



There He Is!

GOLDIE GROSSBAUM

THEY'RE ALL BACK.

It was one week of camp for boys and one week of camp for girls, and there's nothing like having them all back under my roof.

This time two of my boys went, which doubled the amount of time I had to spend dissecting pictures.

The camp was so kind and sent 378 pictures over the week. But it's a double-edged sword.

Either I can't find my kids in them, so I panic. Or I find them, but I can't read the expression on their faces, so I panic. Or the picture catches just a sliver of a right ear, so I panic.

I can't win.

You'd think by the fourth year of sending kids to winter camp—and it's only one week—I'd be getting better at it. But nope. It's just one of the many mysteries of motherhood.

But this time, I *really* panicked.

I scanned each picture, looking for secret messages of how my boys were doing.

After all, it was my nine-year-old's first time going to camp; he needed a bit of extra worrying.

The pictures were looking good. I saw the hood of his sweater in one. The tip of his nose in another. And I'm almost sure I recognized the corner of

his sneaker in a third.

And then, finally, on hike day, there he is! I can't see his face, but there he is, walking along the path with everyone.

But wait a second. I take a closer look. I enlarge it on my phone screen. I rotate it.

This doesn't make sense.

Everyone is walking on a straight path. And my son is walking to the far right. Everyone is going in one direction, and he is going off to the side.

Why is he going off to the side?

I zoom in, I zoom out. Yes, he's definitely going away from the group.

He's not a wanderer. *But why is he wandering away?*

I'm really in a panic.

He's wandering away and no one even notices.

I check again. Yes, every single kid is focused on walking ahead, and no one sees him wandering off.

Where's the counselor?

He's not there. Well, not in the picture.

I quickly forward the picture to my Whatsapp group of close friends, fellow moms who I know would understand my panic.

Do you see what's wrong with this picture? I quickly message. I don't want to sound neurotic; I wait to see if they see what I see.

I anxiously wait for an answer. No one replies.

I try to relax. *I'm sure everything is okay*, I tell myself. *Stop overreacting.*

I look at the picture again, which hasn't changed since just a few moments before. He's still wandering off.

Should I call the camp director and tell him?

No, I can't be *that* type of mom.

But what if he did wander off?

I wait an hour, which feels like

forever, until my husband gets home.

"Any pictures from camp?" he asks.

"Oh, you bet! Wait till you see this one!"

I try to hide my neurosis and casually show him the hiking picture.

"Nice. They're going on a hike." He points to our nine-year-old in the photo. "Look, he's right there, the first in the line."

"The first in the line? I thought he was wandering off.."

"Wandering off? They're going around a bend, and he's the first one there, leading the way to the right."

Oh.

If only moms were gifted with the same (un)common sense as dads. 🙄

Goldie Grossbaum and her husband, Rabbi Yossi, direct Chabad of Folsom, California, with the help of their children. To read more of Goldie's musings, visit littleyellownotepad.com.

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Shaar blatt

Title page

Shabbos

Sabbath, seventh day, on Saturday

shadchan/shadchanim

Matchmaker(s)

shalom bayis

Marital peace and harmony

Shamayim

Sky, heavens, or G-d

Shana Tovah

Good year

Shavuos

Holiday of Pentecost commemorating the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai

shechitah

Ritual slaughter

sheitel

Wig

sheva brachos

Festivities which take place for seven days following a Jewish wedding; also the blessings said at the wedding

shidduch/shidduchim

Proposed marital match

shiur/shiurim

Study periods, lectures, les-

sons, or prescribed amounts

shivah

7-day period of intense mourning following death of immediate relative

Shiach/shlucha/shluchim/shluchos

1. Messenger 2. Emissary of the Rebbe male/female/ male plural/female plural

shlichus

Mission

shloshim

30-day mourning period

shochet/shochtim

Ritual slaughterer(s)

shul

Synagogue

Shulchan Aruch

Code of Jewish law

Shvigger

Mother-in-law

sichah/sichos

Address(es) delivered by Rebbe, lit. conversational segment(s)

Sifrei

Books of

sifrei kodesh

Holy books

simchah

Joyous event(s), or a state

of joy

Simchas hachayim

joie de vivre

Simchas Torah

Festival of rejoicing with the Torah, which occurs at the end of Sukkos

Sukkos

Holiday in Tishrei during which we commemorate clouds of glory which protected Jews for 40 years in desert

taharas hamishpachah

Laws of family purity

talmid chacham/

talmidei chachamim

Scholar(s) of Jewish studies

Talmud

Compendium of Jewish Law

Tammuz

Tenth Jewish month

Tanya

Magnum opus of the Alter Rebbe

tbl"ch

May she be separated for life (from one who died)

tefillah/tefillos

Prayer(s)

tefillin

Phylacteries

Tehillim

Psalms

Tishah b'Av

Ninth day in Hebrew month of Av commemorating the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem

Tishrei

First month of the year in which Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkos take place

treif

Not kosher

tyere

Dear

tzadik/tzadikim

Righteous man (men)

tzedakah

Charity

Tzemach Tzedek

Rabbi Menachem Mendel, third Chabad Rebbe (1789-1866)

Tzidkeinu

Our righteous

tzitzis

Fringes men are required to wear on four cornered garment

tznius/tzniusdik

Modesty in dress and behavior (noun/adj.)

V'ahavta l'reiacha

Love your fellow as yourself

varemkeit

Warm/warmth

yahrtzeit

Annual date of death

Yaldei hashluchim

The children of shluchim

yarmulke

Skullcap

yasher koach

More power to you, an expression of thanks

ybl"ch

Acronym for yibadel l'chaim, words to separate the name of a person who is alive from the name of one who is not alive

yechidus

Private audience with Rebbe

yeshiva

Torah school

yeshuah v'hatzalah

Salvation and relief

yetzer hara

Evil inclination

Yid/Yidden

Jew(s)

Yiddish

1. Jewish 2. the language called Yiddish

Yiddishkeit

Judaism

Yom Kippur

Day of Atonement

Yom Tov

Jewish holiday

yovel

Fiftieth year in the 50-year cycle of the Jewish calendar

Yud Shvat

10th day of Shvat, passing of Friediker Rebbe, day the seventh Rebbe became Rebbe

yungermahn

Young married man

z"l

Zichrono livrachah. May his memory be a blessing

Zaide

Grandfather

zal

Study hall

zchus, zchuyos

Merit (n)

zocheh

Merit (v)

zol gezunt zein

Should be healthy