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Daisy: How's the birthday boy?!

Oliver: Fine! It's awesome. Even the weather is good!

Alfie: So why are you in Switzerland? I thought your mum was taking you to the Italian lakes ...

Oliver: When we landed at the airport, the day before yesterday, the friend of hers who's looking after us suggested a few days in the mountains, here in Switzerland. He's showing us the different regions and teaching us about the food before visiting Como and Milan. He's a brilliant chef, by the way.

Daisy: So what's your schedule?

Oliver: Well, the plan is four days here in Switzerland – this is the third day – and then four days in Italy.

Daisy: Ah, OK. And is the internet connection good?

Oliver: This is Switzerland, sis; everything is good! The Swiss seem incredibly organised and the technology here is first class. The only problem is we'll be moving around a lot – a different place every day. But I'll try to connect from the hotel every evening.

Daisy: Cool.

Alfie: Anyway, tell us stuff! Have you had any birthday presents? Are you having fun?

Oliver: Presents – yes, my sister there hid a little parcel in my suitcase, so when I was unpacking the case I had a really cool surprise.

Alfie: And have you opened the parcel? What was in it?

Oliver: A special cheese knife! I'm glad you didn't put it in the bag I took as hand luggage, Daisy!

Daisy: I'm not totally stupid ...

Oliver: Anyway, it's the perfect present for Switzerland. The cheese here is amazing! Oh, and I've learned to make Raclette, one of the most popular cheese dishes. We can try it when I get home.

Daisy: You're not bringing cheese home on the plane, are you?! The smell will be terrible ...

Oliver: No, no, don't worry. But I'll bring some chocolate. The chocolate here is the best in the world, or so they say.

Alfie: No watches? The Swiss watch is an amazing piece of engineering ...

Oliver: Mmm, agreeing but the prices are amazing too ... haha. What else? Oh, the scenery is incredible! The Alps are so dramatic! They're like ... like the poster you've got in your room, Daisy.

Daisy: The poster of the Himalayas next to the window?...

Oliver: OK. Similar. The highest mountains in Europe are in the Alps. We were near Mont Blanc yesterday. That's the highest in Europe. Oh, and we saw some of the United Nations buildings in Geneva; they're very impressive. And the International Red Cross headquarters is in Geneva too. I really liked the building, it's very elegant and different – not a typical office building at all.

Alfie: So what about Italy? What are you going to see there?

Oliver: Well, we're starting in Como in the north – I think Mum is hoping to see George Clooney at the bus stop – he's got a house near Como – and there's a funicular railway, so we'll take the funicular to the top to a restaurant where the views are amazing. And I want to try the ice cream of course! And then Milan – the Duomo, the cathedral there, the clothes shops – hey Daisy – and Mum wants to take me to see The Last Supper ...

Alfie: Oh, wow! That's awesome – I know that painting. Da Vinci. Really famous ...

Oliver: That's the one – and she wants to go to the opera too. The Scala.

Daisy: You're going to the opera?!

Oliver: Well, I'd rather go to the football, but hey ... and of course, we're going to try the food – the pasta, the pizzas, the meat ...

Alfie: I envy you, mate!

Oliver: Hey, do you want to talk to Mum? She's here ...

Daisy: Yeah, sure. Hey, it's really good to hear you – I'm glad you're having a fantastic time. And happy birthday!!