**Downwinders**

Created by Cali Dansie, Brandon Kinghorn and Sadie Snow

**Character List:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Narrator  Grandma Jane  Chloe  Max  Winston Churchill | A British Woman  British Man  Joey  Las Vegas Gambler  Las Vegas Woman  Soldier | Alice  Alice’s Mom  Alice’s Dad  Grandpa Jack  Slide Navigator |

**SCENE 1**

**Slide 1 (house)**

**Narrator:** The scene takes place at Grandma Jane’s house. Max and Chloe are visiting their grandmother Jane. She is sick in bed with cancer and couldn’t attend their birthday party but wanted to give the twin siblings their special birthday gift.

**Slide 2 (grandmother)**

**Grandmother Jane:** Happy Birthday to the two most wonderful grandchildren a grandmother could ask for. Max and Chloe you two are now 13 years old and I have a special gift that I have been saving for this special day.

**Slide 3 (book)**

**Narrator:** Grandmother Jane pulls out an old leather bound book.

**Grandmother Jane:** I want you to have this book. My grandmother gave it to me on my 13th birthday and I want you two to have it. It will take you on many wonderful adventures.

**Max:** Thanks grandma Jane.

**Chloe:** Yea thanks Grandma.

**Slide 4 (street view)**

**Narrator:** The two leave their grandmother’s bedside and start walking down the street to their house.

**Max:** Dang I was hoping for something cooler than an old book for my birthday.

**Chloe:** Ya and to top it off I have to share it with you. I love Grandma Jane but sometimes I feel like she gives us the weirdest gifts.

**Max:** Remember three Christmases ago when she gave us those matching sweaters.

**Slide 5 (sweaters)**

**Chloe:** Oh and mom made us wear them for family pictures.

**Max:** Well at least we won't have to wear this gift and have it documented forever in the family photo album.

**SCENE 2**

**Slide 6 (book)**

**Narrator:**

Later that night Max and Chloe are sitting at the kitchen table looking at the book their Grandma Jane gave them.

**Max:** I wish grandma Jane didn’t have cancer.

**Chloe:** She used to be so much fun and would play with us all the time.

**Max:** And her chocolate chip cookies… Just thinking of them makes me hungry.

**Chloe:** How could you be hungry … we just ate.

**Max:** I wonder why she got cancer. It just isn’t fair.

**Chloe:** I wonder why grandmother gave us this old book. Do you want to read it together?

**Max:** I guess

**Slide 7 (book opening)**

**Narrator:** As they open the book the two siblings are magically transported back in history to 1946.

**Slide 8- VIDEO CLIP OF WINSTON CHRUCHILL**

**Slide 9 (Churchill, woman, man)**

**Winston Churchill:** It is my duty, however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe. From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent.

**Max:** Wow! Where are we?

**British Woman** (Speaking in a British accent)

Shhhhh

**Chloe:** What is going on?

**British Woman:** That's the Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Don’t you know anything?

**Max:** What are you talking about? What year is it?

**British Woman:** Its 1946. We have just survived the second world war thanks to our allies the Russians but now they have gone communist and the whole world is choosing sides.

**Winston Churchill:** I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power and doctrines.

But what we have to consider here today while time remains, is the permanent prevention of war and the establishment of conditions of freedom and democracy as rapidly as possible in all countries.

**Chloe:** What does he mean?

**British Woman:** He means that we need to stop the spread of communism.

**Max:** What is communism?

**British Man:** (speaking in a British accent) Communism is a form of government in which the government owns the property and controls the economy.

**Max:** What is this iron curtain he is talking about?

**Slide 10 (map of iron curtain)**

**British Man:** The Iron curtain is just a name for the boundary dividing Europe into two separate areas. The east side of the curtain or line is controlled by the Soviets (or Russians) and the west are all controlled by non-Soviets.

