1. **Your story must take place at either an AIRPORT or TRAIN STATION.**
2. **Your story must feature an awkward hug.***(You don’t need to use those words, but the awkwardness should be clear!)*
3. **Your story must include the words EIGHTEEN, EGG and ELEPHANT.***(Longer words are okay if original spelling is retained.)*

“All Aboard!” Simone heard the call. Knowing she was already late, she hesitated, but knew she had to go into the living room to investigate. She went in to see her twin sons playing with the train set they had been given for Christmas.

“Look out Mum! You’re standing right in the middle of the train station! See – we even have a ticket office so we can collect passengers and take them along to the zoo!” Fred excitedly pointed to the duplo zoo that he and his brother, Leo, had set up on the other side of the coffee table. She had to admire their creativity, combining the games they already had with the new ones.

“So, who is in the zoo?”, she asked.

“We found most of the animals from the set – the elephant, the giraffe, the polar bear and the panda. Although Mum, really, where in the world would they all live together?”

Simone laughed with her sons. Only eight now but they were growing so quickly, smart and funny and clever. She had only been eighteen when she’d found out she was pregnant. Not some childhood romance she could marry and live happily after either. Sure, he had been a friend, but no more than that. An awkward hug at a drunken party had led to a life of single motherhood that she wouldn’t exchange for anything.

She’d never understood biology and didn’t really know how one egg had split without breaking and given her the two gorgeous boys that she had. Simone just knew that she was lucky to have an instant family. Yes, it had been hard at first, but the twin mother’s group helped so much, showing her how to set up routines and rosters, and helping her out with meals. Now even a babysitter, from one of the group who had grown old enough to take on the responsibility.

Simone looked at her phone to check the time if she left now she could catch the 7:40 train and still get to work on time. She gave each of her boys a kiss farewell, some last-minute instructions to Louise the babysitter and rushed out the door, hoping to get on the train before the “All Aboard” call came.