

A GRIM FUTURE



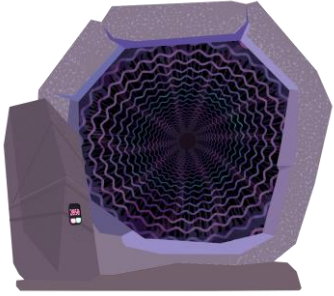


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TIME PORTAL

Device for time travelling that is activated by a special medallion.



ALEX

Alex is into numbers, always searching for the mathematical meaning of things. His sharp eye for numbers and good reasoning has saved the day many times!



VICTORIA

Victoria is a science enthusiast, frequently dazzling her friends with scientific explanations. Science is never boring and can be quite handy when dealing with time travel and new problems!



EVA

Eva has the spirit of a leader. She is energetic, risk-taking and can be quite impulsive. Sometimes is just that the group needs: action first, questions later!



LUCAS

Lucas loves everything history-related, devouring books one after the other. He may not be a risk-taker, but his knowledge about history is essential when they are travelling in time!



MEDALLION

The medallion is a gadget that activates Time Portals. It's divided into 4 parts.



DAVID

David is a fellow time traveller that the group met in previous adventures. He is a friend and a mentor.



The Time Agents are mysterious characters, beware! They patrol the cities, the roads and the seas searching for time travellers...and when they find them....

TIME AGENT



PROLOGUE

“A STRANGE MACHINE”

A year earlier...

A group of friends - Victoria, Lucas, Eva and Alex - found a mysterious machine inside a cave. It was unlike any other machine they had ever seen: it was a Time Portal!

The machine took them to ancient Greece and Rome. There, they met David, a fellow time traveller living in that distant Past. David knew all about time travelling and about how to get them home. They would have to go through several Time Portals and different time periods.

Each Time Portal required a special medallion to activate, and that medallion was divided in four parts and scattered across Europe. To make things even harder, they were being chased by Time Agents, a police force whose mission is to prevent people from travelling in time and causing any disruption affecting the world as we know it.

As soon as they devised a plan with David's help, they started their long journey of discovery and adventure that finally brought them back to the Present.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS ADVENTURE BY PLAYING THE GAME
WE ARE EUROPE [HERE](#)

A GRIM FUTURE

Holidays were back!

Eva, Alex, Victoria and Lucas met in the woods for the big day. For months they planned a new adventure: travelling to the Future using the Time Portal.

After returning from their great adventure almost a year ago, they kept the Time Portal a secret, their secret. They even named themselves the 'Chrononauts'.

