I live alone with my mum, but my uncle often visits us. I've never been a fan of family parties, so for the last few years I've had a modest gathering over cake with her, my uncle and my grandparents. For as long as I can remember my uncle has given me interesting gifts that I never got bored of. Every birthday was a kind of guessing game as to what he would come up with this time. This year, however, he outdid himself.

With my mum and grandparents, we were already eating cake and drinking coffee when he finally arrived late. As an excuse, he said that it was difficult to transport the present. I became even more curious about what it would be. He came into the room and I saw a big box with a Happy Birthday written on it. I curiously opened it and to my surprise there was only a small piece of paper inside. I looked at my uncle and he gave me a gesture telling me to read it. The note said "Teleporting box - instruction:

1 Open the lid of the box and step inside.

2 Close the lid and your eyes.

3 Imagine the place where you would like to be.

4 When you are sure of your decision, clench your fists and say "I am ready".

5. Open your eyes and enjoy your stay in the place of your dreams.

6. To return, repeat the whole procedure, but with one small change. You must take with you the creature native to that place, otherwise you will not return home.

CAUTION: The box only works 2 times: when travelling to the chosen location and back. After that it turns into a regular box".

At first I thought it was a joke, but I knew my uncle well and by the look on his face I knew it was true. I showed the gift to my mother and grandparents. My grandparents were a little upset, saying that how could my uncle give me something like that, something could happen to me. Mum, on the other hand, said that we would talk about it later.

The party was over, everyone had gone and I was left with just my mum.

She told me that she was a little afraid for me, but she saw the sparkle in my eyes and she also thought that I deserved some rest. Studying for my high-school certificate, the stress before university, the unsteady attempts to improve were exhausting. So she allowed me to go, but I only had three days to spare. I will set off on Friday next week and return on Sunday. Delighted, I agreed and hugged her tightly.

The day finally came. I packed some clothes, water, watch, phone, charger, toothbrush, toothpaste and a couple of cosmetics in my backpack. Even though my backpack was very spacious, it could barely fit. I headed to my room, stood in front of the box and said goodbye to my mum. I went inside and closed the lid. With my eyes shut, I thought of a warm place where I would relax, but also experience and learn something new. I clenched my fists, said "I'm ready" and it happened. I found myself in a completely unfamiliar place.

I lifted the lid and stepped out of the box. I saw a beautiful sandy beach with crystal-clear water from which the sun's rays were reflected. Behind me was a green forest. I was stunned. It was like a place out of a fairy tale. I took off my shoes and socks and got my feet wet in the lukewarm water. I enjoyed the view for a while and, having dressed again, I set off towards the forest. The refreshing, clean air filled my nostrils and my ears enjoyed the chirping of birds. I hid the box next to a distinctive tree so that I could easily find it later. After walking for a couple of minutes, I saw magnificent, colourful hills and glades with wooden houses in the midst of nature. I was very curious to see who lived inside, as the dwelling places looked fabulous. However, I did not want to disturb anyone's peace, so I moved on. I finally arrived at what appeared to be the centre of the area. Here stood a couple of larger wooden and stone buildings, which also blended in with the ever-present nature. One in particular, however, caught my eye. It looked like a church, but had no religious symbols on it. I walked closer, towards the entrance, and then I saw...her. She was wearing an airy, light, floral dress and white elegant shoes. Her dark blonde hair was pinned up by a clip. Time slowed down, the image around me became a blur and all I could see was her. She was unquestionably the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. I felt something strange, as if I had to go up and talk to her, like it were the only right option. So I approached her and then I saw her beautiful eyes. They were relatively small, but full of depth. The sun reflected off them creating a compelling shade of brown. However, I could not stand and marvel, so I began to speak.

