

Two Secret Portals

Chapter One

"Eleanor!" my little brother, Theo, yelled as he ran down the stairs to the basement. "Do we really have to clean the whole basement?" I brushed my long black hair out of my face to look at him, and said, "Yes, the basement will be useful once we clean it. Maybe you'll find something interesting." "I seriously doubt it," he whined, kicking at the piles of boxes. He's only nine, while I'm twelve, so he's much more irritating. He kept walking around, kicking the boxes and mumbling under his breath as I packed items into boxes. Suddenly, there was a loud thumping sound as one of the boxes tumbled to the floor. "Theo Chen, what have you done?!" I exclaimed, picking up the box. Then I froze. Something was just peeking out from above the boxes. Theo looked at me, and we started moving the boxes out of the way. As soon as we did, two portals were revealed; one green, one blue. A wind started blowing our hair, but instead of blowing it backwards, our hair was blowing *forwards, towards the portal*. Theo suddenly ran into the green one. "Theo, wait! Come back!" I yelled at him. I ran into the portal after him.

Chapter Two

"Wow," I breathed, looking around me. Huge, leafy trees soared into the air. Birds cawed and chirped, and the leaves on the ground rustled. It was a beautiful rainforest. But it looked different from the rainforests I had seen. There were more trees and nature, and it looked less like humans had found it. The air smelled clean and fresh, and a babbling brook trickled over the mossy rocks. "This place is beautiful," Theo said. There was nature as far as the eye could see. I paused when I saw someone standing in the distance. I ran over, with Theo right behind me. There was another kid standing there. I looked at her and asked, "What is this place?" The little girl said, "This is what all of the rainforests on Earth were like thousands of years ago. It's why it's so important to stop climate change." "Are you saying that places like this have been destroyed?" Theo asked. The girl nodded. "Show people how much this planet

has changed, because of climate change." Theo frowned. "But we're just kids," he said. "Well, you *are* the future of this planet," the girl replied, smiling. The beautiful rainforest slowly faded away, and suddenly I was back in my basement.

Chapter Three

"Let's go into the other one!" Theo exclaimed, pulling me towards the blue portal. When we landed, I gasped as I saw the beautiful scenery. There was a beautiful, sparkling lake surrounded by tall trees. There were snow capped mountains in the background, and the air smelled crisp and clean. When I breathed out, I could see my breath in the frigid air. Oddly enough, there was someone sitting by the lake, so Theo and I walked down to the lake, the snow crunching underneath our feet. This time there was a boy. "Is this what Earth used to look like?" I asked. He shook his head. "This is what Earth *looks* like. This is the present," he corrected. "Why did the portal take us here?" I asked. "To show you that by spreading awareness about climate change, you could be preserving this beautiful habitat," the boy said. "There's another portal, at the Huntington Beach Public Library. Go there, and you will find a stairway to the future. The green portal you were just in was the past, this portal is the present, and the other one is the future. The portals show you the beauty of Earth, and why we need to try to slow climate change. Otherwise, the effects will have consequences." Theo and I nodded. "We'll try our best to raise awareness," I said. "Good, and I wish you luck," the boy responded. The glittering lake faded away, and I was back for good. The portals had disappeared. Theo and I exchanged looks, and started cleaning the basement again quietly. Finally, he broke the silence saying, "After we're done, we'll start raising awareness. What they said is important. Earth is our home, and it's so good to us. We need to be good to it, too." I gave him a hug. "I completely agree," I said. "Even though we're kids, we live on Earth just like everyone else, and it's our responsibility to protect it. And we're family. As long as we stick together, we can do it." Theo grinned at me, and hand in hand we climbed up the stairs, ready to face the world together.