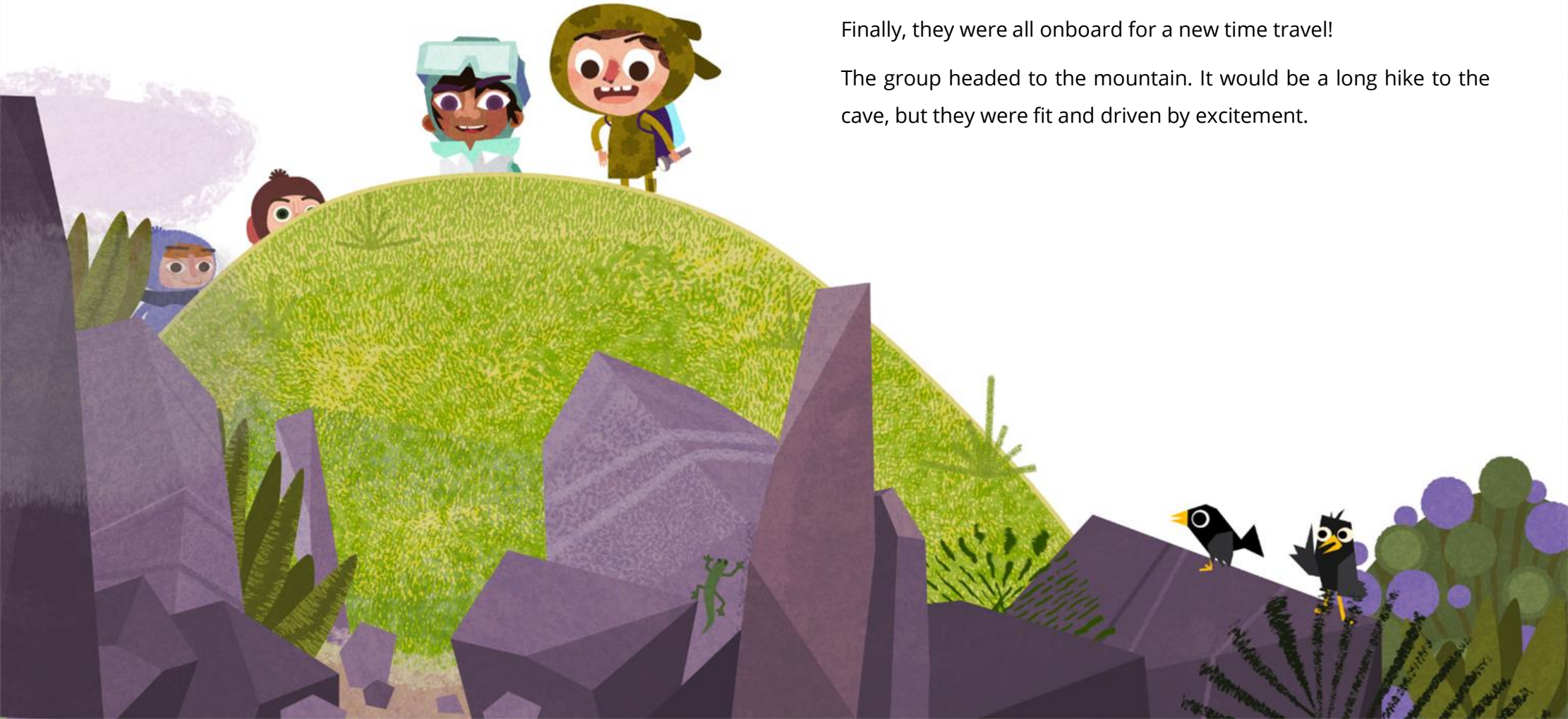
Some weeks before they received a message from David. He seemed worried and asked them to join him in the Future.



Eva was, as always, eager to get back to a new adventure and Victoria, as a science buff, could not miss the chance to see with her own eyes how the Future would be like: would cars still exist? would robots do all the work? Maybe she could even bring back some scientific knowledge and win a Nobel Prize!

Finally, they were all onboard for a new time travel!

The group headed to the mountain. It would be a long hike to the cave, but they were fit and driven by excitement.



After an hour, there it was: the entrance to the cave. It was hidden by vegetation and rocks, exactly as they left it. Inside, Lucas headed to the machines' console and inserted a date: 2050.

- Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah! - they screamed as they were being pulled and swirled in the direction of a dark void: a feeling they were familiar with.





They were now standing in a futuristic city. The buildings were towering and gleaming, and the air was thick with pollution.

The streets were crowded with people wearing gas masks, and the sky was a murky brown colour. Lines of cars honking and emitting fumes moved slowly along the roads.

They wandered the streets for a while when, suddenly, Lucas stopped before an old and familiar building.

- It's the market building! We are in our city, in the future! - he said.

- You are right! But where is the park! - replied Alex surprised.

They were indeed in their city. It had grown out of proportion. Cars took over the streets, parks and trees gave room to new buildings, parking lots and roads. It was all gloomy, all dark...

- We must leave the city. Time Agents may have picked up the signal from our Time Portal - said Victoria.

The group headed fast to the city limits. Sunlight was trying to pierce the sky as they exited the city and the air became more breathable.



As they were taking a breath, a human shape startled them.

- A Time Agent! - screamed Alex.

- It is I, David! - a familiar voice put their heart to rest.

- David! - they all shouted.

They were excited to see David, but what was he doing in 2050?

- Thank you for meeting me here. I had to show you what becomes of the world, otherwise you would not believe me!

- Over the years we humans have mistreated nature with disastrous consequences. We made incredible advances in science, technology, health, justice...but neglected to look after the Planet and failed to create a better society.

- We created more and more waste, we depleted the resources, polluted the air and water, all leading to climate change and to a society where people are less healthy, and more are facing poverty and inequalities.

The Chrononauts were staring at David in disbelief.

They were still recovering from the shock, when David sounded the alert.