I asked what her name was. "Naomi" she replied. "Pretty name, I'm Nikodem" - I threw in awkwardly out of stress. She looked very surprised. After a moment she asked where I was from. I told her the whole story with the gift hoping she wouldn't take me for an idiot. She, however, fascinated by this unusual event, decided to initiate me into this world. She explained everything to me while we walked together exploring the area. So it turned out that I ended up on a hidden island. It was not accessible to outsiders, except to the families of the inhabitants. It was not a typical island. Here, people tried to enjoy the present and the real world as much as possible. Phones were only used for them to communicate between the locals, their family and to gain knowledge about the world as well as general knowledge. They did not want to be cut off from world and near world events, they wanted to be able to educate themselves in a deeper way than school allowed, but they did not want to use electronics for entertainment purposes. So this solution was very clever. She also talked about the fact that everyone can develop in whatever direction they want and everyone supports each other in this. There is more individuality in the school, as beyond the minimum core subjects, everyone chooses 5 from a large group of subjects they want to focus on additionally. She also mentioned the healthy lifestyle that practically everyone leads here, the literature club and a few other things, but I was so hungry that I couldn't concentrate much anymore. She suggested I stay with her for the duration of my visit, as she lives alone anyway. I gladly agreed. I wanted to get to know her as well as possible, because I felt an instant connection with her and sensed that something more could come out of it.

So we went to her wooden cottage on a hill, surrounded by a beautiful colourful garden. She showed me my room, where I put down my backpack and plugged in my phone. It was only now that I remembered to text my mum that everything was fine, and when I did I went into the living room. It was connected to the kitchen. I wanted to help Naomi prepare the meal, so I got down to cutting fresh vegetables from the garden. As we cooked together, I admired my companion's delicacy, grace and femininity. When she asked me another question about me, I think she noticed my gaze and got slightly flustered. However, we quickly returned to the topic of conversation. Forty-five minutes later, we were seated at the table and eating the chicken and vegetable noodles we had prepared together. It was really delicious and I feel quite bad admitting it, but it was better than what my mother makes.

After eating, we decided to go for a short walk. We went to the more wild and free part of the island. There were lots of trees and plants, many birds in the sky and a peaceful aura. Suddenly, I saw something very strange. It was an animal that resembled a cross between a fennec and a dachshund. When he saw me he immediately ran up and asked to be stroked. I eagerly started to play with him. Naomi said it was a signature creature of their island. Then I remembered the conditions for returning home. I told the girl about it. After a moment's thought, she said that I could take the animal because it was clear that we liked each other. Delighted, I hugged the furry fellow and said, "From now on your name is Jeremi and you are my friend". Jeremi started spinning in circles and running around with happiness. After playing with the three of us for a while, we decided to go home. On the return, a vast amount of stars flashed over our heads. I pointed to Orion's Belt, it was one of the few constellations I knew. She looked at it and began to list the other constellations around us. I knew maybe 3 that she listed. Not surprisingly, her knowledge of them overshadowed mine. I rarely looked at the sky, whereas she was very much turning her attention to the world around her. Such was her slow life.

The next day I woke up in the morning and heard noises in the kitchen, so I went there. It turned out that Naomi was already preparing breakfast for us. I apologised to her for not getting up early to help her, but she smiled and said I would return the favour at lunch. In a moment, scrambled eggs, oatmeal and a plate of fruit were on the table. I only had such breakfasts in hotels on holiday. I thought to myself that I had come across not an average girl, but a real treasure. We ate everything with taste, shared with Jeremi, and set the plan for the day. I could explore the island on my own or go with Naomi and accompany her on her Saturday routine. The choice was obvious to me.

We went shopping first, where she bought lots of vegetables (the kind she didn't grow in the garden) and fruit, dairy products and some bread. I was surprised because there wasn't as much unhealthy stuff on the shelves as I was used to. The choice in this category was quite limited.

