

Chapter 7

Where Doctor Livingstone and Hudson

manage to return in their time but still have to fix the future!

Now that the radioactive material was in the Time Machine, Dr. Liv and Hudson were finally ready to go back. They took position inside the chamber and set the time: 13 July 2007,12:28. Exactly the second the Machine first started its journey in time. But Dr. Liv was very preoccupied. Both future and past were changed. What was going to happen to them and to their friends? To Nicole, to Mark and Kate? How could they be sure that all would be safe? He wanted to speak about these issues to Hudson but Hudson was so happy that they were going back that he didn't want to destroy his happiness...

-Push the button Hudson. We are going home! Remember? You have a match to watch!

-Here we go boss! London, we are coming back!

So the button was pushed and the Time Machine jumped inside the time whirlpool... There was a terrible noise. Hudson started seeing things double. It was like the time was going backwards. The New Mexico desert, the deserted warehouse in Spain, the secret laboratory of his cousin in Poland, the football match, the Roman Arena, for a second he even saw himself entering the Time Machine while a cigarette was lighting fire in papers of the recycle bin. The cigarette... He had forgotten that, that single cigarette had started this adventure. He promised to Heavens never to smoke again, not even a single cigarette, in his whole life. And suddenly the noise stopped, everything was clear again and the time machine was immobilised inside the laboratory! The laboratory, which was full of smoke! Dr. Liv and Hudson jumped out of the Time Machine. This was the last chance to put out the fire! They started hitting the bin with pieces of cloth...

Nicole saw the smoke coming from the laboratory. She started shouting. The fire alarm started to ring. People from the other laboratories came out to see

what was happening. Nicole finally managed to open the laboratory's door. Doctor Liv, Hudson and Sparkles...

... they were there. Tired, full of smoke and sweat but they were there, safe and sound! The laboratory had some damages but it was not destroyed. The Time machine though, had many damages. Nicole was staring at them, not able to say a single word! So scared was she!

-Doctor, doctor, are you ok? What happened here?

And beyond her wildest dreams, Dr. Liv ran to her and hugged her and started laughing!

-We are back Nicole! We are back, and you are here, and the laboratory is here, and my computer is here, and London is here and I think I love you so much that I could even travel in time to find you!

Miss Spencer fell down. The excitement was too much for her. Dr. Liv helped her lie on the sofa of the reception, where the air was clearer. In the meantime, all the other scientists from the neighbouring laboratories who had come to help, were looking around without being able to understand.

-Thank you for coming but everything is under control now, thank you, you may go, we are ok, it was just a small accident...

-Young man you should be more careful. This is a building of laboratories. Imagine what might have happened if a fire was started here!



Hudson looked at the angry scientist and he understood how right he was. Yes, Hudson knew what might have happened. Fortunately, no one else except him and Dr. Liv knew... Or not?

Mark and Kate were ready to return. They had visited Spain, they had visited ancient Egypt, they had fallen in love... It was time to go back to their time and start their lives again! The Timechanger was their love boat to a happy future... Mark set the date and time to the point they had left Poland of 2012, to rescue Livingston and Hudson. Kate smiled at him and pushed the button. They felt the whirlpool and the noise; they felt the trembling of the Timechanger moving but this time something was different... Like everything was going backwards fast... Like they were going back in time.

-Mark, what is going on? The control panel shows that we are going back. How can this be happening?

-Kate, I think that something changed the future! This is not right! We passed by Poland of 2012 and we go back to 2007, when everything began!

-Does this mean that I'm never going to see you again? Mark you are fading! I hardly see you!

-Kate you are fading too! We are going back to 2007! I don't want to lose you! Kate, if you are still hearing me, please, come and find me in Egypt! I'll be waiting for you under the Sphinx! Kate....

-Yes Mark, I can hear you... I'll be there, I promise.... Mark...

