

Fox eyes – synopsis

By Petra Hůlová

Thirteen-year-old twins Zuzka and Eda (Susie and Eddie) travel back through a tunnel in time to 1968 Prague, when Communist Czechoslovakia was under occupation by the Soviet army. After discovering they are invisible during the daytime, they decide to take advantage of this to rescue their grandfather, who they have never met before, since he was shot and killed by the Soviet occupiers before they were born. The children are successful in their mission, but when their grandfather warns them that the occupation is going to last until 1990, together they decide to try to change history by preventing that the same way they prevented their grandfather's death.

The three of them manage to sneak onboard the Czechoslovak president's private plane to Moscow, where he is going to sign an agreement giving consent to the occupation. But when word gets out that Zuzka and Eda's grandfather has "magic powers" (thanks to the fact that Zuzka and Eda are invisible), the Russians force him to join the Moscow circus, then bring him to the Institute for Paranormal Research, where they are conducting research on mind control.

Meanwhile the twins succeed in penetrating the heavily guarded Kremlin, where the Czechoslovak delegation is being held captive to force them to agree to the occupation. On the last night before the anticipated signing of the agreement, Zuzka and Eda convince the politicians not to consent and it seems the day is won. Not only that, but with the help of the circus performer Marina, who has fallen in love with their grandfather, they manage to free him from the institute, and everyone—except for Marina, who will miss their grandfather—rejoices at the prospect of returning to Prague. Suddenly, however, the Soviets up the ante by refusing to let the Czechoslovak delegation's plane take off from Moscow and fly back home unless they agree to the occupation. At the same time the children find themselves looking on helplessly from the plane as their grandfather is dragged away by the Soviet authorities.

On the plane trip back to Prague, Eda and Zuzka put their heads together with the Czechoslovak Communist leaders Alexander Dubček and František Kriegel and come up with a plan to turn the situation around by telling the leaders of Western Europe that once they occupy Prague, the Soviet army plans to go on and attack Berlin. The West European leaders believe the story, even when the Soviets deny it, and the United Nations prepares a vote in support of Czechoslovak neutrality (which in reality, in 1968, the members of the UN declined to support).

Having succeeded in changing the past, the sister and brother team return home to the present, which is now, as a result, changed as well. Capitalism now exists in a softer, more socialist form, and their grandfather is alive, although due to the experiments performed on his brain while he was at the Institute for Paranormal Research, he can't remember a thing. During a visit to their grandparents' house, Eda and Zuzka discover the letters Marina wrote to their grandfather over the years, which he himself has never read, since their grandmother was the one who always went to collect the mail. In the end it turns out she is the mysterious fox who sent the children back to the past to bravely save the man who is her husband and their grandfather.