Later we went to the library combined with the reading and computer room by which we met. The place was huge. Masses of books, couches, chairs and lots of computers. Naomi said I could choose any book I wanted and read it while she studied. I took a moment to think about the category of reading I was going to do. I wanted to choose something that interested me, but also something that would impress her. I remembered the stack of biology and psychology books in her house and went in search of a similar book. After 10 minutes of wandering and searching, I finally found the right avenue. I was reading through the titles one by one when I suddenly came across something that interested me. It was a book related to neuroscience. I grabbed it immediately because I was curious about the subject and had wanted to explore it for a long time. I walked back towards Naomi and stared at her like a fool. I watched as she meticulously read the contents of one of the books that belonged to the aforementioned stack and took notes. She was very focused, but at the same time looked like she was grasping everything. I was captivated by her dedication and motivation, but also by the intelligence emanating from her. Once I sat down next to her, she looked at my book in surprise and smiled slightly. "Are you interested in biology too?" - she asked with some fascination in her eyes. "Yes, but I don't know much as of yet and I would like to learn" - I replied. Naomi offered to teach for an hour and then she could explain the topics I was interested in. She said this with some flirt in her voice and I felt my heart speed up. I wanted the hour to pass as quickly as possible, but I decided to wrap myself up and dig into the reading. It wasn't the easiest book to understand, but I comprehended the general concepts to my satisfaction. I was afraid that my lack of knowledge would put me off a bit from wanting to learn, but the opposite happened. I was eager to expand my knowledge. After an hour, Naomi finished and announced that she could now take charge of my tutoring. At first, I asked about things I didn't understand from the book I had just read. I quickly got answers to each of my questions. I was not only impressed by the speed of the answers, but also by their precision and clarity. I could feel my adoration for her growing with each sentence. Later, I asked her to tell me where her passion for biology came from. She told me the whole story and I listened attentively. I was very pleased to learn more and more parts of this attractive personality. After a stay of almost three hours, we headed home. It was time to return the favour and it was now up to me to prepare the meal. Naomi was craving something sweet so I made pancakes with yoghurt, fruits and nuts.

I have to compliment myself and admit that they were delicious. I wasn't the only one who thought so. The tester of my dish was very surprised by my skills. It was clear that I had impressed her, even though the pancakes are not exceptionally hard to prepare. She did, however, think they were the best she had ever tasted.

When we had had our tea, we dressed up and took Jeremi for a walk. The sun was illuminating Naomi's eyes as it had when we first met, the birds were chirping and a light, warm breeze was blowing. She led us to a field. At first I admired the green grass, the colourful flowers and, of course, my companion. We talked for a while about the surroundings and the beauty of nature in general. Jeremi, however, looked as if he was bored. So we arranged a race. We ran across the entire area, which was quite large. My pet was surprisingly fast. He chased me and Naomi at a dizzying pace. She also surprised me with her pace, despite wearing clothes you don't tend to run in. She was wearing flared jeans and a tank top. Needless to say, she looked beautiful. Despite the efforts of the competitors, I was the fastest. We walked for another hour, talking about various topics. I found out why Naomi lives alone.

Her uncle, her father's brother, once came to visit them. As he was an outside visitor he had normal access to all the phone functions. He started showing various things like social media to her parents. They were sceptical at first, but the father was soon hooked on the express dopamine. He got sucked into it all too much. He craved a life filled with the internet and social media. He wanted to broaden the horizons of his work and start working in social media as well. Her mother, after discussions, came to the conclusion that this would be a profitable option. They decided to leave the island and start a new life. They wanted to move out with Naomi, of course, however, she did not want to. She preferred her quiet, peaceful life. So she ended up living alone. In telling this whole story she opened up to me a lot. She did not try to hide her emotions and when she became more down because of the memories she cuddled up to me so that she could finish the story calmly. I felt the best in the world at that moment. I cannot describe the feelings. There was a warmth in my heart, a comfort and a need to take care of the girl hugging me. At that moment I was already convinced that this was it, we were meant for each other.

Once she had calmed down and become cheerful again, I decided it was now or never. I asked her if she would like to go on a date with me tonight. She blushed slightly, smiled and, looking me straight in the eye, said "I'd love to". I was a fulfilled man. I tried to remain calm, but inside I was jumping like a happy child. So we went back to the house, gave Jeremi food and got dressed. I wore black jeans and a navy blue thin jumper. Naomi, on the other hand, wore long white tights, a long skirt, a white shirt and a black sweater vest. She looked stunning. The elegant outfit combined with the softness of her hair and beauty gave a very unique effect. I began to wonder by what miracle such a girl had agreed to go on a date with me. As the date proposition was mine I had to come up with the concept for it. So I packed some fruits, dark chocolate, nuts and wine in my backpack. As I didn't know the area I had to ask Naomi to take us to the place I wanted. So we headed to the beach, where my adventure with the place began.

