

# Across Time

Jane was a typical 14-year-old girl. She lived with her parents, Karen and Ted, and her grandparents, Melissa and John. There was always someone home, so she loved spending time with her goofy uncle Bob, who lived down the street. He was a scientist, and Jane loved watching him do experiments in his garage.

One day, Jane's grandmother told her, "Back in my day, there were no phones. I went outside to play, and I didn't play online games. I don't think kids today would have been able to cope back then." Jane hated it when Grandma complained about how easy her life was, so she went to her uncle's house.

When she arrived, the front door was open, and she came in. Jane called his name, but he didn't answer. She went to the garage, and he wasn't there either. In the garage, she noticed an invention he was working on. There was a big red button on it that said START. She was too tempted to press the button, and so she did. The ground started to shake so violently that Jane fell to the ground and passed out. When she woke up, she was lying on the street, and next to her was Bob's invention. A kind, strangely dressed girl helped her up. She was wearing a black polka-dot full-circle skirt, a white blouse, and a black silk scarf tied around her neck. She had short black hair and introduced herself as Melissa.

Jane was so confused about why everything looked so different. It was almost as if she travelled back in time. She asked Melissa what year it was, and she said it was 1958. Jane gasped. Uncle Bob's invention was a time travel machine. She took a better look at Melissa, and she looked familiar. Jane gasped even louder. She looked identical to a picture of her grandmother she saw in the family photo album.

She didn't want to freak Melissa out, so she decided not to tell her anything. She just said she was new to this town and she did not know anyone there. Melissa offered to be her tour guide and invited Jane to the cinema to see the latest Elizabeth Taylor movie, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," but she couldn't let Jane go there wearing baggy jeans and a plain white T-shirt. So, she suggested going to her house to get Jane ready.

When they arrived, Melissa's mother and her older brother were gathered around the radio listening to a radio drama. They greeted Jane with a smile. Jane smiled back, confused about why they were listening to the radio, and wondered where their TV was. Melissa's house was small. Her family was still recovering from World War II. Her father had died in World War II, so her older brother became the man of the house, working two jobs to provide for the family. Jane tried on so many of Melissa's clothes and soon got tired, but Melissa made her keep trying on outfits until she found the right one for her.

After half an hour, Jane finally found the perfect outfit. It was a beautiful red dress. She tied her long hair into a high ponytail. They still had an hour left before the film started, so they made matching bracelets. After that, they went to the cinema.

There was a buzzing sound throughout the entire time the movie was on, and every time someone from the last row stood up, they would block the movie with their head, which annoyed Jane. When the film ended, they decided to go to the roller rink. Jane had never roller skated before and kept falling, which made Melissa laugh.

On their way home, they saw a diner hosting a rock 'n' roll night where you can dance, jive and have fun with your friends. They immediately went in. Melissa asked Jane if she had a coin so they could put it in the jukebox to pick a song. Jane was puzzled why she didn't just use her phone playlist, so she asked Melissa. Melissa looked at her like she had gone crazy. Jane just gave her a coin and did not mention it again. Melissa taught her how to jive, and she became a pro almost instantly. They had so much fun together until an older boy started yelling at them that girls shouldn't be having fun. Jane wanted to say something back, but Melissa stopped her. They just went home.

Melissa told Jane to stay the night at her house. She hesitated because she had to return to her own home, but after some time, she finally said yes. They laughed the whole night, so they barely got any sleep. Jane planned to leave before Melissa woke up because she did not know how to say goodbye to her, but Melissa heard her leaving.

She couldn't tell her the truth about being a time traveller, so she lied. She said she ran away because she had a fight with her family and that she had to go back because her family was probably worried sick.

They were both crying hard and promised each other to wear their matching bracelets forever.

Jane returned to the spot where the time-traveling machine was. She pushed the red start button and went back home.

When she got home, she saw her grandmother wearing the matching bracelet. She realized she had been wasting her time on her phone and started to appreciate the value of having loved ones nearby, how easy her life was, and how much hard life had been for people in the 1950s.