

A Bounce in Time

By Sarah Rose Smale Age 9

"Yippee!" screamed Rosie, as she bounced higher and higher on the trampoline in her backyard. Her fine, long, blonde hair blew everywhere when she bounced. Suddenly, everything started to blur. She felt woozy, and fainted.

When Rosie woke up, she was surrounded by colossal buildings reaching far into the sky. The trampoline and Rosie's yard had disappeared. Nothing seemed familiar.

A girl with short, curly black hair and pale skin came and said, "Hi, would you like some help getting up?" She helped Rosie to her feet. Rosie asked, "Where am I? What happened?" The girl replied, "You are in Calisburg, and you seem to have fainted. Let's go to my house."

They walked over to the girl's house and met her Aunt. She had gentle and kind brown eyes, with long, silky, golden hair. Rosie asked, "What's your name? I'm Rosie." The girl's Aunt replied, "I am Alice, and this is my niece, Jessica. In case you're wondering, it's June 25th, 2114."

Jessica felt her wrist phone buzz. A quick glance showed it was her father, saying he couldn't come home because his clothes were superglued to the ceiling. Jessica groaned, "Oh no, it's that wizard, Zaktor, again!" "There's a wizard that glues people's clothes to the ceiling?" asked Rosie. "You haven't heard about Zaktor?" Jessica asked. "No," replied Rosie. "Please come with us," suggested Jessica, "Aunt Alice will drive us in her hover-car."

They piled into the hover-car, and announced their destination to the GPS. The hover-car was a round vehicle that glided about 4 feet above the ground. Alice pointed to a jet black trapezoid building. "That's Zaktor's lair. First we will rescue Jessica's Dad at his office, then we will spy on Zaktor."

The car arrived at the office and they walked into a cream oval building. Everyone's shirts, pants, hats, coats, socks and shoes had been superglued onto the ceiling. Rosie quickly knew what to do. She took out her spray bottle of moisturizer and sprayed it towards the ceiling. The clothes came loose and fell to the floor. The girls ran from office to office, spraying moisturizer into the air. Alice whispered, "Now let's go spy on Zaktor." They returned to the hover-car and zipped to Zaktor's lair.

Unfortunately, Zaktor was coming out of his lair, just as they were arriving. Alice quickly hid, and Jessica took a couple of steps backward. Rosie was mesmerized by the wizard's dark blue cloak with red stripes randomly crisscrossing it. His green eyes were boring into hers. Zaktor boomed, "You're bugging me, how would you like to be a bug?" He hadn't noticed Alice. He pulled out a red zapper with the blazing word, "Shrinker" on it. Rosie tried to knock the zapper out of his hands, but Zaktor held it high out of her

reach. He pulled the trigger. A red ray shot out and zapped the girls, shrinking them to the size of bugs. "Ha! You won't be bugging me again!" Zaktor laughed cruelly.

"Oh No!" squeaked Rosie, "He has shrunk us!" Alice quickly picked them up, dashed to the hover-car and zoomed away before Zaktor could zap her, too.

On the drive home, they saw a news bulletin saying that a big robbery had occurred and a million dollar diamond had been taken, possibly by Zaktor. They saw pictures of robotic arms coming from the ceiling, and the diamond necklace that was stolen. "Hey," squeaked Jessica, "We're shrunken. We can sneak into his lair and somehow stop the arms from working." Alice brought them back to Zaktor's lair and placed the girls by the windowsill of an open window.

Zaktor's lair was black, dark and gloomy, just like the outside of the building, and they saw the robotic arms all in a pile. "I think my spray is still in my pocket," said Rosie. She sprayed the moisturizer on the robotic arms. Nothing happened. "It didn't work!" exclaimed Rosie. Then she had another idea. "We could drop magnets on them. My bracelets are magnetic. Let's climb onto the arms and place the magnets between the joints and see what happens." As soon as the magnets touched the robotic arms, the control panels went blank, and the humming of the arms stopped.

The girls glanced outside and saw a kind, gentle witch, who looked a lot like Jessica's aunt. She wore a pink cloak with vertical blue stripes and yellow stars. "I'm Alice, come on over to my hideout, and I will put you back to your normal size." "Yippee!" exclaimed Jessica, "That will be great!" Alice grew them back to their regular size and gave them a backpack with magical supplies. "These will help you to fight Zaktor," she said.

Soon afterwards, Zaktor came zooming down the street on a black hoverboard. He was wailing about his robotic arms. "You must have done it! That horrid witch, Alice, must have helped you! I will turn you into useless green ectoplasmic blobs, so you can never meddle with me again!" He brought out a square metal object with a trigger and a tall antenna. He pressed some buttons. Rosie whipped out a paper-like shield. It was a reflection shield. "That piece of paper won't help you!" Zaktor cackled. He pulled the trigger. A greenish brown ray shot out of the antenna and hit the shield. It bounced back and hit Zaktor instead. He just had time to scream, "No! No!" before he was turned into a green blob. He was still alive, but unable to do anything harmful to anyone, anymore.

Rosie and Jessica hopped onto Zaktor's hoverboard and returned to Jessica's house. Alice was waiting for them with a big smile. "Thank you, Rosie, for saving Calisburg. It's time for you to go home now." Rosie climbed onto Jessica's trampoline and bounced back to her own backyard. Mom was calling, "Dinner time!"