

THE Lamb

SFCC Melton 2





THE KIDS' CANCER PROJECT WRITE A BOOK IN A DAY

Parameters Form

Team Details

STATE: VIC
DIVISION: Upper School (Required word count 3500 to 5000 words)
SCHOOL/GROUP: St Francis Catholic College - Melton
TEAM NAME: SFCC Melton 2
TEAM ID: 1660

Parameters and random words

Parameters

Primary character 1 Security guard
Primary character 2 Hotel Manager
Non-human character Lamb
Setting School playground
Issue Hidden treasure

Random words

event
crisp
elastic
clumsy
bright

Instructions

- Start no earlier than **8am**
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above) as written, and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts)!
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember: **Every** word on **every** page counts. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- **Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

- ☐ Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names
(how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- ☐ Complete the Declaration
- ☐ Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

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SFCC Melton 2 would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book was created, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

SFCC Melton 2 would also like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this book will be read. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

To all who may read this, you are doing great. Despite the challenges you may go through, you're doing your best and you can always do better. Please do not be discouraged and always look forward to the future and what life may offer you. Thank you for always trying. I pray that you are always safe and content with what you have.

All appreciation to all the staff and teachers who have helped us throughout this process. We thank you for this opportunity to be able to write this book for you to read.

Thank you for everything you have done.

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Chapter 1: Unexpected Guest

“He-Hello, this is Matteo from hallway 1... There’s something down here you need to see... Like now. Over.”

The walkie talkie clicked as Matteo’s eyes trained on the creature before him. It crackled as his manager’s voice – Ayen, came to life over the channel.

“Copy that, I’m just finishing up with a guest. I’ll be down in a second. Over.”

A pause before she started talking again.

“What exactly is going on? Do I need to bring equipment or anything? Over.”

Matteo sighed as he struggled to find the words to explain to his stern boss of the sight in front of him.

“I don’t think you need to bring anything, but I honestly don’t know if you’d believe me. You just have to see it for yourself. Over.”

Ayen’s voice wearily came through the walkie talkie once again. “Right... Copy that.”

That final beep left Matteo in an eerie silence as the radio let out a faint hiss and he ran his fingers over his closely shaved head and sighed, again. He had only had this job for a month or so. The hours could be long, but it felt good; protecting something, like someone had once protected him. Before being fully engulfed in the past, Matteo spiralled. He paced up and down the hallway, keys jingling with every step. *Oh my gosh. The keys. Did I leave a door or window unlocked? But still, where had this even come from?* He thought to himself.

Living in the middle of the South Australian outback had its novelties, however, the situation Matteo was faced with seemed far too strange. Either way, Matteo had a job; to protect the hotel and prevent trespassers, and he might've just failed that.



Chapter 2: Dinner...?

Ayen hurried down the stairs, then turned a sharp corner towards the hallway Matteo had reported to be in. With dim lamps being the only source of light, Ayen walked cautiously towards Matteo, who was standing alongside an object that was not quite yet identifiable.

“So, what is it that you needed me for?” Ayen questioned as she continued to tip toe.

“It’s better to see it than to tell you.” Matteo replied.

“I was just doing some patrol work around the corridors and... found this here.”

Ayen squinted, puzzled. “Oh... wow.”

There, stood a Lamb, gazing innocently at the two.

“Sorry? Is this it?” She spoke.

“W-well, yeah. What do I do with it?” Matteo stammered, intimidated by her assertive presence.

“Uhm... Maybe GET IT OUT? You’re a man with muscles and you can’t get a sheep out of here?!”

“I’m sorry. I’m so sorry. I feel like I just needed the boss to come here.”

Matteo and Ayen continued to go back and forth, planning on what to do with The Lamb as it remained stoic, holding its breath, as if it was waiting for the right moment to strike.

“We should just call animal control.” Ayen insisted.

