

The Great Company Adventures • Book 6 of 50

AIRBUS THE PLANE FOUR COUNTRIES BUILT

A curious girl, three wise mentors, and the wing that four countries built to carry the whole world across the sky.

"Discovering the businesses that built the modern world"

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THE GREAT COMPANY ADVENTURES

Discovering the businesses that built the modern world.

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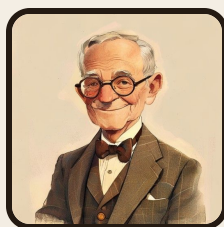
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MEET THE CHARACTERS



SIRI



BEN



WARREN



CHARLIE



COLETTE

A curious girl named Siri, a wise old teacher named Ben, and his student Warren with Warren's partner Charlie — together discovering the businesses that built the modern world, one adventure at a time.

THE GLOBAL 50

One great company per volume · Fifty adventures, one modern world

SPACE & EXPLORATION

1. SpaceX — *“The Fire That Comes Back”*

MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING

2. Toyota — *“The River That Builds Cars”*
3. Siemens — *“The Factory That Builds Factories”*
4. Caterpillar — *“The Machines That Move Mountains”*
5. Boeing — *“The Bird With Six Million Pieces”*
6. Airbus — *“The Plane Four Countries Built”*

ENERGY & INDUSTRY

7. Shell — *“The Sunlight Buried at Sea”*
8. ExxonMobil — *“The Ancient Sunlight Machine”*
9. GE Vernova — *“The Wheel That Makes Lightning”*

COMMUNICATION

10. AT&T — *“The Voice Inside the Wire”*
11. Qualcomm — *“The Whisper in the Air”*
12. Ericsson — *“The Towers That Talk”*

TRANSPORTATION

13. Tesla — *“The Car With No Engine”*
14. John Deere — *“The Machine That Feeds the World”*
15. UPS — *“The Promise in a Brown Truck”*

INFRASTRUCTURE

16. ABB — *“The Arms That Never Tire”*
17. Schneider Electric — *“The Guardian of the Grid”*

MATERIALS

18. Corning — *“The Thread of Light”*
19. DuPont — *“The Inventors of Almost Everything”*

SCIENCE & TOOLS

20. 3M — *“The Factory of Ten Thousand Ideas”*
21. Bosch — *“The Spark in Every Machine”*
22. Honeywell — *“The Dial That Tames the Weather”*

MEDICINE & BIOTECHNOLOGY

23. Pfizer — *“The Shield in a Tiny Vial”*
24. Roche — *“The Detectives of the Blood”*

25. Novo Nordisk — *“The Key to a Billion Locks”*

26. Johnson & Johnson — *“The Little Bandage That Grew”*

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

27. Nestlé — *“The Cup That Wakes the World”*
28. Cargill — *“The Invisible Harvest”*

FINANCE & COMMERCE

29. Visa — *“The Handshake Inside the Card”*
30. Mastercard — *“The Two-Second Trust Machine”*
31. Walmart — *“The Store That Never Runs Out”*
32. Costco — *“The Treasure Warehouse”*
33. FedEx — *“The Race Against the Sun”*

CONSUMER INNOVATION

34. Disney — *“The Factory of Dreams”*
35. LEGO — *“The Brick That Builds Anything”*
36. Sony — *“The Pocket Full of Music”*
37. Coca-Cola — *“The Secret in the Red Can”*
38. Nike — *“The Shoe That Learned to Fly”*

LUXURY & CRAFTSMANSHIP

39. Rolex — *“The Heartbeat on Your Wrist”*
40. LVMH — *“The Suitcase That Conquered the World”*

COMPUTING & DIGITAL CIVILIZATION

41. Apple — *“The Glass That Thinks”*
42. Microsoft — *“The Invisible Machine”*
43. Google — *“The Library With No Walls”*
44. Amazon — *“The Box That Crossed the World”*
45. NVIDIA — *“The Brain Made of Sand”*
46. Intel — *“The First Thinking Chip”*
47. TSMC — *“The Invisible City”*
48. ASML — *“The Machine That Prints With Light”*
49. OpenAI — *“The Machine That Learned to Talk”*

THE FINAL DISCOVERY

50. The Company Yet to Be Built — *“The Adventure You Will Build”*

THE WING THAT CROSSED THE SKY AT MIDNIGHT

Midnight. Homework: unfinished. And Grandpa Ben's old brass compass? Spinning like a top.