After walking for some time at sunset, we arrived at the beach. I laid out a blanket, food and opened some wine. We admired the view together and then started talking about various stories from our lives. Looking at her like this and listening to her soothing voice, it suddenly hit me that I had to leave her tomorrow. This hurt me. I wanted to develop a relationship with her, but unfortunately we lived on the other side of the world. I would have loved for her to bend the rules of the island and at least communicate with me. However, I knew that she loved this life too much, this peace, the harmony. She would not break the rules. Since I couldn't continue this relationship, I wanted to at least tell her how I felt. I told her that from the first time I looked at her, I felt something different. I feel unimaginable happiness and comfort with her. If we had more time I would probably feel something strong for her. I feel that she is the one, even though I know it sounds idiotic because I met her yesterday. For a while she didn't know what to say. She looked shy. After a short thought, she finally answered me: "You see Nikodem, I need a lot of time to feel something more serious, but when I saw you, I also felt different. If life had been different, if we had lived close and got to know each other more, maybe something would have come of it". Although it hurt to know that nothing would happen, I was glad to know that I wasn't the only one who felt this connection. We toasted our relationship. The stars were already shining strongly above us and the water was gurgling. We pulled off our shoes and dipped our feet in the transparent water. We kept talking, about everything and nothing. We lay back on the blanket. Naomi started talking about a theory about the stars that her grandmother had told her when she was a kid.

Supposedly the universe is connected to us, or rather the other way around. All our thoughts and emotions are transmitted to it. All of nature, everything around us is connected. However, this is not what the theory is about, the magic only begins now. Apparently, we are able to communicate with whomever we want via the universe itself. In order to do this, we need to find an element of nature that is symbolic of the relationship. It can be anything. So far it seems simple, but this is where the difficulty begins. Two people have to look at this thing at the same exact moment and say the name of the other person. The universe will receive this signal and allow communication. When these people are dreaming they are able to meet in the dream, through which they can have a conscious conversation. This will continue until one of the sides wakes up.

Of course, I did not believe this. It was all nonsense to me. Naomi was more open to this theory. She thought our world was so complicated and crazy that anything was possible. I thought there was something to it, but come on, it sounded a bit crazy.

We discussed this topic for a long time, considering aspects of faith, nature, science and scientifically unexplainable events. It was a very interesting conversation, but it did not change anything in my view on the subject. It was getting late, so we finished our wine, went home, washed up and went to bed.

Friday morning, although beautiful, was also depressing - I was going home today. To my surprise, Jeremi and Naomi were still asleep. I therefore prepared omelettes, sandwiches and tea for breakfast. I woke the girl up carefully and invited her to breakfast. Slightly dishevelled, she followed me to the table. My little friend was also awake, so I gave him food as well. Naomi told me her dream, I told her mine. Both were equally twisted, so we tried to interpret them. Of course, nothing specific came out of it, as we came up with a million different ideas.

After the meal and getting ready, we went for a walk. We took Jeremi with us, of course. He ran around quite a lot, wagging his tail, but quickly got tired and wanted to go back. So we went back and left him at home, and walked by ourselves in a direction I had not yet walked. We passed many wooden houses with gardens and ivy. The sky was bright and cloudless, the grass was green and the wind gave a light pleasant breeze. We talked about our plans for the future. Naomi dreamt of setting up her dance studio, but that would mean leaving the island. So she wasn't sure about that. However, she was confident that she would continue to explore psychology. That said, she had a definite outline of what she would like to do. I also had initial plans. I wanted to become a personal trainer, but that was not enough for me. I wanted to keep educating myself about movement and human biology. I secretly hoped that maybe one day I would join in some research and analysis on strength training and related topics. Neuroscience, on the other hand, was something I wanted to learn about on my own. However, I had no idea what would come out of these plans. A passion for biology and a love for sport bound us together.

After a pleasant wandering between the hills of the island, we went to the library. We chose a book and started reading it together. The book was about the neuroplasticity of the brain. It is an incredibly interesting and thought-provoking topic. We both engaged in reading and analysing page after page of reading. When I didn't understand something, I could of course count on Naomi to help. However, there were times when we both didn't know what was going on. This is when we used the phone to educate ourselves - as it should be on this island. After an hour, we got hungry and decided to go for lunch.

