

# Black Hole High

## Missing Time

### Teaser

Josie is on her way to her room talking with Lucas in the corridor about the fact that her room-mate Corinne will not be in for the next few days and that she is pleased to be alone for a change. Josie and Lucas decide to meet in the library the next day at 7 am before class to review their maths because they are pretty certain that an exam is coming this week. Josie finally starts sleeping comfortably after noticing on her watch that it is Sunday 23h51. The moonlight is coming by the window. Suddenly a bright light surrounds her but not her alarm clock. Her clock shows that time is going at a very fast rate. When the light disappears it is morning and the sun is shining outside. She gets up wondering what happened, feeling very sleepy as she has barely slept. Her watch shows that it is Sunday and that the time is 23h52. She puts back her watch to Monday 6h30, as the clock shows. When she walks in the library to meet Lucas at 7 am, he is not there and we realize that it is Tuesday on the calendar of the library. One day is missing in her life, time has stopped for her while the rest of the world was still going on as normal, but she has not realized that yet.

### Act One

- Josie meets Lucas in the maths class and asks her why she did not come to the library as planned. He is not pleased, he says that "she" let him down and that he was there on time at 7. He says that she is doing this because she wants to succeed and hopes he will not. She still does not understand that she missed one day and has to sit down when the teacher comes in.
- Josie who is usually such a good student has missed her class on Monday without a good reason and did not know there was a maths exam that day.
- She is doing very badly in the exam and tries to explain to the teacher afterwards that she does not understand where she was on that missing day, that she did not know there was an exam and can only explain this by the fact that she slept an astonishing 36 hours, that might explain why she is so tired, she overslept. She wishes to take the exam again the next day.
- The teacher agrees only because Josie has such a great track record that she is worth according a second chance, whatever the reason why she has not studied for that exam.
- At lunch her friends are teasing her and feel that she is just not that good at understanding those particular maths problems and came up with that elaborate story to hide her ignorance.
- That night Josie sits down at her desk in order to study. While she falls asleep, again the light appears and suddenly it is morning again, time to get ready to go and do that exam.
- Being even more tired than the day before, Josie crawls to the room in order to explain that she cannot do the exam today because she fell asleep and could not study.

- The teacher gives her a big F as it was yesterday that she was supposed to do that exam again. He sends her to see the principal.
- In the principal's office, with Vaughn listening outside, Josie explains to Ms. Durst that she does not understand how but days and nights go by without any explanation. She feels that her time is going at a much slower rate than normal, this is the only explanation.
- Ms. Durst does not dismiss her as crazy, aware that weird phenomena has been going on lately, but try to convince Josie that this is the worst excuse she has ever heard about a student trying to justify an F on an exam.
- In science club we try to listen to Josie with an open mind and the students, including Corinne who is now back, decide to stay in her room that night to watch what happens.
- They see the light and the time coming to a stand still having put a chronometer in the middle of the bed.

### **Act Two**

- The next day Josie walks in the corridors when she sees a lot of people outside shouting. She gets out and sees in the sky a plane that appears to have come to a stand still. It is not moving anymore and everybody looks at it in shock. She barely stops to look at it, remembering and moaning about her F and goes back in the school.
- Vaughn explains to his dad Mr. Pearson and Principal Durst what happened last night and about the plane stopped in the sky this morning. They agree that this is extraordinary, and that weird phenomena surrounding the area are getting worse every day. Something needs to be done about this but Mr. Pearson feels they should wait and see what the kids will come up with. He wants to know how they might resolve the problem.
- At the science club they discuss the weird phenomena, how this is possible, and they try to find a solution. After all, Josie needs her sleep and time to study. Being the first in class is a priority for her ego, a F is not acceptable.
- They surmise that time is running at different rates at some places due to the gravitational fields being different in those areas. How could that be? Must be Mr. Pearson's experiments again. Vaughn will feel very embarrassed by this but he will not find in his heart the courage to deny it.
- The solution is to concoct a device that will influence the gravitational field around the area of the plane (using a powerful magnetic field) in order to free it from its frozen state. Later that night they will do the same in Josie's bedroom when the light appears in order to bring back time to a normal rate.
- Once this is done one issue will still remained: that infamous F on the track record of Josie. She will need to go see the teacher the next day and explain all this. She needs to do that exam again. So she sets up to study all night.
- The next day Josie goes to see the maths teacher who refuses her request. The morale of the story is that it is acceptable to not always win, to not be the first of the class. A F, once in a while, is acceptable and Josie should learn to live with it.
- Vaughn explains to his dad what happened and gives him the blue prints of the device they built. Looking at the plans of the machine, Mr. Pearson is quite pleased with the results.

### **Tag**

- Josie finally goes happy in the corridors of the school feeling much more liberated with this new thought that she does not need to always reach excellence and that

there is a life out there to be lived. When she says that to Lucas he agrees all heartedly, adding with a smile when he turns his back on her that he can now be first in class (he has not learnt the lesson).

- Josie says that she is going to play some more, she feels like doing something other than study for a change and she calls her friends. They will not study that night, they will have a party.

**The End**

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