SPIN

The needle locked — on her paper airplane. Beyond the window, a real jet blinked across the dark.

YOU? You're just folded paper!

The magic diary flipped open by itself. Fresh ink. Grandpa's handwriting.

It's never done THIS before...

"Time to meet the businesses that built the modern world. Start with the thing that shouldn't fly."

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

A paper plane barely crosses a room. Yet a machine as heavy as seventy elephants floats calmly six miles up, for fourteen hours. Same sky, same air — so what does the big one know that the paper one doesn't?

The window rippled. A whirlpool of blue light swept her up.

WHOOSH



Here we GOOO!



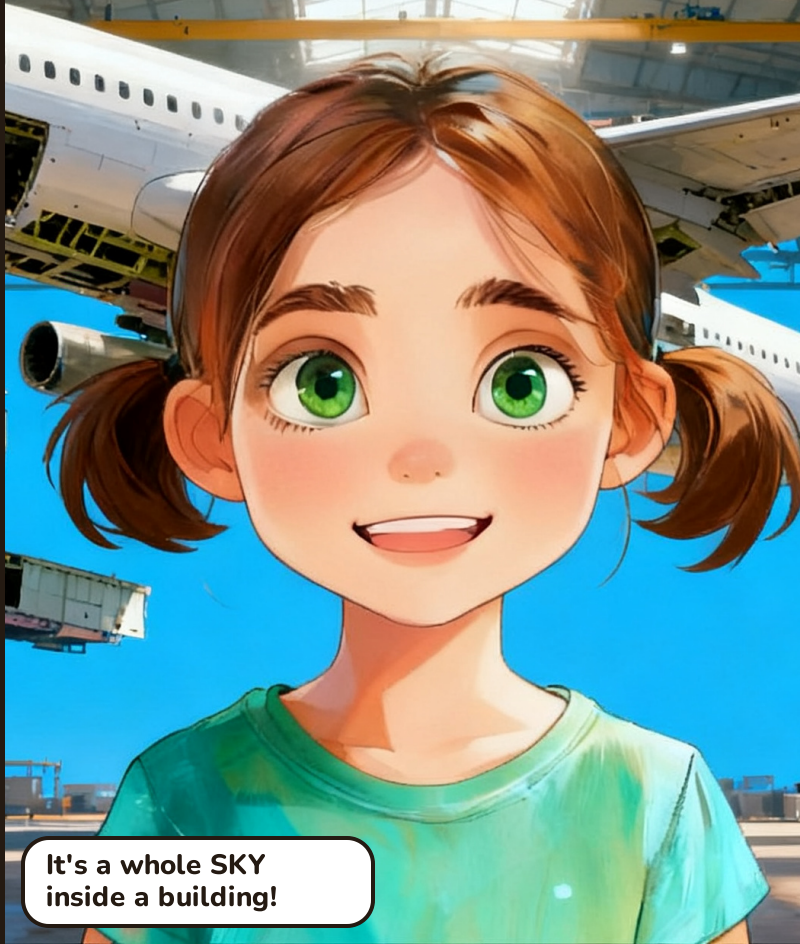
SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

New mystery! ✈️

- ① How does a machine heavier than a house float on thin air?
- ② Grandpa says ONE wing is built by four countries. Four?! Prove it.

A JIGSAW THE SIZE OF A HOUSE

She landed in a hall so vast it had its own weather — and a jumbo jet hung in pieces.



It's a whole SKY inside a building!

A young engineer in an orange-striped jumpsuit waved. "I'm Colette. I test planes before they're allowed to fly."



Best. Job. EVER.

Wings. A long silver tube. A tall tail. Two engines like barrels. Wheels taller than Siri.



How many pieces?!

Millions. From dozens of countries.

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

An airliner is a flying town: four million parts, a hundred miles of wiring, and a wing that can hold a swimming pool of fuel. It cruises where the air is too thin to breathe and too cold to touch — yet inside, you nap.

