

The Ghastly Past

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Chapter 1: The Girls Meet



After meeting Lola's baby brother, the girls went to the park to play football. While the girls were occupied, the twins' parents, who were on the other side of the field, went to the car to change the baby's nappy.

Chloe wasn't paying attention to the game though – instead she was more focused on her phone.

Lola kicked the ball to her which made her cross, so Chloe kicked it back so hard that it went into the bushes. When she looked for it, she found a very strange and mysterious-looking box.



What was that sound?

"It's Lola!"

The sound of our friend gave us both a rush of excitement!

“Let's go and meet my newborn brother and after that we can play some football like the old days!” she suggested, running up to hug us.

Chapter 2 : The Mystery



The girls went over to see what it was, eager to open the box. Shocked to have found this, the girls were also delighted to have found something to occupy themselves while they were at the park, other than playing football, and going on their phones!

But, they had no way of opening the lock.

“Let’s try to see if there is a key laying around or something else to open it,” suggested Lola.

They used force and with a tight tug and a count to three it opened, as they all fell backwards.

Getting up, to their surprise they found a...

“It’s a time capsule!” gasped Chloe.

“I think we should go in it and travel back to the time when our parents were young to see how they lived!”

“That’s a great idea!” exclaimed Lola. “But wouldn’t we need to tell them where we are?”

“We don’t need to because they’ll just say it’s a bunch of nonsense and they won’t let us go, and I don’t think they’ll even notice that their three teenage girls have gone missing – they think we just stay in our rooms anyway.”

Chapter 3 : Time Capsule



Excitement.

Enjoyment.

Exhilaration.

“So... are you guys ready to go into the time capsule to find interesting things and have a big adventure?” asked Chloe.

“Ready when you are!” proclaimed Hermione and Lola. “Let’s do this!”

The three girls stood up, held hands and walked into the time capsule.

As soon as the time capsule door closed...

*Bang. Blaze. **Blasting!***

The whooshing sound of the door closing made the girls feel uncomfortable.

On entering the time capsule, they had to choose the year they wanted to travel back to, and the city or location they wanted to go to.

After figuring out the numbers and the year it was when their parents were about thirteen, they chose 1996.

“They were thirteen then or maybe older,” proclaimed Hermione.

“Okay, then let's go now before our parents notice,” exclaimed Chloe.

“We don't need to hurry up, we can take as long as we want, because time stops as soon as we step into the time capsule; no-one will ever know where we were or what we did when we come back, and we don't need to tell them either,” exclaimed Chloe.

“They will probably bombard us with questions if we do tell them,” remarked Lola.

As soon as they pressed the button, there was a reverberant, deafening crash and they had landed within seconds.

Chapter 4: 1996

The door swung open and they toppled over each other, falling to the ground.

Looking around, they realised that they were in exactly the same place that they had started, so they went back in and tried again. It didn't work the second time either, so they tried one last time because everyone knows three is a lucky number. This time, they made sure that they had entered everything into the machine correctly; they pressed the final button and the machine whirred into life.

Bang. Crash. Clatter.



As soon as the door opened, they fell out into the park where their parents used to go as children.

They decided to find out where their parents' house was, by asking strangers what street it was on and how to get there.

“Do you know by any chance where this address is?” queried Chloe.

“Hi, yes I do,” said a kind man.

“Oh that's wonderful!” replied Lola.

“Please could you tell us how to get there?” asked Hermione.

“Yes, so if you go down this path and take a left and keep walking until the third right, then you need to turn down there, and there should be a street called Waterloo street, and if you go down there, the first grey door on your right, you should find the house.” answered the kind man.

“Thank you so much,” exclaimed Lola.

“How do you know exactly where the house is?” asked Hermione.

“I know the people who live there, especially the old man. He has been one of my best friends since school,” answered the kind man.

“Oh that's really nice!” replied Chloe.

“Thank you for your time! We really appreciate it!” exclaimed Lola!

After saying goodbye to the kind man who told them which direction to go in, the three girls walked off.

Chapter 5: The Unexpected Murder



When they got to the house, they found Chloe, Hermione and Lola's parents were all there.

Lola's mum had always lived with them since her parents died, seeing as they were family friends with Chloe and Hermione's parents.

They looked as if they were about to go somewhere; they had a bag with them which looked rather heavy.

The three girls decided to follow them because that's what they came there to do, to see what their parents did when they were their age.

They followed them for a few minutes until they walked into an alleyway. The girls stopped and hid to the side so they wouldn't be spotted. A few moments later, a young couple were standing in front of their parents, holding a bag.

They asked the couple if they had the cash and the couple said they did and handed it over. But the parents then took out a gun and pointed it at the young couple's heads!

The three girls couldn't believe what they had just seen!

Did their parents really carry guns around when they were their age?

As soon as they were about to walk away and call the police, they heard a reverberant gunshot which made their hearts tremble!

They all felt like their heart had stopped.

The teens scarpered, leaving the two dead bodies laying on the ground and taking their bag with them.

The children ran for their lives because someone must've heard the gunshot so they might have called the police!

They ran without looking back and nearly tumbled over.



They ran fast so that they could follow their parents to see where they would go next...

They were following them for a few minutes until they walked into a big, empty field where they met someone wearing all black who looked like a thief. As soon as they handed the bag to the dodgy looking man, he ran off as quickly as he could.

What had they gotten themselves into???

Then, their parents walked off as if nothing ever happened and without a care in the world.

