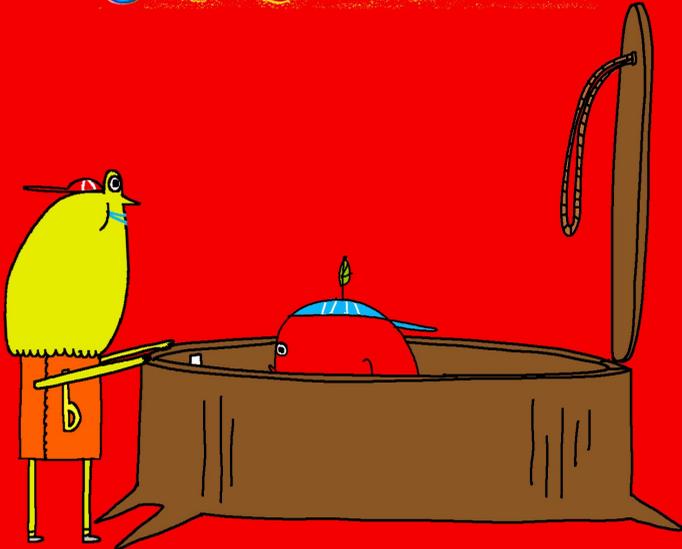
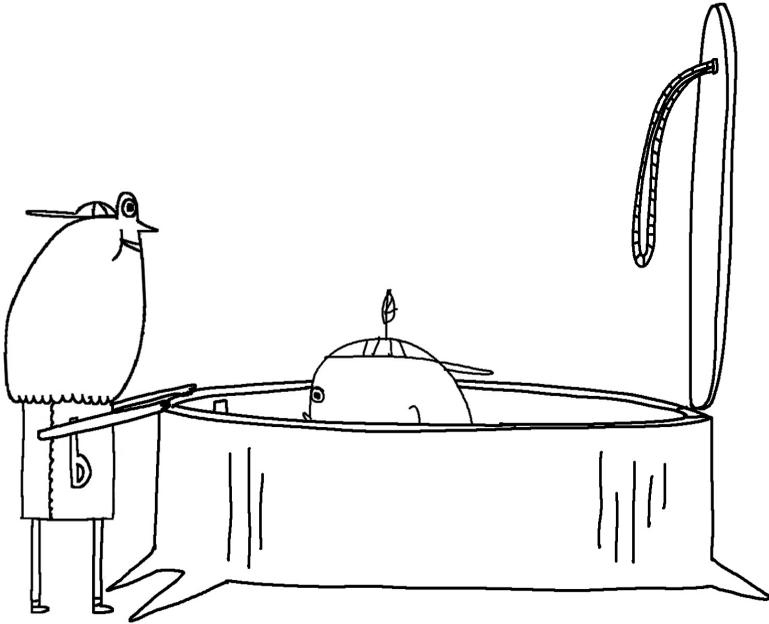


the  
**FUNNY**  
**FISH FINGER**  
**FRIENDS'**



second adventure -  
a 'bear's bin'  
by Davey Ferguson

# The funny fish finger friends' second adventure - a 'bear's bin'



by Davey Ferguson  
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## **Please note**

This story follows straight on from the last one so if you want to know what's happened you'll need to read that one first. Also, the alien princess is using a different spaceship that can go invisible in this story.



## they wake up

The next morning Francie opened his eyes and blinked them and remembered where he was and shouted down to Bertie, 'Bertie, have you woken up yet Bertie?'

Bertie was already awake sitting on his lilly pad and he said, 'Of course I have Francie, I've been awake for blinkin' ages waiting for you!'

'Oh, sorry Bertie, but that's me woken up now so do you want to go and have a funny adventure and just get up to mischief? Ha ha ha!' said Francie.

'Ha ha ha! Of course I do Francie! Ha ha ha!' said Bertie.

'Ha ha ha! Well, just let me come down from my tree and then we'll head off,' said Francie.

'Aye well just be careful Francie, have you worked out how you're going to get down yet?' said Bertie. Francie looked at the branch and the tree and said, 'I think I'll be able to swing my legs up and wrap them round the branch and then unhook my wee leaf and then shimmy down the tree no bother.'

'I cannae look Francie, ' said Bertie and he covered his eyes.

