

TWICE MINE

Thomas had been looking forward to sailing his sailboat all week. Today was Sunday, and he would be going to Windmill Creek with Mother, Father, and his older sister Kate.

“This is the best sailboat in the world!” proclaimed Thomas as they were on their way.

“It does look awesome! You did a great job in putting it together,” said Father.

When they arrived at Windmill Creek, a gentle wind had begun to blow, but Thomas thought nothing of it. All his thoughts were centered on his treasured toy. “Look, Mother! It sails like a real boat!”





But just as the whole family was admiring Thomas' sailboat, a gust of wind pushed the boat further and further downstream. The stick Thomas had been using to keep the sailboat within his reach was too short! Father tried following the sailboat downstream, but soon trees and branches prevented him from recovering the boat, and the boat disappeared from sight.

Thomas went home very sad. That night, Mother and Thomas prayed that they would find the sailboat.

It was several days later that Thomas and Mother made a startling discovery on their way home from shopping.

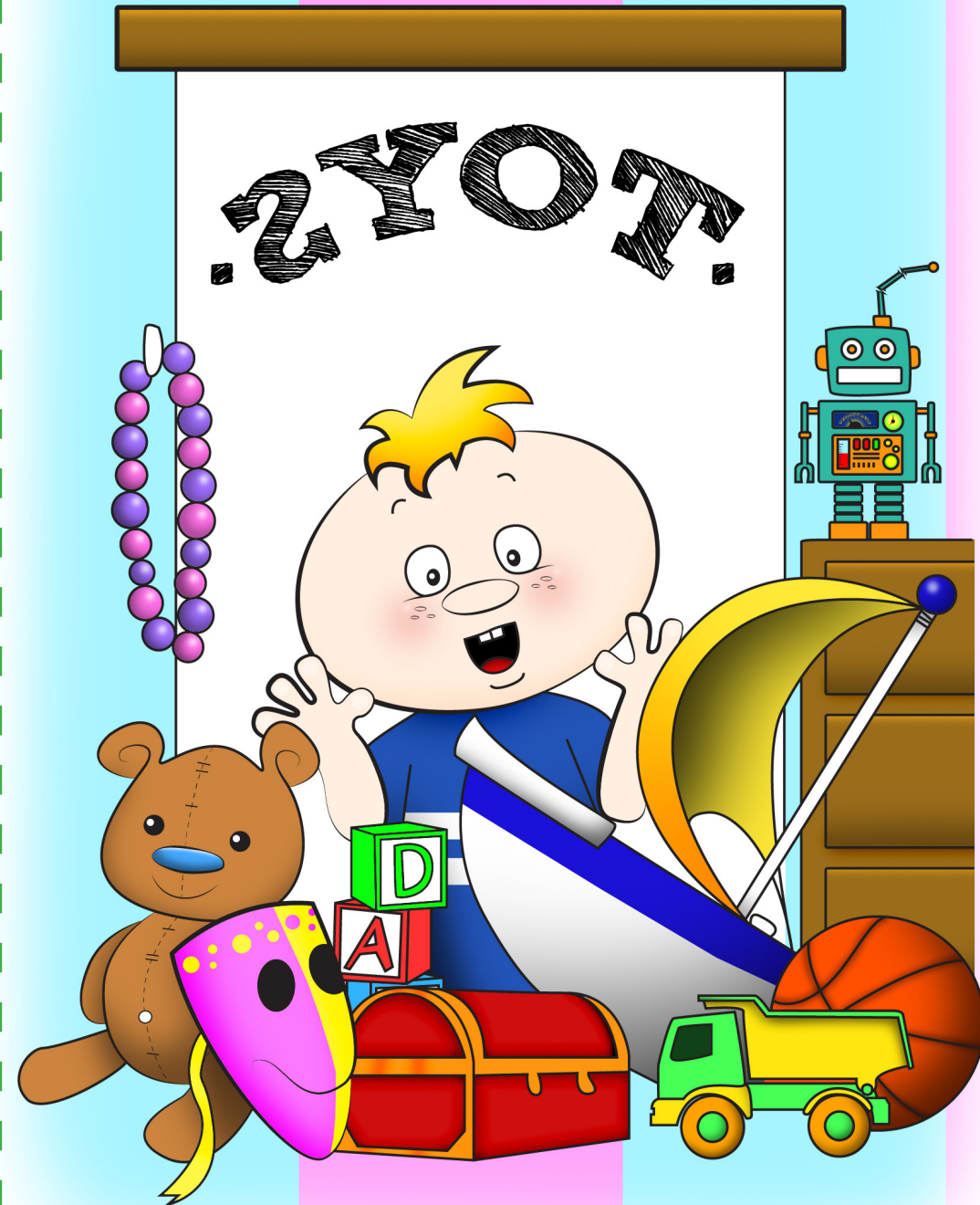
“Mother, look! It’s my sailboat!” said Thomas excitedly, pointing at the window display of a shop selling secondhand toys.

“Oh my, it does look just like the one you had! Let’s go in.”

“Excuse me, sir,” said Thomas to the shopkeeper, “that little sailboat in your shop window is mine! I was sailing it on Windmill Creek when it drifted away.”

“Well, I’m sorry, son, but I paid good money to another little boy who found the sailboat and sold it to me, so you’ll have to pay something for it,” said the shopkeeper.

“But I bought the craft set and made it myself.”





“I’m very sorry, but if you want your sailboat back, then you’ll have to pay for it again.”

Mother and Thomas left the shop.

“Mother, I want to buy it again,” said Thomas. “I am going to save up my pocket money till I have enough to buy my sailboat back. Then it will be twice mine!”

“In the meantime, we’ll pray that no one else buys it,” said Mother. “This reminds me of someone else who went through something like this.”

“Really? Who, Mother?” asked Thomas.

“God created the world, and He made Adam and Eve—the first human beings—in His own image. It was perfect! Then Adam and Eve made the wrong choice, which meant mankind would have to suffer the consequences of sin. God wanted to redeem mankind because He loved His creation. This is why He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin, and bring us salvation. That’s how He ‘bought’ us twice. We were His at first, but He paid for us again so that our sins could never permanently separate us from God.”

“Just like my sailboat will belong to me again when I pay for it?”

“Yes, like that,” agreed Mother.

“I’m glad we were bought again,” said Thomas.



A few weeks later Thomas had saved enough money to purchase his sailboat for the second time.

At the toy store Thomas brought the sailboat to the cash register. “Sir, here’s the money for the sailboat.”

The shopkeeper placed the sailboat in a bag and presented it to Thomas.

Taking the sailboat in his arms Thomas exclaimed, “Little sailboat, you’re twice as much mine now because I paid for you twice!”

The End

Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)

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