

# A Trip to Bavaria

## CHARACTERS

Pete  
Nancy  
Josephine  
Gran  
Customs

Herr Focker  
Heidi  
Japanese Man  
Waitress

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## Going abroad

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- NANCY Pete! Josephine is talking to you! Our daughter! Remember!
- PETE Yes, dear. No sugar, thank you.
- NANCY What? She's trying to tell you something. Tut. What's the point.
- JOSEPHINE Her name is Heidi, she lives near Munich.
- GRAN Oooh, that's nice. That's where the 'Doctorberfest' takes place.
- NANCY Don't you mean the Octoberfest?
- GRAN That's what I said, Nancy. Lots of lovely strong German men drinking beer.
- NANCY I don't see what that's got to do with Josey's trip to Germany. Anyway, Josey, try making contact with your father again, please. Put Heidi's photo in front of his nose!
- JOSEPHINE Dad!?
- PETE No more toast, thank you.
- JOSEPHINE Look at this. She's nice, isn't she?
- PETE Ummh. Very nice. Friend of yours?
- JOSEPHINE Her name's Heidi, she's German. I'm going to visit her in Germany.
- PETE Nice.
- NANCY Did you hear what Josey said?
- PETE Ummh.
- NANCY And put that newspaper down!
- NANCY We want to have a real conversation with you! There's more life in a plastic bag!

PETE But...

NANCY Josey is going to stay with her German exchange partner, near Munich for two months in the summer holidays.

PETE That's nice. Wait a minute, Munich, that's in Germany!

NANCY At last! Welcome back to our planet!

JOSEPHINE Beam me up, Scottie!

GRAN Who is Scottie? I once had a budgie called Scottie. He was very clever. He could speak; I taught him to say, 'Close the window', 'close the window'! One day I forgot and he flew out of the window!

NANCY Be quiet please, mum.

PETE But...but...Germany?!

NANCY Yes. Germany. Munich is in Germany!

PETE But...but...there are Germans in Germany!

NANCY Your knowledge of European geography is very impressive. You should be on Mastermind!

JOSEPHINE Yes, dad. There are lots of Germans in Germany. I'm going to stay with a German family for two months.

PETE But...but...they speak German!

NANCY Gosh! Is there no limit to my husband's intelligence!

PETE Why don't you go to a nice country, a sensible country?

NANCY What do you suggest, dearest?

PETE Well. America or Canada, or even ...ummh...Gibraltar?

JOSEPHINE I want to improve my German, dad. All those countries speak English!

PETE Yes...but...why do you want to learn another language? Everyone speaks English.

JOSEPHINE I'm learning German at school, remember?

GRAN I went to Germany once!

NANCY I didn't know that. When?

PETE When the Kaiser was still alive!?

GRAN I'm not sure when, it was a long time ago. I think it was Germany. Or maybe it was the Isle of Wight. It looked very foreign. Lots of bicycles and hills. And people with sunglasses and red faces.

JOSEPHINE Anyway, mum says I can go to Germany.

NANCY It's with the school, nothing can happen.

- GRAN I know! We can come and visit you! We can have a holiday in Germany, too!
- NANCY Not so fast, mum. I don't think Josey wants...
- JOSEPHINE That's awesome. Yes, that's a great idea. Why not come near the end and then we can visit some places together?
- NANCY What a good idea! Don't you think so, Pete?
- PETE Ummm...er...
- JOSEPHINE You can meet Heidi, and her father!
- NANCY That's settled then. We're coming. Perhaps Heidi's father can find us a cheap hotel for a few days?
- JOSEPHINE Cool! I can get Heidi to ask her father, I'm sure he knows some places.
- PETE Er...
- NANCY A trip to Germany! How exciting. It's our first trip abroad for over fifteen years.
- PETE No it's not. We went to Calais two years ago.
- NANCY That's not exactly true. You forgot your passport and we couldn't enter France. All we saw was the port from the ferry and then we came back again.
- PETE Ah, yes. I forgot.
- GRAN Why did you marry him, Nancy. I liked Andrew, he sells vacuum cleaners. I met his wife, she left him in January. Now she lives with the ice-cream man. Andrew's alone at home with his hoovers. A pity.
- NANCY Josey, what present are you taking?
- PETE What about a book of jokes? You know Germans have no sense of humour!
- JOSEPHINE Don't be stupid, dad.
- PETE Maybe a towel!
- NANCY Sorry?
- PETE It's a fact that on holidays Germans always get up early in the morning to put their towels on the sunbeds next to the pool!
- NANCY Don't listen to your father. He lives in his own fantasy world of stereotypes.
- GRAN Perhaps some typical English food, you know, things like tea and Marmite and ...
- JOSEPHINE Food! That's a great idea, Gran.

- PETE Josey. Make sure you don't mention the war!
- NANCY Stop it, Pete. We're in the European Union now.
- PETE I'm not! I never wanted to join. Come on, Boris. Walkies! Let's go and breathe some good English air together!
- NANCY Oh dear.
- JOSEPHINE I'm not so sure it's a good idea to take Dad to Germany, mum.
- NANCY Yes, I know; but he doesn't really mean what he says. He's just trying to be funny.
- JOSEPHINE But he never says anything that is funny!
- NANCY No, I know. Sad really, isn't it!

## Bavaria, here we come

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- NANCY Why didn't we fly? This ferry journey is so boring and poor Boris is locked in the car. I hope he's alright?
- PETE Of course he is. It's nice to go by ferry. A real sense of adventure. We English are famous for our sea captains – Sir Walter Raleigh, ...er... Captain Cook, ...er... Christopher Columbus.
- GRAN Christopher Columbus was Italian!
- PETE Don't be ridiculous! Italian? He can't be Italian! What have the Italians given the world besides pizza and ice-cream?
- NANCY I think mum's right, Pete.
- PETE Umm, anyway. Sir Francis Chichester! The first man to sail around the world alone!
- NANCY Alright, alright. You've made your point. Anyway, not long now. I hope!
- NANCY I'm pleased Josey is having such a nice time with the family. I'm really looking forward to seeing her again and meeting the family. Aren't you?
- PETE Yes...er...but...er...)
- GRAN Ooohh, it's so exciting! It makes me feel tipsy! Everything is going from side to side!
- NANCY The sea is very rough, I don't like it too much, oh, my stomach.
- GRAN It's very nice of Heidi's father to say we can stay in his house.
- NANCY Yes, it is. The Germans are such nice people, don't you agree, Pete?