Francie tried to swing his legs up but he didn't get them high enough and it just made the branch bounce and his wee leaf unhooked itself and he went flying off and hit Bertie and they both fell in the pond and all the fish were laughing at them. They got out and wrung out their clothes and put them on damp and Francie said, 'I'm so sorry Bertie, I think if I'd grabbed onto the branch with my hands first I could have done it. Ha ha ha!'

'Aye well if you're going to keep living up the tree you'll need to work out a better way of getting down because I'm not wanting to end up in the pond with the fish laughing at me and then have wet clothes every day! Ha ha ha!' said Bertie.

'Dont worry, I'll get it right next time, it's easy as,' said Francie. 'Right, let's get started on another funny adventure...'

'Wait a minute Francie, do you not feel dead hungry? I think I'm wanting my breakfast,' said Bertie and he looked at his tummy which did a big rumble and wee bits of bread crumb shook off. 'Oh aye, I'm starving now that you mention it,

Bertie! But what even do we eat, we've never even ate anything before!' said Francie and his tummy did a big rumble too.

Bertie didn't say anything for ages and then he said, 'Well frogs eat flies with their tongues so I suppose I'll need to look for some flies for *my* breakfast, but I don't think ordinary apples eat anything do they?'

'Ha ha, nae luck Bertie, I'm glad I've not to eat flies!' said Francie, 'But you're right, I think the tree's supposed to feed an ordinary apple nutrients while its growing on a branch but after it's snapped off it wont go back on properly.' Francie tapped the end of his wee leafy stalk with a finger and his tongue went in and out for no reason.

'What if you just ate another apple off the tree or are they your brothers?' said Bertie.

Francie looked up the tree at the other apples growing there and said, 'They're not my brothers, they're my breakfast! Ha ha ha!' and he started kicking the tree to try and shake one loose.

While he was doing that Bertie noticed some wee flies buzzing around the pond so he tried to shoot his tongue out but he wasn't that sort of frog so

he just stuck his tongue out and tried to catch the flies with his hands and stick them to his tongue manually.

## they get their breakfast

Eventually Francie was stood holding a wee bruised apple next to Bertie who had his tongue out with three wee flies stuck to it and some wings stuck to his fingers.

'Right Bertie, are you ready to start our first breakfast? Ha ha ha!' said Francie.

'I thure am, Flanthie! Ha ha ha!' said Bertie and he brought his tongue back in and Francie took a big bite of his apple.

Francie shivered and spat the apple back out and said, '*It'ssss ssss super ssssour!* These apples are for cooking not eating!' and he screwed up his face and spat out wee bits of spit.

Bertie said, '*Huccccccccchhhhhhhh!* I've got flies stuck at the back of my throat! *Huccccchhhhhh!*'

'Quick, take a drink of pond, Bertie!' said Francie and he pushed Bertie in the chest and Bertie took a step back and fell straight down into the pond.

'What did you do that for!' said Bertie who came back to the surface and treaded water and couldn't believe what had happened to him. 'I thought it was a choking emergency!' said Francie.

'It's hardly an emergency, they're just tickly, Francie! *Huccccchhhhhh!*' said Bertie.

'Whoops, sorry Bertie, ha ha ha! You might as well take a mouthful of water now you're in the pond,' said Francie, so Bertie put his mouth under the water and took a mouthful and then spat it out and said, 'Yuck! This water isn't for drinking!' Francie helped Bertie out and then they stood there feeling sorry for themselves.

'That's the last time I eat flies, that's for sure!' said Bertie.

'I'd still eat an apple but not a cooking one,' said Francie.

'I suppose I could still eat flies if I had a drink to wash them down,' said Bertie.

'Sigh! I wish we had money to buy proper food from the shops, I could just go a roll n' sausage,' said Francie and he licked all round his lips.

'Me too, or a potato scone, but I'd definitely want a

drink with that too,' said Bertie and he licked all round his lips and there was still a bit of fly on his tongue but Francie didn't say anything.

'What if we just go into town and be beggars?' said Bertie.

'Let's only do that as a last resort, Bertie. Why don't we head into the woods and see if we can find any better free food, like, I don't know, some nice berries or something?' said Francie.

'We walked through the woods yesterday and I don't remember seeing any berries but I suppose we weren't looking for them then,' said Bertie.