A couple of days passed. Hudson didn't watch the match with Arsenal. He was so tired that after putting the fire out, he returned to his attic and slept for 48 hours. It was Sunday afternoon when Livingstone and Nicole came to visit him and he was still sleeping! Nicole had Sparkles with her and Dr. Liv brought some doughnuts. Hudson had a feeling that all this was a dream. But Livingstone touched his hand one moment, when Nicole went to the kitchen, and whispered:

-Hudson, we have to talk. Tomorrow. Not in the lab. The workers will come to fix the damages and Nicole will be there to supervise them. It is better to meet somewhere outside...

-So boss, it was not a dream, yes?

-No Hudson, I am afraid not. But look, the machine is almost destroyed but I can fix it! I have all my notes, I have the chips in my computer, I will fix it again and one day the time travel will be true! But the problem we have to deal with, now, is not that...

-And what is it boss?

Nicole came back and Livingstone stopped.

-Hudson, I think you have a cousin in Poland? Yes? That computer boy, Józek, am I right? Have you heard from him recently? If you find the time, call him... he might want to come and help us...

-Józek? How did you remember him boss?

And then, Hudson realized what Livingstone really wanted to say. They had come back. They had changed the past and the future. For Nicole it was like nothing ever happened but what might have happened to Józek? What might have happened to Mark and Kate who were in the Timechanger? What might

have happened to Kate? To Kate? One million bells rang inside the head of Hudson... What it she was trapped in the past? Or in the future? Or in the time whirlpool? And it was his fault! He was responsible for all this mess....

Livingston and Nicole saw that he was very upset. They found an apology and left. You see, Liv and Nicole had made a new start. Liv never revealed to her what had happened during the time traveling, but he was sure about her feelings. He had seen what she was capable of doing for his sake. So when everything calmed down and the smoky air of the laboratory was cleaned, he took Nicole's hand, asked her to forgive him for all the troubles he caused her (even if she could not understand what he wanted to say by that) and also asked her to stay with him not just as a secretary but also as his friend and partner and why not, as his wife...

Back in the attic Hudson's heart was ready to stop while he was dialing up the number of Józek. It took some seconds before he heard the tone and then, an eternity until Józek picked up the phone...

-Józek, Hudson here, how are you?

-Hudson! What a surprise! I was sure that you forgot all about your cousin! We were waiting for you like every summer for the holidays but this year you forgot us! Did you prefer to go to Greece and deny your Polish family?

-No, no Józek, I did not go to Greece, I am still in London. Too much work this summer. But I promise, I'll come and visit you before September. I have missed you so much and grandmother too. Give her my love... And... to Mark and Kate too...

-To who? Who are they? We don't have any cousins named Mark and Kate! Hudson I think that you work too hard in London, you definitely need a vacation, in Greece, in Poland, wherever you like, but you need a vacation! I have to leave you now, I have an important meeting... It's about a new computer operating system! Believe me cousin, if I succeed with this thing, I'll be so rich that I promise you; we'll be able to go to Hawaii for holidays!

Hudson put the phone down. Józek was fine. His life was going on, without any sign of the time travel. But what had happened to Kate? All right, and to Mark too. He was a good pal. He cared about him too. But Kate was his main concern... He tried to remember everything he and Kate had talked about when they were trying to fix the Timechanger in the warehouse of Spain. He remembered that Kate was working for NASA before she started working with the Timechanger team in Poland. In 2012 she was 2 years older than him so she was 25 years old. So today, in 2007 she had to be about 20. And at this age she had to be still a student. But in which university?

He tried harder to remember if she had mentioned a university in their conversation but she hadn't. However, she had said that she accepted the invitation to the Timechanger team, especially because the labs were in Poland and she had marvelous memories of Poland, where she had been one summer, during an Erasmus Program. Yes, yes! Could it be the summer of 2007 when Kate went to Poland with the Erasmus Program? This was the only clue he had. And he was going to follow it...

Next morning Hudson met Livingston in the London Bridge. Livingston told him about Nicole and also about his thoughts about what might have happened to the rest of the team. If Nicole was OK and Józek too, then Mark and Kate would be also fine and back to their time without remembering a thing! But Hudson was not satisfied with this. Mark and Kate were in the Timechanger. They were possibly had trapped in the time whirlpool, or in the past! Or in the future! He had to find out. So he explained his plan to Livingstone...

