

An unforgettable journey

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In early summer, Ronak, my husband, our son Neevan, and I began our journey to the beautiful city of Vancouver. Our long-anticipated journey began with a weary landing. As the airplane touched down, we were greeted by the rain-soaked beauty of the Canadian west coast. The excitement of our adventure, however, was quickly overshadowed by the unfolding drama that awaited us.

Exhausted from a grueling 36-hour journey, we joined the line of passengers at the baggage claim. With each passing minute, our anticipation grew, but our luggage never appeared on the carousel. Anxiety set in, and we exchanged concerned glances, silently hoping our bags would eventually emerge.

Anxiously, we stood by the silent carousel, watching as the crowd thinned, and the anticipation in the air turned to desperation. Bag after bag found its owner, yet ours remained elusive, lost in the void of the unknown. As time passed, fewer and fewer people were around. Minute by minute, the area became less and less crowded.

Meanwhile, our young son, Neevan, who had been remarkably patient throughout the journey, had reached his breaking point. He was tired, cranky, and his stomach growled with hunger. His eyes welled up with frustration, and he desperately longed for the comfort of his belongings, now missing in action. Neevan repeatedly asked for his Spiderman soft toy. "Please give me a minute," I said, trying to hide my frustration with all the chaos.

Our patience wore thin and we decided it was time to seek answers and approached the airline's service desk. The representative said "Mrs. Patel, your baggage was not loaded to the correct flight in London." Our hearts pounded as they explained how our luggage never arrived Vancouver and it was in some other city. Our excitement was dashed, replaced by a sense of helplessness.

With heavy hearts, we left the service desk, our hearts weighed down by the uncertainty of when or if we would ever be reunited with our bags. We headed to our Airbnb, each step feeling heavier than the last.