“Yeah, I agr-“

“BAAAAAAA!” Bleated The Lamb ever so loudly. Matteo jumped out of fear, stepping back with his hand pressed against his heart. Although Ayen, however, remained without reaction.

“WHAT THE HECK, THAT SCARED ME!” He shouted.

“NOW, I'm mad.” Ayen said sternly, scared for the reputation she had already spent so long building. She started pacing, thinking of more ideas on how to get rid of it.

"BAAAAAAAAAAAAAA", again.

Ayen stood alarmed, staring fiercely at the creature, then shifted her eyes to Matteo.

Chapter 3: You can talk?

“WHO EVEN LET THIS *ANIMAL* INTO THE BUILDING?” Ayen questioned, as she realised the gravity of the situation.

To which, an unnaturally high, mocking voice caught them off guard, repeating her words;

“Who even let this animal into the building?” in a sarcastic tone.

They both glared at each other with a ‘there’s no way’ look on their faces. Matteo’s gaze slowly drifted towards The Lamb, who stood there with a smug look on its face.

“Did that thing seriously just talk?” Ayen queried, and pinched the bridge of her nose, her face tight with anxiety.

“*Excuse me?* Thing? Seriously?” The Lamb uttered in outrage.

“Why can it understand what you’re saying Ayen?” Matteo asked, as an uncomfortable knot began to tighten in his chest.

Ayen and Matteo very quickly fell into a deep panic, after all, they had just encountered a farm animal that can speak and understand English! The Lamb was anything but cooperative, though innocent seeming, as it began ravaging through the endless halls of Dessert Cave hotel, Matteo stayed glued to its heels, in a desperate attempt to restrain it. But it was no use, The Lamb had already knocked multiple side tables and cabinets over, dumping everything that was once rested on them onto the ground. The ruckus stopped when it found the hotels cafeteria, treating itself to a meat pie.

Ayen caught up with Matteo, who observed the Lamb from a safe distance: the door of the cafeteria. “What do we do about this?” She asked in desperation.

“I don’t know, what do people normally do when a talking Lamb breaks into their hotel?” Matteo snapped.

“Now’s not the time for stupid jokes, Matteo, we need to be logical! We need to act quickly before anyone else sees this... *thing*.” Ayen said, with worry of what the hotel guests might have thought.

The quietness from the cafeteria suddenly broke with a loud cry from The Lamb.

“I WANT ANOTHER PIE!” It demanded greedily.

The Lamb hunted for a second helping but came up short. There was nothing left over from the dinner service. The Lamb was furious; its hunger was nowhere near satisfied. It proceeded to screech ever so loud, forcing Matteo to slam the door to the cafeteria shut and lock The Lamb in. Ayen’s patience was running thin already. She laid her head in her hands out of frustration.



Chapter 4: Ravage

The Lamb was loud. Too loud.

“Okay, Matteo, just think for a moment”, assured Ayen, whilst heavily breathing.

Still silence fell upon the pair, leaving them to wonder just *why the hell is there a Lamb in the hotel in the first place?!*

Just as the two began to finally have some sense, a high chirp emerged from behind them, breaking the short-lived peace. As if instinctive, the two turn their heads towards the disruptive noise.

“Matteo, Ayen....” exclaimed The Lamb.

“NO, DO NOT START,” shouted Ayen, “you stay put”, she finished.

The Lamb stilled. The Lamb stood there, acknowledging the wrath of the woman who stood before it.

“But I don’t want to”, spoke The Lamb.

Silence once again filled the hallway.

“This day just gets weirder and weirder”, uttered Matteo under his breath.

“Let’s just stay on the **bright** side, shall we?” stated Ayen with a forced tight grin.

With a frustrated scowl, “Fine, whatever...”, Matteo declared whilst he grabbed Ayen’s wrist and dragged her over to the opposite side of the hall. Hushed utterances were heard crowding the dim hallway.