'That was the woods in that direction, lets try the woods in *that* direction,' said Francie and he pointed at the woods at the other side of the field.

'Lead the way Francie' said Bertie but they only went about four steps when Francie fell onto a big tree stump and said, 'Ooyah!'

## they find a 'bear's bin'

'How did you manage to not see that, Francie!' asked Bertie.

'Because I was too busy thinking about a roll n' sausage!' said Francie who rolled off the tree stump onto the ground but they heard a click and the top of the stump swung slowly open like a bin lid.

'Ha ha, I think we've found a bear's bin, Francie!' said Bertie.

Francie looked into the hollow stump and said, 'Then the bear must have flung a ladder out because there's a big ladder in here!'

'Do you think he's flung any food down there as well?' said Bertie.

'I am not eating somebody else's rubbish, Bertie!' said Francie.

'Francie, are you daft? I don't really think it's a bear's bin, I just said that as a joke because it opened like a bin lid and its near the woods. It looks more like a secret entrance underground,' said Bertie.

'Ha ha, I knew you were only kidding, ha ha!' said

Francie but he didn't. 'Let's go down and have a look about!'

Francie got in first and then Bertie and they slowly climbed down the ladder in the dark.

'My eye's aren't used to the dark yet, Bertie, I can hardly see the rungs!' said Francie.

'Aye well, just be careful Francie and whatever you do don't grab my foot by accident,' said Bertie but Francie suddenly grabbed him by the ankle.

'Whoa! Let go, that's my foot you've grabbed!' shouted Bertie.

'Whoops, sorry Bertie, ha ha!' said Francie.

When they got to the bottom Bertie said, 'Imagine you'd put your full weight on my leg and we'd fallen off!'

'Ha ha, chill out Bertie, I did it on purpose to give you a wee fright! Ha ha!' said Francie.

'Oh Francie, what are you like? I'll shoot the boots off you! Ha ha!' said Bertie.

When their eyes got used to the dark they saw that they were in a cave about the size of a bungalow. Francie walked to one end and Bertie walked to the other.

At Francie's end there was a stone doorway that

had 'to the palace' painted above it ages ago and Francie read it out loud but it was walled up. At Bertie's end there was a stone doorway that had 'to the sea-side' painted above it ages ago and Bertie read it out loud but it was walled up too. 'What's the point in putting bricks in a door?' said Francie and he kicked the bricks.

'If you don't want it to be a door anymore,' said Bertie.

'But I want to go to this palace it's talking about!' said Francie.

'I want to go to the sea-side this one's talking about too but it's tough-titties for both of us unless you know how to open a door with a wall in it!' said Bertie.

Francie did a big sigh because he didn't and said, 'Well what a waste of time that was, *and* there's nothing to eat down here,' and he walked over and started going back up the ladder.

'Wait, what's that shiny bit?' said Bertie because he could see a wee shiny bit between the bricks at the 'to the palace' doorway.

## they find a pound coin leak

Francie came back down the ladder and ran over and overtook Bertie and got on his knees and looked closer and saw there was a pound coin stuck in a crack between the bricks.

'Fweep-fweeow!' whistled Francie, 'How much does a roll n' sausage cost!' and he pulled the pound coin out the wall but it must have been plugging the hole because lots of pound coins came spraying out until it got all jammed up again and they stopped coming out. Some of the coins were shiny and some of them were duller.

'Forget about a roll n' sausage, Francie, how about four or five rolls n' sausages! Ha ha!' said Bertie.

'Ha ha! I want more to come out!' said Francie and he picked at the coins in the crack until some more leaked out. 'I could do this all day long!'

'Let's take what we've got and go and buy some food!' said Bertie.

'Too right!' said Francie and he filled his baseball cap with coins and pulled it on tight and only a couple fell out.

'What will I put coins in, Francie, my cap doesn't go on tight like yours, it just sits on my head!' said Bertie.

'Put some in your socks and shoes,' said Francie so the two of them took as many pound coins as they could each and climbed back up the ladder and shut the stump behind them and headed through the woods to the shopping centre which they knew where it was because they had already been there the day before and remembered it had eating places in it.

On the way Bertie said, 'Where do you think all these pound coins came from Francie?'