This time we didn't go home, but to a local bistro. We had tomato soup, chicken kievs and, for dessert, cheesecake. Everything was incredibly delicious. I was most delighted with the cheesecake, as I am a huge fan of cakes. So I was even more pleased to find that my girl friend was very full from the soup and second course, so she ceded half her piece to me. Happy and full, we headed back home. We waited a little while to digest our food and Naomi offered to show me the basics of yoga. Not completely my vibe, but I agreed. She started with the easiest stuff, progressing into more and more difficult ones. I was surprised at my own level of stretch. I thought it would be much worse. With each successive position I could feel more muscles relaxing and I became calmer. It was very nice until the level of difficulty exceeded my ability. Then I started to feel the pain of trying to match my instructor with her flexibility. Despite this, I continued to see it as time well spent because I was spending it with a person with whom every moment feels wonderful.

After finishing the painful yoga, I wanted to relax, but there wasn't much time left until I had to get home. So I figured I'd pack up all my stuff and we'd go for a swim on the beach with Jeremi and from there I'd make the return journey. This is what we did.

The water was lukewarm and clear as always. Despite the favourable temperature, Naomi preferred to enter slowly. As a funny guy I am, I threw her into the water so that she would have an express adaptation. Shocked but laughing, she started splashing me. The battle has begun. The previously calm water turned into a battlefield. Even Jeremi on the shore tried to help create this chaos. We all had a great time. Naomi and I would splash each other, knock each other over, and I'd even toss her to do backflips into the water. Later, we took our beloved pet in our arms and while holding him, we taught him to swim. It wasn't an easy task, but definitely fun. After an hour it was time to get ready. We dried ourselves with towels, changed our clothes and headed towards the forest. I quickly found the box. I felt a great pain in my heart. With tears in my eyes, I hugged Naomi tightly. We held each other for a long time. When we stopped, I saw tears streaming down her cheeks as well. I wiped them off, kissed her forehead and said "I will never forget you Naomi". She smiled, holding back her tears, and said, "I'll never forget you too, Nikodem". I climbed into the box with Jeremi in my arms, closed the lid, repeated the whole teleportation procedure and it happened - I went home. I walked out of the box with a new household member. As soon as my mom heard us, she ran over and hugged me tightly. I introduced her to Jeremi, and they liked each other instantly. She prepared dinner and we sat down at the table. I told her about everything - about the unknown island, the beautiful views, the approach to life, the rules of that place, the conclusions I drew from the trip and of course about the best part of it all - Naomi.

We watched a movie, ate ice cream, and went to wash up. I read a book in bed and decided to go to sleep. But I couldn't do that. Jeremi suddenly began to make sounds that were a combination of barking and squealing. I went to see what was going on. He was standing in front of the patio door, as if he wanted to go there. So I let him out and followed him. But that wasn't the core of the problem, because he didn't stop making noises. Confused, I wondered what he was trying to do. I looked to where he was staring, and then I saw Orion's Belt. I remembered Grandma Naomi's theory, and even though I didn't believe it, I said the girl's name. Jeremi calmed down. I felt like a fool after doing it, but I had nothing to lose.

I went to bed and after a while I fell asleep from exhaustion. I was on some kind of flashing road in space. I could see millions of stars, and stretched behind me the vast Orion’s Belt. I walked towards it. When I reached the first dot of the constellation, I saw Naomi standing on the last one. Flabbergasted, we approached the dot in the middle together. She looked even more phenomenal than usual. The space around us emphasised her delicate aura. We looked deeply into each other's eyes. Her brown irises reflected the glow of the stars. I've never seen a happier look. I wanted this moment to last forever. I grabbed her hands and said, "So your grandmother was right". "That's what it looks like" - she replied. We stared at each other for a while, smiling. Suddenly Naomi moved closer and then it happened - she kissed me. I didn't expect it at all. A million emotions went through my body at once, cutting through one another. At that moment, I knew that this was not the end of our story. And it's all thanks to a mysterious gift from my uncle.