

Back As It Once Was

A Blub Galaxy lore
By Pepinhus - The Lizard, May 2022.



"I think it needs a little bit of tuning, tightening the emission cogs will make the ignition beam go faster to the oscillator, then after spinning for a couple of seconds the ray will be much stronger."

A young crystal engineer spoke with his cat, which responded by licking its own belly in quite an uncomfortable pose.

"You will be fascinated by the result, Scratches. When this device is ready..." With a wrench he adjusted the emission cogs of his constructed artifact, it was something like a box with a line of orange faintly glowing crystals placed horizontally in the middle, at the bottom there was a round lens and a hole on top. He carefully placed the box on a tripod mount, adjusted all the wiring, turned on the computing devices, connected the power lines to the box, charged up the electricity by vigorously spinning a wheel with a handle, increasingly humming noises and electricity crackles. Then with a pair of tweezers he put below his meticulously crafted instrument ...

A sandwich bread slice.

"This is going to be revolutionary, Scratches... just wait and bear witness" Scratches wasn't even looking at his master, instead turned his head around to watch something more interesting: the wall. A power gouge counter on the screen of his diagnostics computer marked 100%, The engineer put his protective goggles on and started a countdown with a finger on the controller's button.

"Three, two... wait wait wait..." He put his glasses off "How could I have forgotten this?... How clumsy of me." And quickly he went outside his lab shack while Scratches just laid in its cot with a characteristic feline boredom. A few seconds later, the scientist came back storming into the room "This is the final touch it needs."

With a round tip kitchen knife, he spread mayonnaise on the test bread slice while sticking out a tongue. Once he almost artistically finished stroking the bread with the greasy condiment, he put his glasses on and placed himself at a safe distance from the buzzing device and the innocent toast on a plastic dish. He then picked the controlling device with both hands, he was visibly excited, he could feel the rush of being at the edge of discovery all over his lab coat covered body, eyes wide open.

"Ready for this, Scratches?" The cat just laid there for answer "Three, two... one!" He pressed the big red button on the controller and whirring noises incremented, the light of the room flickered, the machines started trembling and shaking, the freaked cat immediately sprinted out the room from the pet door, the crafted appliance's lined crystals started to glow white and then a beam of light fell on the mayonnaise covered bread getting brighter and brighter.

"Yes! YES!" The young scientist had a maniacal grin that could reach his ears, after an intense shock which lit the whole shack of a blinding white, the box emitted a deafening noise and a flare came out from the lens under the box hitting the test mayonnaise bread. An intensifying rumble shook the shack and was heard outside. Then, a booming shockwave violently pushed back the young man who fell on the ground along with wood planks and shattering glasses causing many fragile instruments break and fall from their stands.

After the commotion, the contraptions and machines progressively stopped buzzing and the light started to slowly diminish until everything was out of power and dark.

"UGH!! ... Jao! What did you do this time!?" A mature female voice from outside the shack yelled effectively annoyed because the young inventor caused yet another massive blackout "I told you a hundred times..." The woman stormed into the room "You can't use the blubits for..." She coughed and swung a hand to clear out the smog, she walked in and found Jao laying face down on the floor "Jao!" she rushed to grab the young man and flipped him "Are you alright?"

Jao was smiling "I made it!" While he whispered, a puff of smoke came out of his mouth, the woman hit him in the arms several times.

"Are you crazy?" She grabbed his blackened googles off his face and threw them on the rubble, the soot stuck on the young inventor's face contrasted with the silhouette of clean skin in the shape of the glasses and his bright smile. She was preoccupied her little brother could have died there.

"I made it!" he repeated full voiced, he was just fine and in his habitual silly mood.

"You did what?" Demanded the woman.

"Look for yourself" and he pointed at the tripod mounted machine with crystals and the dish below it.

"What, I don't get it!"

In fact it was difficult to, they stood up and approached the lab table. There was the blubits crystal box with steam fuming off it, the tripod mount and an empty dish under it, no sandwich bread, no mayonnaise.

"What am I looking at?"