'I think they must be ancient buried treasure, but let's worry about that after we've spent them because I'm st-st-st-starving!' said Francie and patted his tummy.

'Me too, let's boost!' said Bertie and they did.

## they buy lunch

By the time they got to the shopping centre nowhere was doing breakfast so they went to a fast food chain near the escalators to get a burger and chips and fizzy juice each.

They were sitting in so they got a table first and got out all their money onto it. Francie managed to poke a finger up the side of his cap and slide one pound coin out at a time without the whole lot coming out. Then Bertie sat at the table while Francie went and ordered but he had to come back because he hadn't taken enough money up with him.

When they started eating they were very happy and jittered in their seats and Francie said, 'Oh, this burger is burgerific terrific! This is the life, eh Bertie? Ha ha!'

'You said it Francie, these chips are chiptastic fantastic, ha ha ha!' said Bertie and then he was distracted out the window by a sweetie stall in the middle of the shopping centre with loads of different sweets on it. 'See after we're finished, I fancy getting a wee sweetie or something.'

'This time *you* said it Bertie!' said Francie and they both sat and sipped their fizzy juice and looked at the sweetie stall.

Suddenly a big hand came in and gathered all the rest of the pound coins and the burger change off the table in one swoop and gave them both a fright that made them choke and spit out fizzy juice. It was Duncan the policeman with his motorbike helmet under his arm.

'So, where did you get all this money from, boys? It's not stolen I hope?' said Duncan.

'Where did you come from?' said Francie and his eyes were still wet from choking on juice.

Duncan's eyebrows went up because Francie's tone was a bit cheeky. 'I was just on my way out after speaking to a security guard about a crime when I glanced through the window and couldn't help noticing all these pound coins on a table in front of two boys who have a history of stealing from this shopping centre,' said Duncan.

'We found it underground, we think it's ancient buried treasure,' said Bertie and put a chip in his mouth and chewed it slowly.

'I don't think they had brand new shiny pound coins

in ancient times I'm afraid,' said Duncan and then he put his helmet on the table and flicked through his notebook. 'What's your name again, b for...'

'Bertie,' said Bertie.

'And I'm f for Francie,' said Francie.

Duncan made a note and said, 'Francie the cheeky one,' and Francie made an angry face and muttered, 'I'm no cheeky,' but Duncan kept talking.

'I should've taken your names yesterday but it was all a bit out of the ordinary wasn't it. Now why don't you show me exactly where you *found* this money, boys?'

'Back where we live,' said Bertie.

'Oh right, well let's head back there now shall we,' said Duncan.

'Can we not even finish our lunch first?' asked Francie.

'No, but you can ask them for a bag so you can bring it with you, and if I find out the money wasn't stolen you can eat it, otherwise it's evidence,' said Duncan.

So Bertie went up to the counter and asked for a paper bag and they put the rest of their lunch in it and Duncan put all the money in a pouch. Then

Francie asked if they could get a sweetie and Duncan said no and then they followed him out to the carpark.

'I don't have helmets for you guys so I'll just push my motorbike, we're not going far anyway,' said Duncan.

'Can we sit on the bike while you push it?' asked Francie.

'No you can not,' said Duncan.

### **the cave is investigated**

They walked a longer way back than they had came because Duncan would rather not push his bike through the woods. But they still had to go through two fields which had gates to get in and they had to be shut behind them.

On the way Duncan said he hadn't had a chance to start an investigation on Francie and Bertie to find out what they were and how they came to be yet but it was on his list.

When they got there Francie ran over over to the tree stump and said, 'Look!' and jumped on it and

back off and then the lid opened.

Duncan shone his torch down and told the boys to stay where they were while he went down and investigated.

While Duncan was in the cave Francie carefully opened the burger bag trying not to make any noise and took out a chip and ate it.

'That might be evidence your eating, Francie!' said Bertie.

'Shhhhh, d'you not want one?' said Francie and Bertie did so Francie gave him one and they both giggled and ate sneaky chips until they heard Duncan coming back up.

'It looks like you've found a cave with an old escape network for the royal family running through it,' said Duncan, 'but the tunnels have been bricked up and haven't been used for about a hundred years.'

'What about the money?' asked Francie.

'I have an idea but I'll need to go and check some old plans at the the library. You two wait here til I come back, I won't be long,' said Duncan.

