

“We never go any were exciting,” Hannah told her mom. “I just want to go on a vacation.”

“Honey we are going to Texas tomorrow, isn’t that a vacation?”

“I guess so, I just want to go somewhere more, umm, I don’t know, EXCITING!!”

The next day she woke up to her mom screaming her name from the kitchen. “Hannah! Get down here! We are leaving in two hours for Texas.”

She got up and got ready. She brushed her teeth with her minty fresh tooth paste that she squeezed upon her toothbrush. She combed her hair with her black brush with every single bristle. She tried to be slow because she was enjoying the cool air outside coming out of the window.

She got dressed in her favorite outfit. It was purple on top with green ruffles all down the skirt. She turned over to look at her dog Bella Boo. Then she realized if she were to go on vacation Bella couldn’t come with them. She stomped down stairs and told her mom.

“We thought you knew, darling,” Mom tried to pacify Hannah.

“Yeah, of course I knew,” she lied. She actually had no clue. She packed her suitcase with everything she needed in order to have fun. She ate her waffles and drank her juice. It was time to leave for Texas.

They boarded the plane. It was a long three hours but she managed to sleep the whole time. They arrived at 3:34 pm. It was very hot. Her mom told her to look for some animals so she looked behind some trees and in some bushes. She saw a cacti field. There were purple cacti, yellow cacti, green cacti, and much more colors and species of cacti. She bent down to feel real cactus from Texas. She has never touched real cactus before. It was bumpy and spikey.

As she bent over, she saw the most unusual cactus. It had stripes of purple and dots of blue and rainbow striped as well. It was so unusual that she decided to cut it, put it in a pot, and take it home. As she cut it down, a small spike stuck out and poked her. “Ouch,” she said. She decided to leave the cactus there for more people to see, though she took a picture of it.

The next morning she woke up in her hotel room and felt dizzy and sick. Her mom asked her if anything had happened. She said no but explained what happened when she got pricked by a cactus.

“Hey quit stepping on me,” she heard someone say.

“Who said that?” she asked with a stutter.

“You weigh a ton, Hannah.”

“Who said that? Stop! You’re scaring me,” she yelled. She looked down and saw faces on her toes; they were...talking to her! She didn’t understand what was going on. She was scared. “How did this happen?”

“Well, Hannah, a witch made a potion and poured it over that pretty little cactus so whoever gets pinched by it ends up having us on their right foot forever as long as they don’t figure out how to stop it,” explained her toes.

“Oh, by the way, I am Bigbee, the big toe.”

“And this is Ida, the index toe; Rangy, the right toe; Penny the pinky toe; and Marcie the middle toe.”

“Hello, I’m...” she started to say.

“We know who you are, Hannah. You’re 12 years old and have a dog named Bella. By the way, could you please tell her to stop licking us?” Bigbee said.

“Okay, so how do I get rid of you, no offence?” she inquired.

“Well, Hannah I don’t know but I think we will have lots of fun. You can paint my nail.” Hannah sat down and thought about a solution. She thought about a potion, another cactus, a ritual, but what she knew for sure was that she could never tell anyone.

When she got back home, her best friend Bailey invited her to a pool party. “I can’t let anyone see my toes,” she thought. “Umm... sure I will be there tomorrow at 4:00,” she told her friend. She left to go to Bailey’s house the next day. She put on flippers so that nobody could see her toes. Everyone made fun of her. “What are you a dolphin?” people would ask her. She ran home crying her eyes out into a pillow.

The next day was soccer try-outs. She kicked the ball in to the goal. “Ouch!” the toes screamed.

“What’s the matter, Smith?” the coach asked.

“Be quiet, Bigbee,” Hannah whispered to her foot.

“Who is Bigbee? I am Coach Clay. If you have such a big imagination why are you even here? We can’t win when your head is in the clouds, now can we?”

“I suppose not but I...I...” she tried to say.

“I don’t want to hear it. Sorry you didn’t make the cut.” Hannah stomped home.

She had a great idea; no, a light bulb idea. One could almost see it glow above her head.

