

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

'I see it!' cried Mr Wonka, and he pressed some more buttons and the lift...

...stopped in mid-air, then gently wobbled... Mr Wonka looked puzzled "that's not supposed to happen, now let me see" as he pulled out a control panel and started reading the dials.

The wobbling got a little faster, and faster still. Charlie looked at Grandpa Joe, then up at Mr Wonka and blurted "are we going to go down and get my family now?"

Before Mr Wonka could answer, the lift started to rise, very gently at first, gaining speed, accelerating ever faster. Unlike before, this time it was starting to glow, a gentle yellowy orangey glow as the lift gained height and speed. It rose, up into the clouds, continuing to wobble more and more violently, as inside they struggled to hold on and stay upright, grabbing on to whatever was close at hand.

"Where are we going?" cried Charlie, anxiety dripping off his every word.

"I've no idea!" exclaimed Mr Wonka with a mischievous glint in his eye.

"What do you mean you've no idea, you built this thing, you must have some idea" Grandpa Joe screamed in desperation.

"Well, as I said, there's the one button that I've never pressed, so it's never been tested before Charlie pressed it" replied Mr Wonka in a vain attempt to pacify Grandpa Joe "but I seem to remember", he continued "that I put a Canuvian Offalot seed behind the button".

"What does that do?" asked Grandpa Joe, his tone elevated in anticipation, knowing that he probably would not like the answer he was about to be given.

"You see," came the answer, "it's a telepathic plant, it reads your mind, and takes your wildest imagination, your craziest thoughts, and makes them happen, or at least I think it does... I missed that day's botany lesson..."

"So where are we going?" interrupted Grandpa Joe, angrily.

"Into whatever Charlie imagines, dreams, or his heart desires" Mr Wonka replied.

As his words faded into the noise of the lift going ever faster and upwards, the sky outside flashed a bright white light then fading to black. The lift lurched to a halt, as suddenly as it had left the factory just a few short moments earlier. The darkness lifted and the doors of the lift opened. They stepped outside onto a world bright and colourful, everywhere there were strange-looking plants and animals, not quite the species they recognised. As they looked into the distance, about 5 or so people were approaching. They were running, and as they approached one of them said "Oh thank heaven, you heard our distress call, you've come here to help..."

The trio looked at each other and then towards the group, in puzzlement, having no idea what was going on, "...haven't you?"

... and so a new adventure begins...