

Three Different Dimensions

One morning in Huntington Beach, rumors were everywhere about three secret portals, and one might be at the local library. My best friend Leah and I saw the TikTok posts and wanted to find the secret portals. "We can do this tomorrow. We should meet up at YogurtLand after school," Leah said. "Okay. That sounds like a plan!" I said.

Wednesday is finally here and we got out of school early because Wednesdays are short days. As soon as school ended, Leah and I got picked up by my Mom. She agreed to take us to YogurtLand so we can plan. While my Mom was driving us there, Leah and I saw a bluish-pink circular hole near YogurtLand. "Maybe it's just a decoration?" Leah said. Even though I had my thoughts, I wasn't sure so I didn't say anything.

My Mom had to take a call and stayed in the car while Leah and I headed inside. I noticed the circular hole was moving near the back of the building. "What's going on there?," I wondered. That's when I noticed that there were no other cars in the parking lot. I was just hoping that the store was not closed.

The door was unlocked and Leah and I went inside and got our frozen yogurt. When we got to the counter to add the toppings we both felt a cold breeze blowing on our faces. I looked around to see if there were any air conditioner vents nearby to have done it but I didn't see any. "What is going on here?" I asked. "There's no cars in the parking lot and it just feels creepy being in here right now".

With no one in sight we yelled out, "IS ANYONE THERE?!!!" but no one called back or came out to greet us. At this point my Mom had come in and got herself some yogurt too and met us at the counter to pay. "Is the person in the back?" "No. No one seems to be around. I don't feel right about this, Mom," I said. Confused, we all stuck our heads past the front counter to look towards the back room. That's when we felt a suction of wind. We quickly got sucked into a portal that seemed to have come through the back wall! I got scared, reached out for my Mom's hand, and closed my eyes.

I hear my Mom say, "Open your eyes." When I did, it looked like we were in Candyland!

"O.M.G. This place is nothing but CANDY!" Leah exclaimed.

"That's great, but too much will make us sick and we can't stay here," I said.

"Let's head over there... I have an idea," my Mom said, pointing at a building covered in weird melting Mona Lisa paintings with creepy large smiles drawn in strawberry syrup.

I was scared but we went inside anyway. The room was somehow smaller than the building. And once we looked up, we saw another portal.

"Anything's better than this creepy place," I said, and we jumped as high as we could straight up into it.

This portal had taken us to the town's library but the library was a maze of books stacked as high as the ceiling. We started to wind through to find our way out. Leah heard a flapping noise like a bird.

“Is there a bird in here?” Asked Leah.

My mom looked up, her eyes grew large. I looked up too and saw a book flapping above us. Like a bird. And it landed on my shoulder. The book was like *The Hungry Caterpillar*, but it read, “Who are you?” I thought it was weird but cool. It then flew out of my hands and back up above us like it was showing us a way out. So we followed it. It led us outside of the library near a fountain. We all sat down at the edge of the fountain, trying to figure out what to do. I started to cry. I just wanted to go home. This adventure wasn’t as fun as I thought it would be.

Something jumped out of the grass at my feet. It was a hamster. It crawled up my pant leg until it was sitting in my lap. It was cute and fluffy. As we were all looking at it, it spoke! “Wake up!”

“Wait, what?” I said.

“Wake up” it said again in a low voice and pushed me hard into the fountain.

Grabbing Leah and my Mom’s arms as I fell back, they fell with me into the fountain. That was the third portal. It was in the fountain.

This time when I awoke, I was in my bedroom. Leah was in her sleeping bag on my floor. We had a sleepover. I must’ve fallen asleep from a sugar crash after all the candy we ate and left the TV on. It was still playing *Alice in Wonderland*. I got up to go to the bathroom and noticed my hamster had gotten out of his cage and was chewing on a board piece from our *CandyLand* game. I checked in on my Mom and she was still up reading her book on Einstein.

“Everything okay, Shy?” she asked.

“Yeah, I just had a weird dream just now. I’m just going to grab some water and get back to bed.”

“Okay. I’ll be up for a little while longer if you need me” she said.
“Goodnight!”

“Goodnight. Mom.”

Back in my room, I put my hamster back in his cage, turned off the TV, put the board game away, and got into bed. My head hit the pillow but my shoulder hit something else. A book. The Hungry Caterpillar.

“Weird... I don’t remember ever having this book.” I thought.
Wait a minute... the flying book at the library! I look out the window and see clouds circling. It was a dream... Right?