Early the next morning Hudson was already in an airplane to Poland. He would go to his cousin first and without telling him details, he would ask for his help to locate a girl named Kate which was in an Erasmus Program somewhere in Poland... The airhostess brought him a coffee and some Poland newspapers. Hudson knew some Polski, just to be able to read the basics and mostly looked the photos when suddenly he saw a photo of a pretty town and under it, the phrase:

“University students from all over Europe gathered in Ostrowiec this summer, in an Erasmus Program. The students will work in a science project under the commands of a brilliant student, which represents Europe in NASA’s Space Exploration Program: Miss Kate Connelly”.



Hudson spilled his coffee when he jumped up as happy as ever in his life! He kissed the airhostess twice and then started to dream of the day he would see Kate again! Would she remember him?

Late that evening, a taxi left Hudson in front of a hotel in Ostrowiec.



As soon as he arrived in Warsaw’s airport, he contacted Józek and he asked for instructions to go to Ostrowiec. It was so late at night that he had to take a bus to Radom and then a taxi to go the hotel of Ostrowiec. He asked the receptionist to wake him up as early as she could and while he was drinking his coffee next morning, he asked about the campus where the Erasmus Program was taking place.

The hotel manager informed him that the campus was in the village of Bałtów, which was approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Ostrowiec and where he could go with the local bus. Hudson said about one million thanks to the manager, ran to the car rental and rented a small car. He was still tired and his eyes were closing while he was approaching Bałtów. He didn’t see the bus full of students going to the opposite direction...



When Hudson arrived at Bałtów, he started asking for the campus. He finally found it but there was no sign of students. He couldn't understand what was going on.



Hudson went pass a tourist group visiting Bałtów. He heard the guide say:

-Jurassic Park was initiated by Gerard Gierlinski, who discovered in Bałtów the dinosaurs' traces originating from Jura period. That discovery resulted in raising interest, not only of media, but also of local community. People considered the possible way of illustrating the discovery in a way that would bring the tourists to the place. Models of giant reptiles are situated at the places, where scientists discovered their authentic traces. Nowadays the Jurassic Park is still developing and there are more and more dinosaur models.

Hudson looked around. The place looked really interesting and he would visit it for sure if he was not so eager to find a love of his life.

-Sir, sir! We are already closing!

An employee told poor Hudson sitting on the grass just next to the large, prehistoric lizard:

-I came here to look for someone. A girl named Kate Connely. I was informed that a campus of Erasmus Program should be there and she takes part in the program. Do you know something about them? Where did they go?

-Don't worry Sir. They went to Krzemionki.

-Where?

-It's a mine of striped flint nearby Ostrowiec. It's very old mine coming from period of Neolithic age. She must be there.

-Can you tell me how to get there?

-No problem I will give you a map.

The employee gave him a map, and he went back to his work and Hudson run to his car. He moved with squeak of tires.



Few minutes later he was on Krzemionki. He got out of his car. He looked around but he didn't see the mine. Suddenly a man came to him. Hudson asked him:

-Hello. Am I in Krzemionki mine?

-Yes.

The man said.

-And where is the mine?

Hudson asked.

-Mine and museum are in these two buildings. Excuse me; I see that you are a stranger here. Maybe I will show you round?

-No thanks I'm looking for a woman, she is a scientist

-What is her name? I can help you because I'm boss of this centre.

-Kate

-I'm afraid there is no such person here. Do you want to see the mine?

-No thanks. I'm very tired and I want to come back to the hotel.



After the conversation with the mine manager, sad Hudson got into his car and decided to come back to his hotel room. He was so tired and broken down. Suddenly through the window of his car he saw a large billboard with a beautiful girl, smiling girl on it. A swimming pool – that is exactly what he needed.



