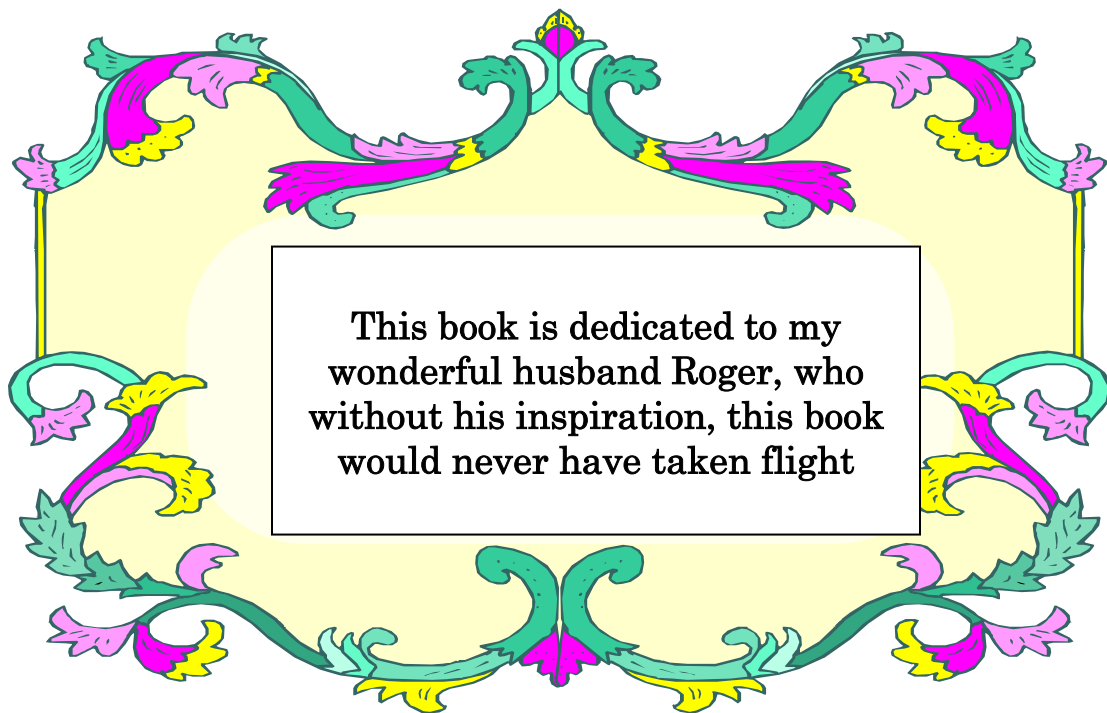


The Twinkle's Below



By: Emma Thorpe



Once upon a time in a far away place called Tinkle Town there lived a very nice family called the Snooze's. The Snooze's, Ken and Jerri were a quiet family that kept to themselves, and never really got to know any of their neighbors. The Snooze's had two children a girl by the name of Zoey, and a boy by the name of Joey. The children were only seven and eight but, they were quit curious as to what the big world outside had to offer. You see Zoey and Joey were not allowed to play with their friends or go out with their friends. They had special chores to do around the house for their parents, and homework from school.

One day while outside doing their chores racking leaves, Joey noticed there was a sink hole in the back yard. Being the curious children they were Zoey, and Joey decided to explore.

Joey went to the garage to get the shovel. He made his way back through the house just to see if his parents were back from their errand, and noticed that the babysitter was fast asleep on the couch. Joey crept out to the backyard.

Zoey asked Joey what are we going to do? Joey answered and said we are going to find out what is down there, and why this hole came up in the yard. Joey thought in the back of his mind what was down there, do I really want to know? Joey had no idea, but figured it would be a great adventure for him and his sister.

Joey started digging, until he came to what appeared to be a door. Zoey asked what is that? Joey said it looks like a door, a door to what asked Zoey? I don't know said Joey, are you ready to find out? Yes, said Zoey.

Then Joey slowly reaches down to open the door. When the door was open something began to happen. Zoey and Joey grabbed hold of each other the wind started swirling, the earth began to shake, smoke rose from the hole, both children were so scared. They screamed for help, no one heard. Then, all of the sudden everything went dark.

