

The L^oST ThiNG

by
Shaun
Tan.

A tale for those who have more important things to pay attention to.

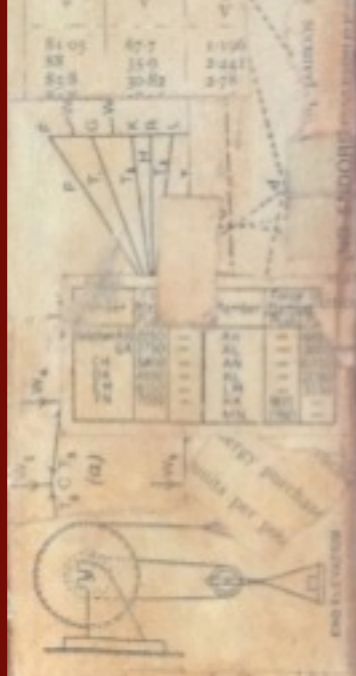
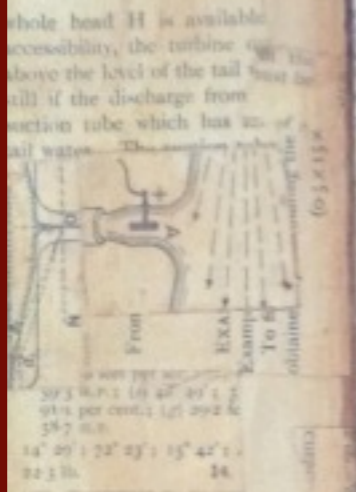
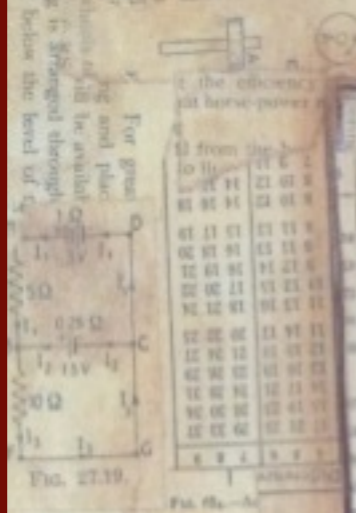
So you want to hear a story?

Well, I used to know a whole lot of pretty interesting ones. Some of them so funny you'd laugh yourself unconscious, others so terrible you'd never want to repeat them.

But I can't remember any of those.

So I'll just tell you about the time I found that lost thing.

QUANTITATIVE ELECTROSTATICS
ELECTROSTATIC APPARATUS



This all happened a few summers ago, one rather ordinary day by the beach. Not much was going on. I was, as usual, working tirelessly on my bottle-top collection and stopped to look up for no particular reason. That's when I first saw the thing.

I must have stared at it for a while. I mean, it had
a really weird look about it — a sad, lost sort of look.
Nobody else seemed to notice it was there.
Too busy doing beach stuff, I guess.



Naturally, I was intrigued.
I decided to investigate.



sure didn't do much.



It just sat there,



looking out of place.



I was baffled.





It was quite friendly though, once I started talking to it.



ANTI-LOGARITHMS

I played with the thing for most of the afternoon. It was great fun, yet I couldn't help feeling that something wasn't quite right.



Kinematics



Exercice 72*



WELLENVOIR

As the hours slouched by, it seemed less and less likely that anybody was coming to take the thing home. There was no denying the unhappy truth of the situation. It was lost.





I asked a few people if they knew anything about it, but nobody was very helpful.



35.14. The Principle of the Alternator. alternator is a machine for converting mech into electrical energy and its principle c

TRIGONOMETRICAL FUNCTIONS



I took the lost thing over to Pete's place. Pete has an opinion on just about everything.



'Cool,' he said.

'I'm trying to find out who owns it,' I told him.
'I dunno, man,' said Pete. 'It's pretty weird. Maybe it doesn't belong to anyone. Maybe it doesn't come from anywhere. Some things are like that...'
He paused for dramatic effect, '...just plain lost.'





2 Scale 18

3 Seeing Things 28

4 Reality 43

5 The

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There was nothing left to do but take the thing home with me. I mean, I couldn't just leave it wandering the streets. Plus I felt kind of sorry for it.



My parents didn't really notice it at first.
Too busy discussing current events, I guess.



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
USE AND ABUSE OF
other end is the cathode, K.

Eventually I had to point it out to them.
'Its feet are filthy!' shrieked Mum.
'It could have all kinds of strange diseases,' warned Dad.
'Take it back to where you found it,' they demanded,
both at the same time.
'It's lost,' I said, but they had already started talking
about something else.



25.1. Electrolytes and ENGINE CYCLES

liquids, such as fused sodium chloride, will react a variety of elements, such as iron, copper, etc.

Exercise 15b

I hid the thing in our back shed and gave it something to eat, once I found out what it liked. It seemed a bit happier then, even though it was still lost:

I checked the local paper for any lost pet notices, but only found a lot of good deals on refrigerator repairs. I remember thinking then that Pete was probably right, that some things were just plain lost. In any case, I sure couldn't keep the thing in the shed forever. Mum or Dad would eventually notice it when they came out looking for a hammer or something.