The swimming pool was full of young people laughing and playing and swimming... And then, in the centre of all these, there was an illusion, like the ones that thirsty people see in the desert... yes, it was water but the important thing was that in the water, wearing a yellow bathing suit, was Kate! A young and beautiful Kate! His Kate!

The girl went out of the pool, took her towel and went to change clothes. Hudson stood like a statue and kept looking at her. He didn't know what to do. He didn't know if Kate was remembering him or not. If he talked to her she might get scared. What a problem! She is 5 meters away from him and he cannot even talk to her. Hudson decided to follow her. He was hoping to find the right moment to speak to her!

He moved slowly to exit, dropped his plan of visiting the pool. Kate already went away with her students towards the local park. Hudson, without the thought, moved to a group. They walked, passed trees, cinema, hotel, which he slept in last night until they came to school called Technical School of Ostrowiec (people living in Ostrowiec call this school THM).

Kate called to one's charges:

-Get into, move, move! We are already late, lessons began 5 minutes ago!

The girl with her students went to the Technical School of Ostrowiec. There were so many people. The entire city. Hudson decided to ask a teenager student what the occasion was.

-Hello! Can you tell me what is happening here?

-Don't you know? We have the eTwinning celebration!

-And what is this eTwinning? Never heard of it...

-Never heard of eTwinning? You don't know what you are losing mister! Is the best European project ever! The students find partners from all over Europe and work together! It is so much fun! We have also had an eTwinning project in our school this year! We cooperated with a technical school of Greece, of the city of Nea Smyrni! And today we are all here to have a big party! Our project was the coolest of all

projects in Europe! We became famous in all world with a fantastic novel we wrote together! You should come to our party mister!

*-Wow! We didn't have things like this when I was a student! Thank you!
Yes, I will come to the party!*

Hudson remembered how boring his school was just a few years ago. Now the students had so many possibilities... New technologies had brought a big change to education...

The music started. And he started looking for Kate. There she was! Dancing and smiling with her friends! He held his breathe and spoke to her:

-Excuse me, Kate, is that you?

-Hi! No, I am not Kate, I am her sister Lola, and everyone is confused when he sees us! We are twins! And you, who are you? A friend of Kate? I don't think I have seen you before. We are not from the Erasmus program, are you?

Hudson fainted. This was too much for him...

-Are you ok now? You scared me!

Now Hudson was sitting in a comfortable armchair, feeling better but still dazed.

-I am so sorry... I think it was the high temperature and all that noise...

-In case you have not realized it yet, I am Lola, Kate's sister. And you?

-My name is Hudson. I came from London to find your sister. It's a very complicated story, I am afraid I can't tell you... But please, can you inform me about your sister? Where is she? Is she ok?

-My crazy sister has vanished!

Hudson almost fainted again. He knew it; he knew something had gone wrong! But Lola surprised him once more!

-A few days ago she told me that she had seen a very strange dream. That she met a man in Ancient Egypt and the man told her to meet him

under the Sphinx! And the crazy girl left the campus and went to Egypt to find the man of her dream!

-Did this man have a name?

-Oh yes, he did! His name was Mark! I am crazy too, but my sister even more! Can you imagine that? She went to Egypt to find a man named Mark who she saw in a dream! When she comes back...

-Did she find him? Did she?

-Well, look. The craziest thing of all is that she found him... you are not going to believe it, but this morning she called me and told me that she found him! She went to the Sphinx...

...And Lola started telling the story of her sister to Hudson...

After getting out of the time whirlpool, nor Mark, neither Kate could not remember anything about the last 5 years... The Timechanger took them back to the time that nothing had happened with the Time Machine travels. Kate found herself on her bed in the campus of Erasmus program and Mark was still having summer holidays somewhere in the Greek islands. But the promise they gave to each other to meet again seconds before the Timechanger took them back in time, was so vivid in their heads and hearts that they thought that it was a dream they saw...

And they decided to go for it...

For Mark was very easy. He took the first boat he found, returned to Piraeus and from there; he went to Athens airport with a ticket to Cairo. From there, he rented a jeep and went to the dessert. There, under the Sphinx, he waited for three days for the girl of his dream...

