

# THE INTERGALACTIC SWAP MEET

## Chapter One

### A Tinker's Damn

My name is Gina...and I “Have” to tell somebody!

I am sitting in my wonderful shop, which is at the front of my property about fifty yards from the home I'd only dreamed of being in and never possibly ever owning, but I now do.

By trade I am just a tinker. I pick up broken items, play with them, add this and tweak that, then make them work like new, well, almost.

Oh, to back up some. A year ago, today, I lived in a small basement home/workshop/store. This was my state in life pertaining to my job not an up and coming position, any college graduate picks as their direction in life.

But, the rent was cheap, and folks seemed to have copious amounts of broken items needed fixing and I was the only one left, in existence it appeared, who knew how to fill that need. Everything, today, seemed disposable then replaced.

One day, I was going through my piles of defunct motors, appliances and whatnots for spare parts, when I came upon this curious round thing the shape of a stretched out baseball.

Picked it up, “Hey it felt warm!” I noticed that outside it had four wedges of what looked like it could have been silver they were supposed to fit snugly together.

One of the petals was bent just ever so much and wouldn’t close tightly. Tapping it carefully, I heard a snap and it went back into place. A low hum came out of it for just a moment.

“Well, fixed that, if I only knew what “That” was or did.

Figured the only thing left was to clean it up.

Grabbing my silver polish and a half wet rag, commenced to buff the heck out of it.

Spinning it around to get the other side, hooked the inside of my thumb on a pointy part sticking out. Its four petals opened up in my cupped hands as it whirred & spun.

Then there was the flash... and I found myself sitting on a wicker chair in... “where the heck was I!”

This scruffy looking, with hair all long and ratted, I think it was a girl, was looking me over.

“Who are you, I am Maddy, what do you want, where are you from?”

Before she could go on, I raised my finger to shush her.

"First off, where am I, not a clue?"  
"Second, I don't know how I got here, and my name is Gina."

She straightened up saying, "There was a flash, and here you were." "You are at my "House of fixing" outside the town of Tray."

Out of the back of my still addled (Confused by shock) brain, asked... "The name of this planet is what?"

Almost as if I grew a horn in front of her, she took two steps back saying, "Kaylar, the third planet from the twin suns," pointing up to them in the sky.

Looking up slowly, always keeping an eye on my quite odd hostess, I saw what stunned me.

"Two suns, "I exclaimed!!

"What did you expect, only one," she said a bit snottyish.

Pulling her down into the seat next to me, I explained "exactly" the happenings just before I landed here.

"A baser metal Transmitter, I had always heard stories of, but thought them a fairy tale" she said! Her eyes opened wide, I think, for all the hair blocking the facial view, asking me "Do you have it with you?"

"Here," I said holding it up.

"May I see it," she asked? "Oooh, it looks almost exactly like the old drawings in our children books." "Here...", as she handed it back to me as if it were fragile crystal.

Looking up, I said, "Well, as we are both here and I have no idea how to get back, perhaps you would like to show me your place?"

With a smile plus an out stretched hand. I got up and followed her around.

Maddy's place and property were huge compared to mine, but certainly not in any kind of order or, how would you say it, ahh clean, yeah that would be it.

"You know Maddy, I could help you itemize your parts into sections and help build some neat looking racks for you from parts you already have!"

"You'd do that for me," she asked?

"Get two hammers and some nails while I gather up the proper wood pieces, oh, bring a saw too," I yelled to her from deep in the pile.

Within minutes, we were sawing, nailing and building shelves like speed demons. Within a few hours, well more like five, the yard was racked with parts that had been strewn everywhere in a sort of logical place. "Heck, we freed up half the place," Maddy said!

Sitting down for a cool glass of, "Maddy, "What did you call this."

"Sky free liquid," "Like it?" I smiled and raised my light blue glass to her.

Looking at her straight on, asked her if I may do a "make over" on her.

"What's that, does it hurt," she backed off while saying.

"Not at all." "When I'm done you will feel younger and fresher."

"I think I will like that, what's first?"

"Body washing liquid, scissors," which I had to do hand gestures for, "and a comb," same thing I had to do.

Within minutes, she came back with everything.

"You have a tub room?" This took a bit of explaining.

Taking me on the other side of the house, I was stunned with the beauty of a

garden and a small pool with a waterfall coming out of a rock wall into it, running off into a stream.

With a big smile, she pointed both hands at it and started to walk in.

"No, no, Maddy," I said. "Take off your clothes. At which she gave me a look of "Do What?!"

I showed her and turned around, to which she did it but not happily. Although once in, seemed to flop around like a happy puppy.

Slowly applying the soap to her hair and her to her other parts, she foamed up like a mad dog.

Taking a bucket to catch the waterfall and splash over her was the only way to get this crazy foaming soap off her.

When she was visible again, I was shocked at what appeared.

One beautiful red headed young lady with baby smooth skin and a knock out on either world.

Combing her hair was an adventure, but when we got it done, and into some clean clothes, she looked into a window and stopped. Running off into the house, brought back a mirror like object, hugged me and shed a single tear.

"This garden was made and kept by my Mother." "When she passed, I could not allow it to go also, so I have looked after it better than I have myself, where she stopped speaking for a moment.

