

THE VANISHING ACT

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9 Years

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1145 Words

So there I was in the Field Museum with my five friends and Matt's mom. As we approached the dinosaur exhibit, I saw something move on a dinosaur's head. Feeling a little uneasy, I pretended that I never saw it and I moved on. Next, we went to see the paintings and it seemed like there were a million paintings in the museum. All of a sudden, Zack shouted, "Mike!"

I raced over to see why Zack was calling me. Then I saw a blue thing moving on the painting and I called Matt, Leo, Andy, Gabe, and Matt's mom. I pointed to the blue thing moving on the painting.

Then Matt's mom said, "Maybe someone spilled a drink on the painting or the paint is dripping down."

"But I saw something moving on the Tyrannosaurus Rex," I insisted.

"Maybe it was a bug," Matt's mom offered.

"Maybe," I said unconvinced. We all decided to go back to the dinosaurs and inspect them further.

When we were investigating the entire dinosaur exhibit, I noticed that the T-Rex had vanished. Excitedly I called Matt's mom and said, "Look the T-Rex, the blue thing was on is--"

“Hey guys, look the Stegasaurus near the water fountain is gone!” Matt announced.

Another dinosaur gone--yikes! I thought.

A museum curator heard about the missing dinosaurs and called the police.

The police arrived. “Wow! What happened?” asked the policeman. Then we all figured out that some of the paintings were missing too!

“Okay, maybe the blue thing had some kind of magic,” Matt’s mom suggested after she told the policeman about the blue thing. Then, right before my eyes, another dinosaur disappeared into thin air. I realized soon there would be nothing left. Where were the dinosaurs and paintings?

When Matt’s mom finished explaining, the police officer noticed that people were disappearing. We were all surprised. Then I said, “The only way we can figure out where everything is going is to put one of the blue things on us. Then we will know for sure where everything is going.”

Then I put a blue thing on me and I appeared on a mountain with bones of dinosaurs, paintings, extinct animals, and other things that were in the museum. Next, I noticed my friends were appearing but I did **not** see Matt’s mom. Then I asked my friends where Matt’s mom went, and Zack told me, “She would stay in the real world because she did not want to come over here. If we needed her help, we could call her on my cell phone or your own cell phones.”

We started walking. Later after strolling for a while, we saw a building that looked like it had been abandoned. So we slowly entered the abandoned building, and suddenly Leo called my friends and me. Leo pulled a lever on the wall and said, "Guys, look! A very..."

"Ahhh!"

Andy raced away from a swarm of the blue things we saw at the museum. Then Gabe went to help Andy, but suddenly a man appeared behind Gabe and grabbed Gabe by his hood. They both disappeared!

Then I shouted to my friends, "We have to go help Andy."

Then Zack replied, "What about Gabe?"

"Right now, we have to help Andy," I insisted. "When we get out of this building, we will try to find Gabe." Then all of us ran towards Andy. We pulled him out of the crowd of the blue things. Then we started running away from the abandoned building. Matt called his mom and told her everything that just happened to us. When we got to the part where Gabe disappeared with the man, she shouted, "What??" Then we promised we would try as hard as we could to get Gabe back.

When we started walking again, I realized that Andy got his scratch from one of the blue things. I said to Andy, "You look hurt."

"It's just a scratch," Andy replied. Then he added, "It does kind of hurt."

So I put one of the bandages, that my mom always tells to keep in my pocket just in case, on Andy's leg and we started walking again. A moment later we saw a building. When we started approaching closer, we realized that there more buildings appearing in our sight.

"Hey, guys! I just thought of something. That blue thing scratched you, Andy, and what did you see?"

"Well, I was looking at a building!" said Andy.

"Yeah! And, all of a sudden, the building kept multiplying!" I said excitedly.

Zack added, "Maybe, if the blue thing scratches you, you could do the opposite of what they do. They make things vanish, but you make things multiply when they scratch you.

Hmmm!"

Leo said, "I think it's time to catch those blue things and get rid of them! By the way, let's give them a name, like BTs."

"Sure," I said. "Let's make a plan for getting rid of the BTs! First, we have to catch them. Secondly, we have to destroy them. Hey! I have a small container that held my bandages. Maybe we could surprise the BTs and I could capture them in my container! Let's go."

We went to the mountain where all the dinosaur bones and paintings were. Surprisingly Gabe was there. He said, "Am I glad to see you guys!" The five BTs were also there. We told Gabe about our plan to catch the BTs. First, we tried stepping on the BTs but we could only catch one and we put it in my container. Then Zack found an empty M&M bag in his pocket.

He used it to capture another BT. Gabe had an empty ziplock bag from lunch in his pocket and he sneaked up on another BT and caught it. With a crumpled envelope he found in his pocket, Leo tracked down another BT—only one to go. Matt had his empty marble bag in his pocket and it was perfect. He was able to get the fifth BT.

We next decided to try to send all the dinosaurs and paintings back, and one by one they placed a BT on an item and removed it quickly. Then the item vanished. After all the objects disappeared, it was time for each of us to hold a BT and return to the museum. It worked! Matt's mom was relieved to see us all back. Now how will we destroy these BTs?

First, we tried smacking the BTs with hammers, but that did not work. Then, we tried whacking the BTs with baseball bats, but they survived that too. Surprisingly Zack accidentally spilled some water on a BT and it vaporized. When we all witnessed this, we started dumping water on the BTs. Soon they were all gone, and it was finally peaceful, just like before.

The End