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

4,000,000 parts. 100 miles of wire. Wheels taller than me. 🔍 Colette says every part hides a secret. First up: how does the wing hold the whole thing UP?

THE SECRET OF LIFT

3a The first secret: what holds it up?

Colette handed Siri a paper plane. "Throw it. Then tell me what the AIR did."



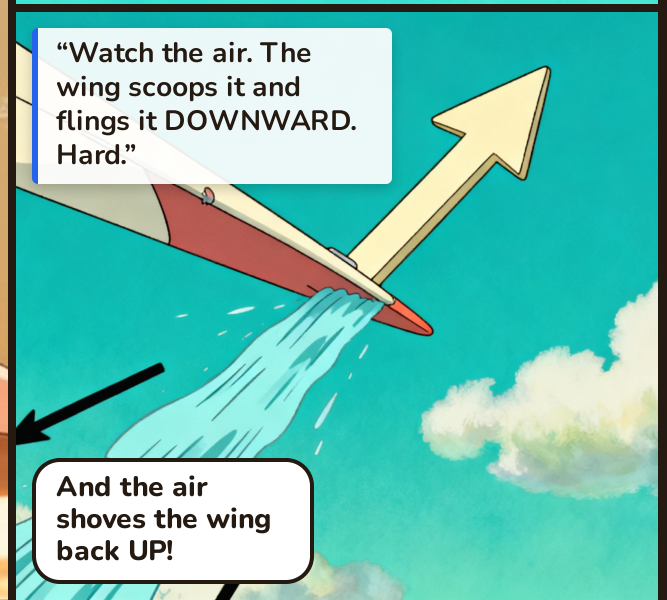
Whoa — it surfed on nothing!

Up close, a wing isn't flat. It's curved and humped on top, flatter below — a shape called an airfoil.



So the **SHAPE** is the trick?

"Watch the air. The wing scoops it and flings it **DOWNWARD**. Hard."



And the air shoves the wing back **UP**!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Here's the honest secret of flight. A wing throws tons of air downward every second, so the air throws the wing upward just as hard — Newton's third law. The curved top also speeds the air and lowers its pressure, so the sky above pulls up too. Two ways to tell one push. 🪁

“Try it,” said Colette. Siri held her flat hand out the car window and tilted it into the wind.



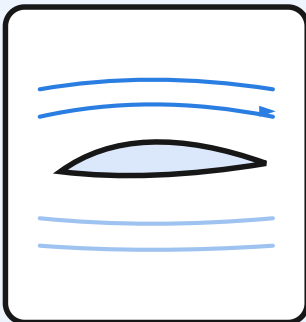
My hand just became a WING!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

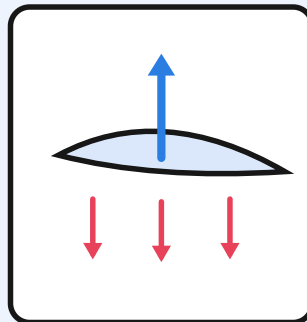
Tilt your palm into the wind and it leaps up — you're throwing air down and getting pushed up. Now you know what a five-hundred-tonne jet knows. Bigger wing, faster air, same trick lifts a whole town. 🖐️



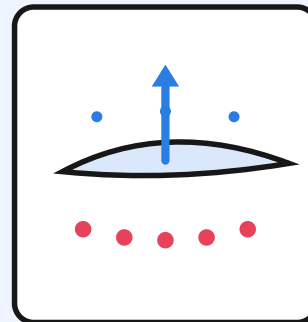
HOW A WING MAKES LIFT



AIR SPEEDS UP
faster over the curved top



WING THROWS AIR DOWN
so the air throws the wing up



LOW ABOVE, HIGH BELOW
the plane is pushed up



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

① Wings throw air DOWN → air throws plane UP (thanks, Newton!). ② Curved top = faster air = lower pressure = extra pull. Hand-out-window test: PASSED. 🙌✈️

THE FIRE THAT PUSHES

Next, an engine bigger than a car, sliced open like a diagram. Blades, fire, and a roar.



There's a **STORM** living inside!

At the front, a giant fan gulped the air. Behind it, hidden blades squeezed it tighter and tighter.



