

"Terra, listen to me. If you lose that watch, your true strength will be proven, and all will be chaos." Grandpa's unforgettable words echo in my head. Today is the day that I turn sixteen, the time that I get my big task. And probably one of the biggest tasks I will ever have to do in my life.

My name is Terra Anderson. I'm pretty much just an average girl, all except for the fact that today I'm going to get a "magic watch". The watch was my grandfather's that he had since he was a child. It has been passed down from generation to generation. He died a while ago, and handed the watch to my aunt, Kara. She is taking care of me now, while my parents are away on trips.

According to Grandpa, time can change lives, whatever he means by that. He keeps saying that that if the watch is lost or stolen, then something will happen to the world, and it won't be good.

"Terra, get down here! I must talk to you. This is important." Aunt Kara calls. I hurry down the stairs. "I just wanted to tell you about my father's watch. The watch that I am holding in my hands right now is really important. It's supposed to be passed down to you when you turn 16, which is today. I trust you with this watch, Terra. Here it is." She reaches in her pocket and pulls out the watch. I stare at it in amazement. Although it is rusting and old-looking, it still has a beautiful golden shine. The antique pocket watch was slightly heavy, and nearly falling apart. It opened, and I realized that there was a locket, with a picture inside of it, of Grandpa.

"Keep it in this pouch, so it will be extra safe." She hands me a blue pouch, decorated with many designs. With this pouch with me, I doubt I'll lose it, although I don't think I need to worry about losing the watch. I'm confident, some might say overconfident, but I trust myself.

"I will definitely make sure that I take care of this watch. I should get going now, because you know, I have school today. So I'll see you after school!" I grabbed my backpack, slipped on my shoes, and headed toward the door.

"Goodbye, Terra. Have fun, happy birthday!"

"Terrie! Here's your gift, it's not much. Happy birthday!"

"No, I want to give her my present first!" The voices of my friends filled our classroom. It's a pretty big school, so I'm glad that I got them in a lot of my classes. I go to Carlson High School. It's a pretty fancy school, and it's HUGE. When I was little, I entered a knowledge competition, and I won first place. I skipped a grade, because I have the knowledge of an older student's. Most of my friends are about a year older than me.

"Aw, thanks guys. You really didn't have to. I mean, it's really nice of you, but you didn't have to go and get me something." I said.

"Yes we did, Terrie! You are our very best friend, and why not get a special friend a special gift?" said Mia. Mia is the one who came up with the nickname Terrie for me.

"Of course, how we not get you something, Terra?" said Kana. She hugged me. Kana was the funniest out of all of my friends. She always told jokes that made me laugh, but sometimes, she can overkill her jokes.

"Hey, what's that hanging out of your pocket?" a asked. I looked at my pocket. The pouch with Grandpa's watch was about to fall out. I quickly shoved it back in. I know that Mia and Kana are my good friends, and I shouldn't keep secrets from them, but I definitely couldn't tell them about this. It's a family secret that is never to be told outside of the family.

"Oh! It's just.... uh... another gift from someone!" I lied. They gave me a suspicious look.

"Anyways, here's my gift." said Mia. She handed me a well-wrapped gift that read: To: Terrie, From: Mia <Happy B-Day!> I opened it. Inside was a stuffed bunny.

Bunnies are my favorite animal.

"Thank you so much, Mia!" I exclaimed. She smiled.

"Next is my gift. I made it special for you." said Kana. I opened the bag and saw some delicious-looking cookies. The smell of chocolate filled the air. I picked one up, and they felt soft and warm. I took a bite. The warm chocolate chips melted in my mouth. I was in cookie heaven. These were the best cookies I ever tasted. I heard a crunch. I noticed that there were nuts inside of the cookie.

"These are delicious, Kana." I said. I was about to take another bite, when a voice came on the speakers.

"Terra Anderson, please report to the office. Terra Anderson, if you are in the building, please report to the office, thank you." I grabbed my bag and went to the office.

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"What? My aunt Kara is missing? How did that happen? Someone broke in?! Who will take care of me?" I cried. Tears fill my eyes. This is terrible!

"Terra, calm down, and just relax, and follow me..." The principal grabbed my arm and led me into one of the rooms in the office. "Okay. You may not know this, but I am your grandfather's daughter. I was given up for adoption, because he had too many other things on his mind that began to overshadow taking care of me, which that thing on his mind was the watch. You have it now, and I need you to take care of it, okay? My name is Ann. Principal Morris, as everyone calls me. But I was born with the last name Anderson. Just like you." she explained. I cried even harder. How could I not know that my principal was my relative?

"But wait. Why can't I stay with you until Kara is found? Why should I believe you?" I questioned. I cried EVEN harder. I couldn't take this. I need to go home and see what's going on. I ran out the room.

I ran to my house. I slammed the door and locked it, then took a look around.

Everything was the same as I left it. I reached in my pocket, and was relieved to see that the watch was still there. I walked in my room and found a letter. Here is what the letter said.

Terra,

I know you have the watch. Don't believe your family. The watch wasn't your grandfather's. It was mine. My name is XXXXXXXX XXXXXX. I am going to find that watch. Unless you are willing to just give it to me. I have your aunt Kara. If you want Kara, then you'll have to find me. But you'll never be able to do that.

I will find that watch.

~ XXXXXXXX XXXXXX

This can't be good. This is beginning to overwhelm me. Who was this person? I have to get some sleep. I just hope that when I wake up, the watch will still be here. I have a sinking feeling.

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"The watch belongs, now. All I need is her. We will see if she is worthy of getting this watch"

What just happened? Thank goodness it was just a dream. But that man... Who was he? I worriedly look around, but I'm relieved to see that I'm still at home. The sky is as dark as can be. Just how early did I wake up? I look at my clock, as it reads 4:00 A.M.