"For as long as you are here, you will be as my sister and live with me." She then turned to me and took my hands.

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"I could think of nothing more perfect,"  
I said.

**END CHAPTER ONE**

## CHAPTER TWO

"Just What Were You Doing  
When the Flash Happened,"  
Maddy asked?

"What's the last thing you remember  
before turning up here," Maddy asked?

"Well, I was shining up the silver thing,  
my thumb caught on a sharp hook of sorts,  
there was a flash, then here I was!"

Holding up the orb, we looked it over  
carefully for ever so long till Maddy, pointed  
to this tiny trigger atop the thing.

"Look here, I think "This" is the part  
that makes it work," she said.

"Don't touch it!" As I said it a second too late, as Maddy's finger already flicked it, annnnd "There" was the flash!

I had grabbed her as the very last moment sending us back to the starting point, "My" basement workshop, home, store.

Disoriented, Maddy was pretty spooked by the wild ride and backed away from me as if I were a demon.

"I had the very same reaction my first time," I told her. In a few moments, although still a bit stiff, calmed way down.

Looking around, then said, "There's some neat looking stuff here...what's that," pointing to a big bowl mixer, then a television?

Showing her what they did, luckily, she was looking in the "Fixed" section & was

curious about the things there that were totally alien to her, ha ha ha "Alien."

"Hey, Maddy, are you hungry?"

"You know, I do believe I am," she said with a smile.

Not knowing if she ate meat or what, I brought over a bowl of mixed fruit and some sliced melons.

She gave them a "What the heck are these look" but followed my lead trying some sliced watermelon which must have made a hit, cause she slurped up three pieces before I could get her attention again.

"Try this," I asked, handing her some cantaloupe.

Glad I took my piece first!

Oranges and apples slid into her quite well, then she picked up a banana, looked at it and started to put the whole thing in her mouth as I yelled, "Wait!"

She looked at me peeling it quite amazed and I then handed it to her.

"Smells great," she said, then devoured it.

Full to the point of bursting, she sat back in her seat to rest from the feast of fruit she had just finished.

"Thanks so much, didn't know a single thing, but need to know their names as to be able to ask for them next time!"

We both laughed as I asked her if she'd like to take a ride through our world, starting with our town?

With a smile and a wave, we grabbed a few pieces of fruit and went outside to make sure my old, but cherry (Great shape) 1965 Ford Falcon would start up as with two hundred and fifty plus thousand miles on her, no matter how good she looked... starting was always an adventure.

Showed her how to get in and out, Maddy sat high in the seat as I buckled her up then turned the key and said a silent prayer. Varooooom! My prayers were answered.

Off we went to town to see some big buildings and a store to get her a nicer set of clothes.

Stopping off firstly at the oldest establishment in town...Ye Olde Ice Creamery!

Maddy looked at me as we entered with a question ready on her lips. I said to her, “Don’t ask, just try and enjoy in blissful silence.”

“Two Splits sir,” was my request.

Within anxious minutes, they were delivered for Maddy’s first religious experience on my planet.

“Do as I do,” I showed her. Grabbing a large spoon, scooped some banana, nuts, whipped cream and ice cream, oh, don’t forget the cherry and stuffed my mouth till excess squished from my mouth’s corners.

Ahead she went. The moment it hit her tongue, a smile came all over her and she really “Squished,” as we laughed and made “Yummy” sounds all the way to the bottom!

“Is everything as great tasting here,” she asked between spoonfuls?

“Almost always,” I answered. “Let’s take a spin around town to get some information into you about Earth and its wonders.” She was all up for that and taking the last lick of her spoon, was out the door to my thunderous machine!

Spinning towards our biggest park and playground, I wanted her to see children at play interacting with their parents and care givers.

Stopping by the park’s end, Maddy looked with a smile but sadness.

“What’s on your mind,” I asked.

“Never had parents.” Was raised by many people...some really good. Then there were the others.”

“Well, my new sister, you have family now,” which gave way to a big hug.

“Now to a little league baseball game I noticed on the flyer at the Ice cream shop.”

“Oh, by the way, when we are done with this game, might we stop back at the “Cream Place,” Maddy asked?

“I have an even better place to take you, Papa Romano’s Italian cuisine!”

She smiled answering “O.K.” not even knowing but trusting me completely.

Watching me get crazy over some of the ball plays, she got into it and started yelling, in the right places too.

“Wow, that is an exercise in itself, Maddy laughed, puffing a bit from the excitement.

“Now to Mr. Papa Romano’s,” she asked?

“Papa Romano’s and “Yes” we are!

Around the block from our destination, Maddy asked, “What is that wonderful smell?”

“You’re about to find out,” I said, as her happy fingers squeezed my shoulders.

END CHAPTER TWO

## CHAPTER THREE

### Now...Earth's Greatest Invention...Pizza!

As luck would have it, there was a spot right in front. Maddy seemed like a dog around bacon, almost eating the smells erupting from Romano's front door.

Sniffing, I led her into the front like a blood hound.

“Sit here, pointing to a red checkered booth table, as Mr. Romano, who loved me, immediately came over with a plate of cheeses and breads of Italy.

Maddy gave me a fairly crazed look as if asking with her eyes, “Can I eat this?”

At the exact moment I nodded, she was on that plate like a puppy on a bone.

