

Jane was a fifteen-year-old girl who lived in Brussels, Belgium. Jane has always been a very curious girl, interested in everything that surrounds her and a passionate lover of history. She also has a secret that only she knows: she can travel in time. About a month ago, Jane found a mysterious book in her garden, and when she opened it and read its pages carefully, surprisingly, it was a book that contained all the existing portals to travel to different times and years throughout history.

Some time ago, Jane, at her institute, studied the history of the European Union, how it had changed and evolved over the years, and she found it so interesting that she decided to look for herself.

So one nice summer day, Jane left home towards 1957, when the first signs of what the European Union is today began to show.

Jane was standing in front of the Roman Coliseum in Rome, because in this beautiful city was the signing of the Treaty of Rome and a new step towards a new society.

Our protagonist was looking for Paul Henri Spaak, the Belgian delegate in this treaty. She wanted to talk to him about how this agreement was signed and how he promised to change.

After walking through the busy streets of Rome, Jane finally found what she was looking for: the Capitoline Museums, the place where this treaty was signed. As she entered the building, Jane headed for the main hall. And next to a group of politicians was Spaak. The girl headed towards him.

-Excuse me, Mr. Spaak - said Jane starting the conversation.

-Good morning, young lady, what do you want? -he replied.

-If you don't mind, I'd like to ask you a few questions about the treaty that you and the various country representatives have just signed.

-Of course, let's get away from all this noise, so we can talk better - so they went to a corner away from the room.

-The first thing I want to know, if possible, is what led them to sign the Treaty of Rome,-she asked.

-Well, this treaty has been signed because of the desire to end the frequent and bloody conflicts between neighbours that took us to the Second World War. In the 1950s, the European Coal and Steel Community was the first step in an economic and political union between European countries to achieve lasting peace. Today, the representatives of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands have signed the Treaty of Rome, establishing the European Economic Community or "common market".

-And what do you intend to achieve by signing this treaty? -Jane asked again.

-You see, our main purpose is to create a common market based on the free movement of goods, people, services and capital. -Mr. Spaak continued- The purpose of all this is to work for integration and economical development.

After talking to Mr. Spaak for a while longer, Jane decided it was time to get out of there and take the next step in history.

After leaving Rome, and now in 2017, Jane decided that she now wanted to visit the 1960s, a time of change and revolutions.

So Jane walked through the time portal that took her to Paris in May 1968, a date remembered for the great student revolt.

On that day, the streets of Paris were crowded, and Jane struggled to walk through them.

Most of the people who walked were students who held posters with phrases like, "Freedom at work. The reality is that Jane had no idea why this strike was called, so she went into a small bakery downtown, and asked the clerk about the origin of it.

- Today, students have taken the streets to protest the closure of a university, Nanterre. The woman explained to her - A group of students from the Faculty of Arts of this university have called for this mobilization.

After leaving this small shop, Jane continued walking through the streets, and at a small newsstand she bought a newspaper to find out more.

"TODAY, STUDENT STRIKE IN THE CENTER OF PARIS. MORE THAN 300 STUDENTS ARE PLANNED TO COME TO IT,"you can read in the title.

After reading the article, Jane continued to read, until she found some information about what had happened earlier in the 1960s.

"The 1960s is a good time for the economy. The EU has recently agreed to exercise joint control over food production so that everyone has enough to eat.

Jane thought that was a good idea, because no one would starve.

"This is giving rise to a surplus agricultural production."

Jane thought that even though everything was not strikes and violence, there were very important changes taking place in the European society that were helping Europeans to have a better quality of life.

Our protagonist decided that she had already done all her work in the sixties, so she decided to travel to another time, to continue seeing how society was progressing.

Now he decides to travel back to the 1970's, where there was a big change to contribute a little bit to the environment.

So suddenly Jane is on the Gran Vía de Madrid, capital of Spain. He decides to go and buy another newspaper, because on his last trip to Paris it helped him a lot to read it and find out more.

Buy one, and start reading.

“The EU has now adopted new measures to protect the environment and introduced for the first time the concept of "polluter pays".”

Jane was very enthusiastic about this idea, because she loves the environment and protecting it is one of the most important things to keep in mind.

With a smile on her face, Jane returned to her time, to the 21st century, and now decided that she wanted to be present at one of the most important events in the EU's history: the fall of the Berlin Wall.

And he was in Berlin on November 9, 1989. There was a tense atmosphere, with people running around, and as Jane approached the wall more and more, people multiplied and the angry cries of the population became more present.