“Well, I’ve never encountered such an **event**”, exclaimed Ayen, “Let’s think of our possibilities,” she continued.

“No, Ayen, there is only one possibility that should even be considered. Don’t even think about doing some crazy work.” Matteo stated firmly.

“And what is that supposed to imply? I can think logically, alright.”

“Yeah, sure. Whatever let’s just call animal services”, expressed Matteo.

Ayen could not agree with Matteo in the slightest bit.

“NO, let’s think about this. There must be some sort of reason as to why this Lamb is here. We should at least consider something else”, pleaded Ayen.

The Lamb still stood there. Every bit of amusement displayed on its face.

Over the rushed conversation, the two came to a realisation. An obvious one at that.

How did The Lamb even arrive in the hotel? And why exactly did it know who we were?

However, the pair also came to a blunt realisation that they did not have enough time to ponder about the hypotheticals and opted to move to an immediate approach. The immediate approach being get rid of The Lamb and ensure no one finds out it isn’t just an ordinary Lamb.

Well, of course the universe had different plans for the pair. They did not get rid of The Lamb.

“We need to get rid of it as soon as possible. People will go ballistic just knowing a Lamb is in the hotel, more at the fact it can speak.” Matteo commanded.

The Lamb began to stare intently at the humans.

“BAA...” yelped The Lamb. “You two will listen to me, no discussion”, it continued.

“Ayen, I know what you’re going to say”, Matteo continued, “no, not a chance.”

“Well, I’m your boss so we go with my idea, that’s final”, she declared with a confident smirk.

With the realisation that he would have to obey, Matteo exhaled slowly with a hint of surrender. The hallway was once again still. Until it wasn’t.

Chapter 5: Dive In

A roaring bleat erupted from The Lamb as it dashed for the stairwell. Stuck in a fright, the two stood motionless and a beat later rushed in a panic towards the trail of The Lamb. In dire fear, the two hurriedly trek up the stairs. Suddenly, Ayen heard a loud thud behind her.

“Are you serious right now? You just HAVE to be **clumsy**, don’t you?” remarked Ayen, glancing at the fallen Matteo a few steps below.

“Okay, my bad, just because I chase people for a living, doesn’t mean I’m coordinated!” Matteo uttered with annoyance as he caught up to Ayen at the top of the stairs.

The pair were quickly reminded of the task at hand as a deafening roar shot out from the top of the stairwell. In a rush, they hurried over to the noise. As they approached the scene, the door opened swiftly, followed by a fluffy white tail that exited the building. The duo, in a fright, sprinted into the **crisp** air that embraced the night sky towards the hotel’s pool.

“This is seriously getting out of hand”, Matteo complained followed by a dramatic eye roll.

Ayen replied with impatience, “We can’t let people see The Lamb or else they’ll go mad.”

Their conversation was interrupted by a booming splash that broke the mild silence of the late hours and the down pour of water from above them. The pair slowly gazed upon the pool before them. Ripples and bubbles arose on the surface of the cool water. And something else had arose as well. The Lamb. With floppy ears

and a drenched pink bow, The Lamb let out a little grin. Little splashes filled the silence, and The Lamb continued its escape out of the pair's reach as it left small footprints behind.

"Oh, of course, it just has to jump in the pool", Matteo sighed as he stared blankly at the appearing footprints.

"Well, if there's no struggle, then there's no progress." Ayen laughed, while Matteo paused as a familiar feeling lingered around him.

On a race to capture The Lamb, the two wasted no time in following after the little creature who had just happened to end up in the streets. *Of course*. The quiet streets of Coober Pedy were instantaneously filled with hushed whispers of the two as they demanded The Lamb to quiet down, however, as always, The Lamb had to do the opposite. Continuous bleating echoed through the quiet night, prancing towards the dimly lit petrol station.

Jing

The Lamb had entered the store.

Witnessing this, the pair sighed in disbelief. *Yep, of course*.