The textures and flavors were alien to her...but not enough to even slow her down.

Mr. Romano came back to take our order only minutes later, seeing the plate he had just dropped off empty to the point of not needing to be washed, asked if I’d like another?

Maddy smiled trying not to allow any cheese crumbs to fall out and said what sounded like “Yes!”

“Mushrooms and onions, “Extra Large,” I do believe as I secretly pointed to Maddy.

Looked at us both, both bowed, snapped to attention saying, “Subido!” This means “immediately” in Italian.

He must have meant it as before Maddy was finished with the second dish of cheeses, the pizza arrived.

Quickly, I grabbed her hands warning of the infamous, “Pizza Cheese Flameout!”

“If you “Stuff” a piece into your mouth too quickly, most, if not all of the skin inside will burn away!”

Stopping on a dime, she pulled back waiting for my o.k. to pounce.

Not too long passed and I waved her on. I swear, her eyes rolled back in her head with her first bite. After that, it was off to the races.

I waved to Mr. Romano, asking quietly for another and two large glasses of cold milk. Yeah, I drink milk with pizza.

As she scarfed down the last piece of the first pie, I put my hand on hers saying, she needs to look around when coming into something new. That all things should fit the occasion.

Like eating a pizza. No one is going to steal any of it, so slow down, enjoy and for Heaven's sake, don't scare Mr. Romano when he brings the next one.

"There's going to be a "Next" one," she squealed?"

"You see, "That's what I mean!" "You need to calm down and enjoy," I told her.

"Sitting up straight from your hunched over stuffing position was a start. Not scratching Mr. Romano's hand when he

attempts to put the next one on the table would be another."

"O.K., are you ready," I asked as I could see him carefully approaching.

Standing by the table for a few moments, he slid it in front of her. She was smiling calmly, while all the time I could feel her foot tapping underneath just waiting for me to start her off.

"Calm, and enjoy the flavor of the Pizza," I said. She slowed down to how teenage boys eat, which was as definite improvement.

At meals end, Mr. Romano brought Maddy a sparkling glass, all bubbly.

"Here, my little bambina, you truly will need this." It was an Italian drink for an upcoming indigestion.

Maddy downed it in one slug to the amazement of Mr. Romano...gave a tilted really weird face and out it came!

BUUUUUURRRRRP!!

"That's my girl," he said with a large mustachioed smile.

Paying the tab and getting a big hug from Maddy, I walked, and Maddy sort of waddled out to the car.

Now, to work that thing in your stomach off!

END CHAPTER THREE

## CHAPTER FOUR

### What If We Swapped Stuff For A Yard Sale?

After a series of well rounded burps, we arrived back at home.

Maddy, being a super curious business girl, asked, "What does this do, and this, plus that over there?" For a moment I wondered what she was up to and then...it hit me.

These appliances and machines were completely alien in her world.

We looked at each other saying "Just maybe!!"

Yes! A sale of these fixed machines that do many things most unheard of, like a "Waffle Maker!" There are no waffles where she comes from. "Batter too," I said, as if she knew what the heck I was talking about.

She beckoned me to go ahead, point to neat things while she would out them by our "Take off point."

I had mixers, juicers, electric slicers, flashlights and ice cream makers...which I knew would go over like crazy. Better take three of them.

The pile started to get out of hand, so I said, "We'd better pick thirty, no forty things and take them back."

Piling them up, we leaned over them holding hands, still not completely knowing how this thing works, rubbed and snapped the lever.

The sparkle and we were there!

Setting all the items with a small sketch and name plus explanation went fast, as I do believe the excitement had something directly to do with it.

With plenty of wood at hand, we made some really nifty racks. Some eight sided and a couple on a pyramid shape.

With all the treasures in their perfect place, the signs were tacked in their fronts.

All that was ready was advertisement.

"Is there such a thing as a "Copy Machine" here, "I asked?

Maddy nodded quickly, taking me into a back room, showing me an antiquated (Old) type copier.

"Ok then, do you have paper?" She pulled this box on connected perforated

(connected at the end like toilet paper tear offs) "Great,"

Well, it printed a lot better than it looked so within half an hour, we had one hundred signs ready to place around town.

"How are we going to..." then she came wheeling from the back sitting on this bright electric blue motorized type bike with a banana seat for two.

She smiled so I did too and into her basket went the flyers as I hopped on behind her.

It started right up and sounded like something special but was getting the job done as we putted towards the town's center.

"I'll park in the middle and we can walk around asking to place them in stores.

Showing them to each store owner, they seemed more curious each place we stopped at.

The sign read.....

*WONDRIOUS NEW INVENTIONS  
TO MAKE YOUR KITCHEN EASIER  
TO COOK AND HAVE FUN IN!  
COME AND SEE, TASTE & BUY.  
GUARANTEED TO IMPRESS AND  
AMAZE YOU ALL!  
AT MADDY'S SHOP  
TOMORROW FROM MORNING TILL  
DINNER TIME*

My ad seemed to spark a great wonder in all who read it. Looking at Maddy asked, "Do you think we brought enough stuff?"

She said, "How about one quick trip back?"

I nodded thinking it was a grand idea.

"Twinkle" and we were back, digging through the "Fixed" pile for good things.