'Do you think its a criminal's secret stash after a bank job?' asked Bertie.

'No I don't, just wait here,' said Duncan and he put his helmet on and got on his bike.

'Can we eat our lunch or is it evidence?' asked Francie.

'You can have it, see yous shortly,' said Duncan and he rode off.

'Yesssss!' said Francie and Bertie and they ended up tearing open the bag they were so excited.

### **the alien princess turns up**

After they'd finished they put all the rubbish in the torn bag as best they could and both sat down beside the stump to digest their lunch.

'That was one great lunch even though it got cold while it was evidence,' said Bertie.

'And the juice went flat, but it was still much nicer than cooking apples and flies, eh Bertie? Ha ha ha!' said Francie.

'Ha ha ha! It sure was,' said Bertie.

Then a spaceship landed beside them and the alien princess got out and said, 'Alright guys? I was just on my way to a different planet and I thought I'd check to see how yous're getting on.'

'We're fine thanks, we've just had our first proper lunch!' said Francie.

The alien princess noticed the rubbish bag and said, 'Junk food. Not ideal guys,' and Francie and Bertie looked a bit ashamed. And then she said, 'And why didn't you put your rubbish in the bin?'

'It's not a bin, it's a secret entrance to an escape network for the royal family,' said Bertie and then told her everything that had happened so far that day.

'Give us a look,' said the alien princess and she climbed down the stump to have a look. When she came back up she said, 'I've had an idea. I'm going to build yous a nice house down there with everything you need so that yous don't have to live outdoors.'

Francie and Bertie looked at each other and were confused and surprised.

'How will you do that?' asked Francie.

'Will it not be dead expensive? We had some money but Duncan the policeman took it,' said Bertie.

'It's nothing to me, just give me half an hour down there with my robot and I'll sort yous out,' said the

alien princess.

'It's too generous!' said Bertie.

'It's nothing, I said,' said the alien Princess and then she whistled and a robot that looked like her but made of metal came out out of the spaceship. and they both went down the stump. Then the princess poked her head back up and said, 'Are you happy for me to make decor decisions? You can always change it if you don't like it.'

'Nothing too girly,' said Francie.

'I'm not going to take offense at that,' said the princess and then said something in alien language which made the spaceship go invisible before she went back down the stump and closed it behind her. Francie and Bertie could hear her talking to the robot for a bit and then they heard all sorts of strange building noises that sounded very hi-tech.

'I cant believe we're getting a new house for free!' said Francie.

'I know, today just gets better and better!' said Bertie.

## Francie needs the toilet

While they were waiting Francie started doing a dance and said, 'Bertie, I really need a pee after that fizzy juice, do you mind if I do it in the pond?' 'No way Francie, that's where I hang about! Do it against your tree!' said Bertie.

'No way, that's where I hang about!' said Francie. 'There are toilets at the shopping centre,' said Bertie.

'That's miles away, I'll burst!' said Francie, 'I'll just need to go in the trees over there, don't look,' and he ran into the trees. Then he came running back out again and said, 'Bertie, how do we pee? I don't know what we pee out of, its only breadcrumb down there!'

Bertie looked between Francie's legs and then between his own legs and then did a big shrug and an apologetic face. Just then they heard Duncan's motorbike coming back and the alien princess must have heard too because the noises in the cave stopped. Francie forgot about needing the toilet for a bit so he couldn't have been that bursting.

## Duncan comes back

'Well, I was right,' said Duncan and he got off his bike and took his helmet off and took a folded up bit of paper out of his pouch. He unfolded it and it was a photocopy of an old drawing of a palace and the stuff underneath it. 'This particular escape tunnel used to run all the way from the palace to the sea via your cave,' he said and he ran his finger along the photocopy to show them. 'But it was bricked up and abandoned ages ago. The old palace treasury was somewhere under here on this drawing, but just recently the King had separate treasuries built to keep his different types of treasure in, including one just for pound coins.' He drew a circle on the photocopy to show where he guessed it could be. 'Some of the coins you found are pretty new, so I think what's happened is the King's recently over-filled his pound coin treasury and it's sprung a leak, flooding the old tunnels with coins.' Duncan scribbled in the tunnels to show that they were full of coins. 'And the palace is about two miles away from here, so it's quite a lot of money we're talking about.'

