

RESET EARTH

ONE OZONE. ONE PLANET. ONE CHANCE.

CHAPTER 3



UN 
environment
programme

ozone
secretariat

with support from



CHAPTER 3

In the library, Terran is trying to stop Sagan from destroying the time machine – when Knox rushes in.

“Hey, guys! ... Stop! It worked! ... Look! See for yourselves,” she says, pointing to the window, where an old billboard is jittering out a new message: “We destroyed our ozone.”

“Our trip to 1928 ... they must have found the flyer,” she explains. “If we can find out who we need to talk to, and convince them to save the ozone layer, then maybe we can stop the Grow from ever happening ... We have to try.”

Knowing they can’t make any more mistakes, the three friends spend hours looking for information on the ozone layer and pinning it to a huge board.

“It all boils down to what happened here,” says Terran, referring to the Montreal Protocol in 1987. “World leaders came together to ban CFCs and save the ozone layer but ... they failed. If we want this to work, this is the headline we need to change,” he says, pointing at one that says: *Nations fail to save the ozone layer.*

Overwhelmed by all the work that needs to be done, Knox feels her confidence slipping away.

“No, this can work,” says Sagan, pointing out two key dates: 1985 in Antarctica, where scientists first discovered the ozone hole, and 1986, when America’s space agency, NASA, got involved. “These two groups were so close to figuring out the truth. They just needed to be pushed in the right direction ... If we can get to these places at the right time and convince them that they’re on the correct path...then the rest is history.”

Feeling as ready as they’ll ever be for the enormous task ahead, the three friends are a bundle of nerves.

But this time, Knox is staying behind, reluctantly giving in to Sagan’s concerns that one more failed jump could be her last.

Sagan jumps to Antarctica, where a spectrophotometer is measuring the amount of ozone in the atmosphere. In a tent nearby, he can hear the scientists arguing that their results must be wrong. He leaves a note saying: “Believe the numbers. Trust the science. Save our ozone.”

Meanwhile, Terran jumps to a NASA computer lab, and changes the coordinates of a satellite, pointing it towards the ozone hole.





Back in the library, Knox sees the headlines starting to change. All except the one that needs to.

Convinced they must have missed something, she spots an article from 1966 about young scientists showing great potential in atmospheric studies. "Yes! ... We need more help," she says.

Just as Knox disappears in a flash of light, the boys get back and their Grow is worse than ever. Horrified and disappointed, they don't know what to do, but then they notice Knox is gone.

At that moment, she is walking down a rainy street in Chicago in 1966. Arriving at the Young Scientists' Academy, she posts a letter with the 1987 headline and a note saying: "You can change this future."

Back in the library, the boys are amazed to feel their Grow disappearing – but their excitement fades as the time machine shuts off.

"No, no. Knox isn't back yet," shouts Sagan, frantically grabbing the time machine and banging it on the table. As it flickers back to life, Knox comes back.

"Knox! It worked. I don't believe it," yells Sagan, all the emotions he is feeling spilling out as tears.

"What on earth did you do?" Terran asks Knox.

"I had to try something," she says. "I thought making this change would be too small, but ... it worked ... Those young people ... they held the key to changing the future ... And so did we."

The last headline has changed too: *Nations commit to saving the ozone layer.*

As the three friends look out over their bustling, healthy city, they can't help feeling proud. "I never thought we'd be able to make a difference, but we did," says Knox. "It just goes to show ... when we all work together, anything is possible. And we need to remember that."

∞

This story isn't over yet.

We need to keep monitoring the ozone layer and working to protect it.

We all have a role to play.



ozone
secretariat

with support from