"Do they have one of these, " I asked holding up a cordless rechargeable vacuum cleaner? She shook her head "No way!

Grabbing a mist facial kit with all the attachments, she lifted her shoulders saying, "I haven't got as clue!"

"Bring it," I yelled from across the lot.

Well...fifteen things later, we stopped believing that both our minds had left us, smiled, laughed, held hands over the pile and flicked the switch.

Before the dawn, we had transformed a ramshackle fixit palace into "Wonders of the Future." Well that's what the sign said at least

"We need a nap Maddy, who as it turned out had sat down and was already sleeping.

Setting me cell phone's alarm for two hours, drifted off to some well deserved down time.

END CHAPTER FOUR

## CHAPTER FIVE

### We Weren't "Even" Ready For What Was to Happen

My alarm went off and I woke Maddy up, so we may look presentable, you know, business people!

At first, only three people wandered in.

Oh, but that would soon change,  
immediately!

The lot was covered in business owners, looking with a keen eye at inventions and the most amazing things never before seen anywhere...well around here anyway.

People started holding up items in a "Mob" like disarray. So, I raised my hands yelling, "Stop!"

"I will take each item in turn showing how it works, then putting it up for auction."

The "Auction" idea came to me instantly and confused Maddy a bit, but she was rolling with it.

First, I quickly mixed up pancake batter with my handy mixer and half way through, had six bids.

Leaning over and whispering to Maddy, "I don't know your money, but hold out for the best price, take the money "Now" and we'll proceed on.

With the aroma of pancakes wafting everywhere we started giving tastes with powdered sugar generously sprinkled on

them to the people gobbling them up in the crowd. We sold all in an instant and I told Maddy to take orders and a 25% deposit for any special wants.

Boy o' boy, did she ever take to capitalism in an instant!

Time began to fly and secondary sales, like packages of pancake batter, extension cords, batteries, oh and fixings for making ice cream.

I just can't imagine a civilization existing without ice cream! Well, all the time we were selling, we had the ice cream machines working at max, with the boxes of fixings we brought, and when I started giving out tablespoons of the heavenly sweet, we had fifty orders in almost faster than we could write them down.

As fast as it started, it was finished, well in a way.

All the people, women mostly, as it seemed to be a female run business peoples, asked the magic question we were so happy to hear.

"When will the "Next" sale be?!"

Standing on a nearby stump, holding my hands high said, "In seven days, same place, same time! Please leave your orders with Maddy along with your deposit."

"Both of us held our hands up saying

"Thank You and Good Day!"

When all were gone, and the gates were locked, Maddy looked at me with a pizza

eating grin, then dumped the cash on the table.

I was stunned. It's all "GOLD." Your money is gold? She shook her head yes.

Then asked, "What's gold?"

"In my place, this is worth soooo much. We'll be able to get many things to return with without even repairing stuff!

Still not quite sure what I was saying, only that I was beyond happy, she jumped up and down with me and cheered.

**END CHAPTER FIVE**

## CHAPTER SIX

### There's Always Some Person In the Crowd To Try and Spoil the Good Times

Inside, we began counting the coins. Then figuring out, I had no idea the way her money counted, asked if she knew what a scale was and if she had one.

Jumping up, came back in a few minutes with one of those old time balance beams. A bit lumpy to work but exact in weights.

As the weight of the gold mounted up, we hear a hard knock on the door.

Quickly, we covered the coins as Maddy answered the door.

Standing at the door was a well dressed woman with the sourest of looks on her face.

My name is Midian Shotts. I am the banker in town and have a few questions for you both.

"Come in," Maddy said. No worse words could she have come up with for this woman who was suspicious and nasty to boot.

"Amazing things you have brought to sell. Just where did you get these objects of such wonder?"

Maddy started to stutter as I, with all my Italian, "Don't get in my face," heritage attitude, stood up between them, and on the attack.

"If you must know...They are mine, and I do believe you have no need to know or even be here without an invitation. Now leave before we call the law to "Have " you removed!

Shocked all to heck, she took two steps back. Now "She" was the one stuttering.

"All, All I wanted was to know where I could get two of those cold sweet machines for myself and daughter."

Looking at her eyes, I knew she was lying, but a true sales person never leaves money on the table, so I told her to give Maddy her name and the deposit and we shall try to obtain them on our next day's sale.

Maddy took her info, money and I gave her a scoot out the door.

Maddy almost busted up saying, "The sheer guts!"

I told her that I was as nervous as her but my reactions were for survival...and that the best defense was a strong offense!

Not having a clue as to my answer, she just hugged me and said, "Thank you Gina."

"Let's finish with weighing the coins and then to the order list," Maddy.

As the weight of the coins got heavier, I stopped to ask Maddy a question. "The metal these are made of ...is it very rare here?"

Answering, she told me, it was a fairly common metal sometimes used in better toys and didn't rust. "Oh, I know," I told her.

Didn't want to add to confusion, yet, telling what we use it for on my side of the twinkle.

As we had some energy remaining, constructed a want list for when we got back to my shop. But now, some sleep.

END CHAPTER SIX

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### The Questions of That Shotts Lady Were Just Beginning

Before sunrise the next morning, I wakened Maddy and said we needed to leave before anyone was up. Understanding, she grabbed the list and handed me the coin bag as we took the twinkle train to my shop.