'Fweep-fweeow!' whistled Francie, 'We're rich!' 'Ha ha, I don't think so Francie,' said Duncan. 'But would the King even notice the money's missing if it's only pound coins?' asked Bertie. 'Probably not, he's that rich, but that's not the point,' said Duncan. 'What we have here is an unsecured tunnel all the way to the palace, and it'll need to be concreted in.' He got some police tape out of his pouch and taped over the top of the tree stump and the friends gasped because the alien princess was still down there. 'Now, I'm going to go back to the station to make a report. We'll need to find you alternative accommodation while we sort this mess out. If you just wait here I'll send another officer to collect you,' said Duncan and he got back on his bike. 'The good news is you might get a reward for discovering the leak, just don't mention the burgers you bought,' and he rode away. Before Francie and Bertie had a chance to say anything the tree stump came flying open and all the tape ripped and the alien princess' robot ran out and chased after Duncan at high speed. Then the alien princess came out and said, 'I could

hear everything he was saying but don't worry, the robot'll sort it out.'

'It's not going to kill him is it?' asked Francie.

'Don't be silly,' said the alien princess and then the robot came wandering over holding the photocopy. 'I told it to do a memory ray on him so that he forgets all about the tunnel and the cave and the pound coins and he'll just get on with his business as if nothing happened.' Then the robot ate the photo copy because it had a shredder in it.

'Now give us another couple of minutes to finish off,' said the princess and her and the robot went back underground and made hi-tech noises again.

## the new house

Eventually the noises stopped and the alien princess shouted up, 'Stand away from the stump,' so Francie and Bertie stood behind Francie's tree. Then the tree stump suddenly burnt away in a flash but a new one without a lid rose out of the hole in its place.

Francie and Bertie said, 'Ohhhhhh!'

Then the alien princess rose up as if on a lift platform and stepped off and shot the stump with three different ray guns which were hi-tech tools.

'Right, it's finished,' she said. 'The first thing to notice is that I've replaced the lid and ladder with a lift platform which you should be able to use two at a time as long as you keep your arms in.'

'Oh a lift!' said Bertie.

'To get the lift to work it's got voice security so you need to stand on the stump and say a password and it'll take you down but only for you two and me if I visit,' said the princess. 'So Bertie, you go first so that it can store your password.' Bertie stood on the stump and thought for ages and then said, 'Ha ha, bear's bin!' but the princess said, 'No, nice and clear, without laughing' so Bertie did as he was told and the lift took him down.

The lift tube was see-through so he got a preview of all the stuff that the alien princess had installed for them but when he got to the bottom he just stood and waited beside the robot who said nothing and he was a bit afraid of it.

Francie chose the same password as Bertie and

the lift brought him and the princess into the cave. 'How did you get all this stuff down here?' asked Bertie.

'It was all miniaturized in the robot's pocket so we took out what we needed and shot it with a growing ray and then the robot set everything up to my specifications,' said the princess.

The princess sent her robot back up the lift and then gave Francie and Bertie a tour around their new home.

'Right well as you can see I went with an open plan approach for everything except the two bedrooms and the bathroom which are their own rooms and have carpets and doors that can be see-through or go solid for privacy. This area is the kitchen area with a cooker, fridge-freezer, sink, microwave, washing machine and waste disposal. All the appliances work as you'd expect Earth appliances to work except the cooker and the fridge which have got special alien technology in them so what you can do is select food on the telly in the living room area and it will be instantly printed out in the cooker or fridge depending on whether its hot or cold.'

'Gasp! That is out of this world!' said Bertie.

'Does it do sweets?' asked Francie.

'No, all the selections are based on what you could get at a local Earth supermarket but I've locked all the relatively unhealthy options to stop you getting fat,' said the alien princess.

'Does it do chips?' asked Bertie.

'It'll do healthy cut chips,' said the princess, 'and apart from ready to eat meals it can do raw ingredients if you ever want to try you hand at cooking.'

Francie made a face as if to say he didn't think he would.

The princess got on with the tour. 'If you're interested the food is made from powder cartridges that won't need to be changed for years so don't worry about that. The other thing to say is that you have to clear a space for the food to be printed in to. This isn't so much a problem in the cooker as you wouldn't stock food in it anyway, but try and leave a shelf in the fridge free.