It's **INHALING** the sky!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

A jet engine does four things in a blur: suck, squeeze, burn, blow. It grabs air, packs it small, sets it alight, and blasts it out the back — far hotter and faster than it came in. A hurricane on a leash. 🔥

"Suck, squeeze, bang, blow," Colette chanted. Cold air in the front, hot thunder out the back.

WHOOM

"Throw the air backward hard," she said, "and the air throws the PLANE forward."



Suck-squeeze-bang-blow!



Newton AGAIN!
He's everywhere!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

The wing gives lift; the engines give thrust — the forward push that keeps air rushing over the wings. Surprise: most of a modern engine's push comes from that big front FAN, quietly flinging tons of cool air rearward. Quieter, cooler, thriftier. 🌀

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

Engine = suck, squeeze, bang, blow. Throw air back → get pushed forward (Newton, part 2!). Most push = the big fan, not the fire. My whole trip runs on shoving air around. 🌀

THE LONGEST JOURNEY A WING EVER MADE

Colette unrolled a map. Golden threads rose from Britain, Germany, Spain, France — all meeting at one city.

She peeled back a wing panel. Layers: feather-light metal, and a black cloth woven from carbon thread.

The skin is
CLOTH?!

Cloth stronger
than steel.

Then the mystery from home came true: a giant WING riding a ship, then a barge, then a road — crossing borders.

The whole continent
is building ONE plane!

So THAT'S the
wing that
crossed
countries!

Overhead lumbered a plane shaped like a smiling whale, its belly full of another plane's body.

vroooooom

On a high walkway, Siri looked down the line stretching to the horizon. A plane born every day.

A plane that carries planes?!

How many hands build one?

Hundreds of thousands. Across four nations.

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Here's the wonder: a wing is born in Britain, the body in Germany, the tail in Spain, the nose in France — then they meet in one hall to fit within a whisker. No single country builds a whole plane. A great company is the conductor that makes four nations play one song. 🎵

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

Wings 🇬🇧 · body 🇩🇪 · tail 🇪🇸 · nose 🇫🇷 → one city. Carried by a whale-plane and a river barge! The 'wing crossing borders' was REAL. Who conducts this orchestra?? 🎵

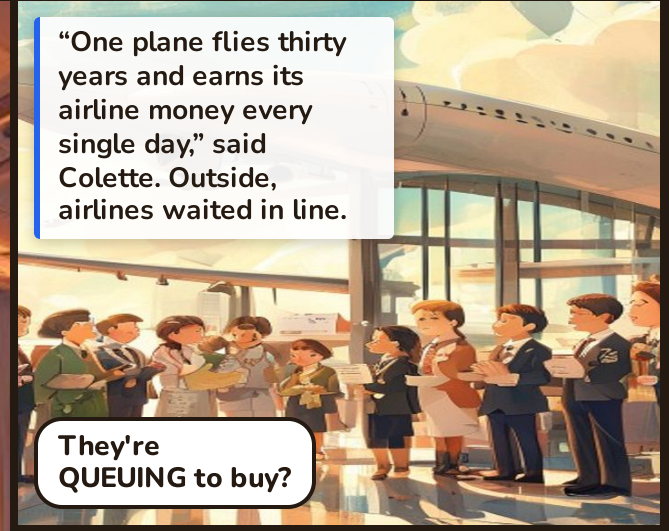
WHY AIRLINES LINE UP TO BUY

Through a window: three hundred travelers crossing an ocean in one afternoon. Sleeping. Eating. Dreaming.



A whole village — flying!

“One plane flies thirty years and earns its airline money every single day,” said Colette. Outside, airlines waited in line.



They're **QUEUING** to buy?

“Build the tenth plane and you're quick. The thousandth? You're the best on Earth. Rivals can't catch up.”



Practice becomes a **WALL!**

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Why pour billions into a factory this vast? Because a great airliner is a money-machine with wings, and airlines will wait ten years for a thriftier one. Build them safer and cheaper than anyone alive, and the world forms a queue. 💰

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

A plane earns money every day for 30 years → airlines line up years early. And building lots makes you unbeatably good (a 'learning curve'). Grandpa's rule: find what people can't do without. ✈️💰

FOUR FLAGS, ONE WING

Through vast glass doors: a hall taller than a cathedral, four flags flying. Siri knew the name at once.