- A Time Agent! Quick, we must run!

- The plan now is getting all the parts of the medallion to activate the Time Portal and get you back home – continued David. - In the meantime, I show you what went wrong and maybe you can do something about it when you return.



They started the journey. Fortunately, David knew where to find the first part of the medallion: a tiny Greek Island.

It was a long trip by foot and then on a smoky bus to the shore, where they would get a boat. The scenery was far from jolly. Bare land dominated the landscape, rivers that once were important waterways filled with life, were no more than strings of water now, with stranded boats on either side.

David had a small motorboat waiting for them when they got off the bus. Quickly they headed to the set of coordinates handwritten in a small notebook he brought with him.





To their amazement, the island was nowhere to be found.

- I'm sure we are at the right coordinates! – said Alex.

A small boat approached theirs. It was an old fisherman.

- Do you need help? – he asked.

- We are looking for an island that should be here...- said Lucas

- You are not from around here, I see. That island was submerged years ago with the rise of the sea level – the fisherman replied.

- Thank you - they replied. - Good luck with the fishing.

- I need more than luck...most fish disappeared with the pollution. Little life can survive these acidic waters.

There was no time to waste. Eva put some equipment on and jumped into the murky water before anyone could say a thing

Moments later, she resurfaced with a smile in her face and the first part of the medallion in another.





The adventure continued in Poland. David's notes showed that another piece of the medallion was buried next to a centuries-old tree in a big natural park.

At the location, though, only a few trees were left at the mercy of big machines.

- Hello! - Eva shouted.

- Well, hello - said the man inside the machine. - What are you doing here, it is dangerous.

- We are looking for a very old tree... - interrupted David.

- There isn't much left, after a serious drought and a big wildfire. The surviving trees are being cut down for the industry. The oldest ones used to be there - said the man while pointing at some stumps.

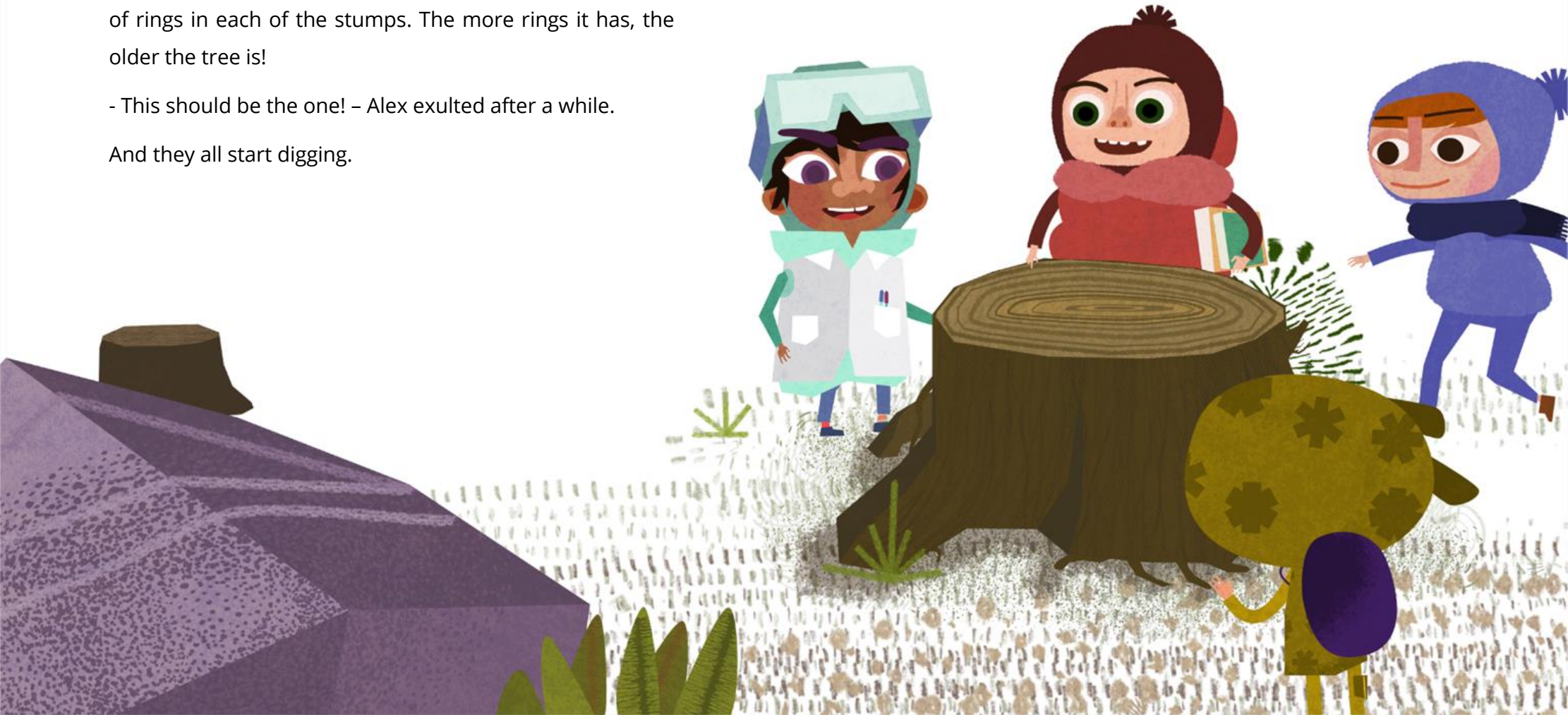
They should now be on the right spot!

