

# The library

Time travel is impossible, that's what Ellie had been told, but as she stood across the road from the Alexandra library, her gold curly hair blowing in the wind, she thought the usual question: how did it burn down?

It was two hundred years ago, no one alive today would know, no one knew what happened then either. All that was known was on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1819 the Alexandra library burned down. Nobody was hurt, it was the middle of the night.

*Time travel is possible*, Ellie told herself. But every day that optimistic feeling drifted further out of reach.

"You're a madman," Ellie heard the angry shout from the house behind her. A teenage boy was thrown out the door, "I can't believe you still carry on with that nonsense. TIME TRAVEL DOES NOT EXIST LEN."

Ellie couldn't help but stare. Len looked up at her.

"Can I help you?" he snapped.

"You believe in time travel too?" Ellie was ecstatic, "I thought I was the only one!"

Len stood up and brushed dust from his jumper, "yeah, I guess," he sighed, "the problem is nobody else does."

"I do!" Ellie screamed.

"Okay, so nobody else does *except* for the random girl I just met." Ellie hinted sarcasm in Len's voice.

Ellie sighed and turned back to the charred remains of the Alexandra library, "do you ever wish you could change history?"

"Oh, but I can!" Len smirked, "follow me."

*This better not be kidnap*, Ellie thought to herself as Len led her to his garage. When he opened the door Ellie gasped. A vivid red telephone box was placed in the middle of the ground. *What is that?* She thought to herself.

"This is my time machine," Len declared.

Ellie started to giggle.

“It works, I swear,” Len’s retort made Ellie laugh even more. He sighed and pulled out a picture.

“Is that... Churchill?” right enough as Ellie stared at the photo Len explained.

“Ah VE day,” he sighed, “and I got to experience it all thanks to my working time machine.

Ellie imagined the Alexandra library, fully refurbished and buzzing with people. “So, this time machine can take you *anywhere*?”

Len smiled, “anywhere.”

Ellie opened the telephone box’s door, “well, there’s no harm in trying.” then she shut the door with a loud slam.

Ellie set the date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 1819, the day the Alexandra library burnt down and pressed enter. Suddenly there was a blinding flash of light, and she was gone.

Len was gobsmacked. He threw the VE day picture to the ground.

“Wow,” he gasped, “I didn’t think it would, photoshop is very effective.”

Ellie awoke on a cold, hard, dusty pavement. All around her horse-drawn carriages trotted around. Opposite her was a majestic building with people fluttering in and out. It was the Alexandra library! She’d done it! She’d travelled back in time!

A masked man approached the library. In his hand he had a box of matches. He was the cause of the library burning down.

*This is my only chance, Ellie thought. Time to rewrite history.*

Ellie sprang onto the man, knocking him to the ground. The packet of matches skidded across the road where a carriage trampled over them.

“You fool!” the man snarled, “what have you done?”

Ellie knew her work here was done so she ran away. The telephone box was surrounded by flabbergasted people, unsure what this contraption was. Ellie pushed her way through the crowd and hopped into the time machine.

Now the crowd were even more bewildered. A girl had stepped into the object. Would she be safe? There was a blinding flash of light. The object had gone, with the girl inside!

Ellie opened her eyes. She was back in Len's garage.

"You did it!" he cheered, "I don't know how but you did it!"

Ellie had no time to answer. She ran outside to see the Alexandra library still standing. Its pristine marble walls gleaming in the sunlight. Nobody was there so she ran in to look around.

The library looked very old on the inside. It was still lit by candles and the books were from the 1800s, but Ellie couldn't be happier.

Suddenly she heard footsteps behind her. She saw a big black wolf with red horns. It was a demon! And there was a whole pack of them.

You see the library was burnt down for a reason. Demons from the underworld lived there. But Ellie never knew.