

Jaspa's Journey

The Rescue In San Fran

On the plane

“So what do you guys want to do in San Francisco?” asked Biscuits. “I really want to go see Alcatraz, it looks really, really cool.”

“That’s very cool Bizzee have you researched anything yet?” Portia asks.

“Yes it turns out three people escaped and haven’t been seen again. The guards believed they drowned or got eaten in the bay. Also there was a big fight where three inmates died and three guards died as well. It was called the Battle of Alcatraz it took place from May 2nd to May 4th in the year 1946” Biscuits responds.

“Well, I really want to go to Muir Woods. The trees there fascinate me. The tallest tree there is 258 feet tall where as the trees in the Serengeti are only around 80 feet,” says Jaspa.

“I want to see the Golden Gate Bridge because it is around 3 km long,” says Gravee.

“Since I never did say what I wanted to do, I’ll do that now. I would like to see Pier 39 because of all the shops and I’ve never seen a sea lion before,” says Portia.

“Hello, this is your pilot speaking, we will be landing shortly please remain in your seat with you seat belt buckled until the seat belt sign turns off.”

One hour later

“Hey Ben can you smell the ocean air?”

“I can Sammie. I think it smells pretty good, do you?”

“Yes, and I like it because it smells so different,” responds Sam.

“We all enjoy it as well,” whispers Biscuits from Ben’s hood.

“Hey mom, why are those seagulls circling us?” Ben asks.

“I don’t know honey, maybe they smell food on us,” Ben and Sam's mom says to Ben.

Swoosh!

A seagull dives right at Ben and snatches Gravee right out of his hood.

“Whit tae heck is going on wi’ me being the one being attacked or taken. Noo put me down ye bampot,” Gravee yells to the others and the seagulls.

The main Seagullses tells Gravee, “No we’re not going to let you go you funny talking Dogses.”

“What do you want? Please let him go.” Portia asks with worry.

“Well we want six large fries from McDonald’s, five full fish from a gourmet seafood house and we want those now,” the leader demands.

“B-bb-but we don’t have any of those,” Biskits stutters.

“Oh we never introduced ourselves I am Gulliver leader of the Squawkers and since you don’t have those we keep the Dogses. Byeeee!”

Well, this is a great way to start vacation, thinks Ben. A delayed flight and now Gravee gets taken by some mob of seagulls. I really hope this trip isn't like Africa where I am worrying the whole time. Honestly, with this already what could happen next?

Part Two

The Next Day

“Ben is really worried about Gravee being gone. He was tossing and turning all night last night,” Portia says to the gang. “It would be really impactful on Ben to lose Gravee as he saved him from Gobber in the graveyard.”

“It would be very hard on Ben if Gravee was potentially lost,” agrees Jaspa.

“Yay! We’re leaving now; where are we going today?” Biskits asks.

“Uh I’m pretty sure we are going to Alcatraz today Bizzee,” Portia answers.

“Oh this will be fun I was really excited to go there I can’t wait, Biskits says with noticeable enthusiasm. I want to learn more about the Battle of Alcatraz because it was a very big event in Alcatraz history. Oh, do you guys want to hear something else about the battle?” Biskits asks excitedly.

“Sure what is it?” Jaspa asks back.

“Apparently there are four ghosts that haunt the island and they are the ghosts of the people who planned the almost successful escape,” Biskits answers with joy. Their names are Bernard Coy, Marvin Hubbard, Joseph Cretzer and Clarence Carnes.”

“Well Bizzee you can’t believe everything you see on the internet,” says Portia very adult like.

“Yes, Portia is right plus ghosts don’t even exist,” says Jaspa agreeing with Portia.

“Whatever you guys; but don’t be surprised when they’re right there in your faces,” says Biskits closing the conversation.

“Wait, look in the sky there are some seagulls and they’re in the same formation as the ones that took Gravee,” Jaspa notices and says to the other two Giraffeses and Ben.

“Your right, but I see something you didn’t there are smaller birds beside them,” says Biskits who has the best eyesight of all of them.

“Really, what if they’re Ses?” Jaspa asks.

“What if they’re the ones who took Gravee?” Portia asks.

“We’re here now guys,” Ben whispers to the three ses in his hood.

“Pardon honey?” Ben's mom asks.

“Nothing mom, I’m just talking to myself. I’m really excited about Alcatraz.” Ben answers.