**Chloe:** So… is there actually an iron curtain?

**British Man:** No. It's a figure of speech but it sure feels like there is…

**SCENE 3**

**Slide 11 (Book turning pages)**

**Narrator:** Max opens the book and turns to the next page and they are magically transported through time to 1951. They arrive on a street in Las Vegas and bump into a boy on the street.

**Slide 12 VIDEO CLIP LAS VEGAS**

**Slide 13 (boy)**

**Joey:** Hey come on. It’s going to be a bash!

**Max:** Where are we? Where are we going? What are you talking about?

**Joey:** What are you writing a book? Come on or we are going to miss it!

**Narrator:** They frantically run into a nearby hotel and take the elevator to the top floor. The kids push their way through a crowd to the front just in time to see the mushroom cloud.

**Slide 14 (gambler man)**

**Las Vegas Gambler:** This is the greatest city in the world. Just look at that cloud… it’s magnificent. It’s like its turning night into day. The Atomic Bomb is the best thing to happen to Vegas.

**Chloe:** What do you mean sir?

**Las Vegas Gambler:** People come from all over to watch these Atomic Bomb tests. The city has come alive with tourism and more people to play cards with.

**Slide 15 (Las Vegas Woman)**

**Las Vegas Woman**: I don't know about you but I feel nervous being so close to these tests. I mean what if something went wrong. It would be the end for all of us.

**Slide 16 (dog tags)**

**Joey:** I hear ya sister. They gave these military style dog tags with our names on them at school the other day and told us to always wear them.

**Max:** Why do you think they did that?

**Joey:** I don’t know… Maybe in case something goes wrong and we get nuked by the Soviets.

**Chloe:** Do you think that would really happen?

**Joey:** Well if it does we will be ready. We have been doing Atomic Bomb drills at school.

**Slide 17**

**VIDEO CLIP – Duck and Cover (1:57)**

**Joey:** I feel better knowing what to do if something bad happens. My uncle works for the army out at Area 5 where they are doing the testing and he says that if anything happens we will be ready.

**SCENE 4**

**Slide 18 (book pages turning)**

**Narrator:** Chloe turns a page in the book and they are magically transported to area 5 where the army is doing testing on atomic bombs.

**Slide 19**

**Video Clip- Soldiers Testing 2:39**

**Max:** What are we doing in this hole?

**Slide 20 (Soldier)**

**Soldier:** Keep your head down. I don’t know where you came from you shouldn’t be here. We are about to detonate an atomic bomb. We want see what it does to our test house.

**Chloe:** What do you mean by test house?

**Slide 21 (test house)**

**Soldier:** We built homes and filled them with things that normal people would have in their homes. We got cars and busses and basically everything we can find to test what the damage would be if the Soviets dropped a bomb on us.

**Slide 22**

**VIDEO CLIP- atomic bomb testing (damage to homes and cars etc) 1:26**

**Slide 23 (mushroom cloud)**

**Max:** Wow this is crazy are we in danger?

**Soldier:** We are at a safe distance. The government reassured us that there would be no danger as long as we are this far away of the blast.

**Chloe:** I don’t like the feel of this place. Let’s get out of here!

**SCENE 5**

**Slide 24 (book pages turning)**

**Narrator:** Chloe flips to the next page in the book and they are magically transported to a ranch near St. George Utah.

**Chloe:** Hey Max look at that horse.

**Slide 25 (horse)**

**Max:** Are those burn marks on its back?

**Chloe:** It looks like ash from a camp fire or something has burned the backs of these horses.

**Narrator:** A girl walks up to the pasture of horses.

**Slide 26 (girl)**

**Alice:** Its fallout from the Atomic bomb testing in Area 5. The ash from the bombs rain down here on the animals. I think it’s absolutely terrible. By the way my name is Alice.

**Max:** I’m Max

**Chloe:** and I’m Chloe

**Alice:** We are just about to have dinner. Want to join us?

**Chloe:** I don’t know what do you think Max?

**Max**: You know me… I’m always hungry so that would be a YES for me!

**Slide 27 (dinner table)**

**Narrator:** They are all sitting around the dinner table. Alice’s parents and grandfather as well as her younger brothers and sisters are all eating.