In the darkness both were still holding onto each other Joey asked Zoey if she was alright. I think so said Zoey. Are you alright Joey, asked Zoey, yes I am, but where are we? I don't know and we can't see either. Zoey started to cry. Not knowing what to do Joey trying to be brave, but very afraid at the time said "Zoey don't cry. Let's see if we can find an opening somewhere. You hold onto my shirt and we will start out here where we are and then move around. Soon Joey found a wall of sorts; it was cold so he knew it was rock. Joey started feeling up and down the wall and he could touch the top with his fingertips. Joey started going slowly around the wall hoping to find a door or any opening to get out of this place. Joey could hear Zoey sniffing, he told her not to cry that she had to be brave. Just about

then Joey's hand hit something that felt like wood. He knocked and sure enough it was a door.

Joey was feeling around to see if the door had a handle and it did a very large handle. He grabbed hold of the handle and pulled. When the door opens there was a large amount of light coming from behind the door. Joey and Zoey both peeked out. What they saw was amazing. Joey opened the door. Behind this door there was houses, and trees, and buildings, and cars, it was a whole city. What is this place Joey thought to himself? Where are we?

Just about then an alarm started ringing. A loud horn blew, and across some sort of speaker the words "INTRUDER ALERT", "INTRUDER ALERT". Then what looked like a car pulled up in front of them and behind them. The car was fascinating. It was small with fur, and what looked like a face in the front, and a tail on the back. It had wheels, but the car looked like a dog. What is that cried Zoey? I don't know said Joey. Just then two men jumped out and grabbed Joey, and Zoey. Then another car pulled up that looked more like a cat with wheels and bars in the back. Joey and Zoey were placed in the back and off they went.

Where are they taking us Joey, asked Zoey? I don't know just be quiet, don't say a word. I'm scared said Zoey. Joey was afraid too but did not want to show it in front of Zoey. Where were they taking us thought Joey? What's going to happen now?

They arrived in front of a huge building which had a sign that read Twinkle Village Hall and Police Station. The two men opened the back of the car and told Joey and Zoey to get out. They took the two children into the police station. Both of the children were very frightened, and did not know what to think of this strange place. Where were they? What was going to happen to them? How were they going to get home to their parents? Then a loud noise made both of them turn around. Down the hall they spotted an unusual man walking toward them. This man was short, wide, and had fur like an animal; he looked like a human dog. The man walked over to the two children and said. How did you get to our town? Joey and Zoey noticed behind the short, wide man they noticed four others listening

intensely. They were leaning over the man's shoulder awaiting an answer.

Well you see sir said Joey, we were digging in our yard, and we fell through to a room with a door. ENOUGH!! Screamed the man. We want the truth. Zoey then started crying loudly, the man did not know what to do. He covered his ears, and said "Make her stop that", Joey tried but nothing was working, Zoey was scared, and was crying for mommy. That is when Joey wondered what his parents were doing.

Little did the children know what was taking place up above? There was chaos. The Snooze's were not snoozing any longer. They were frantic. The babysitter awoke to find the two children missing. She called Mr. Snooze on his cell phone, she told him she has looked the house, and yard over and the children were missing. The Snooze's ran to their car, and sped off. They rushed to their home; Jerri Snooze entered the house, screaming for the children. Joey, Zoey she cried, where are you. If you are hiding then you must come out right away. She listened there was no answer. Children this is your Mother speaking come out at once. She listened there was no answer. Where could they be she thought. Ken Snooze was outside yelling for the children. Finally Mrs. Snooze came out to the back yard, and started crying I can't find them. Where could they be? Not noticing the hole in the yard. The strangest thing though. The hole was much smaller now. It was just big enough for a water hose to fit into. Was this the same hole the children went down? If so, how were they to ever get back home?

Mrs. Snooze told Mr. Snooze he had to call the police right away. Mr. Snooze ran to the phone. He dialed the police; he told them his children were missing.