“Ok sweetie.”

“We can go on the island now. Race you,” challenges Sam.

“Your on Sammie,” says Ben who has accepted the challenge.

“Hold on guys this might be a bit of a bumpy ride,” Portia warns the other two.

Thump, Thump, Thump down the stairs as Ben and Sam raced of the ferry.

“What the, where did this piece of paper come from? Biskits asks.

“I don’t know, read it,” Portia tells him.

“Ok, it says, *If you want your Dogses Gravee back go to the sea lion docks at Pier 39 for your next clue,*” Biskits reads to the other two.

“Oh well I’m pretty sure I heard Mom and Dad say we’re going to Pier 39 after this,” Jaspa tells them.

“Well isn’t that convenient,” Ben whispers to them after hearing their conversations.

Halfway through the Alcatraz tour

“Hey, they’re talking about the battle of Alcatraz right now,” Biskits informs Portia and Jaspa.

“The battle went along these lines,” the tour guide says. “The four escapees need the keys for the gun walk. So on the morning of May 2nd 1946 Bernard Coy attacked a guard knocked him out and took his keys than releasing the other three. From there they climbed onto those bars and prayed them open with a homemade bar splitter. Then Bernard Coy attacked and took out the guard in the gun walk took his guns and then proceeded to give guns to his associates. Then the officers inside came to see what was happening. The escapees and the officers started firing at each other. The escapees won and locked up the officers in cells. After that the officers outside came into see what was going on only to be met by the gunfire of the escapees the first two officers in the door got gunned down. By then the other officers realized what was going drew their own guns and fired back. The officers in the back called for the marines and pinned the escapees in a little hallway while bombarding them with grenades for two days through holes in the roof. The escapees failed and are now dead and they say their ghosts haunt this very row of cells. I have never seen them personally but you never know.”

“Pffft, ghosts don’t exist,” the crowd says in unison.

“See there are ghosts here,” says Biskits reinstating his statement.

“Like they all said. Ghosts. Don’t. Exist,” Jaspa argues back.

But before Biskits can say anything some other voices prove Jaspa wrong.

“**What did you all say about ghosts not being real,**” the four ghosts yell at the tourists.

“**AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHH**,” all the tourists scream including the McRae’s and the three ses.

As the tourists try to run the ghosts block the exits.

“S-s-see I told you,” Biskits tells the others with pride and a bit of a stutter.

“Who we gonna call,” Ben and Sam’s dad prompts

“Ghostbusters,” their mom finishes.

“Really guys,” Ben says with noticeable sarcastic annoyance in his voice.

“Wait aren’t ghosts able to go through things?” Sam says

“Yes they are, why?” Ben asks

“So wouldn’t we be able to run through them and onto the ferry going back,” Sam suggests.

“Yes that might work and it’s 10:50 right now. So by the time we get down there the ferry would be ready to leave,” their dad says going along with Sam’s plan.

Alrighty let’s go then, Ben says getting the McRae’s into action.

Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop, the ghost went when the McRae’s went through him

“**After them,**” yells the Bernard Coy ghost.

“Ugh that felt really weird, it was cold and slimy feeling,” Sam says shivering.

“I totally agree,” exclaimed Ben.

“Uh Ben the-uh ghosts are after us,” Biscuits whispers in Ben’s ear

“Hey dad what time is it?” Ben asks.

“10:53 son,” their dad answers

“Also the ghosts are chasing us,” Ben informs the family.

“**Get back here you tourist scum,**” the ghosts shriek at the McRae’s.

“I think we should pick up the pace guys” their dad says.

“Another bumpy ride up ahead.” Portia says with slight annoyance.

Thump, Thump, Thump, as the McRae’s rush down the pathway to the ferry.

Five seconds later

“**Whew**, that was close, too close,” Ben pants.

“Indeed it was. Well since we are in the area your dad and I decided we’re going to go to Pier 39.” Their parents tell them.

“Yay,” says Sam to her mom and so does Portia to Jaspa and Biscuits.

Part Two

At Pier 39

“Did you guys know that Pier 39 is one of the top tourist attractions in San Francisco,” says a very excited Portia.

“Mom can we go see the sea lions please,” Sam pleads as she now knows about the hints.

“Sure let’s go right now,” Mrs. McRae says to her daughter.

