

The Invisibaton



“The **Invisibaton** makes any object vanish instantly!” crowed the advertisement. “Utilizes space age technology yet runs on ordinary C cells. Guaranteed to work or your money back.” That sounded perfect to Alice, so she bought one for the express purpose of disappearing Atoka, her crabby little brother. First, though, she wanted to test it out on some other objects. She waved it over a mukluk – or *thinks* she did. She wasn’t sure because she could no longer find it. So she dialed the power knob down to Medium and waved it over Atoka’s bicycle. Everything disappeared save for the front tire, which suddenly rolled out of the garage, accompanied by what sounded like Atoka’s grumpy caterwauling. Had he been on the bicycle? Alice didn’t think so. Still, she needed to make sure, so she ran after the bicycle – or at least the still visible front tire – as it weaved down the sidewalk. “Atoka!” she called. “Atoka, is that you?” Alice must’ve heard *something*, because she gasped suddenly and flipped the switch on the Invisibaton to Reverse. She caught up with the bicycle as it rounded a corner where, say eyewitnesses, she gesticulated wildly with the baton. The next day, neighbors saw Atoka riding his bicycle, like always. But of Alice, there was no sign – ever again.