- But there are many stumps! How will we find the right one!? – Eva asked, impatiently.

- I have an idea – said Victoria. – Let's look at the number of rings in each of the stumps. The more rings it has, the older the tree is!

- This should be the one! – Alex exulted after a while.

And they all start digging.





A figure appeared in the horizon. It moved quickly in their direction.

David realised it was once again the Time Agent. They had to hurry!

They dug as quick as they could, as the Time Agent got closer and closer until, finally, they found a small box with what they were looking for!

They rushed to hide behind a big machine.

The Time Agent stopped and glanced in all directions, but it seems they were able to trick him once more.





Italy met them with snow, more than any of them had seen before. It was nothing like the sunny part of Italy they recalled. In the street, they just heard a shivering woman muttering:

- Damn this climate change!

David's notes pointed to a statue in this small town of the suburbs. They were hoping for an easy job this time but lost all hope as soon as they got closer to their destination.

Piles and piles of waste covered this part of town. With the snow on top, it was almost pretty if they didn't know or smell what it was.

- How are we going to find the statue under all this rubbish? – Lucas said while covering his nose to avoid the terrible smell.



While they stood in the snow trying to figure out their next move, a girl came up to them:

- Hey, we got here first! If you want to pick waste, you must wait for your turn.

- What do you mean? – said Victoria. - We don't want to pick waste! We are looking for a statue.

- Well, I don't wanted either, but sometimes we can find good stuff here that the rich city people dumped – the girl replied. – If you want the statue, look over there – she added pointing down at a pile of rubbish.