“Wow I can hear them already,” Biscuits says to Jaspa.

“Well they are quite noisy,” Jaspa explains to Biscuits.

“Oh wow look at the size of them,” Portia says in awe.

“Yes they can grow up to 550 lbs and eight feet long,” says Jaspa the Scientist.

Whoosh, goes the wind and it takes Biscuits and plops him into the middle of the sea lions.

“BIZZE WE’RE COMING TO GET YOU,” Portia yells to him.

“Waver we must hurry, let’s go,” Portia demands

“Ok ok I’m going but we need to be careful because the docks are separated,” Jaspa responds.

The waves rock the docks as Portia and Jaspa make their way over to Biscuits.

Shift, Shift, Jaspa and Portia get over to Biscuits as fast as their Ses legs can carry them.

“Portia I see the hint, I’m going for it,” Jaspa tells Portia.

“Ok go Waver go,” says Portia who hurry’s him along.

“Got it, I’m shifting over” Jaspa informs her.

Shift

“Good, you got it. Now we have to get your brother, ok,” Portia the planner says.

“Bisckits shift over to us,” Jaspa yells over to him.

“On it,” Bisckits replies.

Shift

“Alright now let’s get back to Ben,” Jaspa says to the other ses.

Shift, Shift, Shift, went the three ses back to Ben and into his hood.

They walk through all the stores with a cool ocean breeze and the nice warm sun shining down on them bringing out the full scenery of the pier. They see the double decker carousel that has different sea creatures on it. They also checked out the musical stairs that are painted like piano keys and play the note when you step on it.

“Well guys is there anything else you’d like to do,” asks their mom.

“No let’s just get walking back to the hotel and see what we see on the way,” Ben says who’s had a long day and could use some rest.

Part Three

Back at the hotel

“Jaspa read the next hint,” Portia demands eagerly.

“Alright it says, *Your next location is Muir Woods. Search in the trees to find the hint you do need.*” Jaspa reads aloud.

“Ugh, that’s going to be really hard to do especially if we have to climb a tree,” Bisckits complains.

“I’m going to get Sam to get us to Muir Woods,” Portia tells her two cousins.

Shift, Portia goes and gets Sam to come over.

“Hey guys, we got to go in the washroom so mom and dad don’t get suspicious,” Sam says to her three Ses friends.

In the washroom

“What is it guys?” Sam asks

“Well the next clue is in Muir Woods and we were wondering if you could try and get us there,” Jaspa explains.

“Oh, ok I’ll see what I can do,” Sam tells them.

Sam walks out of the washroom and goes to her parents.

“Mom, can we please go to Muir Woods, before we left we were learning about trees and this would be very relevant?” Sam says to her mom.

“Sure we can sweetie that can be one of the things we do tomorrow,” her mom says totally loving her daughters enthusiasm.

The next day

“Your mom really buys all of your stories doesn’t she?” Biscuits asks Sam

“A lot of them, yes,” Sam whispers in response to Biscuits question.

“Guys do you wanna know something about the trees?” Jaspa the botanist asks.

“Sure what is it Waver,” Portia responds.

“The age of most of these trees is around 500 to 800 years old with the oldest one being at least 1,200 years old and the forest itself is 1,013 years old.” Jaspa says increasing their knowledge of Muir Woods.

“We’re here now guys throw on your sweaters and get ready for an adventure,” Mr. McRae says to the other McRae’s.

In Muir Woods

“Oh wow look at the size of that tree,” says Jaspa in awe.

As the McRae’s and the Ses walk along they’re in awe of the towering trees beauty and the low growing shrubbery with a river running through it. It’s amazing how well the trees have been preserved for their age. With all the quiet of nature it feels like your in a meditation video.

“This looks like the Ewok villages from Star Wars Return of the Jedi,” Biscuits says to the passengers in Ben’s hood.

Trip, Tumble Ben trips and falls on the wooden walkway that goes through the forest made out of redwoods that have fallen down in the forest. Jaspa goes flying and lands in a creek and being his size gets swept downstream. He eventually gets out but is still faced with the problem of getting back to Ben and the others.

“Ben honey are you alright?” “JASPA,” says Portia and Ben's mom at the same time.

“Yes I’m fine mom and thanks for asking,” says Ben to his mom

Meanwhile downstream.

