

## S/A(J (DOKSON'S Sweet Escape

## For my family, who love chocolate as much as I do.

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SALLY MURPHY



## CHAPTER 1



ye Sage! Don't forget me, will you?'
'As if!' My friend Lucy is so
totally not the kind of friend you
could forget. Even if you wanted to, which
I don't.

We've been friends since we met in the book corner on the first day of kindy. Back then we connected because we both loved the same book: *Are You My Mother?* by Dr Seuss. Now we still love reading the same books, but we also love lots of other things:

shopping, movies, rollerskating along the river near our houses, animals – just about everything, in fact. We have so much in common.

'And bring me back something yummy!' Lucy calls after me, her dark hair bobbing.

'Will see what I can manage,' I reply as I open the door of Mum's car, which has just pulled into the school pick-up bay.

That's another reason Lucy and I are such good friends. She's happy for me that I get to travel and see such interesting places. Some of the kids at school seem a bit jealous when I come back talking about the places I've seen. Others think it's weird how I miss so much school. But Lucy just accepts it as part of who I am.

'Have a brilliant time!' she calls after me. I wave out the window as Mum pulls away from the kerb, carefully guiding her little black sports car into the traffic.

I think Lucy actually likes having a friend who travels so much. I share my adventures with her as much as I can.

While I'm away we exchange emails, and chat on the phone nearly every day. And on this trip, for the first time, we will be able to keep in touch via text message. At last our parents have agreed that we can have mobile phones to stay in contact.

'So long as you don't overdo it.' That was what my dad said.

'And no texts during school hours or after bedtime.' That was what Lucy's mum said.

'Yippee!' was what Lucy and I both said, hugging each other excitedly.

So saying goodbye to Lucy this time around hasn't been quite as hard as usual.