"Can't you see!?" Jao raised his arms and started to jump on one foot, stomping on shattered glasses and snapped cables rhythmically, he sang a victory song while the woman turned to watch him stupefied "I did it! I did it! Yay Yay Yay!"

"Jao..." She put her wrists on her waist and turned to watch the empty dish, then saw the ridiculously dancing man "JAO!" He abruptly stopped dry.

"Jania" He dramatically approached the taller young woman and put his hands over her shoulders, looking at her with his clear sparkling eyes on his soot covered face "The bread is gone!"

She was still puzzled "What bread?"

"Oh! Come on!... remember minutes ago? When I got into the kitchen?"

"Yeah, I told you to stop stealing my sandwiches" said frowning.

"Aha! Exactly, and later when I went back, you told me..."

"... To stop stealing my mayo!"

"Right!" He let go of her and pointed at her with a filthy finger "What would you do if I tell you that I know exactly where and how the bread is?"

She lowered her head staring at him with a raised eyebrow "Burnt to a crisp?"

He walked ceremoniously through the shack debris on the ground "Ah! There's where you have it wrong" and he chuckled and then jumped pointing at her. "I bet 1000 ADA that the bread is on the kitchen drawer, and the mayo has a spoonful back!"

Her curiosity started to peak but she crossed her arms "And after you stop making a fool out of yourself, Will you put the electricity back?"

"You don't believe me!"

"You just destroyed your lab! And cut off the power of the house! Do you think I want to guess your stupid riddles?"

"How about 2000 ADA and I put the electricity back?" He was convincingly smiling with his hands stuffed on his lab coat.

She looked sternly at his little brother, but he was being somehow serious this time. She looked at him by the rim of her eyes, little by little the idea of the possibility that he finally made his invention work started to invade her, but she was resisting that idea. It couldn't be.

"Wait."

He nodded at her smiling, She looked at the empty dish, then looked at him again. "Are you telling me that you ...?" Jao watched his sister impatiently with a big vertical smile, hoping that she said exactly what he had just done "You just... teleported the bread over the kitchen?"

"Noooo!" Frustrated, Jao put both of his sooty hands over his forehead "Nooo Nononono!"

"I moved the bread and the mayo back in time and now they are in the present with us!"

She was astonished but frowning trying to picture the situation, her mind was still blank.

Jao continued "Time leaping. But the traveling object *state* goes back in time being in the present!"

"Now I'm confused."

"Come on, let's go to the kitchen" and he started to walk towards the door among the rubble.

"You first put the electricity back up!" and she hit her brother with a palm right in the back of his head

"Ow!"

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After he adjusted the fuses and there was power back in their residence, they walked into the house across from the garden, Then they walked into the kitchen where he stole the food from his sister.

"Did you take the bread slice from this drawer?"

"Yeah"

"So if I open it, I will find a toast"

"Without mayo"

"What?"

"Without mayonnaise, I spread mayo on the bread before I made it jump"

She wore a disgusted expression "Who puts mayo on their sandwiches? Are you crazy?"

"Just open it!"

Jao's sister slowly approached the shelf where she uses to store bread, cookies and other private edibles in, Scratches the cat suddenly greeted them with a soft meow sitting over the kitchen table, curiously looking at the stiffly moving woman. She had a concerned scowl across her face and she even thought she could explode like his brother's shack if she opened that drawer. An intense chill sensation ran through her spine.

"I can't do it?" She suddenly turned to watch his brother with a circumstantial look.

"Afraid to lose a bet?"

"I never agreed to that bet! You moron!"

Jao chuckled "But if you don't find the bread, I will have to give 2000 ADA" He said raising his eyebrows and shrugging. She knew her brother has failed on his experiments so many times.

"Do you have that money?" She asked defiantly, he quickly nodded. She wasn't scared of the bread or the shelf, she was afraid of losing *to him*, actually she was on a hot streak which earned her some drinks and pizza from his money, so far she hadn't lost an ante against him this year and she knew that apart from being an enthusiastic inventor Jao was a stubborn gambler, so the odds were on her favor. Then she upped the stakes.