"It began in 1970. Four proud European nations, tired of losing the sky, shook hands."

AIRBUS! The plane four countries built!

Rivals became **TEAMMATES?**

"Their first plane, the A300, did a daring new thing: crossed oceans on just **TWO** engines, not four."

"Then a whole family: the small A320, the giant double-decker A380, the feather-light A350."

Half the engines, same courage!

From underdog to sky-filler!



★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Airbus began as an underdog nobody expected to survive — four nations pooling their best engineers to challenge a giant across the sea. Their boldest bet, the double-decker A380, was a marvel the world didn't buy enough of — so they had the courage to stop. Knowing when to stop is as hard as knowing when to start. 🌍



THE STORY IN TIME

1970

Four European nations join forces to build planes together.

1972

The A300 flies — the first wide-body jet with only two engines.

1988

The A320 — the first airliner steered by computer, 'fly-by-wire.'

2005

The A380 superjumbo: two full decks, the biggest airliner ever.

2015

The A350: wings and body woven from carbon fibre.

2021

The last A380 is delivered — a bold bet, bravely ended.

Today

Thousands of Airbus jets cross the sky every single day. ✈️

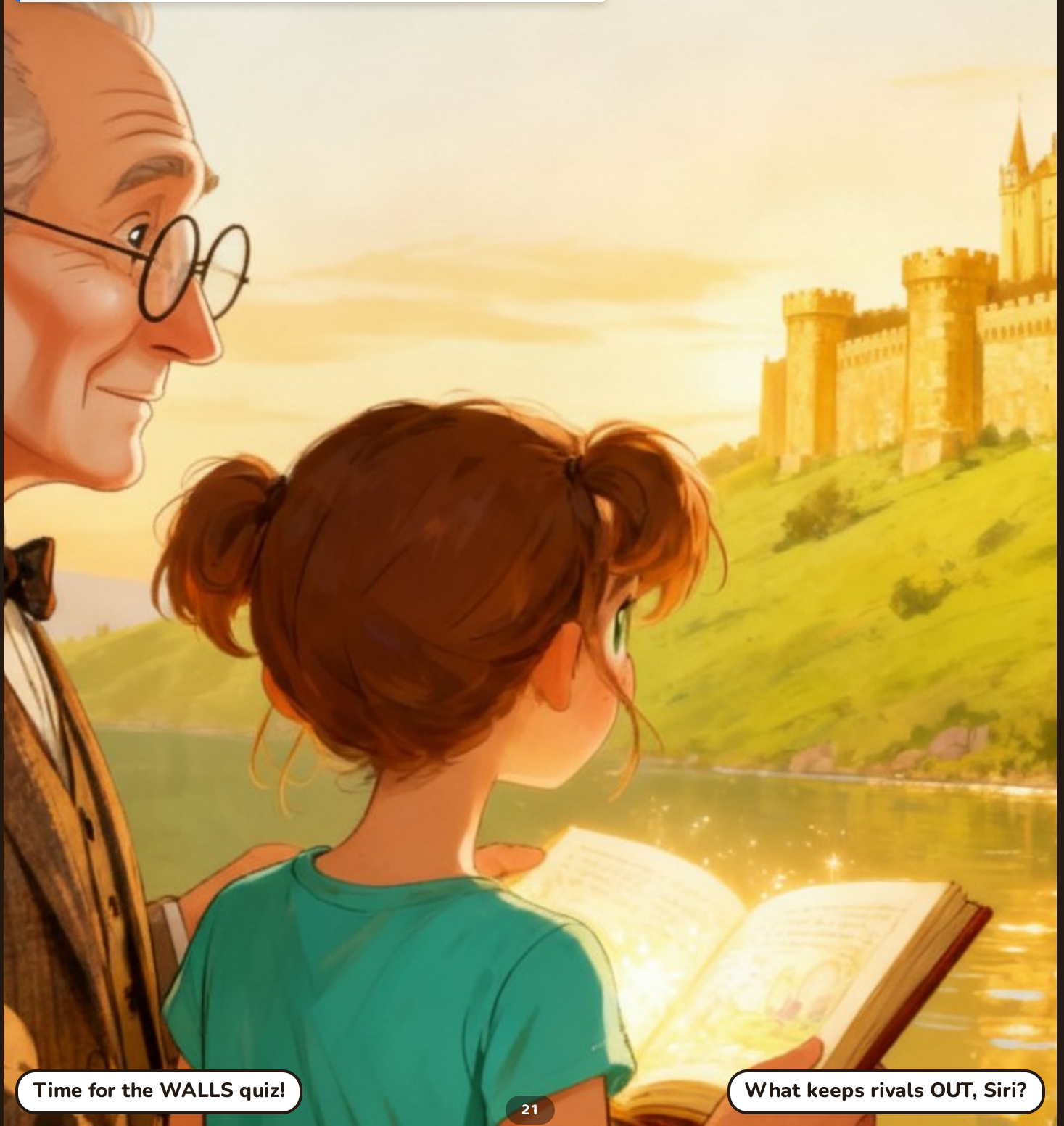


SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

AIRBUS. Four rivals → one team (1970). A300 → A320 (flown by computer!) → A380 giant → A350 carbon. They even KNEW when to stop the A380. Underdogs who learned to fly. 🌍

THE CASTLE IN THE SKY

A warm glow. A whiff of cherry cola. Warren and Charlie, the partners from Omaha, stood before a castle in the clouds.



