

## **The Doomsday Box**

**Herbie Brennan**

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In the book “The Doomsday Box” by Herbie Brennan, a group of four teenagers (Opal, Michael, Danny, and Fuchsia) are figuring out a top-secret case having to do with the CIA meddling transportation and time travel. Their goal is to stop Cobra by time traveling to 1962 to Langley. They travel to Montauk, New York, where they meet Colonel Saltzman, where they learn more about Shadow Project #2. However, at the same time, the Black Death is taking over the city of Montauk. Colonel Saltzman is thought to be dead by the illness, and the others are checked to make sure that they aren’t infected. Before they time travel to Langley, Carradine gives Danny a poison ring, which later creates suspicion within the team about Carradine later. Finally, they time travel to Langley to 1962 to find Cobra.

When they reach Langley, they meet Agent Jack Stratford, who help them with defeating Cobra. Agent Stratford’s next plan is to travel to the USSR to find Cobra, which the team is reluctant to do. During the flight to USSR, Danny shows Fuchsia about the poison ring that Carradine gave him before they traveled in time, as he said Carradine wants them to poison Cobra. Fuchsia found this very disturbing and started confronting Danny about it. When they showed it to Opal and Michael, each of them were very suspicious about what Carradine was doing. After the flight, the team arrives at Red Square, where they think Cobra is. Cobra notices them and hisses at them to go away. Michael refuses to do so, and the Cobra captures him and Opal, while Danny and Fuchsia manage to get away. They then see Opal and Michael being captured and taken away. They then think that Opal and Michael are being taken to Lubyanka Square. Meanwhile, Michael meets Colonel Menshikov at the basement of the KGB Headquarters, who seems to already know who Michael and Opal are. Menshikov tells Michael about Cobra being a KGB agent and introduces him to the Krylov twins. Danny and Fuchsia then make it to the Lubyanka Jail and check to see if Opal and Michael are there. Danny sees Opal and tries to get her attention, but he isn’t able to. Along with that, he isn’t able to figure out where Michael is. However, the Krylov twins begin to start hurting Michael, with Opal trying to defend him. Colonel Menshikov apologizes to Michael about the ordeal. After that, Opal and Michael make an attempt to escape the KGB Headquarters. Colonel Menshikov follows them, which makes Opal annoyed since she has a belief that Menshikov is pretending to be Cobra. Soon, they realize that Mr. Carradine was Cobra’s son. Just then, Danny and Fuchsia find Opal and Michael.

Danny encounters Cobra as soon as he finds Opal and Michael. Cobra then questions how Danny will be able to kill him, in which Danny shows him the poison ring Mr. Carradine gave him before. This ends up making Cobra feel relieved and happy that Danny was able to think like a CIA agent. This also makes the team question Agent Stratford. Just then, a nuclear war begins (A.K.A the Cuban Missile Crisis). However, the team realizes that Stratford was a time agent and that he wanted the Cuban Missile Crisis to occur, which makes him a traitor to

the team. However, they then realize a way to postpone the Cuban Missile Crisis due to Danny's discovery of people discussing Cuba, which puts an end to Agent Stratford's plans.

There were many things that I enjoyed about this book. One thing was about its aspect of time travel, as the author used it very creatively. Another thing I liked about it was how it also used the historical event of the Cuban Missile Crisis in the story and made the flow of events easier to understand. This book would be great for teenagers ages 13+. There is a little bit of violence in the book, and there are a lot of advanced topics within the story, such as time travel and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Overall, this book is definitely recommended for others to read due to its creativity and references to past events.

**Recommended Titles:**

Time Machine by H.G. Wells

Timeline by Michael Crichton

Outlander by Diana Gabaldon