"Okay, well the chase continues..." Ayen uttered under her breath.

The Lamb was going bonkers. It was bouncing off the walls and knocking down the soup cans. The duo couldn't help but look at the cashier with pity.

"Sir, we'll come back to pay for this," Ayen apologised for the mess.

The two continued to chase The Lamb as it continued to jump around. Matteo hastily blocked the end of the aisle whilst Ayen hurried towards the opposite end, as

they attempted to contain The Lamb. After a while, The Lamb had begun to slow its pace and the three sat outside on the curb with heavy, deep breaths.

Chapter 6: Navigating Coober Pedy

Ayen and Matteo glared at The Lamb, knowing it cannot continue walking freely while they got stared down by the people of Coober Pedy.

“How much longer?” Matteo yelled furiously, slumping with his head down and dragging his feet along the sanded trails.

The Lamb, however, continued strutting, ignoring his complaints. Ayen and Matteo shared a gaze of irritation.

The Lamb turned to see their faces

“BAA-HAHA” laughing at the sight of their eyebags and wrinkled foreheads.

“Trust me, it’s not much longer till we arrive, you won’t regret this!” The Lamb explained.

“Ugh, what are we looking for? Some sort of treasure?” Matteo exclaimed.

Ayen let out a big sigh, trying to come up with solutions to keep The Lamb in place, even for just a second. As they walked down the streets, Ayen spotted something in the corner of her eye and snapped her head to the left as she saw looped handle alongside a collar, dusted in dirt. She stopped in her tracks and gently nudged Matteo with her elbow, before leaning down to pick it up. Matteo looked over at Ayen, initially with a look of aggravation, before realising what Ayen was hinting at.

“Are you thinking what I’m thinking?” Ayen whispered to Matteo, holding the leash up as if it were a trophy.

Ayen tugged on it slightly, Matteo took a quick look at The Lamb who was completely oblivious, before looking back at Ayen and the leash.

“It’s stretchy and **elastic**, this is perfect!” Matteo exclaimed.

They devised a plan and agreed that Matteo should sneak up on The Lamb with the leash while Ayen distracts it.

Ayen cautiously approached The Lamb, striking up a conversation, smiling from ear to ear.

“Hey Lamb, what’s your... -favourite thing to do?” Ayen asked with a hint of suspicion looking back at Matteo who had the leash ready.

“Me? I like to eat grass for a living.” The Lamb answered back, acting completely oblivious.

“You know, you are really obvious Ayen”, said The Lamb. Ayen paused and her heart sank. The Lamb turned around to face Matteo as soon as was jumping towards it to put the leash on. It was an iffy attempt, but successful. The leash slid through The Lambs thick wool, but Matteo faceplanted onto the hard ground with sand going up his nose.

“OUCH!” Matteo wailed like a child.

Ayen scoffed “You’re a bodyguard crying because you landed on the ground?” Matteo sat up and tried to rub the dirt off his face

“I still feel pain Ayen!” She huffed and reluctantly put out her hand for him to grab. Matteo got up and they both turned to The Lamb who had bitten his new leash to pieces and was already walking ahead.

“Oh... Great.” Ayen sulked and sunk her face into her palms.

Matteo sighed and followed The Lamb once again.

Chapter 7: Hidden Secret

They continued to follow The Lamb for what felt like hours. Ayen zoned out while looking at the ground, the moon being their only source of light. She wasn't paying attention until she heard rumbles from a distance. She looked up to see two blaring lights heading toward them.

"Is that a car?" Ayen asked.

As the car caught up to them, it halted to a stop. Matteo and Ayen straightened up to see who was inside the car as they rolled the window down. *Oh, shoot. It's Trinity, their hotel receptionist.*

"Ayen? Matteo? What are you two doing here in the middle of nowhere, late at night?" Trinity asked, flabbergasted to see this unusual duo.