“Mom, Dad, I need to go back to Texas,” she informed them.

“We don’t have the money, Sweetie,” they said.

Hannah sighed. “Fine. I will be a freaky weirdo.”

“What are you talking about?” they asked.

“Okay, I need to tell you guys something.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Okay, in Texas I saw a really pretty cactus so I decided to look at it. I looked too close and I scratched my foot. I guess it infected it and now my toes can talk.” Hannah took off her sock. “See?”

“Oh my goodness, what, how, why, when, what, how did this happen?” Mrs. Smith stuttered.

“I just told you, Mom.”

“I have a plan, okay? I guess we have no choice but to go back to Texas, Hannah.”

The next day they bought their tickets and were on their way. The plane ride was long once again but she managed to sleep. She was worried the plan wouldn’t work. But she went to Texas anyway. She looked for the cactus but couldn’t find it. She was in the exact location but the cactus turned grey when the entire spell came out of it. She knelt down and cut off a pincher and pinched her arm. The cactus hurt but did not do anything.

Sadly, they decided to go to the same hotel room and sleep there over night. It didn’t work. She was upset. Her mom examined Hannah’s foot and screamed. “Hannah you have a splinter. Maybe we could pull it out and it would make your toes stop talking.” She yanked the splinter out.

“Ouch!” It made a mark. The second she yanked the splinter out the toes disappeared altogether. “Now how are they going to grow back!” she screamed.

“Don’t worry, Hannah” her mother said. “Maybe I need to make a potion” Hannah said out loud. She found a book conveniently placed on the table filled with spells. They mixed cactus juice, ketchup, plum juice, octopus, cranberry hotdogs, peanut butter squash, pickles, and a splash of lemon flavored worms. She drank it. Her big toe grew back but Bigbee was not on it. “It’s working “the next potion instead of pickles it had chocolate Lima beans. The ring toe grew back. I was happy to know there is a way. They looked at the book; it said in order to get the rest of my toes back I would have to mix the splinter in with the potion.

They looked everywhere. That splinter was gone. She could not find it anywhere. She looked under couches and inside rooms. This hunt took hours. They found a sparkly rod. It was about three feet long. They didn’t know what it was. They opened it by smashing it on the wall. Inside the rod was a box covered in rhinestones. They needed a key to open it. They looked under a piece of cloth that was inside the rod as well. The key was under it. They unlocked the box and inside the box was a black sparkling bag. Inside that bag was a necklace. The necklace had a locket on it. When you opened the locket it would have a song. The lyrics were:

*To find what you behold*

*May be hard because this locket is old*

*Think of where you were before*

*Dance through it never ignore*

*Under and over, all around*

*The splint in your heart may never be found*

This song keeps repeating in the locket. “Oh it’s a clue, Mom,” Hannah told her mom.

“Well maybe *to find what you behold may be hard because this locket is old* might mean that the locket will tell us what to do,” said Hannah.

“Honey,” her mom said. “Where have you been before because it says *think of where you were before.*”

“I went to the cactus field,” Hannah said.

“We’ll look there. Maybe you will find something.”

“Okay” she told her mother.

She looked and looked but couldn't find a clue anywhere. So she stared at the cactus and it started to glow. A drawer popped out from the tree next to it. Inside was the splinter. She was so excited as she ran back to the hotel and drank the potion. Her toes grew back.

Her life after that was very ordinary. She got married to a guy named Cody. She had 6 kids. She named them Rue, Natalie, Katie, Maggie, Kim, and Claire. They all were born with talking toes that they couldn't get rid of them. They all took care of each other. If you're wondering, yes, they all hate talkative Bigbee as well.

Their friends think it is cool that they have the talkative toes. The mom married her high school sweetheart. They had a honeymoon at Paris under the sparkling moon light. They had a boat tour as well. The sun beams are sparkling as we speak. Their eldest child Kim is off in college. She is falling in love with a guy named Jeff. They love each other. They are planning on getting married!

One might wonder if they will have a big family like Hannah and her husband Cody? If there is one thing Hannah learned in her life it was that there is always room for adventure!

**The end**