Jaspa swims to the shore about 10 meters away from where he fell in.

“**Huff, Huff** jeez that was a hard swim now I gotta get back to the others so we can get the hint,” Jaspa says to himself. “Well let's start walking now.”

As Jaspa walks through the forest he notices how you can barely see the tops of the trees and how the sunlight shines through the undergrowth.

Five minutes into Jaspa’s walk he notices something funny in the rocks.

Why are there arrows pointing up this hill, Jaspa wonders. I might as well see where they lead.

On the path the McRae’s come up to the spot with the arrows as well.

“Can we go up there since it looks like a challenge and challenges are fun?” Sam asks her parents

“Sure let’s go, last one to the top is a rotten egg,” their dad challenges.

As they make it up they catch up to Jaspa with Ben being in the lead he makes a little stumble and grabs Jaspa and puts him in his hood without his parents knowing.

“Thanks Ben and hey guys,” Jaspa says to Ben, his cousin and brother.

As they get to the top Jaspa says to the others. “This is the mountain trail it is an elevated trail that is not covered by a boardwalk like the one on the regular trail.”

“Oh look there’s the hint in that hole in the tree,” Portia says spying it before the boys did.

“Alright I’ll go grab it,” Ben says to Portia.

Ben runs over and grabs it and gets back to where he was standing just as his dad crests the hill.

“You’re speedy little one just like me in my younger days,” Ben’s dad says to Ben.

After their dad comes Sam making mom the rotten egg.

In Ben’s hood Portia reads the hint “ the hint says, *to get him back you must go Point Reyes lighthouse and have a meeting with us again.*”

“Mom can we go to Point Reyes to make today an outdoorsy day?” Ben asks.

“Sure, you and your sister both must be feeling the call of the wild today,” answering his question.

Part Four

One hour of driving later

“Can we go all the way up to the lighthouse?” Ben asks. “Did you know that the Point Reyes lighthouse was built in 1870 because Point Reyes was and is one of the foggiest places on earth. The lighthouse still functions to this day but is under renovation right now,” He also says.

“Yessiree we can young man and good on you to know that,” Ben’s dad says to his son.

“You know what I find it crazy is how the landscape changes, like it goes from valleys and pastures to this sheer ocean cliff,” Ben exclaims.

“I do agree on the landscape changes,” Ben’s dad says.

“Thanks dad,” Ben says to him.

Up at the lighthouse

Squawk, Squawk, Squawk.

“Here they come Ben and I see Gravee he’s on the second one to the left,” Biscuits says.

“What do we do now?” Ben asks.

Use your spicy Dorito sticks to distract them and then grab Gravee in the midst of the chaos because they’re not the only seagulls here,” Portia suggests.

“Good idea, thanks,” Ben says to her.

“Well, well, well looks like you’ve come to bargain, huh,” Gulliver says snidely.

“Here’s our offer” says Portia quite seriously. “You give us our Ses and no hard feelings or we create utter chaos and take him the hard way.”

“Well we’re not going to give him to you so option two it is,” Gulliver responds.

“Fine, dump the spicy sticks boys,” Portia commands.

Duuuuuump, all of the seagulls heads turn and... **feeding frenzy**.

Shift, Gravee gets out of the frenzy and gets over to Ben as fast as possible while the seagulls are all distracted. Ben leans down picks up Gravee and puts him and the other ses in his pocket and walks over to his mom, dad and Sam.

“Oh wow look at that view,” says Ben in awe.

A few minutes later
Down at the beach

Ben and Sam run in and out of the waves down on the beach as their mom tapes them one her smartphone to keep as a memory for this trip.

Hey Gravee what was your adventure like?” Biscuits asks.

“Well it wis something I’ll tell ye wee laddie. When they flew away with me it was like Africa all over again. They fed me old fish that wis rotting. I wisnae allowed tae leave the gulls back. It wis living hell,” Gravee tells them.

Back up at the lighthouse

“Those sneaky little seses got away and you guys all acted like a bunch of brainless idiots,” Gulliver yells in frustration.

Back in the car

“Man Gravee I really missed you and I’m so glad your back,” Ben whispers to Gravee.

“Me tae laddie, me tae,” Gravee says back.

As they drove back to their hotel Ben smiled, glad they were all together again and knew they will enjoy the next days of their trip to come.

The End.