

Chapter 1

‘Could we go sailing for my birthday?’ I asked Dad.

‘Sure, Jack,’ replied Dad. ‘When is your birthday?’

‘On the Thursday after Easter. We will be on school holiday that week.’

‘Again? Didn’t you just have a holiday?’

‘That was many weeks ago.’

‘Really? It seems like just a few days. Well, that’s fine, I’ll take a day or two off, and we can go sailing. Perhaps your mum can take some time off too.’

‘She will be on school holidays. Teachers have a holiday at the same

time as the children. It fits together better that way.'

'Good, then she can come.'

'No, Dad. She is going to the pamper retreat again. Don't you remember? She told us that at dinner time.'

'Did she?'

'Yes. She needs to have a rest from children and husbands. She said you would have to cook your own dinner for a few days, and see how you like it.'

Dad frowned, trying to think why she would have said that.

'OK, just you and me then,' he said. 'We'll sail down to Bounty Bay for the day.'

'And my mates? Can they come too?'

'Mates? Do you have mates? How many?'

‘There would be six of us.’

‘Really? Do you know that many kids?
I didn’t think you would be so popular.
OK, you can ask your five mates.’

‘Could we have a sleep-over on the
boat?’

‘Well OK, but I would need an adult to
help. If you can organize that, then I’m
happy to take you.’

I rang Adam and Ben, Jess and Liv.
They all wanted to come.

Zac was not sure if he wanted to go
sailing. ‘I might get sea sick,’ he said, but
he agreed in the end, as long as the sea
was smooth.

All the mums and dads said they
would like to come, but they didn’t have
time.

I said to Dad, ‘I could ask Adam’s

Uncle Rory. He will be on school holiday.'

Did I really offer to ask my teacher
along to my birthday?

Yes. I did.