

THE SCARY LOCK UP





طلب التصريح لتداول أو طباعة المصاحف والمطبوعات

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله



It was half-term. Sarah had holidays. Three days before the holidays ended, Sarah decided to go to the stationery store to get some school supplies.



Sarah left without informing her mother. After buying what she needed, she walked out of the stationery and found a library on the same street. Sarah loved books! She just could not resist passing the library without having a look at it, so she decided to pop in for a while.

She said to herself “It’ll only take half an hour extra, mama wouldn’t mind that” thought Sarah. Sarah entered the library and saw a kind-looking librarian talking to a lady.



She walked away from the reception to the book area to search for her favorite series of books. She could not resist the happiness bursting inside of her when she found the book she loved. She got so engrossed in that book that she hardly noticed the library becoming emptier.



Sarah loved to sit in corners where no one could see her. Just then Sarah had an urge to go to the bathroom. Without noticing the darkness and emptiness of the library, she got up to go to the bathroom. When she came out, she found herself in a dark room and the librarian wasn't there either.



Sarah remembered what the librarian had told the lady “Remember dear, please leave the library before 6:30!” Sarah felt really scared; she ran to the main door but it was locked.



It was a Friday and usually the libraries would be closed on Saturdays and Sundays because of the bank holiday. Sarah tried calling her mom but there was no signal. She had left her house without informing her mother thinking she would be away for a short while.



Poor Sarah is stuck and no one knows where she is. Fear and panic took over her! Is she going to be alone for the next two days sleeping on the small sofa on the side? Is she going to stay hungry for the next two days?



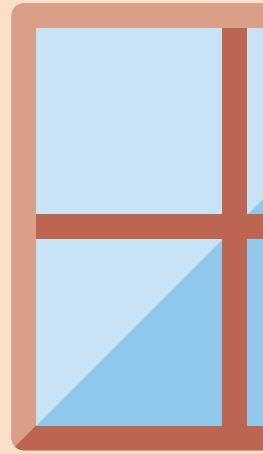
She began to think to herself, did she read the dua before leaving the house? “Oh no!” cried Sarah, in panic, as she began reading all her duas that she had memorized with her Islamic teacher.



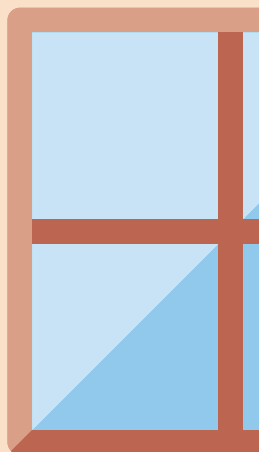
Suddenly, she felt calm and her bad thoughts went away. But then something floated silently into her mind. She then remembered what her Islamic teacher had said that Allah Al Qareeb (The Most Near) is always with people who cling onto Him without looking at other people for help when in need. She knew that for sure Allah Al Qareeb is the only One close to her now and will bring the best help to her.



She started making dua and praying by Allah's Name. She prayed till she felt dryness in her throat. She started looking for a water dispenser. She found one and drank so much till she felt full. Then she continued making dua. After a long time of making dua, Sarah felt really sleepy. The dim light shining through the window made Sarah feel secure. She fell on the small sofa along with a big book cloth. "I've never seen such a big book cloth!" yawned Sarah, as she read her night adhkaar and then fell asleep.



The next day, Sarah woke up to her phone alarm. She checked the signal. It was very low, and so was her battery. "Oh no!" Sarah cried in panic. She drank a few sips of water and tried to look for some food. "I won't use my phone today, since it's only 28 percent, tomorrow I'll call Mama and see if it works, then the charge won't go easily, in sha'a Allah."



Sarah made dua.

“Allah Al Qareeb is with me,
I will be fine.”

Sarah said after making tons of duas.



That afternoon she checked her phone but she didn't have any signal. Just five minutes later her phone died. "Oh no, how am I supposed to call mama!" She made dua and went to the bathroom.



Back at her house, her parents were praying and were extremely worried, they thought Sarah was kidnapped. Her older brother, Mahmood looked for her everywhere and asked people if they had seen her. He was also worried. All they could do was make dua for her return.



Sarah was still sleeping in the library when the librarian entered around 4pm, shocked at what she saw – a girl lying on the sofa!

She went to her to wake her up. "Sorry, I didn't notice the time when the library shut and..." answered Sarah in a weak low voice, thinking the librarian would be angry. Surprisingly, she wasn't. "Oh you poor child! It's my fault, I should have checked before I left. I only came here to get my folder that I had accidentally left last evening! She then quickly took a packet of milk from her bag and some biscuits. Sarah ate gratefully and finished them in less than 5 minutes. The librarian watched in pity and then asked her for home address to drop her off. To her surprise Sarah lived down the next lane. Very soon the librarian drove her back to her home.



She saw Mahmood while she was in the car. She yelled, "Mahmood, I'm here!" At first Mahmood didn't recognize the car, but then as Sarah got out, he gasped and raced to her. He hugged her tightly. "Sarah I missed you so much, SO MUCH!" he said. Their parents came downstairs to find their lost daughter at the door! What a pleasant surprise they got when they saw Sarah. They had so many questions and comments.

"Sarah where were you!"