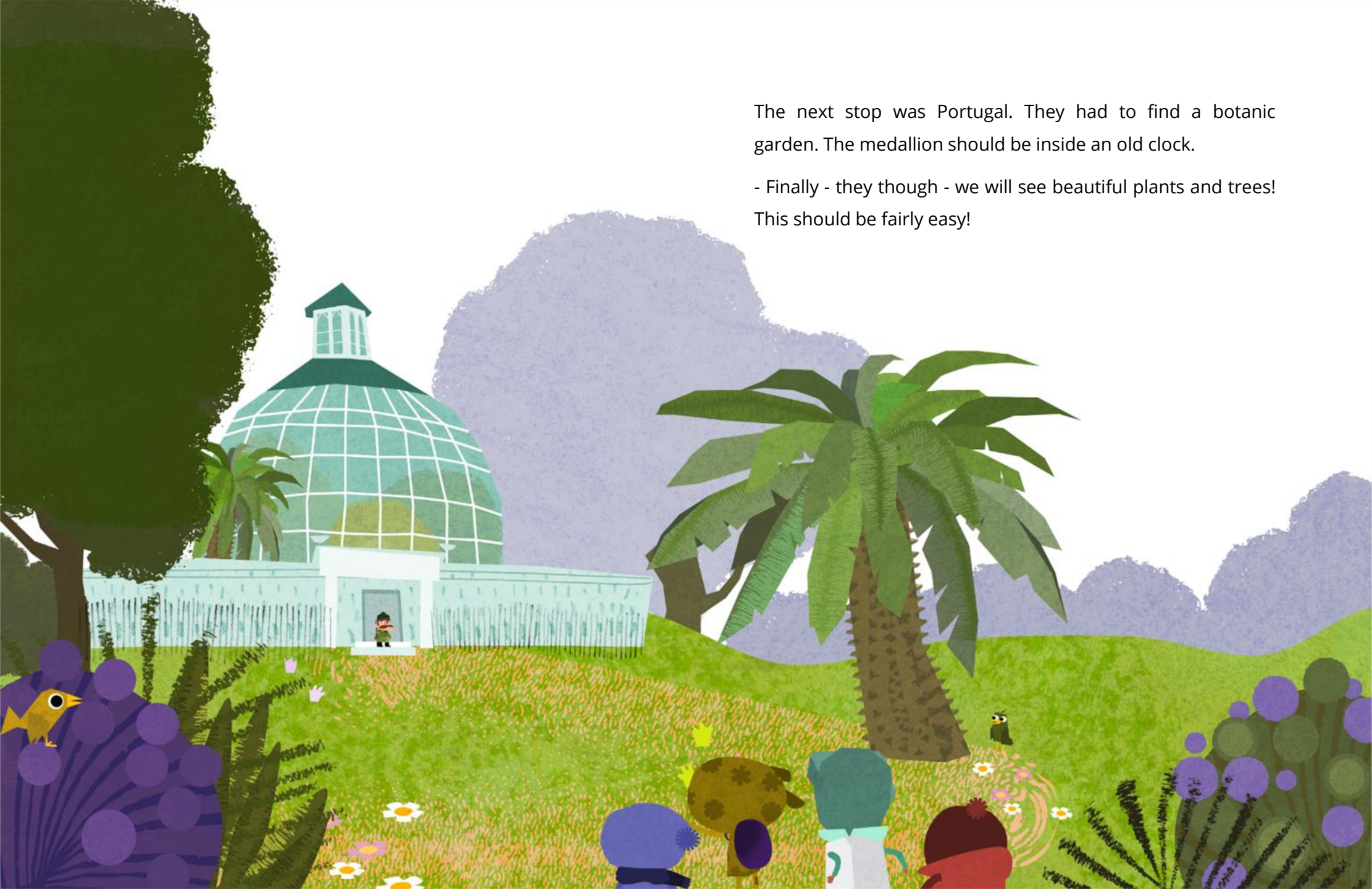
After drawing straws, David was given the task to find the statue and the medallion. It was a hard job...

Some hours later, he found it!

As they celebrated the find, the waste pickers looked suspiciously at them...it was time to leave before they got in trouble.

The next stop was Portugal. They had to find a botanic garden. The medallion should be inside an old clock.

- Finally - they though - we will see beautiful plants and trees!
This should be fairly easy!





As they got closer, a guard blocked their way.

- Stop right there!

- We want to visit the botanical garden - they replied.

- That's not possible. Only some scientists are allowed in.

- Why!? - Eva replied with a defying attitude.

- The past years the world lost biodiversity. Many species of plants and animals just disappeared and no longer exist. To preserve part of the nature that is left, this botanical garden is now a protected place where specimens of endangered species are kept safe.

How could they get past the guard? ...

Suddenly Lucas spotted a familiar shape in the corner: the **Time Agent!**

As he was closing in, Lucas had an idea. He turned to the guard and said:

- Look, we heard that man over there is planning to rob the botanical garden!

- What!?! I will get him! – said the guard rushing at the Time Agent.



The guard ran after the Time Agent ordering him to stop. Surprised, the Time Agent had no choice but to run.

- This is a great opportunity! - Eva said.

She sneaked into the botanical garden, looked for the clock and retrieved the missing part of the medallion! They were now very close to be able to activate the Time Portal and return home!



