

Years 3 & 4
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The Button

Chapter 1

“Oh, my goodness!” yelled Harmony.

“What’s happening?” asked Dad.

“Why is everything getting bigger?” questioned Mum.

“CHARLIE! WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?” they all shouted at me.

That’s not fair! Why do they always blame me? I didn’t do anything wrong. I just pressed that silly button! That couldn’t have caused this big commotion.

Could it?’

Chapter 2

Everything started that morning when we dropped off our old, boring car to the car yard. As soon as Dad told the salesman we had come to pick up the new car he had ordered, the salesman became very helpful and polite. He took us to a small, special room, at the back of the car yard. Inside the room was a big, shiny, purple car that looked very different from any other car I had ever seen. When we looked inside we saw that it had a TV in the back of the seat.

“Wicked!” screamed Harmony. “This is epic.”

“Awesome!” I shouted. “When can we go? I want to check out the T.V.”

“There’s a T.V. in there?” Dad asked in a puzzled voice.

“Of course Dad. You ordered the car. You should know”.

“Yeah, but I didn’t order a car with T.V.”

“Don’t worry, sir,” said the salesman. “It’s a free upgrade.”

“In that case, thank you very much. Can we just take it for a short test drive to make sure we’re OK with it?”

“Of course, sir. Here are the keys”.

“Who wants to go to the museum?” Dad asked.

Silence.

“Who wants to go to the zoo?” Mum asked.

“Me.”

“Yes please.”

“The zoo it is,” Mum said, and drove the car out of the car yard.

Suddenly the car stopped.

“Why have we stopped?” I asked.

“Cause we’re at a red light,” replied Mum.

“Mum how long until we get to the zoo?” Harmony questioned.
Mum said it will be very soon, but I don’t believe her. We’ve been at this light for a very long time!
Hang on, what’s that crazy bird doing over there?
Ooh, I wonder what this sparkly button does. Well, Dad says the only way to know the answer to a question is to experiment on it. So, I’ll give it a go.
Beep.
Beep.
Beep.
Suddenly, everything got bigger!

Chapter 3

“What was that noise?” screamed Dad. Everyone looked at me.
I didn’t do anything. It’s not my fault. Truly!
But nothing is stopping the car from shrinking. And as the car is shrinking, everything outside is growing ginormous! When we stop shrinking we are tiny. How do I know? Because the bird looking through my window is humungous!
“CHARLIE! Why did you shrink us? Now we are so small that my phone doesn’t work so I can’t text my friends about how awesome today is,” Harmony exclaimed dramatically. “And it’s all YOUR fault!”
“What did I do, I was just watching my show?” I said instantly.
“You touched that button over there,” Harmony snapped.
“What did you do?” Mum and Dad said together, glaring at me.
“I did not, Harmony,” I said.
“Did so.”
“Did not.”
“Did so.”
“Did not.”
“Alright you two. Cut it out,” yelled Dad. “We have much bigger problems to deal with,” he said, pointing outside.

Chapter 4

Suddenly everyone heard a loud whooshing sound. They all looked up through the sunroof. Horrified, they saw a big black engine speeding over them.
“What is that thing?” I screamed in fright.
“I’m not sure,” said Dad, “but I think it’s the car that was behind us. Only now it’s in front of us.”
Suddenly their car sped forward.
“Lauren, why did you drive the car?” asked Dad.
“I didn’t, Charles!” Mum replied. “The car drove itself.”
“What . . . ? As if we don’t have enough problems already without having an intelligent car.”

"I'm not driving anymore, Charles, and I don't like it at all."

"Neither do I," said Dad, "but I don't know what to do about it."

"I hope that the car is smart enough to keep us safe."

"Mummy, I'm scared," I sobbed.

"Get us out of here," cried Harmony.

"I'm trying the best I can, darlings. Just be patient. Daddy and I will work this all out," Mum said in a reassuring voice.

Just then the car screeched to a halt.

"At least the car knows when we've reached a red light," exclaimed Mum.

"Mum, I need to go. Badly."

"Seriously, Charlie! Can't you hold it a little longer?"

