



Mona's Dad Has Some Ideas

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Mona's family lives an all-around ordinary life. She attends an ordinary school and her parents go to ordinary jobs. Later, her family spends ordinary time together at home. Then one completely ordinary day, Mona's dad decides to change his life.

"Otherwise, I won't have any memories to remember when I'm old or any stories to tell the coming generations," he says. But how to go about the task? Should he become an art collector or a globetrotter? What if he spiced up his days with exotic foods or embarked upon a writing career? Perhaps life could be made more exciting by moving or picking up a new sport? And why not go back to university? It's quite a challenge for Mona and her mom to keep up with her headstrong pops.



Reading sample

Chapter 1

One entirely normal Monday, Mona's father decided things had to change. If they didn't, they'd have nothing worth remembering at the end of their lives, and no fabulous stories to pass on to their kids and grandkids. Just the idea of being a boring grandfather to Mona's future children made him worry.

Everything in Mona's family was actually great. They were thriving! Mona went to school, Dad and Mom went to work, and they spent all their free time together at home. None of them had any big hobbies or favorite activities. For variety, they had their lazy cat Roosi, whom they sometimes took on short walks, and their neighbors, whom they greeted politely every day.

At the kitchen table one morning, Dad sighed and said, "I'm bored!" He peered at the rest of the family.

Mona and her mom paid no attention at first and continued eating their breakfast. Mom had made some delicious oatmeal, and Mona couldn't get over how good it was!

"I repeat, I'm bored." Dad said again. He laid his newspaper on the table like he had something important to say. On the front of the newspaper was an eye-catching photo of a man who collected postcards from around the world. "A person ought to do something fun with their life, even if it's just collecting postcards."

Dad's desperate words had caught everyone's attention. Mona stared at her father, and a bit of oatmeal slid from her spoon and plopped back into her bowl. Mom hid her face behind her coffee cup and widened her eyes at Mona.

"Yes, I want to do something interesting with my life." Dad looked at Mona and Mom and then smiled widely.

"But Dad, your life is already interesting," said Mona. "You have a super cool job, an awesome family, and a beautiful place to live."

"And the neighbors adore us," Mom said proudly. "They've never lived in a building with such calm and peaceful neighbors."

"But--" Dad started to say, but Mona interrupted.

"Dad, you shouldn't live a life that's too interesting," Mona reminded him. "That's what you said when I wanted to join soccer club, art club, folk dance club, and music club all at the same time."

"But--" Dad started again, but Mom interrupted this time.

"Dear, I agree with Mona," Mom said,

giving Dad a hug. "Everything in our life is perfect: good and calm."

"Exactly! Good and calm ... I can't take it anymore!" Dad said firmly. He wriggled out of Mom's hug and opened his laptop. "If no one in this family can help me, then the internet will."

Mona's father typed in different keywords and read some articles about how people spend their free time. The list of hobbies could fill an entire room, each more impressive than the last, and some so popular that almost everyone in the world gave them a try.

To make his choice easier, Dad made a big chart of hobbies and stuck it to the door of the fridge. In the first slot was the surprisingly popular polar plunge. Gardening came second, and identifying animal tracks came third. These were followed by photography, e-shopping, reading, collecting art, sunbathing, cooking, genealogy, choir, fishing, and lastly, the good ol' collecting of candy wrappers.

It was an impressive list, but not one of them tempted Mona's father at first. In reality, Dad mostly liked stretching out on the couch and nibbling pastries. He couldn't see himself swimming in freezing water, digging around in a muddy garden, or following animal tracks for miles and miles. But whenever he lay down, he felt restless. Something had to change in his and his family's lives....

Things were normal for the next few days. Mom and Mona were glad that Dad had just been blowing off steam and didn't actually do anything after all.... But just at the calmest, most peaceful part of one day, Dad sprang from the sofa and shouted so loudly that all the neighbors could hear, "I've got it! I've got it! I'VE GOT IT!"

Dad jumped up and down and cheered. He danced with Mom and twirled Mona. He ordered a fancy cake from the store and served everyone orange juice in festive crystal glasses. Mona and her mother didn't know what to think yet, but they knew that life would never be the same.

