

Otto

My name is Otto. Backwards and forward, it's the same. O-T-T-O. I live in a clock shop, with beautiful clocks. Watches, wall clocks and antiques- we've got it all. My owner's name is Arthur. I like the shop; it's warm, cosy and I know the routine. We open at nine and close at six, Monday to Friday. Week after week.

It was a Monday morning like any other. I was sleeping by my favourite clock, until suddenly, BRRZZ, 8am! Time to wake up! I went to wake up Arthur, tiptoeing on my paws to his room. Arthur wasn't there. That's weird I thought. I went to my food bowl, surely he will bring me breakfast? I stood waiting for ten minutes until I saw something, a note. It was on the counter. I read it.

*Dear Otto*

*Sorry for running off.*

He ran off?! I read on.

*I need your help. Find the red and yellow digital clock. Set the time to 20 July 2060. Bring the clock antennae with you. I will find you.*

*Love Arthur*

The weird red and yellow clock? I did as the note said, set the time to 20 July 2060 and bit the antennae off.

Otto

“Whoa,” I yelped! A little jolt of energy shocked me. Everything was the same. Just a joke I guessed? Arthur’s probably going to jump out laughing soon. I went outside. Nothing different. Then I was nearly blown over by wind whipping my fur as not just one, but hundreds of flying cars, whizzed above me. “Awesome!” I whispered. Then I realised that I must find Arthur here...in the future! How could I possibly...

Cautiously, I went for a walk around. The future was a strange place. There were thousands of skyscrapers and people with robots next to them. I was captivated. Then I remembered that I should be looking for Arthur. I went up to one of the, robots “Hey, can you help me find someone?”

“Bee Bop.” It walked on. No help there. In front of me was a huge building, not a skyscraper, more like a UNIVERSCRAPER! My canine intuition told me I must go inside.

The door was open, I walked in. There were people everywhere. I must find Arthur, I thought. “Hey, whaddya think you’re doing, punk!” A robot guard ran towards me. “We’re gonna have to take ya away!” he yelled. I ran. With him right on my tail. “Come back,” he shouted, “only robot dogs are allowed in here!”. I ran up a huge flight of stairs. I was still running until, “Oof!” I ran into someone. I looked up. It was Arthur!

“Arthur you’re here!” I cried. “Otto!” He cried back! “You found me!” “Why are you here, and how did you send that letter.” I asked him. “My grandfather invented digital clocks and made the red and yellow clock...special. It is a portal - you can time-travel and send messages through it. But there is a catch - unless your name is a palindrome (like yours!)

Otto

to go back in time you must be holding the antennae. I am not supposed to time travel, in fact my father called me Arthur (not a palindrome!) to try to discourage me from travelling. But I had to come to 2060 to save the first pendulum clock from being destroyed in a fire. I saved the clock...but I forgot the antennae. "Did you bring it?" "Yup," "hang on" "You didn't bring the antennae!?" "I did, but I must have lost it in the chase" I mumbled. "Well we have to go back and find it." I retraced my steps, it was there! My brain was rushing with excitement. I grabbed it and ran back up. "Hey punk, I told you no dogs in the building!". "Oh no, here we go again!" I thought. I ran even faster and dropped the antennae at Arthur's feet. Arthur yelled "I will shake the antennae and you stay close. Remember your name is a palindrome, so you don't need to be holding the antennae like I do."

As I watched Arthur shake the antennae, I felt a strange sensation coursing through my body. Suddenly, everything around me began to blur and I felt like I was being sucked through a vacuum.

And then, just like that, we were back in the clock shop. Arthur was smiling at me. "Well done Otto, you did it!" he said.