Dear Mum and Dad,

I really hope this letter arrives with you swiftly and safely. Yes, it’s me, Michael – your son. I’m quite sure that you gave me up for dead a long time ago but I’m writing to tell you that I am alive and well, all things considered. Over the past eight months, I have been stranded upon a beautiful island somewhere in the South Pacific Ocean. I have missed you terribly and not a day goes by where I don’t think about you and all of our happy times together. However, you must not worry: all is well.

On the night of my disappearance, you’ll remember that I was alone at the helm steering the Peggy-Sue. Well, that night brought about the most dreadful storm and just at a time when Stella had sneaked onto the deck without her safety harness on! For what happened next, I am so very sorry. You see, I knew that I had done wrong allowing her to escape so I stupidly went onto the deck (alone and also not wearing safety gear). I tried so hard to coax her in but she was intent on staying put. Crouching down, I tried to grab her but she flailed around in my arms. Before I knew it, I had slipped and fallen overboard. With luck clearly on my side, I miraculously woke up lying safely upon golden sand. I forgot to mention, Stella is with me too. Somehow, she also survived!! Aren’t we the luckiest?

I bet you’re wondering why I haven’t found help and how I am surviving? At first, I desperately searched for other people; I soon realised that I was utterly alone. This whole island is completely unoccupied – except for a large group of orang-utans. Dad, you would absolutely love them. The little ones are so playful! There are other animals here too, of course. Monkeys, gibbons, exotic birds and annoyingly, millions of blood-thirsty mosquitoes (which don’t leave me alone in the evening).

The true beauty of the island, I soon learned, is deep within the heart of the forest where warm beams of sunlight push through the canopy above. Here, Stella and I are able to forage for food. There are red bananas here! RED! (And so much sweeter than yellow ones like we get at home!) Cool streams also provide us with all the water we need. Honestly, this place really is magical. You’d absolutely love it if you were here – maybe one day, you will be…