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Three, Two, One. Jump!

by Aliana Kae Evans

One hot summer day, I was eating ice cream, sitting by a fountain with my three friends, Jonah, Micah, and Eliana.

"This ice cream is so good," I say, as Jonah throws a penny in the fountain and makes a wish.

Then Micah accidentally drops his ice cream and falls in the fountain.

"Micah!" Jonah wails, but all we can see are bubbles, so Jonah jumps in, not even thinking. Ellie reaches in, but it's too deep.

"Well, I don't think it's that deep. They should be back by now," I say, but nothing happens.

Ellie all of a sudden says, "I'm jumping in!"

"What? You can't. You'll never come back, like them."

"I don't care. I'm saving my friends, so either you come with me or not."

"Fine, I'm coming," I say, so we both hold our breath and jump in.

All we can see is dark, pale blue. Far below, we notice four hands waving, and we hear them yelling.

How can they breathe? I think.

Then Ellie starts to yell back to them.

"Guys, this is amazing! We can talk," she says, poking me on the back. "This is like an underwater world."

"Wow," I say.

As we get to the bottom, we say to them, "We were worried sick about you guys."

"Sorry," they sigh.

"It's fine, but where are we?"

"Dunno. When we jumped in, we kind of got, like, tugged down to the bottom, and blue surrounded us."

"Okay," Eliana says.

"Look!" Micah yells. "The sign says 'Fountain Park!'"

"Awesome," Jonah says, but someone else appears.

"Hello, I am Dr. Albert, and this is private property." The man says.

“Oh, sorry,” says Micah. “It’s not like we got swept down here on purpose.”

“You are a human!” Dr. Albert exclaims.

“Yeah, so?” Jonah says, also very loud.

“This is bad,” Dr. Albert mutters to himself.

“What? What is so bad?” Micah yells so loud we all jump.

“Humans are not allowed down here because they killed our last king, and if you kill our king, we have no replacement.”

“Um,” Ellie says. “But you are a human, right?”

“Well, no, I am a shapeshifter.”

“Okay?” I say. “So how do we get out?”

“There is no way out. There is only a way in. Have you not been listening?” he asks.

“Um... no,” Jonah says. “I am not a good listener.”

“Ha,” Micah says. “You think you’re not a good listener? I’m awful at listening.”

“No, I am!”

“No, I am!”

While they are fighting, Ellie and I talk to Dr. Albert.

“This may let you out, but I do not know if it leads the right way,” he says, giving us a map.

“It’s fine,” I say quickly. “But does it cost anything?”

“Five thousand dollars.”

“Holy cow, that is way too much! How about we trade something instead? Deal?”

“Fine,” he says, so we give him Jonah’s brand-new Apple Watch and start the journey.

Five minutes later, Micah asks, “Can I have a snack?”

We yell at him. “We just had ice cream!”

Then Jonah interrupts. “Guys, look! It’s a castle!”

A towering, light blue ice castle stands in the distance.

“Awesome!” Ellie yells.

“It says on the map that we have to go through the castle, defeat a monster or something, make a portal, and then we are free.”

“Perfect,” I say. “Let’s go.”

So we step through the huge brown doors that open up to an ice throne room. We all shiver at the cold.

“Awesome!” Micah yells.

Then, all of a sudden, a big booming voice echoes through the room.

“GET OUT, YOU STINKY HUMANS, AND NEVER COME BACK.”

“Okay,” Jonah says. “Um, mister, we can’t see you, but I am going to talk to you anyway. First of all, we are not stinky. Second of all, who are you?”

But there is no answer, so we keep looking around. A dusty throne covered in ice is in the left corner, a huge chandelier is at the top of the ceiling, and a table is in the middle of the room with fifteen seats around it. In the right corner is a desk and a dusty carpet.

“This room looks so old,” Ellie says.

“Yeah, it does,” I say. “It must have belonged to—or does belong to—the king.”

“That would be so cool,” Jonas says. “But why in this huge light blue ice castle is there only one room?”

“Dunno,” Micah says. “But maybe there’s, like, a trap door.”

“Good idea, Micah,” I say.

“Why, thank you,” he says in a weird voice that makes Ellie and me so mad we end up slapping him in the face.

“Ow! Yikes! Stop!” he yells.

After we slap him a few more times, we finally stop and look for a trap door. Then Jonah yells,

“Found something!”

We rush over to him, and he flips a lever behind the throne. Four large tunnels going down surround us.

“Cool,” I say. “Let’s go.”

So we all jump down a different one.

Before I can blink, I hit a hard surface and look around me. It’s just a large stone patio, and my friends look as amazed as I do.

Then we hear a familiar voice again.

“Hello, I am Dr. Albert, and this is also private property,” he bellows.

“Oh no, not you again,” I say, slapping him in his red, fat cheek.

“I am the king, and you must respect me.”

“What?” Eliana asks. “You? We have to defeat you?”

“Oh yeah, about that. You will never be able to defeat me.”

“Oh yeah?” Micah says. “I may not be a good listener, but I am a good fighter!”

“Yeah, me too,” Jonah says, smirking at Micah.

“And I can do karate!” Ellie says, balling her hands into fists.

“Um... and I am good at slapping people,” I say, blushing.

Jonah giggles.

“Hi-ya! Pow! Get off! Bro...Ow!” echoes across the patio.

Soon, we have defeated the king.

Then Micah yells and points to Dr. Albert's pocket. Inside is a small bag with all the ingredients to make the portal.

"Yippee!" we say, combining all the ingredients. Then we walk through the portal, which leads to a water park. Kids splash on running water slides next to a crowded wave pool.

"Wow, this is awesome," we exclaim.

"Who wants to swim?" Micah asks.

"Not me!" we yell together, and slap him in the face.

"Okay, okay," he says, "just joking."

And we live happily ever after.

The End