Once there, sat down on my computer seeing where to order all the items. It was extra for over night shipping, but beyond well worth it!

With all ordered by eleven in the morning, Maddy's stomach made a grumble kinda sorta like a lion.

We both laughed as I told her we'd better feed that wild animal before it escapes.

"What this time," she said with a kid's enthusiasm.

"I know just the place," "Aunt Jenny's waffle house on the other side of town's edge."

She shook her head and beat me to the car.

Again, a block away, the smells half drove her wild. Pulled up front as grabbed her arm, reminding her of "Calmness" is how we act.

Agreeing, well, until the plate of double dipped cream cheese waffles with whipped cream, strawberries and a drizzle of caramel topping.

I swore I saw her break into a sweat on the first of three plate bite. After that I thought a movie might just be in order.

Driving past the "Bijou Theater" I notice a special two day playing of the classic....

"The Wizard of Oz"

Boy, if that didn't fit the current situation, I didn't know what would better!

We sat center pretty far up. Since it was a very early showing, almost no one was there.

Popcorn and Pepsis and Raisinettes filled out arms as we sat. Then it started with all its glory

Though I could barely keep her quiet, normally, what with questions and just babble, she was transferred into that mystical land of Oz and completely speechless. Oh, except for the "Watch Out" to Dorothy from the witch and some tears here and there.

When Dorothy got home, Maddy gave a grand sigh of relief, slipping from the edge of her seat, which she rode for almost the whole film, to back in her chair. She turned to ma asking, "Was this all real," in a pretty excited voice?!!

"No Maddy, it was just a fairy tale."

"What's a fairy tale," she asked.

"A made up story to make us happy, scared or in this case...thankful."

"My dad writes fairy tales of a sort, I'll get you some of his books," I said.

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Another smile and a hug as she said, "I am thankful for you." I squeezed her and believe it or not, she was ready for lunch! She must have a bigger inside than it looks.

END CHAPTER SEVEN

CHAPTER EIGHT  
The Driver Asked...  
What the Heck  
Are You Going To Do  
With 32 Ice Cream Makers?

Yeah, we got all kindsa looks from delivery guys on multiples of everything. But nothing as much as thirty two "Ice Cream Makers!"

I just smiled and said to the driver, "It's gonna be a hot summer." Gave him a twenty dollar tip, which made him happy and he tipped his hat and left.

By week's end, we had all to fill the orders and about twenty five percent extra to show to new customers, plus eight or nine new items such as nut crackers, electric Phillips screw drivers with boxes of screws and chargers. Anything we can think of that will cross over to their either electrical system or close enough to what they could quickly understand and work.

Getting all the stuff back to Maddy's proved interesting. Then it must be taken out of the boxes to mask where they came from and assembled or set up before the showing.

It took the whole day to unbox all that stuff and set it up. Then, we had to destroy the boxes so no proof that it came from another world. Thank goodness her Mom liked fireplaces and built this huge thing in

the back with grand chairs for evening get togethers.

“Hey Maddy, remind me to tell you about “S-mores when we get back.”

She still didn't know what I was saying, but saw that I was happy and she jumped up and down with me and cheered, nodding happily, not knowing what the heck a

S-more was but it sounded good, I guess.

The fire raged as we threw box upon boxes in the hearth.

In two days, we had everything set up, including building more shelves for display of some neat new goodies.

The week between shows was upon us. Just before dawn, well, the second sun would come up and totally light the sky, we

jumped on her scooter of death to downtown pasting signs everywhere.

Back home, this time, Maddy made a hot beverage, similar to tea for all who came. I had dragged a shopping full of fresh pre-bake chocolate cookies to go with it.

I threw them into her oven just before their arrival to give off “That” smell!

Boy, did it work. When the ladies arrived, they swerved. Following their noses to the plate piled high with succulent delights and taking tea only to make the appearance that they weren’t cookie pigs!

First came the pre order people lining up with their receipts in one hand and a cookie in the other.

At the display counters, there were at least forty women thrashing themselves over current inventory.

They got into groups, where one would read to others the description and what it could do. Item to item, they moved on.

With the orders gone...and half the Chocolate Chips, we slid over to the “Now” stuff.

The bids came fast and hot. Then, all of a sudden... “It was over.”

Everyone seemed to get something. Even extra bags of pancake mix or a couple of bags of screws.

Standing high on a stand, I spoke loudly over the crowd, saying, “We will be taking orders on our “New” order forms we printed especially for you including descriptions and their functions.

More than half followed us sitting on the rock built wall by the hearth where we passed them out.

Behind them was Miss Shotts lingering around the fire place.

When she reached for an order form, I grabbed her hand seeing fireplace ash on one.

“Looking for something, Ma’am,” I asked none too politely.

She just got all flustered turned her nose up and walked away, quickly.

I wonder what she was digging in the ashes for. I am sure we burned up all the boxes really well...well, almost sure.

END CHAPTER EIGHT

## CHAPTER NINE

### I Believe Miss Shotts Found Something She Shouldn't Have

After the fun of counting the gold coins and getting all spazzed up on how many orders we had, stared in each other's eyes and screamed. Smiling, not believing all was going beyond our wildest dreams we ate some frozen pizzas we brought from Mr. Romano's, kicked back and drifted off to sleep.

