

Ben and Teddy Save Earth From The Cyborgs

~By Jayden Xiao

Two days ago, little did I know I would begin a space adventure with a talking bear. Let me take you to the moment when things got weird, I got up and went downstairs to eat my breakfast, but to my surprise, I saw nobody there. I wandered around every empty room, panicking. Did *they crash on the way to get groceries?* I felt confused, and fear rose up my spine. I went upstairs to double-check our bedrooms, I glanced at my homework and realized it hadn't been finished. I panicked again because it was due today!

Before I could walk over to finish it, I saw my lucky homework pen suddenly turn golden and rise into the air. I felt flip-flops in my stomach, and fear tightened my throat. I couldn't help but touch it. As my fingers curled around it, I felt electricity from my head to toe. I wanted to let go, but I couldn't control my hand. I wondered, *what could this magical pen do?* The pen made my hand feel powerless and forced me to draw a teddy bear. The pen forced me to fling it onto the ground. As it did that, the paper puffed up, and a teddy bear emerged out of the paper and sat on my desk. Then it winked and waved at me. I didn't know what to do, so I waved back.

"I bet you're so freaked out right now, aren't you?" The teddy bear said, and then it held its paw to its mouth to stifle a giggle.

I said, "How can you talk, and where did you come from?" My body froze as if it were in a human-sized ice cube.

"How am I so fascinating, huh? I am a magical character from your dreams."

I tried to remember my dreams, but nothing about a talking bear popped up. I wondered if the bear could read my mind since he apparently came from my dreams.

"But how did you just...puff out of that page?"

"Never mind about that. More important: the big problem is that your family has been abducted by cyborgs."

"What? Why?" My body warmed up like a microwave.

“Ohhhhh, Fuzzy didn’t tell you yet, eh? That’s no good Ben...that damned Fuzzy! I always do his job for him.” He shook his head and rolled his eyes.

“Who is Fuzzy? Was he already here? What do you mean by “abducted?” Oh wait, that would explain why they’re gone this morning?! Where are they now? How do you know my name?”

“Fuzzy is the dog behind you. He was supposed to activate last night so he could warn your parents.”

I slowly glanced over my shoulder and saw a cavapoo with *Fuzzy* engraved on a name-tag.

Teddy exclaimed, “Just wait! Don’t pet him, I’ll activate him later.”

“Activate him? It’s a stuffed toy!” I reached out to pet the toy and Teddy yelled, “STOP!!”

I pet him anyway because I couldn’t resist. A golden glow appeared around Fuzzy, and the cavapoo immediately jumped with excitement and said, “Hello, Ben, your family is going to be abducted by cyborgs later tonight.” He spoke with little barks between words.

Teddy shook his head and rolled his eyes, “Yeah, we know that already. Where were you last night when that would’ve been useful?”

Fuzzy said, “I ki-”

Teddy interrupted, “It’s okay, I already knew you were going to forget. All you have to do right now is patrol the interior of this house for cyborg ships while I explain to the kid what is going on.”

Fuzzy bounced down the stairs.

“Look kid, this is gonna be shocking, you see, your family has something unique. A certain code in their DNA that the cyborgs have been roaming the universe looking for.”

“Uh, cyborgs?”

He shook his head, “Fuzzy should have told you about the cyborgs destroying our first planet Earth and how they took over.”

“This is insane!” I felt overwhelmed with knowledge. What I had been taught was only the big bang. “So why doesn’t anyone on this apparent second planet know that this is our second planet? I don’t believe you.”

“Look, kid, the cyborgs made a deal with your governments to move to a new earth, but you are too young to understand it at this moment, and I’ve got to get to the point so we can leave faster.”

“Wha–” He didn’t listen.

“After humanity was moved here, the cyborgs wanted to rule us again, and they negotiated another deal with the new earth’s governments. This time, they want to grow human cyborgs, and your family’s DNA is the key to them growing their own army.”

“My DNA grows cyborgs?”

He looked at me with a worried expression and explained, “You see, as you grow, your DNA starts to develop, and you are way too young...”

“Says the teddy bear,” I mumbled with an eye roll.

“What did you say?” Teddy had his fists curled up.

“Nothing.” I looked side to side to avoid eye contact.

“As I was saying, you are too young for the cyborgs, but...”

“I have superpowers?”

Teddy rolled his eyes with exaggeration.

“Just come with me already! BUT, you must trust everything I do with this pen...” Teddy said.

He then drew a circle in my sketchbook. A strange sound echoed around my room, and a mysterious portal puffed out of the page. It swirled with blacks and blues. It pulsed like a heart pumping blood. Before me glowed a one-way portal to somewhere I’d never been.

Teddy said, “After you...”

I wondered, *should I go in?*