It was a real dilemma.

I was wondering what to do when a small advertisement on the last page of the paper happened to catch my eye.

ritae opacus.

Double sided for extra adhesion and durable enough to withstand the toughest bureaucratic exercises. No office desk is complete without a good spool of 20mm industrial-strength Red Tape. ORDER NOW!!!



RECALL

ly lethal
een identi-
model 350A
'k & Slice'
heet-cutters
before June
2:23pm.
replacement
ocal Product
got, with ap-
pliance
registration
ne Federal De-
of Automated
es apologises
inconvenience.

ARE YOU FINDING THAT
THE ORDER OF DAY-TO-DAY LIFE
IS UNEXPECTEDLY DISRUPTED BY

UNCLAIMED
PROPERTY?
OBJECTS
WITHOUT
NAMES?



TROUBLESOME
ARTIFACTS OF
UNKNOWN
ORIGIN?

FILING
CABINET
LEFTOVERS?

THINGS THAT
JUST DON'T
BELONG?

DON'T PANIC!

We've got a pigeon hole to stick it in.



Downtown,
6328th Street
Tall Grey Building #357b

We understand that at the end of
all that matters is the balance

DAY OR NIGHT
CALL OUT MOBIL
VISUAL TECHNICAL

Instant, on-the-spot compositional

- No location too obscure!
- No client too irritating!
- No plumbing too hard to draw!



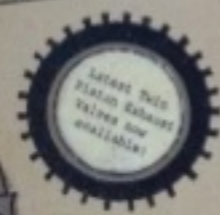
Can't seem to find
C56/b transistor
regulator with
ing field coil
when you need one
YOU'RE IN LUCK



Flywheels, gears,
wind-up things, fan
hard-to-find alter
Look for the giant
southbound express

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|--------|-------|
| | |
| A21/C | 2X40 |
| | |
| DDU98 | 2x(a) |
| | |
| MU84-C | GL56 |

Service Announcement
OUR DIODES



REMEMBER:

APPLIANCE



The next morning we caught a tram into the city.



... Governing of Compression-ignit ... FORCE ON CURRENT



DEAR SIR,
LABORATORIES
SAVE UP TO 50%

50 ADVANCED 1936 FEATURES

MAIL COUPON 10044

We arrived at a tall grey building with no windows. It was pretty dark in there, and it smelt like disinfectant. 'I have a lost thing,' I called to the receptionist at the front desk. 'Fill in these forms,' she said.



The lost thing made a small, sad noise.



Fig. 17.10 by the temperature of the air after compression becomes all the amount of fuel injected.



1. Vacuum.—A perfect vacuum would be an absolute empty space. This has never been achieved and probably never will be.

CONVERGENCY AND DIVERGENCY OF SERIES. 02 4

I was looking around for a pen when I felt something tug the back of my shirt.

'If you really care about that thing, you shouldn't leave it here,' said a tiny voice. 'This is a place for forgetting, leaving behind, smoothing over. Here, take this.'



It was a business card with a kind of sign on it. It wasn't very important looking, but it did seem to point somewhere. 'Cheers,' I said.

At this point we left that tall grey building



and hunted all over the place for this sign.





It wasn't an easy job,



and I can't say I knew what it all meant.

Eventually we found what seemed to be the right place, in a dark little gap off some anonymous little street. The sort of place you'd never know existed unless you were actually looking for it.



I pressed a buzzer on the wall and this big door opened up.

Component	Volumetric Analysis or No. of mols N	Molecular Weight or mass per mol, M	Product NM	Analysis by Weight NM
1	1.000	100.0	100.0	100.0
2	2.000	200.0	200.0	200.0
3	3.000	300.0	300.0	300.0
4	4.000	400.0	400.0	400.0
5	5.000	500.0	500.0	500.0
6	6.000	600.0	600.0	600.0
7	7.000	700.0	700.0	700.0
8	8.000	800.0	800.0	800.0
9	9.000	900.0	900.0	900.0
10	10.000	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0



I didn't know what to think, but the lost thing made an approving sort of noise. It seemed as good a time as any to say goodbye to each other. So we did.



Then I went home to classify my bottle-top collection.

Well, that's it. That's the story.
Not especially profound, I know, but I
never said it was.
And don't ask me what the moral is.



I mean, I can't say that the thing
actually belonged in the place where it
ended up. In fact, none of the things
there really belonged. They all seemed
happy enough though, so maybe that
didn't matter. I don't know...

I still think about that lost thing
from time to time. Especially when
I see something out of the corner of
my eye that doesn't quite fit.



You know, something with a weird,
sad, lost sort of look.

I see that sort of thing less
and less these days though.



Maybe there aren't many lost
things anymore.