My attention turns to see something on my desk, and letter is on it. Could it be from the same person as last time?

Terra,

I told you I would find you. Now, your watch is gone. Do you want to find me? Too bad, you won't be able to. I am miles away from where you are, and I'm holding the most valuable watch in the world right now, thanks to you. You had the watch out, completely visible for me to see and steal, rather than hiding it! I still have your aunt, but I also have Mia and Kana. Anyway, your grandfather said that something bad would happen if the watch got stolen, right? Well, the only hint I'll give you is, look at your calendar. It sure isn't 2016 anymore.

~ XXXXXXX XXXXX.

The watch is gone, far out of my reach. I felt like had just fallen off of a sixteen-story high building. I need to find out who this is! But my... calendar? I take a look at it, (It's an electronic calendar) and notice that it doesn't say February 18, 2016, like it should, it says:

February 18, 3022.

Confused, I run to my window. Year 3000? I expect to see flying cars, but instead, I see normal cars, like I would see any day. Did time freeze, but just go farther? Maybe I'm just being fooled. Electronic devices can sometimes be wrong.

But I check the date on my cellphone. February 18, 3022. But this mysterious

watch-stealer could've reset the time on both of them. But regardless of what year it is, I will find that man who has my watch.

Even if it takes days.

Even if it takes years.

I must do it, for the sake of grandpa.

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Once I calm down a little bit, I grab a bag, and put my laptop, my cellphone, the two letters, and a notebook and pen inside of it. I run out the door, and walk to my usual hiding spot, the tree behind the public library. It's kind of strange- and scary going out this time of day-or should I say night, but at least nobody will notice me. Well, actually I can't guarantee that nobody will see me.

As I stroll down the street, the dark, shadowy street, I look around. Same old city of bland, blah and boring. Everything looks the same. So I hope that this '3022' thing is still a scam. Once I reach the old tree, I sit down. It feels slightly damp, and smells like wet grass. I pull out my laptop, hoping it won't get wet, and find one new email.

To: terrieanderson95@xxxxxx.com

Subject: Crime Suspect Army

<Feb. 18, 3022 at 4:39 A.M.> Sent by: timeagency10@xxxxxx.com

Terra,

This is the time agency of New York City. We have heard that your grandfather Ronald Anderson's watch has been stolen. I can help you with that. I am Mike Hall, founder of the Time Agency. We are the ones who built Ronald's watch. The watch had a secret that I do not know if you have heard about. The secret is time traveling, and that is why you are in this crisis.

Time travel has happened, and we are now in year 3022. I am sending this

email to you because I know who has the watch, and who has kidnapped your loved ones. He is part of a group of criminals called The Crime Suspect Army. That's what he calls himself and his minions. Come meet me behind the office building on Broad St., at 6:00 A.M. today. The address is 5738 Broad St. Please inform me on this whole situation when you get here, because I don't exactly know what happened completely. ^-^ -Mike Hall

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As soon as I got to 5738 Broad Street, I instantly became confused. There was no building there, only vacant buildings. Maybe there was a fire here. The sun begins to rise, and more cars start to drive by. More people start to walk down the street, and I find some of them staring at me.

A woman comes up to me and asks, "Little girl, are you lost?". I wonder how she thinks I'm a 'little' girl, because I'm sixteen. Well, I am short for my age. Am I *that* short?

"No, I'm okay." I reply. I watch as the woman stares and points at something in horror, and screams.

"It's him, IT'S HIM!" she screams, running away. I turn in the direction she was pointing in, only to see a man, dressed in all black, standing in an alley. The man looks familiar.

"Terra. What a great time to see you. Now, you're coming with me." the man says. I nearly faint. Now I know who he is. I was pretty sure that it was the man who stole my watch. His tense stare was hard to look at, yet I wanted to get a closer look at him to confirm that it was the man from my dream. It was definitely him. My back was against the cold brick wall of alley. I looked around, trying to think of a direction to run. There was no way to go. The alley was narrow, and if I tried to run past him, he probably wouldn't let me get by.

I was nearly speechless, but I was able to force the words, "My... watch..." out of my mouth. A smile showed across his face.

"You mean this?" he asked. He pulled the watch out of his pocket, holding it up in the air. The watch had a slight reflection on the alley wall, from the rising sun.

I couldn't take it. I needed it back. I needed Aunt Kara back. I needed Mia and Kana back.

"Give me the watch." I urged. I stepped closer to him, but he was still far away from me.

"You think just whining and saying, "Give me my watch" is going to make me give it to you? It's the most valuable watch in the world. Now some people from the city formed a crowd, making the situation even tenser.

Not even thinking about thinking about whether or not he would stop me, I ran right past him at full speed, clutching my cell phone. The 'audience' gasped, and burst into murmurs and whispers. My hand wildly shaking, I pull my phone out of my pocket, ready to call for help. My fingers are unable to dial the numbers.

Giving it another shot, I run at full speed towards him, finally grabbing the watch. I'm out of breath, but relieved that it was in my hands again. But that's when the feeling hit me. I began to get a massive headache, to the point where there was a loud sound in my head. It sounded like a clock ticking, this same feeling that I got before. But this time, I got dizzy, and my legs got weak. I collapsed onto the ground. Suddenly, a flash in my mind took me back to when I was still 5 years old, and I could sense that the time was changing back to the way it was, out of this millennium. Time was rewinding.

"Terra is definitely ready for this. She showed me how much she cares about the watch, which made me happy." I think to myself. As she sat on the floor playing with building blocks, I smile at her. She proved to me that she can handle the power of the watch and all of the family secrets that it holds. I know she'll take care of it in the future.