

AM@IZED

# MISSING!

George Drivas



Express Publishing

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“What do you think is going to happen in the match on Sunday between the Rivertown Reds and the New Haven Eagles?” Jonathan asks.

“The Eagles have great players this year, so it’ll be a very interesting match!” Paul answers.

“I don’t think their defence is very good,” Jonathan adds.

“Did you know that they have two new players on the team? One of them has a great record for defence,” Paul says.

“They didn’t do very well last Sunday!” Jonathan says.

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“You’re right. I really hope the Reds will win,” Paul says with a smile.

Jonathan and Paul are friends from school. They decide to walk up Angel Hill on Friday after school to enjoy the sunset on this warm and pleasant autumn day. Sheena and Elisa are walking behind them. Sheena is Paul’s sister and Elisa is Sheena’s best friend.

“Did you watch the *Talented Teens* dance show on Channel 1?” Sheena asks.

“Are you kidding? You know how much I love watching anything to do with dance!” Elisa answers. “They have some pretty good dancers this year.”

“I think you dance better than most of the dancers I’ve seen!” Sheena says with a smile.

“Do you think I should try out for the show?” Elisa asks.

“Great idea, Elisa! Go for it!” Sheena says. They both laugh.

Along the way, they pass by the mystery house at number 25 Angel Hill Road. They can’t help but stop and stare at the house whenever they walk past it. Today, the golden sun shining on the house makes it look particularly peaceful. The leaves on the trees move gently in the wind. They are still green but are starting to turn beautiful autumn colours. The teenagers stop to look at it. They always do. Suddenly, Paul shouts, “Somebody is in the house! I just saw something moving in the first-floor window!”

Sheena, Jonathan and Elisa all look carefully. They don’t see anything strange. The house is abandoned. It always has been. They don’t see anything moving in the window. But Paul is very excited!

“Relax!” they say. “You’re always imagining things! Maybe you need glasses,” the friends say as a joke.

“I know what I saw!” Paul says.

Paul gets his phone out of his pocket and takes a picture and a short video of the first-floor window. They all study the picture and the video closely. They can see the window clearly: the brown curtain, the chipped paint and all. Even the sun shining on the dirty windowpane. But nothing more.

“It must have been a bird flying by,” Sheena says. Everyone agrees.

Paul knows that he saw something. The others stare at the window for a few minutes. Nothing changes.

“Let’s go! We don’t want to miss the sunset!” Elisa says.

They continue their climb to the top of Angel Hill. As they leave, the curtain in the first-floor window moves again, but nobody sees it because they have their backs to the house.



**Think**  
& **Answer**

**1 Answer the following questions.**

a Where does the story take place?

\_\_\_\_\_

b Where are the four kids going?

\_\_\_\_\_

c What has Paul noticed?

\_\_\_\_\_

d What does Elisa want them to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Explain what they mean.**

a “We just have to wait and see, don’t we?”

b “Great idea, Elisa! Go for it!”

c “I know what I saw!”

d “Let’s go! We don’t want to miss the sunset!”

**3 Continue the story.**

As they leave, the curtain in the first-floor window moves again.

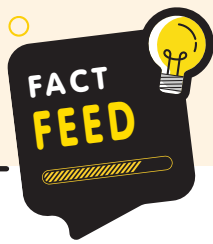
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## Angel Hill in Rivertown

Angel Hill is the name of a hill outside Rivertown. It is a small hill at the end of the park, near the forest. A road goes up the hill to the top. It passes the few houses that are there. These are small houses with beautiful gardens, full of flowers in the spring. The first people moved to Angel Hill in 1900. They chose the hill because of the view of the valley: the fields, the trees, the mountains, and the river. It is the best place around to watch the sunset.

There is also a path from the park to the top of the hill. In spring, it is full of people going for long walks. They often have a picnic at the top. The path continues to the other side of Angel Hill into the woods. The townspeople often walk up the hill in summer. You often see children race each other to the bottom of the hill. It is even popular among teenagers.

There are a lot of houses on Angel Hill. One is very different, the house at 25 Angel Hill Road. It isn't bigger than the other houses or more expensive. It looks older than the others and the windows are closed all the time. Nobody lives there. It is dark at night and the garden is full of weeds. It is a mystery house. It has been like this for a long time. None of the teens remember anybody going in or coming out of this house. Ever! When they ask their families about the house, they are told, "Honestly, I don't remember," or "Don't worry about it!"

