

Fuzzy woke up in her classroom at Munlandia Academy, prodded awake by Mary, who was seated at her left.

“Didn’t get enough sleep?” Mary asked.

“Yes, yes,” said Fuzzy, who didn’t want Mary to know she fell asleep because of the boring lecture. What was it about? She looked at the board and Prof. Chikorita, trying to remember.

“Monocots have one cotyledon in the embryo, and dicots have two,” said Chikorita.

Fuzzy looked around at the class, half of which were either nodding off or shooting paper airplanes under their desks (the stuffies at the back of the classroom). There was one empty seat in the class, the one to the right of Fuzzy. She suddenly felt lonely for some reason.

After class ended, she asked Chikorita why there was an extra desk. “Hmm... I don’t remember, actually. Guess I’ll remove it.”

When Fuzzy got home, she made tea. The motions felt unusual for some reason, yet she knew she always had tea after school. Then she went outside to play, and was stopped on her way to the park by Milk and Latte selling cookies. She declined, and it felt faster, easier, than usual.

In the park she played with Piggly’s family and Pin. Fuzzy was chosen as the seeker, but even after she found everyone, she felt like she hadn’t found what she was really looking for. Piggly’s sisters, shy Posy and little Lucy, reminded her of something she couldn’t put her paw on.

They all walked Pin home. His mom, Hoota, had been overprotective ever since his sister Pancake and dad Pinyaptichkin had been lost somewhere in the garage. Pancake was still waiting to be found.

Before Fuzzy knew it, it was the next day, and her class was going on a field trip to an Earth playground. “Stay in line and follow me,” said Rosie. She lectured about Earth culture and childhood, pointing out landmarks like slides and swings. Whatever happened next was a blur. All Fuzzy knew was she was laying on the woodchips with no idea where the class was or how much time had passed.

Fuzzy was lost. Not even the Wise Rosie could save her now.

Rain fell on Fuzzy. More and more woodchips covered her with each passing day. One day, the woodchips started feeling smoother, and Fuzzy had space to move. She felt around in the dark and discovered she was in a box. And then... she saw light! The box was opened and she saw Munlandia!

“Fuzzy, is that you?” an owl asked.

“She looks different,” said a small pig.

Fuzzy climbed out of the box and was welcomed back, but everyone looked at her differently. Her head swam with murky memories, grasping at names. Was that owl... Philip?

Fuzzy felt there something weird about her face today: ringing in her ears, and her snout didn’t move the same. “Is your name Pete?” she managed.

“It’s Pin!” he squawked.

One bright pink pig – Polly? – whispered to another with lighter fur, “Did the coal chauffeur work?”

They led the stumbling Fuzzy into a place called Moonsandia Economy. She sat in a chair and took in her surroundings. Heads were turned toward her, and a large unicorn was explaining something about a coal transfer: “Munlandia has never needed to do such a thing before, and the method is experimental. Please stay calm and don’t smother Fuzzy; she’s gone through a lot.” Fuzzy’s ears finally felt clear. The place was familiar... this was her home!

For the next couple days, Fuzzy rested. She thought she could still feel the woodchips, and checked into the Munlandian Hospital. Doctor Mew sent out a report and excused Fuzzy from school.

When she came out, she was greeted by her friends and... a doppelganger!

“This is Fluffy,” Piggly explained. “You already looked and acted different, and we all got a report from the hospital that you were still experiencing the same physical sensation Fuzzy would have felt when she was lost in the playground. So we thought the soul transfer worked, but that you were somehow the one from the factory being switched into the playground and Fuzzy was switched into the

factory, and we ordered another one. Mew said it was best not to stress you out during recovery, so we didn't ask you questions to check who you were, but now we know you're Fuzzy, because Fluffy is clearly new. Now you have a twin!"

Fuzzy woke up in her and Fluffy's room, facing the window and a paper flower their cousin Blueberry made. Fuzzy prodded Fluffy awake and told her all about the dream. The twins were always wide awake in the morning, to Pin's disbelief.

"Rosie and Mew weren't even in Munlandia back then," Fluffy commented. "There was no Munlandia Academy or Hospital. I bet the Wise Rosie would've been more careful about identifying you."

"Pancake and Pinyaptichkin weren't even lost yet," Fuzzy added. "My brain made up an alternate reality." She thought about Pin and his lost sister Pancake and shuddered. "It felt so weird to find clues that something was wrong and not even remember what."

"I'll make tea," said Fluffy. Fuzzy texted friends about making another search expedition to the garage to look for Pancake.

They met up in Blueberry's decoration shop because Fuzzy felt like saying hi. Blueberry was still working, but other friends were available (it was a weekend). Pin, Piggly, Posy, Lucy, Shelly, Mary, and Dedenne ate breakfast (Blueberry's shop had a small cafe) and suited up to fight the dust. They took a backpack with ladders and ropes.

The first obstacle was the blockage of boxes stacked at the entrance to the garage. They put up one ladder and Fuzzy climbed up it to push the second box into the garage.