

The Bauble

By Alice Bainbridge (age 9)

One Christmas Eve, on Berrybuck lane, Tom and Lucy (aged 11 and 9) were decorating their Christmas tree with tinsel, a star for the top and last of all... a very special, old bauble. Tom and Lucy always put the bauble on together, so they held hands and reached up to hook it onto the biggest branch. Three, two, one.....

"What's happening Tom?" Lucy asked, so quietly that Tom could barely hear her.

"I don't know Lucy." he replied.

Suddenly they were launched into whirls of pink, blue, purple, red, green, yellow and bits of black.

"I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING!" yelled Tom, as he did not know where his sister was in the colour mix.

"I THINK WE'RE STOPPING!" yelled Lucy back.

Tom and Lucy were lying flat on their backs in an old cobble street, which had tall overhanging rickety buildings. A very posh looking woman stood over them. "I am Queen Victoria and you are lying right outside my palace." Queen Victoria said. Tom and Lucy looked up and saw a staggeringly beautiful building. There was a big archway above the door and looking up there were high windows full of curves and dips. It was a perfect piece of architecture.

"Ma'am, we need that bauble!" Tom said bravely. He had noticed that Queen Victoria was holding the special, old bauble in her hand - the very bauble they needed to get back to their original time.

"Oh yes.... I'm sorry to say, we are going to lock this troublesome old bauble away." Queen Victoria said with relish.

"WAIT, who do you mean by we?" Tom and Lucy said in unison. Queen Victoria stepped to one side gracefully and revealed two of her children.

"Goodbye" she said slamming the door in their face.

"Don't worry" said the two children who had jumped forward as the door slammed. "We'll help you to get your bauble back."

"Who are you anyway?" Lucy said, questioning them.

"We're Xander and Mimi." said Xander and Mimi with a smile.

Xander, Mimi, Lucy, and Tom snuck in to the palace and hid behind cold, stone statues until the coast was clear. Xander always went at the front and Mimi at the back to keep Tom and Lucy safe from harm. It was all going fantastically until they walked smack bang in to Queen Victoria. "AHA!" she said with rage.

"What are you doing in my palace - its jail for you two now!"

Xander and Mimi jumped in front of their mother as a distraction and they all turned and ran down the corridor, past the Queen towards the Great Hall where the old, special bauble hung on the royal Christmas tree.

"Are you sure?" Tom whispered to Xander.

"Yes, GO NOW!" replied Xander.

"OK." whispered Tom. The plan was set. Tom and Lucy snatched the bauble from the tree. Three, two, one..... VROOM... and they were thrown back into the swirls of colour and noise and then they were home.

Tom and Lucy grabbed the old, special bauble and tossed it in the fire. "There, no more of that then." they said with relief, and walked out of the room exhausted. In the unseen fireplace, the bauble glowed brightly then disappeared into a waft of purple smoke. The purple smoke drifted across the room to the Christmas tree, wrapped its self around a branch and magically a new - old, special bauble appeared.