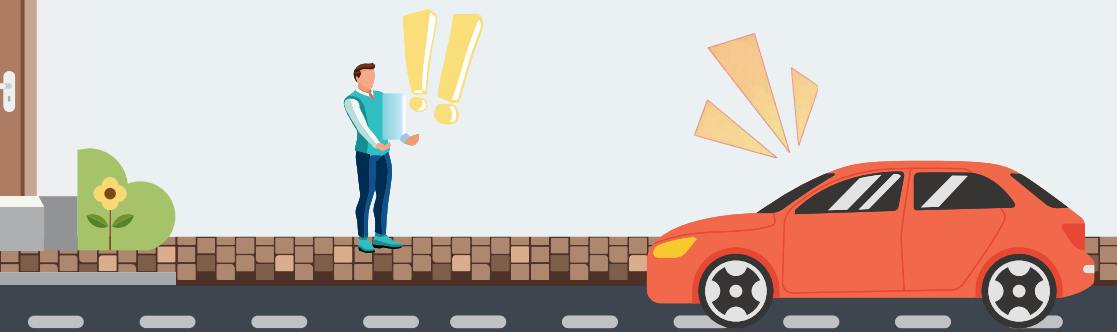
"Sarah, we missed you!"

"Sarah dear, are you hungry!"

"Sarah, we missed you so much!"


"Sarah, tell us what happened!"

But before Sarah answered all the questions, she thanked the librarian and hugged her.



Then Sarah entered the house and answered all these questions one by one, happy to be back with her family again. She told them her story, sipping her chocolate milk and munching on a donut that her mother had brought from the kitchen!





"Mummy, I know that it was Allah Al Qareeb that answered my duas! I thought I would come back on Monday, but Allah made it early and I came back on Saturday, alhamdulillah!" said Sarah.

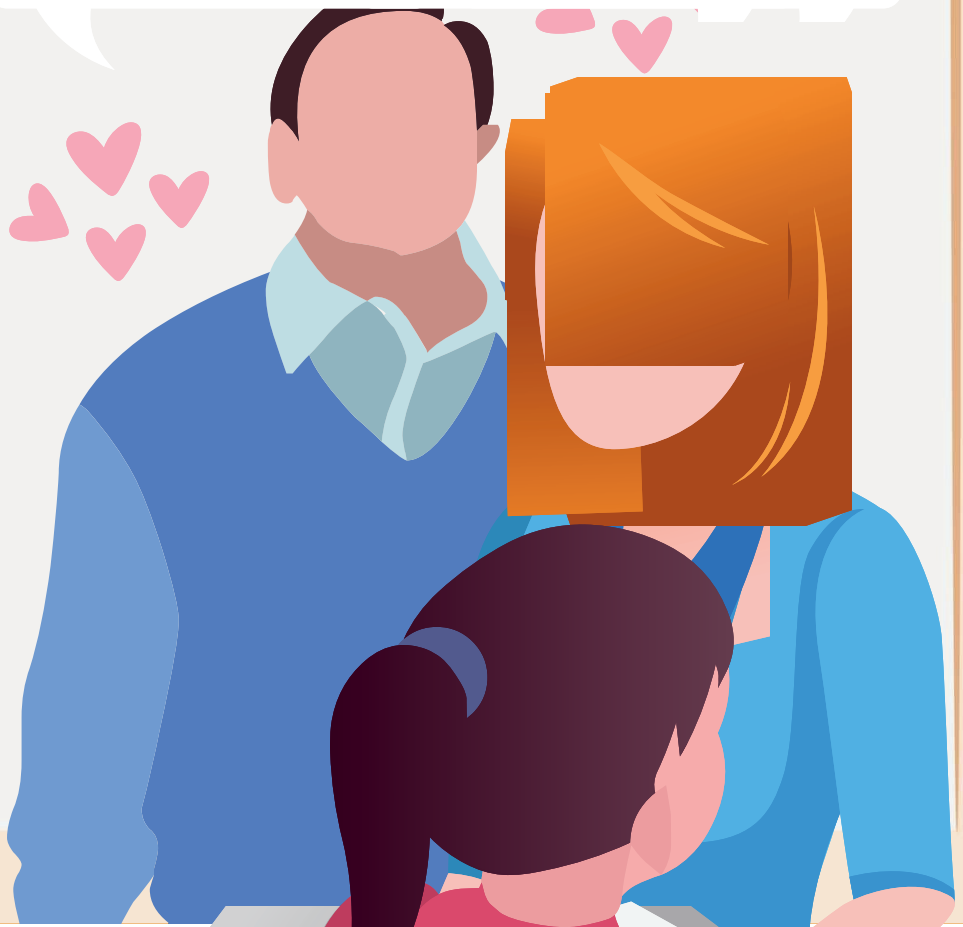
The illustration shows a young girl with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a pink shirt, sitting at a table. On the table are several items: a box of chocolate milk, a green box, a brown box, and some donuts. A mother with orange hair, wearing a blue shirt, stands next to the table, holding a brown plate. There are pink hearts floating above her head. The background is a simple room with a window and a hanging light.

Then her mother hugged her and said, "Yes, Sarah. That is very true, alhamdulillah! But since you missed Friday steak, how about some Saturday steak for everyone!"
"Oh yes, please!" said everyone.



She told her mother the story in details and added, "I couldn't have done it without Allah's help, He helped me with everything and He was the only One close to me that night. I only survived this scary lock up under His protection, alhamdulillah!" Her parents hugged her happily and her dad said,

"Sarah, Allah loves you because you love him, Alhamdulillah!"





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