**Slide 28 (sheep)**

**Alice’s Father:** Another 10-sheep died today. I don't know what’s causing this to happen. I think it might have something to do with the fallout from all of the bomb tests. It’s like the sheep have been eating radioactive grass or something. They have burns on their faces.

**Grandpa Jack:** I know what you mean son. I have noticed a drop in birth rates of my sheep. A lot of them have been miscarrying and I have had some sheep born with some weird deformations

**Alice’s Mother:** Didn’t the commission investigate these livestock deaths and deformities and say that there is no problem?

**Grandpa Jack:** That's what they say but I don’t believe them. I have never seen anything like this in all my years as a rancher.

**Alice’s Father:** I think it’s from the Atomic bomb testing they are doing over in Nevada.

**Alice:** Is that where they took our pigs?

**Chloe:** You have pigs too?

**Max:** I love pigs. They are so cute

**Grandpa Jack:** A few weeks ago the government came to our ranch asking if they could buy some of our pigs.

**Alice:** I wonder what kind of testing they could be doing with our pigs.

**Slide 29 VIDEO CLIP (PIG TESTING) 0:51**

**Slide 30 (dinner table)**

**Alice’s Mother**: Do you think any of this fall out could affect humans too?

**Alice’s Father**: I don’t know but I sure hope not. I would think that the government would tell us if we were in any kind of real danger.

**Slide 31 Video Clip Government 1:20**

**Slide 32 (dinner table)**

**Alice’s Mother:** Anyone want seconds? I’ve still got some mashed potatoes.

**Max:** Thanks for dinner it has been delicious.

**Chloe:** We better get going.

**Narrator:** Alice walks them to the door.

**Alice:** It was great to meet you both. I hope to see you again.

**Slide 33 (barn)**

**Narrator:** Max and Chloe walk behind the barn.

**Max:** This is crazy Chloe. Lets go home.

**Chloe:** I don’t know what grandma Jane was thinking when she gave us this book.

**Slide 34 (book closed)**

**Narrator**: They close the book and find themselves magically transported back to the bedside of their grandmother Jane.

**SCENE 6**

**Slide 35 (grandmother)**

**Chloe:** Grandma Jane!

**Grandma Jane:** How was your adventure?

**Max:** You knew that this book would transport us through time?

**Grandma Jane:** Oh yes! I have been on many wonderful adventures through the pages of this book.

**Chloe:** Grandma Jane we saw atomic bombs and we went to this farm…

**Slide 36 (farm house)**

**Grandma Jane:** Did you know that I grew up on a farm in Southern Utah. We lived just outside of St. George. My big sister Alice and I used to ride horses every day.

**Chloe:** we saw horses with burns on their backs!

**Max:** I don’t understand how the horses were getting burns hundreds of miles away from the bomb site.

**Slide 37 (map of downwinders)**

**Grandma Jane:** Well the wind blew the fallout over our town and that is what was killing our sheep and hurting our animals. We didn’t know then but we were being exposed to dangerous rays called radiation that would cause some of us downwinders to develop cancer.

**Slide 38 Video Clip – Effects of Testing 6:14)**

**Slide 39 (sick grandmother)**

**Chloe:** Grandma Jane is that why you have cancer?

**Grandma Jane:** Yes my child. I am one of thousands of Americans that have developed cancer as a result of the atomic bomb testing. We are called the downwinders. The government has given us money for our hospital bills.

**Chloe:** Why would they give you money for your hospital bills. Didn’t they say that there was no danger?

**Slide 40 (hands)**

**Grandma Jane:** The government justified their actions because they were afraid of the Soviets dropping an atomic bomb on us. We as Americans had two options. We could either support the government or be viewed as communists. We now know that they made a mistake and the downwinders are still feeling the effects of the testing.

**THE END**