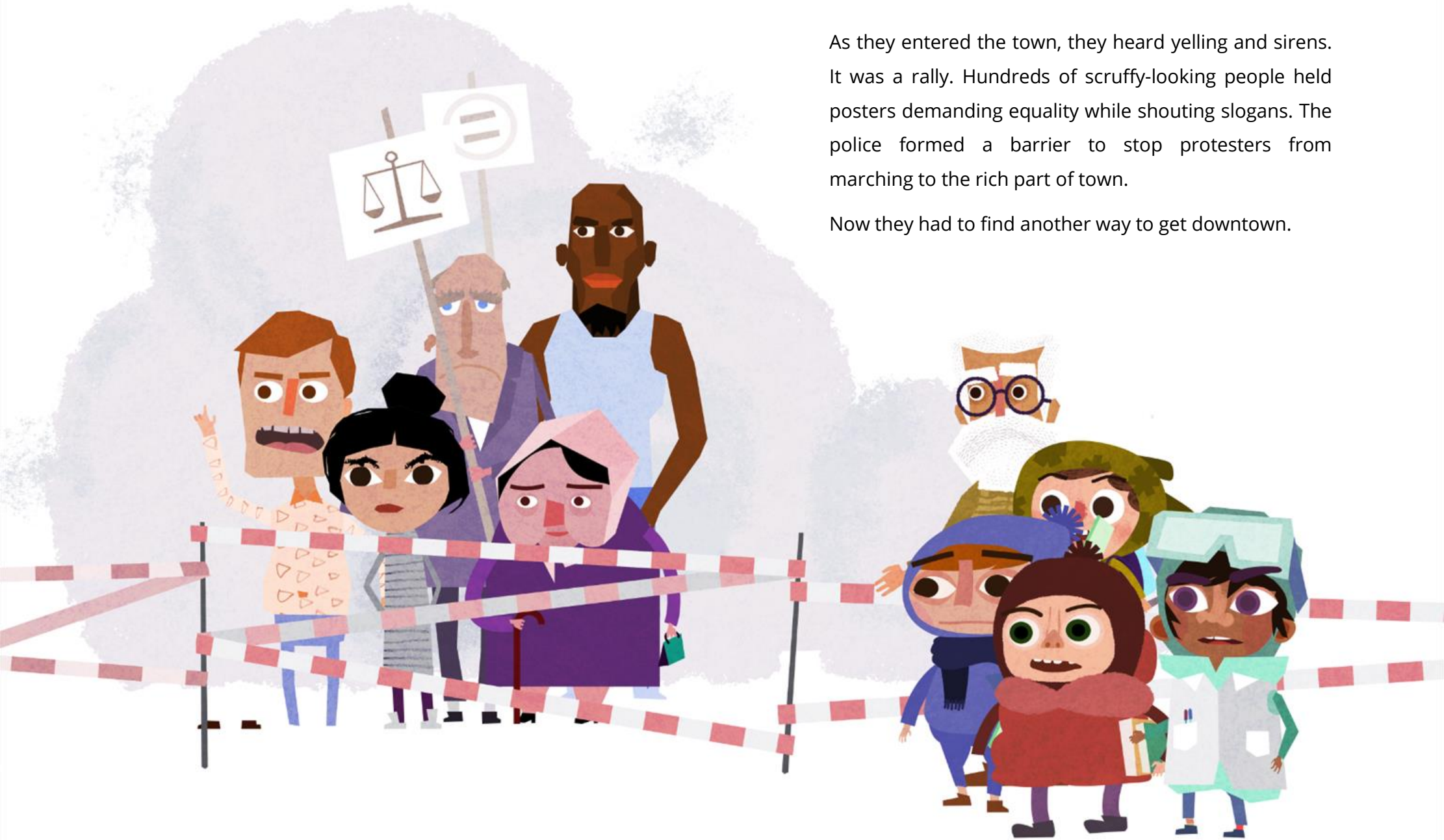
The final stop. They arrived at a lovely neighbourhood, overlooking downtown, where their destination was.

Downtown was much different from the neighbourhood above. It was grey and smoky, with small and poor-looking houses.



As they entered the town, they heard yelling and sirens. It was a rally. Hundreds of scruffy-looking people held posters demanding equality while shouting slogans. The police formed a barrier to stop protesters from marching to the rich part of town.

Now they had to find another way to get downtown.





This time around, the Time Agent was waiting to surprised them.

When they made a turn, he jumped and grabbed David's arm.

- Run! - shouted David to the kids. - Just get back, we are all counting on you!