The girls followed them at a distance, when Hermione and Chloe spotted that their mum took the gun out of the pocket and

handed it over to Lola's mum. When she had found somewhere secret and safe to hide it, she placed the gun there conscientiously and they both walked off and went back to the house.

Shaken, the girls decided to go back to the park to discuss what to do.

"I think we should go back to the time machine and sleep there so no-one steals it. Our parents won't even notice we're gone because the time stopped as soon as we went into the time machine. So when we go back it will be exactly the same time as it was before we left!" explained Chloe.

"That's a great idea! It's a lot to process," said Lola.

"I think that we should go to the year 2000 because then we would be able to see if they went to jail for a while; if anyone found out what had happened, they might have gotten in trouble for it," suggested Hermione.

So they went back into the time machine and travelled back to the 2000s to see what happened to their parents!

Chapter 6: 2000



They pressed the buttons in the time capsule to go to the year 2000 and find the missing pieces to the puzzle.

Soon, they tumbled out of the door and landed in the same place but in a different year, the year they wanted to be in.

Now their parents are 18.

This time they knew where to go, so they headed off to the house.

When they got there, they couldn't see their parents so they knocked on the door. They waited a couple of minutes until someone came and opened the door.

“Hi, how can I help you?” asked a man they had never seen before.

“Hi, yes we were just wondering if Laurie Chapman and Annabelle Downey lived here and if we could speak to them please?” asked Chloe nicely.

“Oh I'm sorry, they don't live here anymore, but I could write down where they are, and you could talk to them there,” responded the man.

“Yes, that would be lovely, thank you so much,” gushed Hermione.

“Here you are, this is the address so just use that and then you will be able to find them,” replied the man.

“Thank you very much, we hope you have a lovely day,” said Lola.

The three girls typed the address into their maps and to their surprise they found out that they were in...

Chapter 7: The Missing Pieces



They were in jail!

As soon as they got there they asked one of the receptionists if they could see Laurie Chapman and Annabelle Downey.

She asked why they wanted to see them and talk to them then kindly asked if they could take a seat until they were ready for them.

After a few minutes a policeman came and called the three girls. They finally got to meet them – their parents as teenagers!

After the police left, they were able to talk to them in private and ask them questions.

“Hi,” said Chloe!

“Err hi ?” said Annabelle.

“First let us introduce ourselves...”

“Our names are Chloe, Hermione and Lola,” pronounced Chloe.

“We are here to ask you a few questions and to tell you something really important,” exclaimed Lola.

“So, we know the reason why you’re in jail,” proclaimed Hermione.

“It’s because you murdered two innocent people!” cried Chloe.

“Erm how do you know all about that? It’s not as if you were there when it happened!” replied Annabelle angrily.

“Well, actually we were there, we saw everything, including you hiding the gun somewhere that no-one could find it and meeting a man who took the bag from you and ran off,” said Lola.

“Why were you even following us?” cried Laurie.

“We were just walking to the park and stopped when we saw you stop. When two people came into the alleyway, they looked dodgy so we hid, and then later you guys pulled out a gun and shot them, then ran off so that’s why we decided to follow you,” explained Hermione breathlessly.

“Okay, but why have you come here if you’re the ones who called the police,” said Annabelle!

“We never called the police because as soon as you shot them you ran off and when you were out of sight we ran off because if we had just stayed there and called the police they would have thought that it’s us who murdered them,” explained Chloe.

“So why have you come here if you already know what happened?” queried Laurie.

“Just to ask why you did this...” replied Lola.

“If you want us to tell you you must promise you won't tell anyone else,” said Annabelle!

“Yes we won't, we can promise you that, we will never tell anyone about what had happened,” said Hermione!

“Ok so... what happened was that the two people we murdered were from our school. They were bullies and asked us for lots of money as our family was rich. But seeing as they were the meanest people in school we still did it, because they threatened us, and said that they would get their uncle to kill my dad.

They said that they needed money, but we didn't want to give it to them, so we decided to use our parents' guns and do something to them because we weren't actually going to give them any money. It was just a bag full of a few rocks and paper to make it feel like money.

We decided to shoot them because we didn't want them in our lives because they always make our lives and everyone else's in school so miserable.” explained Annabelle.

“Even though we lived a nice and happy life outside of school,” added Laurie.

“Oh we're sorry you had to go through that, but that was not really any excuse for killing two young teenagers, but I do get why you did that though,” replied Hermione.

“But that's all we need to know so we can leave now and let you get back to whatever you were doing,” said Lola.

“We hope you guys have a good day and thank you for your time,” replied Chloe.

The girls thanked the receptionist on the way out.

On the way back to the time capsule, they talked about what had happened and couldn't wait to get back home.

They thought that it was quite a strange reason for murdering two people.

There was clearly still one missing piece of the puzzle that needed to slot into place.

They got back to the time capsule after five minutes, and went back home.

The doors opened when they got back to the park within seconds, they muttered to each other to not say anything when they went out, back to the park and to their parents.

Everything was still the same and everyone was still doing what they were doing before they left.

When Lola went over to her parents to tell them to come and see Chloe and Hermiones parents they packed up everything and went over to the twins' parents.

When Annabelle, Lolas mum came over to see the twins' parents the two parents instantly started talking to each other, while the three girls were left with lots of questions stuck in their heads waiting to be answered...

How could they even broach the subject of bullying, theft, guns and murder after a "normal" day?

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success to unlock the brilliance in your child.

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Three friends Chloe, Hermione and Lola find something very mysterious while they are playing football.

They embark on a new and diverting adventure where they discover what life was like for their parents when they were children, and uncover something mysterious about their parents' past.

Read on to find out what it is!