There are full sets of cutlery and crockery in the drawers and cupboards along with a couple of

other appliances you might need.'

She walked them over to another part of the room.

'There's a dining table and chairs over here if you want to eat up at the table or else just use lap-trays here in the living room area. The telly on the wall is hooked up to tv and internet and the kitchen obviously and can also be used to access controls for the whole house but I've already set everything up so you wont need to touch them. There's a hands free phone over there that you can patch through to the telly for video conferencing. There are also a couple of tablet PCs dotted around for personal browsing.

The bathroom through here has a toilet, sink, bath and shower. The bedrooms have a bed, chest of drawers and wardrobe each.

Everything including the lights can be voice activated. All the electrics, plumbing, central heating, air conditioning and waste disposal are alien technology and will last for a thousand years. If you need to, through the telly you can access a digital manual and video tutorials that have been translated into your language or my number's

programmed into the phone if you're really stuck.  
Any questions?

'How do I do a pee, I really need a pee,' said Francie and he crossed his legs.

The alien princess tutted and said, 'I told you, the toilet's in the bathroom.'

'No, I know *where* to pee, but I don't know *how* to pee! I've never done a pee before!' said Francie.

The alien princess scanned him with a device and said, 'Your breadcrumb is just clothes and isn't attached to you, it should slide off in one-piece and underneath you'll find everything you'd expect to do the toilet out of.'

Francie pulled his arms inside his breadcrumb and wriggled it down so that you could see his bare top half which was white like inside a fish finger. Then he was about to climb out of it completely when the alien princess said, 'Wait til you get in the bathroom!' so he said sorry and shuffled into the bathroom and shut the door.

'I'm glad he asked because I've needed a poo and a pee since we came down here but was putting it off!' said Bertie and his face blushed.

Francie was away ages and when the princess

asked if there was anything the matter Francie said he couldn't get his breadcrumbs back on so the princess said there was some talc in the bathroom cabinet which did the trick.

Francie came out and said, 'What a relief, chief!' and then Bertie went in.

When Bertie came out the alien princess took them over to where the pound coin leak had been and said, 'What I haven't mentioned yet is that I've installed a screw in the wall that will draw through coins if you turn on this tap.' She turned the tap on and off and they heard a rumble and a jingle and £8 in pound coins poured out onto the floor. Francie was delighted and filled his cap but Bertie said, 'But isn't that stealing from the King?'

'Look, yous can't be expected to survive without any help from the state and you probably wont be eligible for benefits, so this is money to live off of,' said the princess.

'But we already get our food and electricity and everything for free now,' said Francie.

'I know, but the King's far too rich and I don't like him so just don't go nuts and get caught,' said the princess.

'We won't!' said Francie and Bertie and Francie put his cap on and all the coins fell on the floor.

'Right, I'm away,' said the princess and she started walking towards the lift.

'Will you not stay for dinner?' asked Bertie.

'No, I've stayed too long already, I've got business on another planet,' said the princess.

Francie and Bertie went back up to ground level with her to see her off.

'Now, don't let anyone ever see you coming in and out of your house because its the most advanced on the planet and you'll get it taken it off you,' said the princess.

'But what if someone does see us?' asked Bertie and he was thinking about Duncan the policeman.

The princess gave him a memory ray gun and said, 'Use this. I've programmed you two into it so if you shoot someone with it they'll forgot the last half a day or so they've spent with you. But its for emergencies only, its not a toy.'

Francie took the gun off Bertie and pretended to shoot him with it but the princess took it off him and gave it back to Bertie.

'Also, if that policeman comes back and happens

to ask what you're living off of, say a charity is helping you out. Here's a document with fake details that he can try and chase up but he'll just go round in circles,' said the princess and she gave that to Bertie as well.

Something dawned on Francie and he said, 'Duncan the policeman said we might get a reward for finding the tunnel but he won't remember that now will he?'

'Francie, you're so greedy!' said Bertie, 'We've just had a hi-tech house built for us and we've got a tap that pound coins come out of!'

Bertie and the princess looked at each other and shook their heads and Francie felt ashamed and jealous.

