

The Time Machine by Eileen Kang

A bang rang through the house. Kayla woke up in a startle, looking around surprised. She slipped through her blankets and creaked open her bedroom door to the living room. Kayla examined the scene in front of her.

One of the armchairs were pushed aside, revealing an open hatch that led to stairs. She crept to the opening, and stared at the light at the bottom.

Her curiosity got the best of her, and Kayla carefully made her way down the stairs. The light of a new room surrounded her, and the girl spotted her uncle, tinkering around with a strange... machine?

Her uncle stood up from his work and turned. He looked surprised at first, then smiled brightly at his niece.

"Kayla!" he exclaimed. "You caught me!"

"Caught you doing what?" Kayla cautiously asked.

He motioned toward the strange machine. It was large and polished, entirely made out of painted white metal. The bulky object had closed doors, and seemed to vibrate from time to time. On the very top of it, bold letters read:

TIME MACHINE.

"I've been working on a project. A time machine, to be exact. You probably won't believe me, but I have proof!" he said, and skipped over to a wooden table. There were different objects spread out on the surface, and he picked up one.

"THIS is a piece of one of the terracotta warriors in China! I secretly chipped off a piece before!" he cried. He placed it back, and took another stone-like object.

"This one is from the Acropolis of Athens! It's amazing how hard the people worked to build such a huge monument like this!"

"Whoa whoa whoa. Slow down." Kayla said, abruptly stopping her uncle from continuing. "How can I know you're telling the truth? You could have just picked up a random stone."

Her uncle smiled with a glint in his eye. "You can see for yourself." He opened the doors of "The Time Machine", and gestured her to walk in. Kayla rolled her eyes, and stepped into the machine. There were control panels surrounding her, and switches everywhere she turned. Kayla's uncle stepped in himself, and asked, "Where to? Future or past?" The girl smirked, and played along. "Hmm... the past. Why not India?" Her uncle nodded. "I'll choose the time then." He thought for a moment, and pressed some buttons on one of the control panels. The machine started the whir, and the doors slammed shut. A bright light filled her eyes and she became dizzy. The machine spun and spun, and finally stopped after a few moments. Kayla rubbed her head. The doors swung open, and the girl gasped. She saw a large, unfinished version of the Taj Mahal. People were shouting at each other and barking orders, working hard on the sculpture. "See? I told you it was real." her uncle said, proudly appearing beside her. "A time machine." Kayla said in awe. "An..." "An actual time machine."