The Lamb attempted to speak before he was interrupted, "Oh, they're just"-

"WE were just catching up..." Ayen said, pushing in front of The Lamb, not completely sure her answer was convincing.

"Oh... That's new? I've never seen you two together before..." Trinity said

"Yeah, no, we found out that we have... relatives that know each other."

Matteo jumped into the conversation in hopes it would make Trinity leave.

"Huh... Okay. See you two tomorrow!" Trinity waved goodbye and rolled her window back up before driving off and red dust followed in the air.

"Can we just keep going? This is getting ridiculous." Ayen said furiously, Matteo huffed in frustration.

“Trust me. We are almost there! And how dare you shush me?” The Lamb responded. Ayen scoffed.

The air was cool and crisp but that did not prevent Matteo and Ayen from growing impatient with every passing second.

The Lamb stopped in its tracks; Matteo and Ayen abruptly came to a halt.

“Do you see that building?” The Lamb asked. They lifted their heads up, the faint moonlight barely making the building visible in the distance.



Chapter 8: Final Destination

As Ayen and Matteo stood in front of the school, they were both wondered in sync *as to why The Lamb had led them to Coober Pedy Primary School?*

“What could be here at this primary school?” questioned Ayen.

There was no reply from Matteo and The Lamb just glanced at the two of them and slowly trotted through the school gates.

Matteo looked at Ayen and asked. “Are we sure about this? What is this Lamb getting us into?” Ayen chuckled at Mateo and said,

“Don’t overthink it. If the Lamb wanted to play a little trick on us, then it would’ve done it by now”.

The two of them followed the Lamb into the school grounds. As Ayen and Matteo walked through the school, a slow wave of nostalgia hit them. They reminisced about their primary school days.

Matteo gazed over the classrooms and the school yard, remembering the troubling times as a child. He didn’t have a flawless childhood; he was always bullied by his classmates. Despite always trying his best to contribute to class, he was always shut down by his classmates when they turned every word he said into an inside joke. However, there was this one memory of a classmate defending him when no one else would, stuck with him all these years. He had never received that type of compassion before. Unfortunately, the bullying got to Matteo, and he was homeschooled, totally forgetting about their friendship and his bygone friend.

Ayen was walking beside him, also reminiscing about primary school memories. As a child, she experienced a nurturing childhood. She had many caring

friends surrounding her all the time; she never felt excluded. Something still ruffled her; although she loved her friends dearly, a distant memory still lingered from this one friend. For the life of her, Ayen couldn't remember who this mystery friend was. She remembered everyone always teasing the kid; she never understood why. She, without fail, was the first to defend the kid. Ayen would spend her breaks with this kid, and they bonded quicker than ever. Ayen felt as if that was her truest friendship she had. One day she noticed that the kid wasn't there; then again, the next day he wasn't there. Days turned into weeks, to months, and he slowly vanished completely out of her life.

The Lamb turned back to Ayen and Matteo, pulling them out of their daze and said, "Just keep following me; we're almost there".

Finally, the three of them stopped at the school playground. The gum tree's leaves swayed from a side to side as a gentle breeze carried a sense of familiarity and settled into the atmosphere.

Chapter 9: Sentiment

The Lamb trotted ahead of Ayen and Matteo; its hooves tapped against the pavement as it led them across the dark playground. Neither said a word as they followed. The Lamb slowly made its way towards the playground.

“Uhm...” Matteo slowed down. “Where is it going?”

Ayen shrugged. “Just follow it”

The Lamb made its way towards the steps of the slide. Ayen and Matteo watched as it reached the top and made its way down the slide. They stared at each other.

Matteo Agreed.

Ayen blinked “Are we seriously going to follow The Lamb down a slide?”

Matteo shrugged. “I mean we’ve been following this Lamb around this whole time, I don’t see why not?”

Ayen sighed as Matteo climbed up the steps towards the slide, “You’re such a child!”

Grinning, Matteo said, “What? You’re not coming?”