"2000 ADA it is then... and washing the dishes for the rest of the week."

"Done!" he quickly agreed and they shook hands watching each other right in the eye.

"Done!" she replied.

She turned to the kitchen shelf, slowly putting a hand on the handle, paused for a thrilling moment.

Then she blinked "Wait. How do you know how much bread was there?" Jao made a guttural frustration noise rolling his eyes at the ceiling, Jania kept figuring he was walking her into a trap "If I open the damn drawer I will see just bread slices! What if you didn't pick any bread at all and wanted to set me up!? huh!?"

"I took a goddamn picture, remember?" He rummaged his pockets and took his triangular communication device, gestured the screen and tapped it several times.

"Yeah, I saw you, that was weird" and he showed her an image of a transparent Honcho® sandwich bread bag and they counted the slices together.

"two, four, seven, nine slices"

"And I picked one, that makes is eight there. That means that you will find nine slices"

"Why are there nine slices on the first place? I always make sandwiches with two!"

"Jania, come on, not now"

"You stole a toast before, didn't you!?" She slapped her brother again on the shoulder several times.

"Ow! I was hungry! Look, Can you just open the shelf?"

She pointed at him and said menacingly "2000 ADA, the dishes and a big bag of Honcho®! Okay!?"

"Okaaaay!" He answered disapprovingly.

Jania approached the shelf, pulled the drawer open violently with closed eyes, then squinted to watch inside. Jao neared from behind and looked into.

There were 8 pieces of bread and a faintly orange glowing sandwich slice inside the bag.

"Pay up! Hahaaaaaa!" Jao started to do his one footed victory dance again, while Jania's eyes widened as she got closer to the bread, she almost stuck her nose into the drawer.

"Jao, is it okay if I pick it?"

"Yeah yeah, it's just the bread of 12 minutes ago"

She held the bread slice close to her face looking totally aghast "Why is it glowing?"

"Oh, it's just some after effect, is because of the Quinia cascade resonance result, the bread composition still have some detached blubit essence particles departing from it."

Jania was still impacted.

"Wanna see the mayo?" While Jania was jaw dropped, he approached the refrigerator, she was disabled, amazed at her brother casualness, Jao opened up the lid and picked the mayonnaise jar which also had some orange glowing particles dissipating from it. "It also came back!"

"You were right!..."

"Yes, I am!"

"But the implications of this..."

"Only Imagine!" He looked above and with a hand he drew an imaginary arch in the air "You can have your old music player as new, you could have infinite drink refills, you could put things where you didn't remember where they use to go, you could even..."

"Bring people back to full health before they die from a mortal disease" She said softly with a blank stare with the sagging bread slice on her hand, deep immersed into the probabilities. This was extremely serious, Jao's smile washed abruptly from his face and glared nervously at his sister.

"That... that could also work..."

She gave him an urgent look.

"Brother, this is extremely dangerous" She picked Jao's face with both hands "This could even remake history as we know it. You're a brilliant guy, and I love you but. Nobody, absolutely nobody can know about this, okay?"

"Ummm" The young inventor looked away from his sister's penetrating stare "About that...."

She took her hands off his still sooty face and gave him the most lethal frown he had ever seen on her. "What?" She fixated her gaze on an increasingly timid little man.

"I had to finance the project, annnd ah... I had to tell this guy to find me some blubits for it, so... I might have said someone... actually *someones* about... this?"

"Who did you speak to?" She crossed her arms again.

"I don't know, some guys, there was this especial one, he used a mask and had these weird horns, all purple, it was so fast! He just deposited me all the funds I needed, but ... he seemed to be a good guy!" He spoke quickly trying to feel a bit better if he said the truth.

"What's his name?"

"I don't know... some... **race** guy?" She gasped with a horrified expression, then immediately Jania sprinted out from the kitchen and went hastily outside the house tapping her triangular comm device.

"Hey! Where are you going!? What about the bet!? I still want my 2000 ADA! Damn!"

Scratches climbed down the kitchen table and bit the sandwich bread Jania dropped on the floor.
Yum!