Then the princess made her spaceship go visible again so she could see it and as she was climbing in Francie suddenly thought he had something sensible to say and said, 'Oh! Keys!'

'I told you, the stump has voice security, you don't need a key,' said the princess.

'Ha ha! That's right, sorry!' said Francie and Bertie just shook his head again. They both said, 'Thanks again!' and waved and the spaceship flew away up

to space.

### they phone a chippy

Francie and Bertie went back underground and just stood and laughed for a bit at all their new stuff because they couldn't quite believe it and then Bertie walked over to the telly and said, 'Right, what do you want for dinner?'

'A ch-ch-ch-chippy!' said Francie and put his arms in the air.

'Ha ha! Good call, what do you want?' said Bertie.

'Chicken supper,' said Francie, 'and a roll and a can.'

Bertie cleared his throat and said to the telly, 'Telly, can we have two chippy chicken breast suppers and two rolls printed in the kitchen please, and what fizzy juice do you do?'

The telly had a voice like the alien princess and said, 'I don't understand chippy. You can have two roast chicken dinners with potatoes and veg and sugar free soft drinks, please confirm?' and

showed them a picture of a nice chicken dinner.

Bertie turned round and looked apologetic at Francie who was already standing beside the

cooker waiting for his chippy.

'Not the same,' said Francie and then he shouted over, 'Telly, look up the number of a local fish and chip shop and dial it on the phone!'

The chicken dinner on the telly disappeared and a website for a chippy appeared instead and then they heard the number being dialed.

'Ha ha! Nice one Francie' said Bertie.

Bertie did the order and when the delivery boy arrived the alien princess must have installed a camera in the stump because they could see him on the telly. Francie took some pound coins up in the lift and also the memory gun to shoot the delivery boy after he'd paid him.

They sat and ate their chippy in the living room area and watched the delivery boy on the telly until he came to his senses and went away. Then they watched a film about a crime caper from about halfway through.

## epilogue

After dinner Bertie was scraping rubbish into the waste disposal and Francie was standing in the lift tube looking up.

'Bertie, the lift is also the lid of the stump, so if there's ever a fire and we need to get out of here in a hurry we'll need to wait for the lift to come down first! We'll be burnt to a crisp!' said Francie. Bertie came over and had a look and said, 'You've got a point Francie.'

'Should we phone the alien princess?' asked Francie.

'No lets try the telly first, its supposed to have video tutorials,' said Bertie so they went over to the telly and asked it what to do in an emergency.

'Stand in the tube and say 'Emergency,' said the telly, 'would you like to watch a video tutorial?'

'No thanks,' said Francie and he ran back to the tube.

'Wait, Francie, it's not an emergency,' said Bertie.

'We need to do a fire drill to be safe, Bertie,' said Francie so Bertie got into the tube with him and they both shouted, 'Emergency!' The lid/lift disappeared to nothing and a blast of air shot

Francie and Bertie up the tube and into the night air and they came back down and splashed in the pond and all the fish were laughing at them.

'I don't believe it, soaking again!' said Bertie.

'Wait, I've got an idea Bertie!' said Francie and he pulled himself out of the pond and ran over to the stump. The lid had reappeared so he stood on it and held his hat on tight and shouted, 'Emergency!' The lid disappeared and he fell down the tube a bit but the blast of air brought him back out and he landed on the grass beside the stump. Then he went back and did it again and again.

Bertie came running over and said, 'Francie, what do you think you're playing at?' and Francie said, 'Eh, Bertie, that's me just about bone dry!' so Bertie started doing it too until they were both dry.

'I suppose we'd better get back inside and think about heading to bed,' said Bertie.

Francie looked up at his tree and said, 'I think I'd actually be more comfy sleeping on my branch, you know.'

'Francie, we haven't even been in the new bedrooms yet, we don't know how comfy the beds are. But I had a great nights sleep last night

on my lily-pad, and it does stink of chippys down there...' said Bertie.

'Right well lets sleep up here on nights when its dry and go underground when its cold or if it rains,' said Francie.

'Ha ha! Sounds good!' said Bertie.

So that's what they did from then on and in future stories now you know how they pay for things.

**THE END**

## Other stories I still might write -

The funny fish fingers friends' third adventure –  
the king's laptop

The funny fish finger friends' fourth adventure -  
the climbing frame hotel

