

Chapter 1 Three Thumbs

I couldn't believe we were leaving, not really. My mum came home and said we were going to Thailand. She had a job there. I didn't know where Thailand was. Was it near America? Was it somewhere near the South Pole?

I got out the encyclopaedia. It said that Thailand had a king and that the people believed in ghosts. That didn't help much. I looked at the atlas. I found a map. I measured the distance between Australia and Thailand. It came to three thumbs, or four-and-a-half thousand kilometres. It still didn't make much sense. How far was four-and-a-half thousand kilometres? I'd only been to Albury before and that seemed to take forever. Four-and-a-half thousand kilometres. I guess it was a long way.

I went out to the backyard. I stared at the sky. It seemed to stop behind our house. I climbed through the hole in the side fence. It led to Miranda's place. Miranda was my friend. I sat under the tree for a long time. That tree was special to us. It was where we told each other all our secrets and where we invented lots of things. I sat there and I thought of all the things we'd talked about and made up. And then I left. I had to pack my things.