A few minutes after Mr. Snooze hung up the phone the police were at the home. There were many police, and neighbors wanting to help. The Snooze's were amazed at how many people were offering to search for the children. These were the same neighbors they didn't even know.

The police set up crews to search for the children.

While down below in the town of Twinkle, Joey and Zoey who was still crying were dealing with a whole new world. The man who Joey came to find out was named Clamp. Clamp was getting very upset that he could not get this child to stop crying. He offered her fruit, food, then what looked like a chocolate bar. Zoey stopped crying when she looked at the chocolate bar. Finally said Clamp. Zoey opened up the bar and took a bite. She spits it out onto the floor. What is this? It taste like grass said Zoey. Clamp said its candy a rare delicacy here. All the kids love it in Twinkle.

Zoey said well are not from here and I don't like it. Clamp asked the children again, how they got there. Joey replied, we seen a hole in our backyard, and started to dig, then we fell into a room with no lights, and a door, we opened the door, and ended up here. That's the truth I swear said Joey.

Clamp stepped back as did the rest of his people. They all looked at each other just like a light bulb went off in their heads. Jacob said Clamp it had to be Jacob. Jacob was the local adventurer. Jacob quite often ventured out to explore other worlds. Jacob loved to explore. He loved seeing other worlds. Clamp said it must Jacob who dug the hole then tried to cover it up.

Well said Clamp we have to figure a way to get you to back to your town. I am sure people are looking for you.

Clamp told one of his men to take the children over to his mother Cinny for some supper. I am sure these children are hungry. Out to the car they went. The man driving them to Cinny's house was named Slap. A nice gentleman very tall, and slender, with a weird twang to his voice when he spoke. He told us that Cinny was the best cook they had in these parts. He also said she made the best pies too. Joey was glad they were going to eat soon since they had not had anything to eat since breakfast and he knew they were both hungry. A few moments later they pulled up in front of this little house, it was bright pink with bright yellow shutters. Slap said were here this is Cinny's house. When they got out of the car Joey noticed all the houses looked the same, the only difference was the colors. Some were

bright pink, some were bright yellow, and some were bright green. He had never seen anything like it.

Walking up the walk way Joey asked why are the house all painted with such bright colors? Slap simply said, that's why they call us Twinkle.

Once on the steps to the home there was a doorbell. Zoey walked right up and pushed the button, a large BUZZZZZZ noise came out of the house. She pushed again, BUUUZZZZZ the noise came again. Then all of the sudden the door opened and out came Cinny. What? What? Who is ringing that bell? Then she noticed the children, and let out a very loud scream MEOW! that's right Cinny looked a lot like a human cat. She said who are you. Slap stepped up, well Cinny, Clamp told me to bring them down to you to feed. Where did they come from asked Cinny. Slap just pointed a finger straight up. How did they get here asked Cinny. Slap just said Jacob is what Clamp is thinking. Jacob said Cinny. I knew his adventuring would one day get this town in trouble. Yep, said Slap. Alright then said Cinny you children come on in here with me then. Let's get you all fed, and watered.

Once in the house Zoey and Joey looked around it was quite colorful. The walls were a bright yellow color. The floors were a bright florescent green and yellow checked. Cinny said come on over and sit at the table. Now the table was a little different as well. It had legs that looked alot like chicken legs, and the chairs had feathers on them. We sat down while watching Cinny make us a sandwich. She brought the sandwiches to us, and some Spool-Aid, Twinkle's famous drink. It is the same as the Kool-Aid we have in Tinkle Town. Since we were both hungry we decided to eat. We both looked at sandwiches almost afraid to take a bite. With anticipation we bit into our sandwiches. Wow, they were good. The sandwich kind of tasted like peanut butter and jelly but sure did not look like peanut butter and jelly. Whatever, it tasted great. It was like you could actually taste the peanuts peeling in your mouth. The jelly was an odd yellow color that tasted like bananas. That's right bananas. Since both of us were hungry we ate all our sandwiches and asked for a second helping.

Just as we were finishing up with our second sandwich there was a knock on the door. It was Clamp the local sheriff. He wanted to find out more about the intruders into Twinkletown.