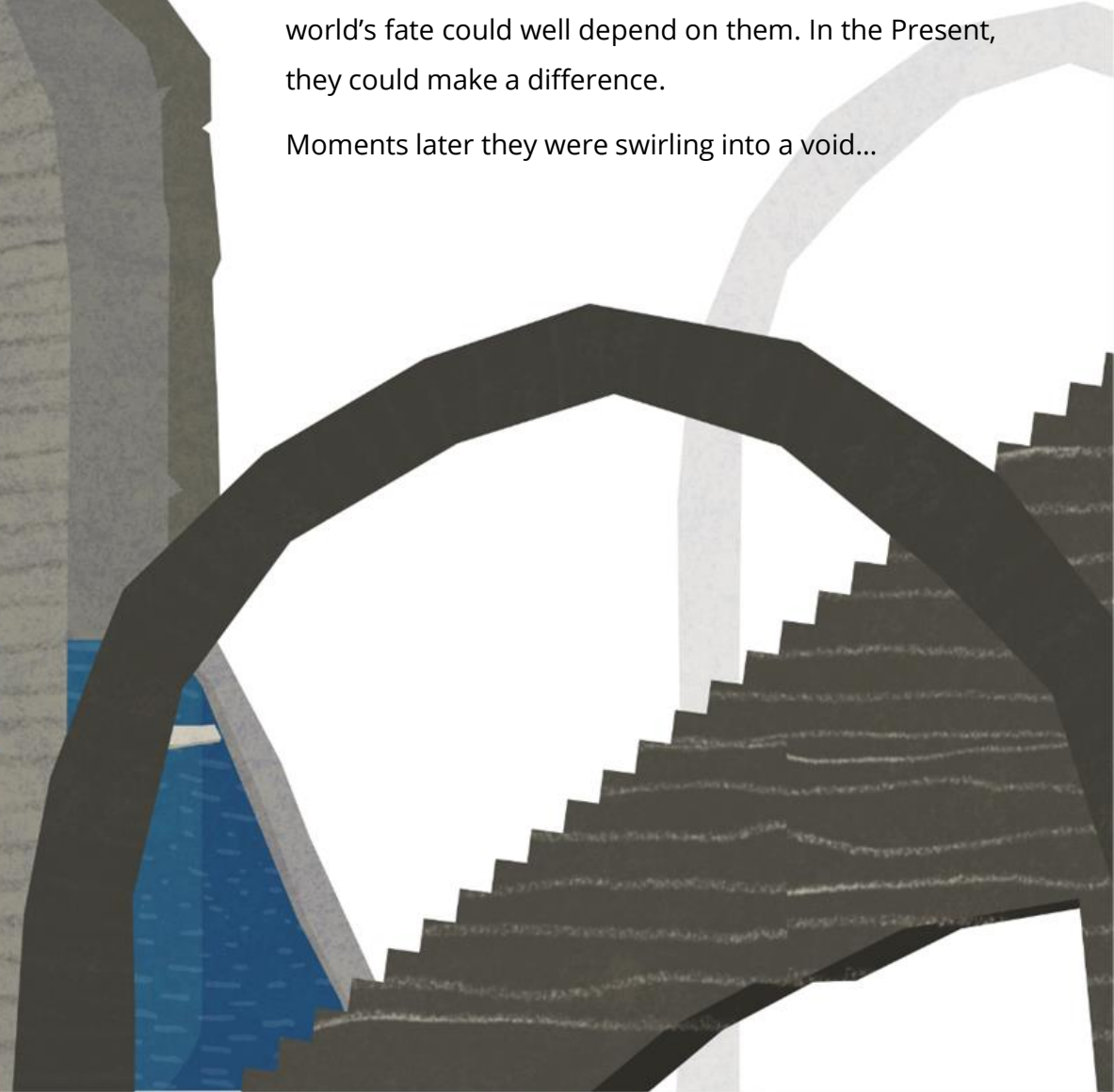
They look at each other for a moment and realised what needed to be done.



The Time Portal stood inside an old cistern downtown.

They were reluctantly leaving David behind, but the world's fate could well depend on them. In the Present, they could make a difference.

Moments later they were swirling into a void...



They were back in Present! The sun was shining upon them!

Building a better future would start that day!





...THE END



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