For Kate it was a bit more difficult. She had to leave the campus and the authorities would not give her permission. She finally managed to go to Warsaw in secret, where she found a flight to Italy and then she changed airplane to go to Alexandria. She finally arrived at the Sphinx by the end of the third day...

When Mark saw her he felt that the hours they spent together in ancient Egypt all came back... and Kate realized that her dream was true... They didn't speak; they just held hands just like when they were walking next to the walls of Tebs and the river Nile... and they kept walking together until the night fell and they saw the wonderful sky above their hands... Then they returned to Cairo and the next morning Kate called her sister to tell her that she found the man of her dreams under the Sphinx...



Hudson was feeling much better now. In a way he was sorry that Kate chose Mark but he was happy that she was OK. And Mark was OK too. And they were coming to find them... Lola was such a good companion. She took him for supper and told him so many funny stories about her and her sister's childhood. They had such a good time together... Well, he had to admit it. Lola was very nice. Probably better than Kate!!! And she definitely smelled much better! Like vanilla or something... Kate had a strange smell when they were in Spain... Like she had stepped on horses' dung... What was going on with him? Was he falling in love with Lola? And the funniest thing was that Lola had a female hamster. A quite beautiful hamster, crazy about doughnuts... And the hamster's name was Natasha... Sparkles would find her very interesting! Hudson decided to enjoy his vacation in Poland. He would stay to Ostrowiec for a few days, just to see Kate and Mark coming back from Egypt and then he would go to see Józek. And certainly he would keep a contact with Lola! In September she was going back to London for her studies and Kate was going to go back to NASA for the Space Program. Hudson wished to be able to tell the girls about the time travels and all that time they spent lost in time... But he couldn't. It was a secret. One day he thought, Dr.

Liv would fix the Time Machine and they could tell everyone about it... Now... he had to call Dr. Liv and tell him the good news about the rest of the Time Traveling team!!!

Lola and Hudson went to Warsaw airport to meet Kate and Mark. Józek came to pick them up with his car. The five of them became very close friends. Especially Józek and Mark, which were connected with a common interest in computers. Józek told Mark about his plans with the new operating system and Mark promised to help. But now was summer and they were on vacation! They were not going to talk about business! They were going to enjoy their free time as much as they could! And what would be the best way to do that? Mark proposed for everyone to continue their holidays in the Greek islands! So the ex-Time Travelers set a new destination: Mykonos, Greece!

It was the best summer of their lives. They visited Mykonos, Santorini, Rodos and many other places in Greece.



Every day they were swimming and sunbathing, in the afternoons they were looking at the sunset and in the evenings they were dancing. They also saw many antiquities and museums and finally they ended up in Athens, to visit Acropolis. It was a very emotional moment for all of them.



Hudson closed his eyes. This was a time travel he always wanted to make. When the Time Machine was ready to travel again, this had to be the first place he was going to visit... He might even find one of his ancestors in ancient Athens... Maybe a great great great grandfather of him, was a priest in Parthenon Temple... He liked the idea very much! So he promised to himself to return to London and work hard with Dr. Liv to repair the Time Machine. Lola was going to be so proud of him! Yes! This summer was definitely the most exiting summer of their lives...

Back to London the laboratory was ready to start working again. Dr. Liv made new arrangements. The Time Machine was designed to move only objects in time. This was safer. And useful. Small robots would travel in time to collect material that could help the scientists find evidences and explanations about the change of the climate of the Earth in order to protect our planet in the future from the pollution and the rise of temperature. They also could find evidences about lost civilizations, the Cataclysm, the Atlantis and many other mysteries in the long history of Mankind. And Dr. Liv would be able to achieve his dream to win the Nobel Price...

But before this... he had to do something else first...

On April 2008 Doctor Daffy Livingston and Miss



Nicole Spenser got married in a romantic ceremony, which took place in a small church in the Highlands of Scotland.