Clamp walked in said hello to Cinny. How has these two intruders been? Fine said Cinny. Just a little hungry, and I think a little frightened as to what is going on. Well, I think I need to interrogate them to find out just how they arrived in our town. You will do no such thing said Cinny these two children need some rest. With that Cinny said come along children and took them down the crooked hallway to a bedroom.

The bedroom was a huge room with two huge beds. The room was bright orange and blue. Not your average color for a room. There was a familiar odor coming from the room. Zoey went running into the room yelling mommy. I smell mommy. Zoey was right that was the perfume that our mother wore. Joey looked around, and then looked at Cinny. What is that smell asked Joey? I am not sure said Cinny, it comes and it goes. Little did the two children know that just above them was there home, and in the home down the hallway to another bedroom was there Mother. She was sitting on the edge of the bed crying for her lost children.

At that moment Zoey began to cry. I want my Mommy, I want my Mommy. Joey ran to her, and picked her up, and laid her on the bed. Joey held her until she fell asleep. At that moment, Joey was tired too so he closed his eyes.

Cinny took Clamp down the hallway to check on the children, and quietly opened the door. Look said Cinny, how precious those two are. We must get them back home. Clamp told Cinny he was trying to figure out just how to do that. He said he had to find the original place that they came through or they would be lost forever. Clamp told Cinny they had to find Jacob to help them out. He told her he would be back later to check on them, he was going to put out notice for finding Jacob to solve this matter once and for all.

Cinny closed the door to let the children sleep.

Clamp and a few more officers were in search of Jacob. They searched the town front to back. Clamp asked Slap where could he be? Just then Slap said "I KNOW" "I KNOW" where he is. Slap went speeding towards the west side of the town to the local trash dump. Sure enough Jacob was gathering supplies, no doubt for his next adventure.

Slap slammed on the breaks and the car came to a screeching halt. Clamp stepped out of the car and said Jacob, we have been looking all over this town for you. Boy, you have made a mess of things this time. We have intruders that came through a hole you left open. A hole said Jacob, I never left, Oops! Jacob face turned red with embarrassment, and he said Yep it was me, and I know where the hole is.

Clamp said you do. Well that's great. Let's go get those two and send them home. Jacob got into the car and off they went.

They pulled up to Cinny's house and walked up the porch. Cinny opened the door. Well she said, we found Jacob. He knows where, and we can send them home.

Cinny went into the bedroom to wake the children. Both were fast asleep. Joey, Zoey wake up. The children rubbed there eyes and sat up. What said Joey. We can get you two back home. Zoey jumped up and hugged Cinny, and then ran to Clamp and hugged him. Clamp acted like he did not care, but patted Zoey on the back. Come along, let's get you two back home.

Joey and Zoey said there good-byes to Cinny and thanked her for being so nice. Cinny told them to take care, and stay out of places they did not know anything about. They all then went out to the car and away they went.

Jacob took them to the old theatre. They entered and it was pitch black. Just then Jacob slapped something against the wall. It was a Glo-Stick. This will get us through said Jacob. They walked down the path, and noticed a place in the wall that looked almost transparent. Here it is this is the place to your home. Joey looked at

Zoey. What do we do they asked. Just step through and you will be home. Both of the children said good-bye, and stood in front of the hole. Joey grabbed Zoey's hand and said "Don't let go Zoey" I will take care of you. Then they stepped through, they seemed to be falling then the next thing they knew they were sitting in there backyard.

Joey got up, and said Zoey are you ok I am all right said Zoey. They both ran to the house opened the door and screamed Mom, Dad are you here. Just then both of there parents ran out and seen the children and ran to them. All of them crying. Where were you, we have looked everywhere. Knowing no one would believe, Joey said we just took a little adventure and got lost. Well don't you ever do this again. Me and your father were worried sick. From that moment Joey and Zoey both became closer as brother and sister.

Joey knew no grown up would believe there story, so he and Zoey kept it there little secret. They both talked about it all the time wondering what going on in Twinkle Town. Maybe someday on another adventure they will find there way back, or maybe somewhere else.

THE END