Early the next morning, I heard a hard knock on the door.

Walking, slowly and scratching my belly and head, opened the door to be surprised by Miss Shotts!

“Did you forget something,” popped from my mouth.

She held up a pretty burned up piece of cardboard with the printing, “Made in Germany” on it.

“Where’s Germany,” she cackled like an old witch.

“Let me see and I’ll try and figure it out,” I told her,

She handed me the piece, I smiled and closed the door in her face.

I went back to bed where Maddy asked, “Who was that?”

“Remember the wicked witch in the wizard of Oz?” Maddy nodded, “That was her!”

I guess she knew, as we both laughed.

Getting dressed went out to the fireplace making sure all the remnants were destroyed and this one piece would go away too.

Looking at Maddy, I said, “I don’t think she will invite us for diner any time soon.”

She laughed pretty hard, saying how brave I was.

“Not brave...just Italian.” She was getting to understand.

After cleaning up, we decided to go right to my shop and go on a minor well, major shopping spree!

Into the back room, as not to be seen, I held the orb with Maddy.

Out of the corner of my eye A nose and eye appeared at the side window, looking through the curtains.

Leaning over to Maddy, told her to stand still as I snuck around the back.

Looking for, what I didn't know to use, I spied the garden hose. Turning the nozzle to tight spray for the power, turned it on full blast!

Caught Miss Shotts right in her wild hairdo and down her back.

Wow, what a scream she let out. Maddy came running, thinking I was killing someone.

“What happened,” she asked.

“Oh...I caught a wild animal trying to sneak in,” I said. “Is there something we can help you with, Miss Shotts?”

Looking like a soaked poodle, she gave Maddy and me the serious “Stink Eye” and squished off, leaving a water trail.

Maddy looked at me and laughed so hard, she ran off. Wondering why, I followed, only to find her in the bathroom, where I started to laugh too.

I looked outside to make sure no evil eyes were peeping, grabbed Maddy’s hand as we both worked the magic silver ball.

There was the blink of a flash and we were home at my place.

“Maddy...I noticed that what is worn in your area, well, isn’t that chic.”

“Isn’t what,” she asked?

“Chic means, it looks so good, others need to have it!”

“Well, let’s go get chic...oh, some pizza and ice cream too?”

I shook my head, yes and into the Falcon we got set to fly. But first, showers and shampoos.

Didn’t have to ask Maddy twice as she went right into the bathroom.

“Not in the “Tub” this time, my dear, I’m going to show you the shower.”

With a bit of, well a bunch of confusion, I simply turned on the water as she jumped back.

Putting her hand in and out of the spray like a kid, she turned smiled large and started into the water as I grabbed her.

“I’ll leave, but you need to take off your clothes “Before” you enter. Here’s some towels, and this is for your body, this for your hair. Be sure to rinse really well!”

Her clothes flew off, guess she isn’t modest, and into the shower she went.

I peeked back in to room to see how she was doing. I couldn’t make out any shape in the shower as it was “Full” of suds from floor to ceiling!

“Maddy...what are you doing?”

“How much shampoo am I supposed to use?”

“Stop, now,” I said and stand under the flowing water till you can see me!”

Nearly five minutes went by till I could see a person in there. “Keep rinsing till

there are no more bubbles, then watch your step not to slip, get out and dry off.”

After another ten minutes, out she comes, all wrapped in “Two’ towels, smiling, saying, “That was the “Most” fun!”

I dressed her in a clean pair of my good jeans, a very cute top and white tennies.

“Ready,” I asked? With a nod of her head... “Now” we left to shop!”

I know you don’t want to hear of our shopping spree. And certainly not how she stared at a pair of sandals, wondering what they were. Assuredly not when she had the dress on backwards with the buttons in the front. Noooo, not those things, and there were more. Three hours of power shopping and we had the back seat full.

“Now to Mr. Romano’s,” she asked?

“Already in route. We’ll be there in four minutes.” Maddy scootched to the edge of her seat in anticipation.

Before we got out in front of her favorite place, she leaned over and said, “I always wondered what it would be like having a sister, then kissed me on the cheek.

I sat there for a moment after she got out, thinking. That is until she yelled, “Shall I order?”

END CHAPTER NINE

## CHAPTER TEN

### In the Middle...

### The Bad Seed Arises

After something new at Mr. Romano's, a big juicy sausage sandwich and an Italian soda, caramel, I told Maddy it was time to get a hair style. Not only that she looked a bit "Feral" (Wild) but such a pretty face deserved to be complimented.

An hour and a half later, plus a worn out hair dresser, out walked a beauty all smiles with believe it or not, a "Pixie" cut. Short hair like Tinker Bell. But her blond carried it off amazingly.

“O.K. Partner...time to go shopping, home, for new stock for the upcoming sale.

“I do believe, we were going to stop by the Ice cream parlor,” Maddy said sort of half singing.

Shoving a double fudge sundae with all the fixins,” I said to her, Slow down, my sister...or these new clothes won't fit you for long!”

She looked confused for a moment, then nodded and decided not to have a second one. “Wise decision,” I told her. Then we both laughed on the way back to my chariot.

