouldn't leave us behind.

>: Why do you think we got on this bus when it's so full? Dad is in a hurry to drop us off at Grandma's.
<: Why is he in a hurry?

>: ...

<: Is it true Dad is scared of Grandma?

>: Of course. She used to hit him on the head with that cane.

<: I don't want Grandma to make me leak brain juices with her cane.

>: I shouldn't have told you anything.

<: I thought Dad was going to stay with us.

>: We'll have to put up with the stink of chicken turds for a whole month.

<: It's just going to be one month then?

>: Maybe you should go back to counting cows.
Stuff about terror

<: I don't like this house.

>: You never like anything.

<: It smells like an old person... Don't you think it smells like an old person?

>: What'd you expect? Grandma is old and everything she has in her house is old. Old stuff has to smell old.

<: The furniture has to be a thousand years old. Look at that dresser and that mirror. They have cobwebs they're so old.

>: You've been complaining since we got here. You haven't done anything but whine.

<: I haven't whined.

>: If you didn't want to stay you should have told Dad.

<: This bed is hard. I'm sure nobody's used it. Ever. I want to leave.

>: You want Grandma to come in here and beat you with her cane? Have you forgotten what I told you about Grandma and her cane?

>: ...

<: ...

<: I don't like this house.
>: Just go to sleep already.

<: I can't sleep if you don't turn off the light. You know that.

>: How do you want me to read with the light turned off? Huh genius?

<: Grandma said we have to be up at six. Hello... If I don't wake up on time it's going to be your fault. I don't want her to hit me with her cane so hard that I start leaking brain juice. If you make me oversleep, I'll tell her you're the one she should beat.

>: I'm right in the middle of the most exciting part.

<: You've already read that book a thousand times.

>: This is the first time I'm reading it.

<: Don't try to hide it. I can see it through the mirror. It's that same book about vampires. You've read that book more than five thousand times.

>: So?

<: I'll tell grandma you're not letting me sleep.

>: You always whine. That's why me and my friends never took you with us to the train tracks. None of us wanted to hang out with whiny kids.

<: Juan told me all you guys did was throw rocks at the empty train cars... I don't want to throw rocks at a bunch of stupid train cars.
>: Juan is as stupid as you are. He doesn't know anything. We did a lot more than throw rocks... You're both stupid.

<: When are you going to turn off the light?

>: …

<: Are you going to turn it off?

>: I'll turn off the light, but if some demon comes in, I'm not going to defend you.

<: What are you talking about?

>: A demon, genius. Or don't you know they're very common in these old houses full of cobwebs?

<: You're a liar.

>: They appear inside old mirrors. You didn't know? You yourself said that mirror was as old as Grandma.

<: Mirrors are for looking at yourself and that's all. See? That's just you and me in there and nothing else.

>: That's when the light is on. Demons are afraid of even the smallest candlelight. Don't you know that fallen angels can't stand the light? But when the lights are turned off that's when they can look and spy on us through the mirrors. Demons get into houses through big mirrors.

<: You're a liar.
>: In a lot of old houses like this one, people cover up the mirrors at night with black cloth and that way they keep the demons out.

<: You're making that up.

>: Ask anyone. If we turn off the light, it won't even be ten minutes before a demon comes up through the mirror and the instant we fall asleep he'll climb into our beds and steal our memories.

<: You're making it up.

>: If you want we can turn off the light so you'll see.

<: I don't believe anything you say.

>: ...

<: What are you doing? Don't turn off the light. Don't turn it off.

>: You'll see. You say you don't believe anything I say? Well you'll see how a demon appears.

<: I'm going to scream for Grandma.

>: See what a crybaby you are?

<: I'm not a crybaby.

>: Then I'll turn off the light.