“NO”

“Suit yourself”

As Matteo made his way down the slide, Ayen rolled her eyes and made her way towards the gum tree that the Lamb was directing them to.

They watched The Lamb carefully as it suddenly stopped underneath some branches before it slowly lowered its head and tapped its hooves against the dirt.

Tap Tap Tap

“Over here guys” The Lamb gleefully exclaimed.

Ayen turned to Matteo.

“Wait,” she said, “I’m pretty sure there is a time capsule buried where the Lamb is standing”

“A time capsule?”

“Yeah, I remember me and a friend of mine burying a time capsule somewhere here.”

“Do you think it is still here?”

“I’m not sure. We buried it ages ago”

They both looked at the Lamb as it continued to tap its hooves against the dirt. “How do we get it out?” Ayen asked.

Matteo turned around, looking at the playground. “Maybe there’s a shovel somewhere.”

They scavenged the area for any tools to dig up the dirt, not noticing that the Lamb wasn’t standing there anymore.

As they searched for tools, the Lamb suddenly appeared from the shadows. “You didn’t think I’d leave you hanging without anything to dig this up, did you?” The Lamb somehow managed to say with two shovels clenched between its teeth.

Reaching for the shovels, they started digging. Suddenly, Matteo hears a loud *clink* from the metal capsule buried underneath the dirt and continues to dig deeper until they see it more clearly.

Ayen grabs the capsule and they both attempt to open it. After Matteo finally opened it, he slowly moved his hand to pick up what seemed to be a polaroid.

“That’s it?” they said, not yet distinguishing the image of themselves staring blankly in disbelief.

“That’s me,” Matteo said.

Confused, Ayen added, “And that’s me.”



Chapter 10: Reminiscent

25 years ago...

It was a warm spring day when a seven-year-old Matteo had been sobbing silently behind the monkey bars after a group of kids purposefully excluded him from a game of tiggy. It was not the first time that Matteo had retreated to his secret spot to cry after being excluded or made fun of. But when eight-year-old Ayen approached him and asked,

“Are you okay?” Those three words changed everything.

The pair became close friends. They’d play all sorts of games together; hide and seek, Mr. Wolf and of course their own games of tiggy. Though the teasing continued for Matteo, Ayen was able to stand up for him and offer true friendship. Matteo eventually built up his own confidence and was able to defend himself.

There were still bad days and moments of despair for the young children, but Ayen always remained optimistic and told him,

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” Those words stuck with Matteo long after he became homeschooled.

Ayen had supported Matteo when no one else had, but time can be a cruel thing that causes you to forget even those you were once closest to.

Present Day...

Both Ayen and Matteo gazed down at the photo in their hands. Two cute kids with chubby cheeks and sparkling eyes full of joy stared back at them. They turned to look at each other and then turned to look at The Lamb.

After so much arguing and ridiculousness, they were speechless.

“It’s you.” Matteo was shocked as he looked into the eyes of the girl who taught him strength.