Home was work and to it we went. Me on the computer and Maddy, checking off things on our list, as well as adding new ones.

Taking the better part of three hours, we finally leaned back and gave a long heavy breath.

"I'm glad we started a bank account with that gold we sold. It makes it so much easier when I "Know" there is enough on my charge card to cover it." I laughed, she laughed, but hadn't a clue to what a charge card was.

Throughout the week, trucks came, dropping off so many things.

I certainly hoped the orb had no weight limit!

Tightly stacking and packing items, we found them too bulky...and way too many boxes to burn. We also didn't want Miss Shotts snooping around when she saw half a forest fire coming from the back yard at Maddy's.

Figuring that we could have "Two" big boxes and carefully pack the opened items in it much more compact, we got to work tearing them open.

I had a furnace in the large back shed and burning these boxes would be a snap.

"O.K., Maddy, hold my hand and grab a box edge. Here we and before I could say "Go," we were there!

"Got to write the explanation cards, Gina." "I'll do the repeat stuff and you those new things." With a nod, we were off and writing.

We had a whole extra day till "Sale Day," so Maddy said she would like to take "Me" on a tour and perhaps shop some of her town. I thought that this was a super idea so I shook my head and onto her scooter of death and off we went.

On the way to town, we passed a shop that sold motorcycles and scooters.

"Maddy, stop here for a moment." We went in and there she was...the brand new "Scooter of Death!"

"Maddy, sit on this one for a moment."

She smiled and sat there while I went a bit away to talk to the sales person.

Little did they know how to deal with me, but fifteen minutes later I had the keys and papers behind my back.

"Maddy, is there anything important on your scooter you'd like to keep?"

Now confused as ever, she looked at me crooked her head, then her eyes opened wide as I handed her the keys to her new bright red machine!

Bouncing up and down so hard, she almost fell over.

Up and off, I got the tightest hug of my life. "Now, we go shopping."

I could hear her squeal as we took off. This was starting to be a great day. We had no clue as to what, or who was waiting in town for us, and stirring up trouble.

END CHAPTER TEN

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### A Full Frontal Attack!

Seeing a crowd around a store,  
Maddy slowed down so we could snoop.

There, walking out from the crowd was  
Miss Shotts. Seeing us, she pointed,  
shouting, they need to be investigated, and  
started towards us.

We looked around and quickly figured  
she meant us, and drove the heck off!

I thought a moment and asked Maddy if  
there was a Police station in town. Saying,  
"Yes" I asked her to drive there  
immediately.

Up front, we asked an officer if the chief was in? "The who?"

"Oh, the person in charge," I told her.

"She's right inside back office," the officer said.

Sitting there, we told her the whole story, oh, except for the magic orb and shooting back and forth from one world to another.

Explaining how this "Crazy Lady" has taken up this insane idea that no one knows why!

"We found her "Twice" sneaking into Maddy's house and stealing trash from the fire place," I said with some excitement in my voice. Now, she is trying to stir up people in town for anyone's guess!

"She did what," the head constable said?! "Would you like to file charges against this mad woman?"

We just need her spoken to and to leave us alone. Most of all...be quiet.

"What's her name," she asked us?

"Miss Shotts," Maddy said.

"Oh, I know her," the chief said with a growl in her voice. "Where is she...I'll take care of her "Now!"

Maddy explained that it was "Her" in the middle of a decent sized mob front of the shoe store on Center road.

"Let's all go in my official vehicle and see if "I" can explain her choices," the chief said with such a biting tone.

As we pulled up front, Miss Shotts came to the front of the crowd as if to show her

power. Our protector got out, listened to her ranting, spun her around and put the handcuffs on her. Stuffing her in the back seat, we, both in the front, said "Hello Miss Shotts and smiled"

The chief looked over to us and grinned sorta big then turned to drive.

"I've heard enough of this hunt you're on and I'm telling you now, "It will stop here!!"

From the look on her face, I thought Miss Shotts would pee herself when she was spoken to like that.

When we returned back to the station, she was put right into a cell.

"Oh, chief, we didn't want her arrested," we both said.

"She isn't really arrested." "I simply wanted her to get a dose of what she does to others, maybe it'll tone her down a bit."

All three of us looked at each other, smiled and said "Naaaaw!"

"Hey," the Chief asked, "When is this spectacular sale you have?"

Morning after tomorrow at a bit after second sunrise." "Police all get a ten percent discount," Maddy said.

"See you girls then." Then off we rode.

"You know Maddy, there were some cute shoes in that window."

"First stop," she said!

END CHAPTER ELEVEN

## CHAPTER TWELVE

"I Think They'll Love These  
Back at Your Place,"  
said Maddy.

Believing it was all over, we got down to some "Shoe Shopping!"

"These are gorgeous," I said to Maddy.  
"I've never seen their likes anywhere...I'll take these," I said to the shoe lady.

Back out the door in my new feet adornments, we putted off to home and finished setting up.

This time, the signs were of a much better quality and we had seats set up out

front. Well nice benches we built and painted from the wood pile in the back.

Little tables in the back all to be piled high with cookies and cut up cake this time.

"They won't know what hit them, Maddy!" She nodded, but I think she didn't always know what I meant, just smiled when I did.