Suddenly the car jerked forward, speeding off around the corner to the nearest bush. It halted at the back of the bush and Charlie's door opened.

Then Charlie yelled, "Ooh, a toilet. Thank you car!"

"Did you see that Charles? The car just did what Charlie said. Maybe it will do what we say."

Chapter 5

Dad looked out the window and saw that they were outside the zoo.

"Lauren, why don't we go inside and find a safe, quiet place to think?" he said.

Immediately the car zipped under the entrance gate and next to the back wall. When they were sure we were safe, Mum and Dad started talking to each other. Harmony and I were looking out of our windows. Then I saw some cute, baby monkeys sitting in a tree.

"Mum, Dad, look at those cute baby monkeys in the monkey cage. I want to go see them."

"Charlie! Don't!" yelled Mum and Dad together. But it was too late. The car instantly sped off towards the monkeys.

There were at least ten monkeys, swinging from branches, sitting on logs, or eating bananas.

"Oh no. They're much bigger now we're close to them," said Mum.

"Those monkeys are ginormous," Harmony screamed. "If they jumped out of that tree and landed on us we would die. Like BAM! BOOM! And that's the end of us."

"We need to get out of here," Dad said with a worried sound in his voice. But before anyone could tell the car to move, a huge pile of soft, gooey, brown stuff covered the car.

"What is that disgusting smell?" I asked.

"It's monkey poo," said Dad. "We've just been used as the loo."

"Oh great! My day just keeps getting better and better," said Harmony in a sarcastic voice.

"Oh, shut it, Harmony," Dad snapped. "If you can't say anything useful, don't say anything at all."

"Yeah, Harmony. THINK before you speak."

“Oh, shut it, Charlie.”

Chapter 6

“I don’t like this place anymore. I want to leave,” I said.

Suddenly the car zoomed off towards the exit. It was going so fast that the poo started to come off.

“Well, at least we get to see the zoo, just faster than we expected,” Mum exclaimed.

“This car is the worst and this day is the same. I wish it would go back where it belongs in the car yard,” whined Harmony.

Immediately the car changed direction and sped off towards the car yard.

“There’s still a huge problem,” Harmony stated. “We’re still tiny. What are we going to do about that?”

“Well, what was everyone doing before we shrank?” Mum asked.

“I wasn’t doing anything,” said Dad.

“I was watching the red light,” replied Mum.

“I was on my phone telling my friend about our new car,” said Harmony.

“I was . . . um . . . what was I doing? Oh yeah. I was checking out that sparkly button,” I said.

“And you pushed it,” shouted Harmony.

“Harmony don’t say that to your sister. You’ll just stress her out!” Dad snapped.

Mum said in a soft, gentle voice, “Sweetie, if you pressed that button before we shrank, then maybe try pushing it again.”

“Okay Mummy, I’ll try,” I said nervously.

I hesitantly pressed the button. Then,

Beep.

Beep.

Beep.

We were growing back to normal size again. How do I know? Well that bird was growing smaller.

Chapter 7

The car was now back in the room at the car yard and Mum and Dad were talking to the salesman about the car.

“We just encountered a big problem with that car,” said Dad.

“When I bought this car, it was not meant to shrink to the size of a button,” Mum added.

“Well you are spies after all. You did actually order that feature with the car,” said the salesman.

“We’re not . . . I mean we didn’t . . .”

“You mean you aren’t spies after all?”

“No, we aren’t.”

“Well then, I’m confused. You’re the Rivers family, aren’t you?”

“Yes, we are.”

“And you are a family of 8?”

“Uh no . . .”

“Then you are the wrong Rivers family.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Well . . . I was supposed to deliver this car to a Mr James Rivers. Aren’t you James Rivers?”

“No, I’m not. I’m Charles Rivers.”

“Well then I would suggest you don’t tell anyone about this incident. Please come and look at some of our normal cars and if you want to buy one of them I will give it to you for a quarter of the price!”

“Well kids, shall we buy a new car?”

“NO! No more new cars!”

“Well do you have any second-hand cars in stock?” asked Dad.

“We just have one left – ”

“We’ll take it.”

We now know that shopping for new cars is dangerous VERY dangerous.