

One Very Small Improvement

The Mad Professor had invented a machine to deliver one biscuit.

It had three levers, seven lights, a purple funnel, and a very important-looking dial. The biscuit sat on a little platform in the middle.

"A small improvement to teatime!" he announced, pushing his goggles up into his electric-blue curls.

Little Professor looked from the machine to the empty plate beside it. Ancient Fat Wizard Cat looked at the biscuit.

The Professor pulled the first lever. The lights blinked. The funnel hummed. A little flag popped out and said PREPARING BISCUIT.

"Lovely," he said.

He pulled the second lever. The machine rotated the biscuit halfway around, paused, and rotated it back.

"Checking the orientation," he explained.

LP nodded thoughtfully. The cat's eyelids lowered.

The third lever produced a puff of perfectly harmless pink confetti. A second flag appeared: BISCUIT CONFIRMED.

"But it's still over there," LP said.

The Professor considered this. He turned the dial. A tiny mechanical arm emerged, waved politely at the biscuit, and retreated.

The laboratory became very quiet.

Ancient Fat Wizard Cat stood up. He performed one small butt wiggle. A spark shimmered beneath the biscuit, which floated gently off the platform and landed on the plate.

The machine's seven lights flashed together. A third flag popped out: YOU'RE WELCOME.

The cat stared at it.

LP pressed her lips together. The Professor adjusted his goggles. Somewhere inside the machine, a gear made a pleased little click.

"I think," LP said carefully, "the machine might be taking the credit."

The cat gave a long, ancient sigh.

The Professor switched the machine off, picked up the plate, and set it on the tea table. LP brought the cups. The cat settled back into his chair.

They shared the biscuit. Nobody needed a lever.

On a fresh page in his notebook, the Professor wrote: NEXT IMPROVEMENT: BIGGER BISCUIT.

Ancient Fat Wizard Cat opened one eye. At last, a sensible experiment.

THE END. KEEP WONDERING.

Meet the characters and join the FUZZILIST at www.fuzzibar.com.