This time, no flimsy dot printing computer paper. We hired a local sign lady to make us a dozen painted wooden signs that people allowed us to place on their property...for a 5% discount, of course.

A good night's sleep before our largest sale and up just before dawn.

A once over of the items and into Maddy's two ovens went a bunch of batches of cookies and cakes.

By the time the sun hit the yard, an unbelievable smell of yummys hung over like a wonderful cloud.

Just like before, in came, this time about almost a hundred ladies and even a couple of guys! Right for the sweets they went.

Now, like a commercial at home, they sat on the benches and awaited the show.

This time we explained the descriptions on the items and we were off to the races.

Hands and voices went up all over as product flew off the shelves so fast, we were almost unnecessary except to take payment!

Within an hour, there wasn't a thing at all on the shelves...or on the sweets tables.

As people began to leave, there were the ones staying for orders.

"To the back yard and seats for ordering, please," Maddy yelled over the noise.

We had seen to it that the near forty folks who came back for orders had a sufficient supply of warm cookies and cake too. It surprised them, along with the nice benches. not the lumpy stone wall, to see the improvements we made towards their comfort.

"Everyone, look to your product sheets and markers on your seats, take your time and fill in your desires plus quantity. A few forgot the quantity, last time.

All those here for orders, see Maddy over there.

I guess the filling out of the order forms took, interesting enough, the same time it took to swoop in and clean off the three little tables of munchies. Go figure that!?

When all had left, and orders were itemized, it took Maddy and I to drag in the bags of coins.

I kept looking over my shoulder for Miss Shotts, wondering if she would sneak up on us.

But...Not this time anyway, as we went inside to plop down for a breath.

END CHAPTER TWELVE

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

### And When You Thought It Was Safe to Go Into The Water, The Shark Came Back!

The day was finished and hard to believe, but the yard was clean and not a cookie or cake crump to be found anywhere.

Not like the sales back home, when the aftermath usually looks like a tornado passed through.

Relaxing in Maddy's Mom's beautiful garden, we snacked on the cookies and cake I had hidden from the hungry hands of our loving crowd of buyers.

I couldn't shake the feeling that some eyes were on us.

Maddy looked at me and asked, "Do you feel uneasy?" Pointing to my eyes with my two fingers, then around the yard...Maddy understood, as we went on a hunt.

"Nothing, she said. Then with a single creak, we both looked up.

There, up in the tall fruit tree, was Miss Shotts looking oh so uncomfortable.

"Would you like us to help you down so you may share in some cookies and cake with us," we both asked?

With a pitiful half smile and a quiet "Yes," we helped her scraped and scratched up self down.

She looked at us as a dog who had done something wrong.

Taking a look at each other, Maddy and I gave her a big smile, taking her hand and

leading her to a comfortable seat. Her legs were fairly asleep from sitting on that branch for two hours plus, so she gleefully accepted our help.

"You know, by the way, what is your first name...mine is Gina and this is Maddy?"

"Oh, well, my first name is, ahhh, Elma."

"Well," Maddy said, "What a lovely name. All I could was nod with a small smile.

This seemed to change her whole appearance. Her face lit up when she smiled. An occurrence that hasn't probably happened in a while.

Maddy reminded me that it sometimes only takes a kind word to change an adversary kind of someone who doesn't like you at all, into a friend.

Although either way foe or friend, she sure could eat cookies,

Out of nowhere, she asked, "May "I" put in and order.

Maddy almost choked on a cookie, but like the true salesgirl she had become, grabbed a marker and order sheet, handing it to her.

I looked at her, when Elma wasn't looking and gave her the "Thumbs up." Oh, I had already taught her that one.

Our new friend finished and prepared to leave, stopped, turned and grabbed two cookies saying, "For the trip home." All three of us laughed as she turned and left.

END CHAPTER THIRTEEN

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### Which to Choose?

Time passed and our business blossomed into a booming store in the middle of town.

We bought a truck in order to take the sale items from Maddy's to there...and even had bags made to carry items home with these words printed on them.....

THINGS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

WITH THANKS

FROM

MADDY AND GINA

ENTERPRISES

Maddy almost cried the first time she saw them.

"I never had any idea, I would ever amount to very much, but look at us!" "I'm so proud of us both."

"Well, let's stop blubbering and get set for the grand opening," I said.

"What do we do," Maddy asked nervously?

"Most important...is to step back out of the way or you'll get crushed!"

She looked at me with initial fear, but when she saw my smile, began to laugh along.

"O.K. partner, "RUN!"

This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

The end of a grand beginning!

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*This is the last chapter, unless  
you can think of more!*

*Michael*

*This book is for my daughter Gina,  
she's named in my book, but in  
truth, more like Maddy.*

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She never believed she could sell,  
until she noticed and her partner  
too, that she was just simply a born  
natural.

She will always persevere!

(Do grand!)

Love Pops

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Gina, and Maddy...two girls who  
had to scramble to survive, all  
their lives, meet through a magic  
silver orb (Ball)

Together, they were more than a  
match for a whole town!

Magic, in some instances, can be  
found around us.

If it happens to be found with a  
friend,

Then.....

That's true magic.

Sedecim anno Domini bis  
millesimo

In the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen

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Written by me...for you all  
& Gina.

Michael Romano

Please enjoy and read to your  
kids...

they will simply love it!