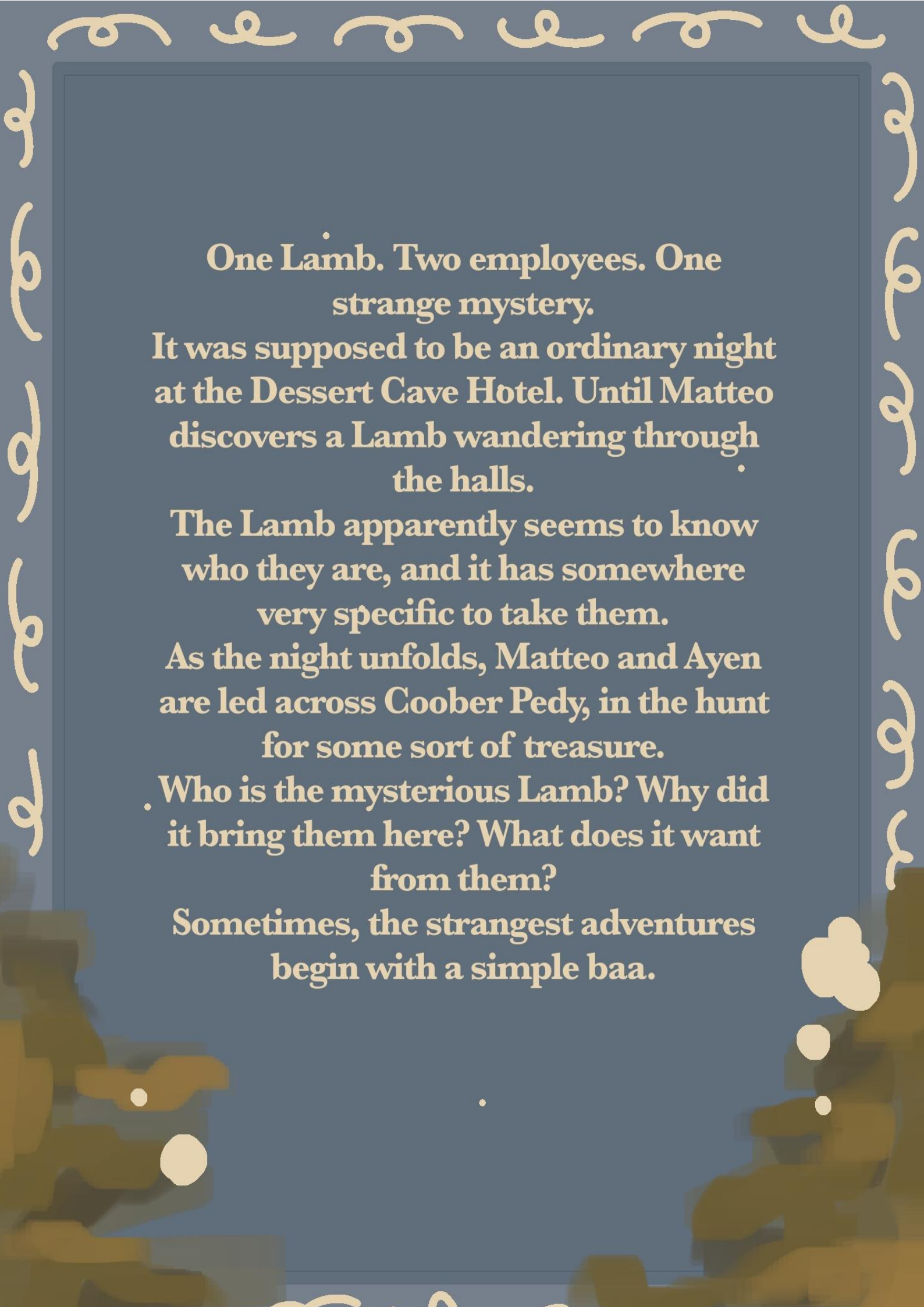
Ayen smiled back at him and asked, “So what now?”

“Maybe we follow The Lamb?”

They laughed and made their way out of the playground as the first signs of dawn and the moon illuminated Matteo and Ayen’s journey back to the hotel, The Lamb happily trotting behind them of course.

25 years of life between them, but in that moment the two felt closer than ever.





**One Lamb. Two employees. One
strange mystery.**

**It was supposed to be an ordinary night
at the Dessert Cave Hotel. Until Matteo
discovers a Lamb wandering through
the halls.**

**The Lamb apparently seems to know
who they are, and it has somewhere
very specific to take them.**

**As the night unfolds, Matteo and Ayen
are led across Coober Pedy, in the hunt
for some sort of treasure.**

**Who is the mysterious Lamb? Why did
it bring them here? What does it want
from them?**

**Sometimes, the strangest adventures
begin with a simple baa.**

