

## The Library Portal

~~By the author of The Portal~~

One day, my friends and I heard a rumor about three portals in Huntington Beach and one might be in the kids section of the Central Library so we met there after school on Friday. We entered the library heading towards the kids section, walking past the fish tank and through the archway of bubbles. I was with my closest friends from Saints Simon and Jude school; James, Ryan, Evan, Landon, and Eoin.

“Why are we here again?” asked Evan.

“To look for the portal, remember?” replied James.

“But why does it have to be in the kids section?” said Evan.

“I agree, why do we have to go to the babies’ area,” complained Landon, “Why couldn’t this be in *any* other part of the library?”

Ryan, Eoin and I, walked up to the desk in the front. “Excuse me,” I asked the receptionist, “Have you heard the rumor of the portals in Huntington Beach?”

Ryan added, “We came looking for the one that people said was here.”

I glanced over at Eoin reading some sort of flier for this year’s story contest. I wanted to see what the topic was for this year, but the receptionist was saying something.

“...all I’ve heard, sorry, but my colleagues reported strange lights and sounds when they were closing. This confirms there is something going on around here.”

“Thank you” we said, and walked back to the others.

“What’s that you have there Eoin?” I asked.

“What? ...Oh, sorry, I was checking out this contest. It says to write about the portals we’re trying to find, kind of ironic, isn’t it?” he replied.

The guys were talking about Shrek memes when James said, “We have got to find that portal soon, because I have to be home by dinner”.

We split up to do a quick search of the kids section. Landon and I would look in the bookshelves, Eoin and James would search the amphitheater, and Ryan and Evan would go to the small kids’ section.

There was an immediate uproar from Ryan and Evan “Come *on!* Why us? We’re not babies”.

“Look, your section is the smallest one, and if you don’t find anything, you can join another group,” Landon reasoned.

“Fine,” Evan said, “but only if we can join another group when we’re finished.”

“Okay, let’s get down to business,” I said, “make sure to be really thorough in your areas.”

Everyone started searching. After looking through our area and finding nothing, we decided to talk about Thomas the Train when we heard a shout from the small kids’ area.

“WE FOUND IT! JAMES, BEN, EOIN, LANDON, WE FOUND THE PORTAL!”

We rushed over and discovered Ryan and Evan almost jumping for joy.

“We found it!” Evan said. “It turns out we *didn’t* get the dumbest section.”

“Where is it?” asked Eoin

“Follow me,” replied Ryan “and you will see ‘da wae.’”

We followed them to the little room with the TV and the chair. There was nothing. No portal, not anything out of the ordinary. Until suddenly, a dot formed in mid-air and continued to grow larger, and larger until... BANG! With a blast like a gunshot, the portal was a swirling

kaleidoscope of every color under the sun. The portal started sucking everything toward it, throwing everyone into pandemonium.

“What’s happening!?” said Landon in a panicked voice.

“RUN!” responded James

Everyone started to run, but getting away was like trying to run on a treadmill with ten pound weights on your legs. The first person to get taken was Eoin.

“Eoin! If there’s a place on the other side of the portal, stay where you are!” I said quickly. “That goes for the rest of you too.”

“This portal is pretty strong, find something to-oof!” said Evan as he fell down and got sucked into the portal.

The rest of us soon succumbed to the portal’s pull. We tumbled into a world gleaming with light with everything made of some kind of crystal. We had no idea where we were, or what this place was.

Only a few things came to the place we dubbed “The Crystal Dimension”; including the TV, the chair, and a few books. We checked to see if there was wifi on Landon’s phone, but to no avail. We searched for food, and only found some crystal apples that were hard as rocks and tasted like normal apples, but melted in your mouth. We had nothing to fuel us except the apples and some water we found, so we explored farther, and farther from our “base camp”.

Finally, a few days later, we saw a glowing dot like the one from the library.

“Hey! What’s that?” said Evan

“It looks like the portal”, James commented “and it’s getting bigger!”

“Hurry!” I exclaimed. We jumped through and ended up, not in the library like we expected, but on top of Saints Simon and Jude Church, nearly 50 feet in the air. Thanks to Landon, we could call the fire department to help us down, but it would be hard to explain how we got up there.

The fire department came and raised a ladder. A few minutes later, our parents arrived along with the receptionist from the library. Our parents had called the library when we didn’t come home, so when we were found, they contacted the library again and told them we were fine. When she found out, the receptionist came to back up our story.

“How did you kids get up there?” said the fireman.

“Sir, have you ever heard the rumor of the portals in Huntington Beach? It turns out they exist!” I said.

“Yes!” added the receptionist “I saw them go into the small room in the library, heard a big bang, and saw a flash of light. I went to investigate, and they were gone!”

“Well, it’s a relief you kids got back,” commented the firefighter. “Where did the portal take you?”

“That,” I said, “is a story for another day.”

**THE END**