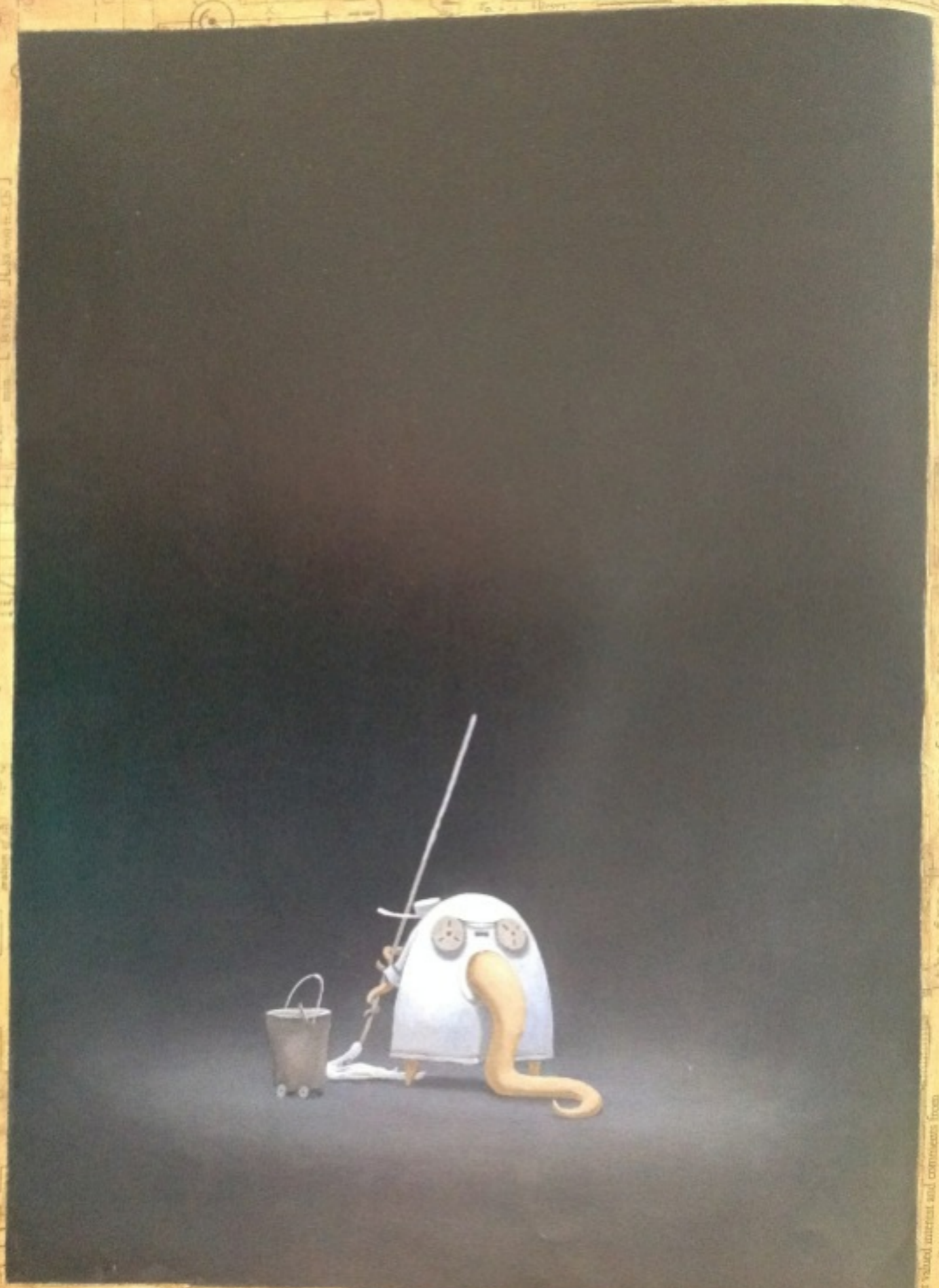


Or maybe I've just stopped
noticing them.



Too busy doing other stuff,
I guess.





valued interest and comments from
Jonathani, Keira, Robia,

the free lit

centre folk

The Finkmei et al.

AND APOLOGIES to

Edward Lippe
Jeffrey Smart,



Greetings from Suburbia

T

ST. ALDYSIUS' SCHOOL LIBRARY
106579

Priority
 Regular ← MAIL THIS WAY

INSERT MESSAGE
242-6/0/99

Hi Pete!

How's your summer going?
Mine's OK, stuff happening +
all... Finally got the plumb-
ing in my room fixed,
reclassified my bottle top
collection and completely
assassinated Maxine at
chess (again!)....
Oh yeah, and that Lost
Thing - remind me to tell
you about it sometime.

CLEARED
by relevant authority

Good luck in the Applied
Industrial Algebra finals
Cheers, Shaun.

ADDRESS (print clearly)

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GREATER SUBURBIA 86242

PKAUS Service

For best results
SCAN HERE

ISBN 0-7344-0074-8



Picture Book Reference No. 8

pass
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 forward to censor

INSPECTOR'S COMMENT

No perceptible threat to
the order of day to day
existence. Inconsequent
Safe for public consump