Jane has no idea why all these people were trying to tear down this wall, so she decides to ask a gentleman who is in a corner looking at the scene.

- Excuse me, sir – said Jane - could you explain to me why all these people are trying to break down that wall?

- The wall is about to fall because of the people's desire of not being divided any more, Berlin wants to be one people, they want to be united - explained the lord.

Jane left as soon as she could, because she didn't like the atmosphere at all. Although he thought it was a good idea to break down that wall, since it didn't let people be united and had separated families.

Jane was a little tired of time travel, so she decided to stay at home and look for information about the next EU period on the Internet.

He sat down in front of his computer and set to work.

“From 1990 to 1999 with the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe, Europeans feel closer together. People care about environmental protection and joint action on security and defence issues. Three more countries joined the EU in 1995: Austria, Finland and Sweden”

"Wow," thought Jane, "the truth is that Europe has more countries and grows more and more."

"The agreements signed in Schengen - continued reading - Luxembourg's small town, gradually allowing people to travel without having to present their passports at the borders. Millions of young people are studying in other countries with the help of the EU. Communication becomes easier as the use of mobile phones and the Internet becomes more widespread."

Jane thought it was great that students could travel to a European Union country to study what they want, because that gives them many opportunities. Thinking, it occurred to him that when he grew up, he wanted to take part in an Erasmus project so that he could travel abroad and learn different cultures throughout the European Union.

After reading all that, Jane felt like traveling again.

He travelled to Stockholm, Sweden in 2012. Jane went to the Belgian Embassy in this city, very happy to be closer to her country. He walked through the streets full of people and cars for a while until he finally reached the Stockholm Concert Hall, where this year's Nobel Prize Award Ceremony was held. Thanks to Jane's cunning, she was able to enter the ceremony without anyone seeing her and sits in one of the seats at the back. Just in time to attend the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony.

- This year - the presenter began to speak - the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize is.... The European Union!

The room began to rumble with applause and people talking and commenting. José Manuel Durão Barroso, Herman Van Rompuy and Martin Schluz represented the European Union. After giving them the award, the presenter continued to speak:

- The Nobel Peace Prize 2012 has been awarded to the European Union for having contributed over six decades to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe - he finished speaking and the room was once again filled with applause.

The three men came down from the stage and Jane decided to follow them to talk with them carefully. After looking for them for a while, he saw Martin Schluz in the distance, and decided to come over and chat with him.

- Congratulations on the award, Mr. Schluz - started saying Jane.

- Thank you very much, young lady,"she replied," can I help you with something?

- In fact, I would like to know how it feels to receive this award.

- Well, first of all, the prize is not mine, but from the European Union and all Europeans – Mr Schluz began to speak - but obviously, I am very excited and happy to have been one of the

representatives of the European Union to pick up this prize. I am certainly very proud of my nation and I hope that we can continue to do what we do and put everything in order.

- Thank you very much for speaking with me, Mr. Schluz - Jane said goodbye.

After leaving the Stockholm Concert Hall, Jane decided to return to 2017 in order to analyse everything she has experienced.

Back home and after so many trips, Jane decided to contrast everything she has learned with some information on the Internet, so she started searching the net and made a mental list of all the functions the EU is doing to improve Europe.

“Respect the environment, the European countries have to work together to protect it. The EU has rules about stopping pollution and about protecting (for example) wild birds. These rules apply in all EU countries and governments have to make sure they are obeyed”

“Climate change is also a major problem in the lives of all Europeans. EU countries have therefore agreed to work together to lower the amount of emissions they produce that harm the atmosphere and cause global warming. The EU is also trying to influence other countries to do the same”

“About freedom in the UE, people are free to live, work or study in whichever EU country they choose, and the EU is doing all it can to make it simple to move home from one country to another. The European Union encourages students and young people to spend some time studying or training in another European country”

“The European Union, also, has a big heart and help regions in difficulty. Life is not easy for everyone everywhere in Europe. In some places there are not enough jobs for people. In some areas, farming is hard because of the climate, or trade is difficult because there are not enough roads or railways. The EU tackles these problems by collecting money from all its member countries and using it to help regions that are in difficulty.”

“The UE help poor countries, too. The UE gives to the poor countries money, and sends teachers, doctors, engineers and others experts to work there. It also buys many things that those countries produce without charging customs duties. That way, the poor countries can earn more money”

After analyzing all these ideas and information, Jane was very proud to have been born and live in the European Union, which today is being surpassed more and more every day and helps those who need it most.

She was certainly proud to be European.

THE END