Time for the WALLS quiz!

What keeps rivals OUT, Siri?



THE CASTLE WALLS • WHY RIVALS CAN'T COPY IT



Wall One: The Two-Maker Sky

Building a safe big jet takes decades and fortunes. On the whole planet, only two companies still make them. New rivals almost never appear.



Wall Two: The Certificate

Every design is tested for years before it may carry a single passenger. That mountain of proof is a wall money alone can't climb.



Wall Three: The Ten-Year Line

Airlines book their planes a decade ahead. The order line is full for years — a rival arriving today waits behind everyone.



Wall Four: The Lifelong Handshake

Once an airline flies your jets, its pilots, mechanics and spare-parts shelves are built around them. Switching means starting over.



The Cracks in the Sky

Flying is bumpy business: one bad year empties the queue. Costs are mountainous, one grounded model can burn billions, and parts come from everywhere. Castles need defending — daily.

Charlie tapped his thick glasses. “My trick: don’t ask how to WIN the sky. Ask what would GROUND you forever. Then never do that. **Invert, always invert.**”



Find every way to crash... then don't!

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Charlie's checklist for ruining a plane-maker: cut a safety corner, fall behind on fuel-saving, bet everything on one giant model, let one supplier fail. Now — just never do those. Worry, turned into a to-do list. ✓

Warren raised his cola. "The airlines that FLY these planes have broken a hundred hearts. But the two who BUILD them sit behind walls of time and trust. I admire this fortress."



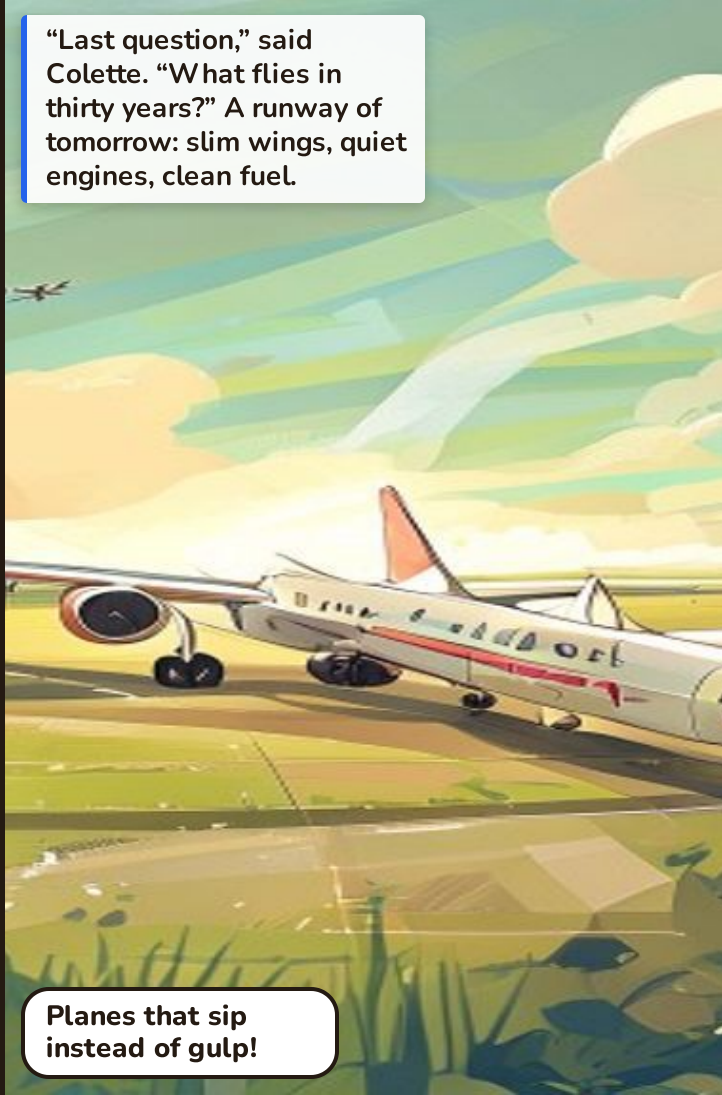
So the treasure isn't the plane. It's the WALLS!

SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

Walls: only two makers 🛡️ + the certificate 📜 + ten-year line 📖 + lifelong handshake 🤝. Cracks: bumpy business, huge costs, one-model risk. Charlie: INVERT. Warren: love the walls, not the plane. 🏰

THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS

"Last question," said Colette. "What flies in thirty years?" A runway of tomorrow: slim wings, quiet engines, clean fuel.



Planes that sip instead of gulp!

On a rooftop at dusk, Siri thought it through the way Grandpa taught her.



Don't bet on the shape. Bet on the NEED.

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

The deep currents all chase one number: less fuel per seat. Lighter carbon wings, thriftier engines, fuels made from plants, maybe hydrogen that burns to pure water. The plane's shape may change — the need to cross the world will not. 🌍

📖 SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK

2056 watchlist: carbon wings, sipping engines, plant-fuel, hydrogen (burns to WATER!). Rule: bet on needs, not shapes. Also — I still want a window seat. 🌍

COMING HOME

Her own bed. Morning. The compass: quiet. The world: somehow bigger.

Was it real? It FELT real...

One fresh line dried on the diary's glowing page.

"The modern world is not magic. It is millions of ordinary people doing small hard things, together, for a long time."

At breakfast, a jet drew a white line across the blue. Lift. Thrust. Carbon skin. Four countries. A million hands.

You're the biggest team project that flies.

She hugged the diary tight. Somewhere far away, four flags flew over a hall full of wings.

Show me the next one, Grandpa. 🧡

★ WORTH REMEMBERING

Next time a plane crosses your window, feel it: a wing throwing the sky downward, engines flinging air back, a carbon feather built by four nations and lifted by ordinary people. A plane is no longer just a plane. **Nothing, from now on, is just anything.**



SIRI'S SECRET NOTEBOOK · WHAT I LEARNED

- ① Wings throw air down; planes rise up.
- ② Engines throw air back; planes push forward.
- ③ Skin = metal + carbon cloth, feather-light.
- ④ No country builds a whole plane — companies conduct.
- ⑤ Walls: two makers, the certificate, the ten-year line.
- ⑥ Invert! And love the walls, not the gadget. 💛



OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe the greatest gift we can give a child is the ability to think.

