

The Peculiar Button – by Grace Peagram

You know how annoying siblings are? Especially the younger ones. They always hog video games, laugh when you get in trouble, get their own way and tinkle on the toilet seat. Well all of this and more equals my brother Gus! If you think that's bad, how do you think I felt when mum left us, home alone on the school holidays! What did she expect us to do without killing each other? How do I take care of him when he never listens to a thing I say? She said to just put a movie on – as if that would keep the Golden child happy. I thought my brain was going to explode when she said goodbye.

Before long Gus was already complaining he was b-o-r-e-d, bored! Of course, everything I suggested he said "No Way" to. All he wanted to do was go bug hunting = soooo gross! I was like "No, no and well No!". But you know how I said that little brothers get everything their own way? Well here I was knee deep in overgrown, dog poop filled grass searching for little disgusting critters. "Gus, stay away from those spiky bushes". These bushes were deadly, always drawing blood if you got too close. And as you guess it, I heard Gus scream! Not the type of painful scream (unfortunately), but a scream of excitement! "Hazel, come check out what I have found!" Ewww, what type of creepy crawly is he going to come out with I thought... but thankfully he was holding something shiny and golden, it looked like it had come from the olden days, a very peculiar button was it?

"I'm going to push it and see what happens Hazel!"

"No Gus! We don't know what it is. It could set off a bomb or turn all the power off – just leave it there until Mum comes ho...". But before I could finish my sentence, you know what happens here, yes, he pushed the button didn't he.

Suddenly I felt a warm breeze on my face and a taste of sand in my mouth. I looked up and could see Pyramids & camels everywhere! We looked at each other shocked. "Is this Egypt?! I always wanted to go to Egypt and look for mummies" screamed Gus excitedly! I was shocked and so confused. I was worried too. What would happen if we were stuck here forever? "Mums going to kill us Gus! What should we do?!"

"Just go ahead and push the button Hazel! See where we go next!"

"What happens if it takes us to jail or shark infested waters?" I asked.

"Just think of a place you have always wanted to go"

So I closed my eyes, leaned in and held my shaking hand over the button... Here goes nothing...

Wow, we were now in Paris on top of the Eiffel Tower! I was so happy – it was my dream to go to Paris. I could see people eating croissants in fancy cafes, tiny row boats on a lake and just fashion at every turn. Gus told me to yell out Bonjour (which is hello in French) then push the button again. So I did.

"Bonjour everyone!" Gave everyone a wave and then pushed the button again.

The heat hit us again but with now red dirt everywhere and a giant hill; or was it a rock in front of us?!

Uluru! The silence at first was deafening. But we then started to hear a thump, thump, thump getting closer and closer. "Look at the size of that Kangaroo Hazel!" We had never seen a wild kangaroo before. I reckon it was bigger than Dad!

"Look at the finger-paintings Hazel" shouted Gus as he ran over to the rock. "No Gus, that's Aboriginal rock paintings. I have learnt about it at school and they are thousands of years old!". We stepped to have a closer look and something slithered in between us "oh my gosh it's a snake Gus – watch out!" I was in such a panic and before I could say anything else Gus quickly pushed the button.

This time there was no sand or red dirt, everything felt damp and we were covered in vines. "Gus I think we are in a jungle! Maybe the Amazon jungle! Look at the monkeys in those trees watching us!" We felt so small standing against the giant trees. Suddenly there was rustling in the vines above us. I looked up and as quick as a flash a monkey swung down and stole Gus's hat. "Hey, that's mine!" yelled Gus and he ran after the monkey. It was a chase, and do you think he was listening to me as I screamed at him to stop and not worry about the hat?! No way was he going to catch that monkey. I panted and tried to keep up when I heard a blood curdling scream...

"Gus, Gus are you ok?" I yelled in fear.

"If you thought that snake in Uluru was scary there's an Anaconda!! RUN!!!" screamed Gus. "Push the button, push the button I want to go home!!!"

I felt my pockets and couldn't feel the button – oh no I must have dropped it. And with that the monkey who stole Gus's hat swung down and handed me the button – cheeky little thief must have sensed our fear! The only place I wanted to be now was home so held my breath and pushed the button.

"Gus open your eyes – we are home!" I yelled as tears rolled out of my eyes with relief.

"I think that's enough excitement for one day Hazel" he smiled.

I could then hear dad's voice calling out our names in the distance.

"What have you kids been doing out here, I have been looking for you for ages! Are you ok, looks like you have both seen a ghost?! And why are you covered in sand, red dirt and vines in your hair". Gus and I looked at each other with a grin... "We have just been playing out here all this time dad" I explained.

"Ok well you two had better get cleaned up before mum gets home. Wait, what's this shiny button looking thing in the grass, another new toy?" Dad said bending down and picking it up.

"No Dad - DO NOT push that button" we both yelled!

Dad grinned "Well of course I'm going to have to now!"

He then disappeared....

And that story is for another time...!

The End.