

## Chapter 1

Preview of Future Spin/Book 4 Time Wheel Series

Rosemary DeTrolio

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### Chapter 1 Exchange student

Tommy Delo, a twelve-year-old time traveler-history buff had made it through five and a half months of sixth grade at Hope School in New Jersey. Now in January, here he was perusing the shelves in the town library and laughing at himself. Last school year, you wouldn't have found him here in a million-kazillion years. But that was before moving to Hope, losing dad, meeting Jake, and before the amazing prayer wheel that zapped him through time.

Then there is the stupid weird thing that happened with his voice. It squeaked and his brain fried when he tried to talk to a girl. His friend, Ming, the wheel guardian from China and exchange student was prettier, smarter, and more attractive after he turned twelve and his horny-moans kicked in.

Tommy touched the book spines. His mind drifted to Dina, who kissed him then broke his heart. Change. It stunk worse than stinky socks, but also gave him a new opportunity.

Friends made everything better. His old acquaintances were long gone and truthfully...forgotten. Now Jake and Jeff were by his side, and strangely enough, Joe Carp...formerly known as Joe Rex it all, the destroyer.

## Chapter 1

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Tommy set the Time Wheel book on Miss Prim's semi-circular counter and gave her an I'm-a-smart-kid-this-year smile.

"I'm returning this book," Tommy said.

Miss Prim returned a smile and peered over her specs to ask, "Did you enjoy this book, young man?"

Tommy watched the cotton ball curls dance on the crown of her head. He shifted his eyes so as not to stare. "I sure did! Now I want to read *Wheel Guardian, Spinning Through Time, and Future Spin*. Do you have those here?"

"Yes, we do. What did you enjoy?"

"The main character reminded me of myself. He was a funny kid. The best part was the time travel stuff. It was so realistic," Tommy said, with enthusiasm.

Miss Prim's lips pursed like a goldfish mouth and said, "Too bad time travel isn't possible. Right?"

"Yeah...too bad," Tommy answered with a sideways smile. If she only knew, he thought. He put the Castles and Knights book on the countertop and pushed it toward her. "I'd like to borrow this one, too."

Miss Prim opened the book cover and shot a red laser beam at the barcode. He heard the familiar, bleep sound. "Miss Bell must be teaching Medieval times."

## Chapter 1

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“Medieval England was a dangerous one, Miss Prim. Could you suggest a book about China? I want to learn more about our exchange student.”

Miss Prim’s face looked as overjoyed as if Tommy presented her with a birthday balloon. “I’ve met Ming. Certainly. Follow me, young man.” When they got to the shiny tiles, he slowed down, careful not to ram into her as he did in the summer when he was not-smart-late-for-everything-Tommy.

He held in a giggle, focusing on pile of fluffy cotton ball hair bobbing up and down when she paced on her click-click heels. They reached the aisle labeled, *foreign countries*. Tommy chuckled. Another inside joke struck him funny. The library used to be a foreign country, but the books were travel itineraries for future time-travel adventures.

“Books allow us to explore places all over the world,” Miss Prim said.

Tommy giggled, toying with her. “Yeah, I wish I could travel the world.”

“As I recall, you were a pirate buff. Weren’t you?”

Blackbeard’s ship— the smell of blood, urine, and sweat. The golden doubloon he returned with sold at auction for \$50,000. This booty was enough money to pay Mom’s bills and still have savings left for a college fund. The trip did have its perks, but there was the awful, smelly stuff. “I used to love pirates. But, their life was far from the

## Chapter 1

### Preview of Future Spin/Book 4 Time Wheel Series

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glorious existence I first imagined. They were violent and smelled terrible!”

“You do have quite the vivid imagination!”

Tommy had revealed too much. “Oh. Yeah. My mom says I’m creative.” He pressed his lips together. He’d like to go back and get more coins, but as a wheel guardian, he could only take trips to help kids, not for personal gain. It was one of Choden’s rules. Besides, pirates were scary people.

Tommy said, “I’d like to read up on Nikola Tesla, Albert Einstein, and Julius Ceasar. Can you help me find these, too?”

“Certainly. We have an extensive biography section labeled 921,” Miss Prim waved a hand and smiled with her red lips. “This way.”

Tommy followed the click-click of her heels past the rows of famous people’s lives sitting quietly on the shelf.

“You are quite the history buff!” Miss Prim’s gave him a Joker’s grin.

“My father was the head librarian at the New Jersey college.”

“Fascinating! I’ve always thought about working in a college setting. Is he retired?”

Tommy’s mouth twisted to the side. “Not quite. He pushing up daisies...but not real daisies... if you know what I mean.”

“Oh, my. I’m sorry to hear it, young man,” she said with a wrinkled frown creasing on her forehead.

## Chapter 1

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Tommy shook his head. "It's ok. My dad had good karma even though he got sick."

"I'm sure he was fine man. You must take after him."

"Thanks. I hope so," Tommy said, wiping a tear from his eye.

She handed him a tissue that smelled like summer flowers.

This Miss Prim treated him differently than last summer Miss Prim, the one that tapped her watch and hurried him along. Did she change, or did he?

He took the books and headed home. Mom told him he was becoming self-reflective. He thought of the magic mirror in Snow White. The person gazing back was more confident and way smarter now. But Jake was the fairest of them all. He laughed at the thought. "Mirror, mirror on the wall, my best friend Jake has it all."