### 1 Complete with: *Mystery House* or *Angel Hill*.

- a \_\_\_\_\_ It's at the end of the park, near the forest.
- b \_\_\_\_\_ It's the best place around to watch the sunset.
- c \_\_\_\_\_ It looks older than the others.
- d \_\_\_\_\_ No one lives there.
- e \_\_\_\_\_ It is very different from the others.

### 2 True (T) or False (F)?

- a  The houses on Angel Hill all look the same.
- b  Lots of people visit the hill.
- c  Children like to run to the bottom of the hill.
- d  Somebody lives in the house at 25 Angel Hill Road.

### 3 What do you think?

When they ask their families about the house, they are told, "Honestly, I don't remember," or "Don't worry about it!"

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### Where to Next?

Sheena Asks her Teacher  p. 8

Paul Visits the Library  p. 12



On Monday after school, Sheena decides to ask her history teacher, Mrs Anderson, about the house at 25 Angel Hill Road.

“Hello, Sheena! What brings you here?” Mrs Anderson asks.

“There’s something I want to ask you,” Sheena says.

“Is it about your exam next week, dear?” Mrs Anderson asks.

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“Actually, it’s about the house at 25 Angel Hill Road,” Sheena says.

“I’m afraid I don’t know a lot,” Mrs Anderson answers. Her eyes sparkle behind her glasses. “I’m as curious as you are. The house has been closed almost all my life,” Mrs Anderson continues. “I know that a family lived there: the Smiths.”

“Did you know them?” Sheena asks.

“No! This is what my grandmother told me. My mother went to school with Daniel Smith. They were the same age. She often took groceries to the house and then stayed to play with Daniel.”

“What were the Smiths like?” Sheena asks.

“They were friendly and pleasant. My mother often stayed for dinner. Mrs Smith did all the cooking and Mr Smith helped in the kitchen.”

“Really?” Sheena says.

“I know! A man in the kitchen was very peculiar in those days! Then, one day it all stopped,” Mrs Anderson continues. “My mother finished school and went to university. When she came back to Rivertown in December, the Smiths had left the house.”

“What happened?” Sheena asks.

“I think there was an accident,” she answers. “That’s all I know.”

“What kind of accident?” Sheena asks.

“I don’t know. I had the same questions when I was your age,” Mrs Anderson replies.

“It seems that nobody wants to talk about the house or the people!” Sheena says.

“My mother never spoke about the house or the Smith family ever again,” Mrs Anderson says.

“That’s strange! Not even to you?” Sheena asks.

“Not even to me. I have asked, but no one wants to talk about it. Not even to the History teacher,” Mrs Anderson says with a smile.

“And the Smiths?”

“Well, the Smiths never came back,” Mrs Anderson says. “The house has been empty since then. Why the sudden interest?”

“My brother, some friends and I went for a walk up the hill last week. Paul thinks he saw something moving inside the house,” Sheena answers.

“Really? That’s strange!” Mrs Anderson looks hard at Sheena. “Is he sure?”

“You know Paul! He knows what he knows!” Sheena says.

When Sheena leaves, Mrs Anderson picks up her phone and makes a call.

“There’s new interest in the house on Angel Hill Road!” she says.



**Think**  
& **Answer**

**1 Answer the following questions.**

a What does Sheena want to know from her History teacher?

\_\_\_\_\_

b Who were the Smiths?

\_\_\_\_\_

c Who visited the house at 25 Angel Hill Road?

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Explain what they mean.**

a “What brings you here?”

b “That’s all I know.”

c “I’m afraid I don’t know a lot.”

d “Why the sudden interest?”

**3 Continue the story.**

“There is new interest in the house on Angel Hill Road!” she says.

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\_\_\_\_\_



## AMCIZED

is a series of original stories featuring four teenagers as they progress through school and university. What sets these stories apart is the reader's ability to choose what happens next, moving forwards or backwards in the series of events. Each chapter also includes factual information relevant to the story.

**MISSING!** follows the story of Paul, his sister, Sheena, and their friends, Jonathan and Elisa, during their last year at high school. But there's something more interesting than homework and exams – the mysterious, empty, old house on Angel Hill Road, a house no one wants to talk about.

As they race to find out the truth, hidden secrets come to light, affecting the teenagers, their parents and everyone in Rivertown. What connects a history teacher, a librarian, a store owner and a journalist? What's the mystery behind the house on Angel Hill Road? What happened to the people who lived there?

The characters unlock rooms and find mysterious items, as they are trying to find the truth about a story that happened long ago. Will they be able to solve the mystery?

### COMPONENTS

- Reader
- Audio (downloadable)
- Key (downloadable)
- Glossary (downloadable)



A1/A2



A2/B1



B1/B2

ISBN 978-1-3992-1642-5



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