Next year Dr. Liv won the Nobel Price of Physics. It was the most spectacular day of the year. Liv and Nicole went to Sweden for the awards. Liv recieved the Science Nobel Price in front of the King and the Queen of Sweden while people applauded! Hudson attended the awards with Lola by his side. They were happier than ever and they also were living together with Sparkles and Natasha, the hamsters, in a new and bigger attic near the London Bridge!



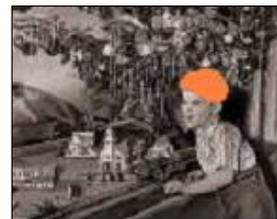
Kate was finishing a great project about the first human travel to Mars in NASA and Mark was in Poland working hard with Józek for the new computer operating system. They could not come to the awards in Sweden, but they all promised that they would spend the summer vacation together. It was something like a tradition to the Time Travelers to spend the summer together after that first summer when they were lost in time. The Nobel Price had also included a big money award and Dr. Liv decided to spend it by taking all his friends to Hawaii!



A couple of years passed. Hudson was a top computer engineer in the Time Machine Laboratory and Dr. Liv was a member of the Royal Academy of London. Józek, who was still living in Poland, had finished the Operating System with the assistance of Mark. The new system became a hit in the world market and within a night, Józek became as rich as he could ever imagine! He bought a huge house in the suburbs of Warsaw and even an Art Gallery. For a reason he could not explain, he started collecting paintings of a Spanish painter, Pedro Berruguete. His best piece was a painting called “Saint Dominic presiding over an Auto-da-fe”. In a corner of the painting was a strange artefact that reminded him of the Time Machine of Dr. Liv!

Lola and Kate were working for the European Council of Education. They were leading programs of New Technologies and education. Lola was very passionate with these projects. She never forgot that she met Hudson in a concert for an eTwinning program, back in Ostrowiec years ago...

It was the end of year 2012 when all friends met each other again in a big ceremony where Józek took the Price of the best Operating System.



It was a very special day because Christmas was very close and friends decided to celebrate this day together. They gathered in the big British style house of Dr. Livingston, which was full of Christmas decorations. Dr. Liv and Nicole had had hundreds of gifts under a big Christmas tree! They were very happy. They had triplets.

Three smart red-haired boys who looked just like their daddy! Mark and Kate announced their wedding! Józek was going to be the best man!



Even Sparkles and Natasha had raised a family! In 5 years they had 33 baby hamsters! Every scientist in the Russell Square laboratories had a child of Sparkles as a mascot in his laboratory now! They all thought that the hamsters would bring good luck to their projects as Sparkles had done for Dr. Liv and Hudson!

Hudson looked at the calendar and the date was December 25th 2012. So many adventures in the past years... On the table was a Christmas card from his Polish grandmother that Józek brought with him from Poland:

"wesolych świąt "



Wait a minute... All this seemed too familiar to him. He had a feeling that he was experiencing a dejavu... But where was Lola? She was late! Then the doorbell rang and Hudson went to open the door. There was a gorgeous girl wearing a Santa costume and an Arsenal scarf, smiling to him...his love, Lola!

-Hudson, I am your Christmas present!! Hudson! Hudson!

But as usual Hudson fainted... this was too much!!! Yes, he had relived this scene, 5 years ago in a dream... Or was it not a dream? Could it be the fading memory of another time travel? Hudson smiled... All his friends were close to him... he was never going to be lost again...

500 years before, in the past, in Spain, old Pedro Berruguete is not painting any more. He is too old to see clear. So he spends his free time with his grandchildren. The most happy hour of the day is when the children sit round

him to hear one of his wonderful stories about the time he was a great painter and lived in the courtyards of the kings...

His best story is about the day that inside his atelier appeared a strange machine with two travelers. Old Pedro believes that the machine came from the future and he tells fantastic stories to his grandchildren about the adventures of the time travelers...

Children are anxious to learn what is going to happen...

-¿Y después abuelo, y después?

And old Pedro finishes the story like all tales finish in Spain:

-Y después, el resto de sus vidas fueron felices y comieron perdices...



THE END

(OR NOT???)