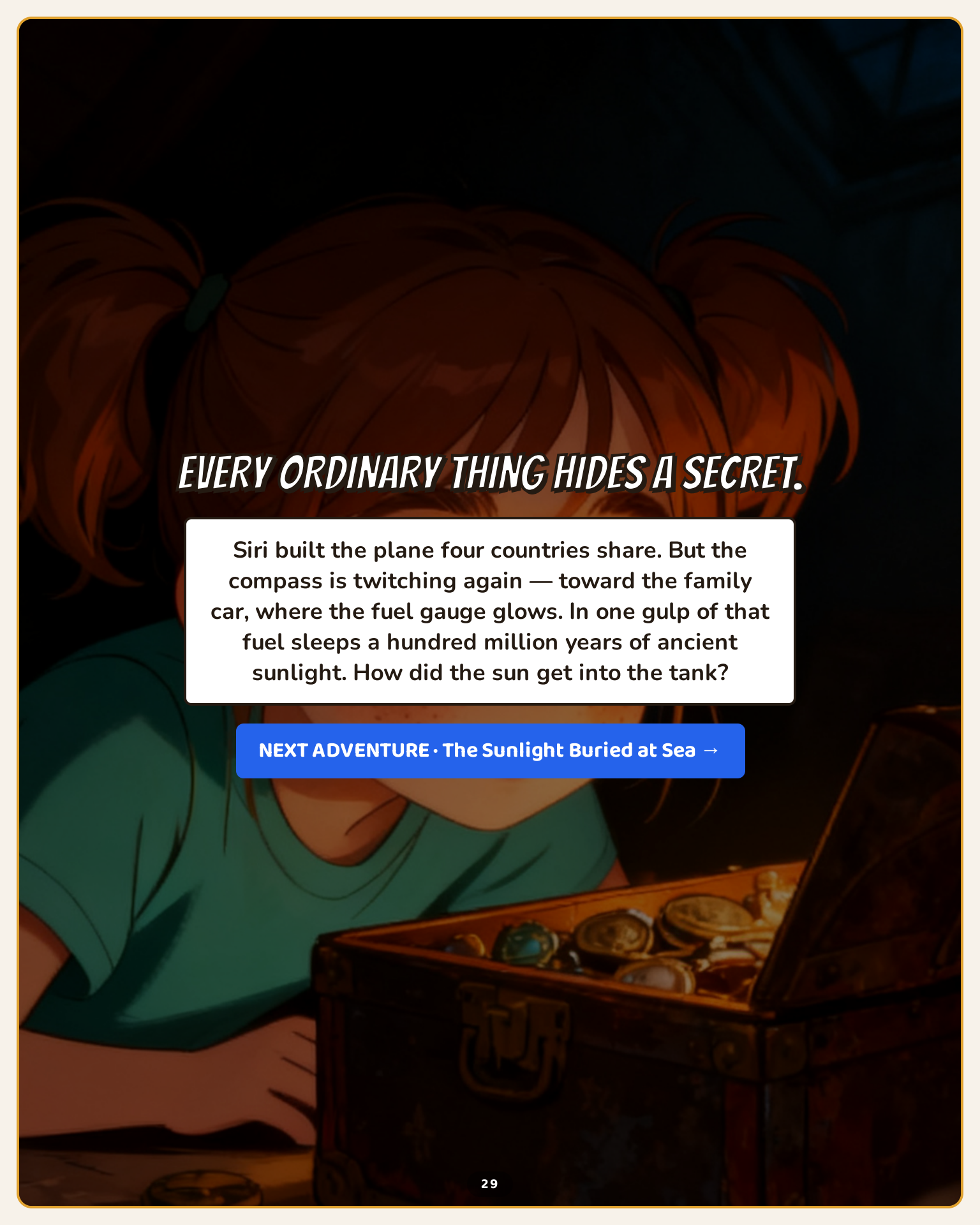
Inspired by the multidisciplinary thinking of [Charlie Munger](#) and the rational, long-term philosophy of [Warren Buffett](#), our comics connect science, technology, business, history, and human behavior to show how the real world works.

Every story begins with a scientific idea and follows its journey into innovation, industry, and the businesses that create value for society. Along the way, children learn that great companies are built on curiosity, experimentation, integrity, and long-term thinking.

Our goal is not to teach children how to invest, but to help them build the mental models needed to understand the world, ask better questions, and think independently.

The companies featured in *The Great Company Adventures* are educational case studies—not investment recommendations. They show how knowledge, innovation, and perseverance turn ideas into products, services, and enduring businesses.

LEARN THE SCIENCE. • UNDERSTAND THE BUSINESS. • THINK FOR LIFE.



EVERY ORDINARY THING HIDES A SECRET.

Siri built the plane four countries share. But the compass is twitching again — toward the family car, where the fuel gauge glows. In one gulp of that fuel sleeps a hundred million years of ancient sunlight. How did the sun get into the tank?

NEXT ADVENTURE • The Sunlight Buried at Sea →