

Damian Hickey gr6  
Aberdeen Elementary  
The Aurora Disaster

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Boom! A sudden jolt wrenches me from my sleep, lights flash red and sirens are blaring the message, "Attention engine failure imminent abandon ship." I wrench my eyes open then I push my door out of the way not even changing into my uniform which is mandatory attire for the crewmates of Project Aurora. There is confused shouting and I can only hear fragments of worried conversation. I quickly grab onto a railing as another explosion rocks the ship. I look through the aluminum silicate glass to see the other side of our spacecraft burning. Shocked, I let go of the railing as another explosion rocks the ship knocking me into an escape pod that sealed itself shut. "Get me out of here, help!" I see my closest friend Chuck sprint around the corner with a scared expression on his face. The thick walls of titanium and reinforced glass couldn't protect me from the truth. "The engine has exploded." Chuck said Those words meant that all the oxygen would ignite and incinerate us, but not like fire, fire damages the outside and slowly burns inward. This turns what you breathe into an inferno that will vapourize you, an inescapable fate suffered by the members of Apollo 1. Chuck turns his attention to me with sad eyes and says the last word that he will ever say, "Goodbye." He presses the launch button for the escape pod, the sudden motion sends me crashing into the inforced aluminum structure leaving a deep gash on my head.

My face is leaned against the window my eyes glance towards the spaceship and I lock eyes with Chuck moments before the inferno engulfs him. The spaceship explodes with a great bang leaving behind a metal scrapyard floating aimlessly. My blood starts to pool on the floor like a crimson lake, soaking me as I pass out on the floor of the escape pod.

The escape pod ambiently drifted into the gravitational pull of a planet, then it accelerated and crashed into the planet landing in the vast ocean. I slowly drifted back into consciousness to find myself on the floor of the escape pod but something smelled wrong, the air smelled like smoke! I did a quick survey of the ship only to find that the generator was burning! The smoke was suffocating and stung my eyes. It was close to impossible to see but I managed to grab a fire extinguisher. Then I pulled the pin and the foam flew to the generator and extinguished the fire. The smoke hung in the air. Desperate for oxygen, I clawed at the hatch until it unlocked then I opened it and a wave of oxygen tumbled through the hatch, air that was pure and untouched.

My pocket started to vibrate and I pulled out my personal data assistant that I had carried around on the ship. It would be used on the planet that was our former destination to identify resources and creatures. Then it started to speak in a robotic voice and said, “Hello I am programmed to help you survive, I have stored in me blueprints that can be used to build everything you will need. But to create most items you will need to use the fabricator in your escape pod.”

“Um okay, but my fabricator is broken, how will I build anything now?” I respond to the PDA.

“Check your supply box there are emergency supplies to last you 72 hours and a welding tool that can be used to fix the fabricator, and the generator to run it.”

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“Thanks,” I open the box and pull out the welding tool then I use my engineering training and work until the generator starts up and illuminates the ring of LEDs which lights up the dark vessel. Then I slowly began to repair the fabricator. While I was doing this I began to feel a little

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light-headed I brushed it to the side and continued to repair the fabricator. My PDA began to vibrate, “What now?” I ask.

“Alert critical blood loss seek medical attention immediately.”

I sigh deeply, “There aren’t exactly any doctors around here.” I checked the emergency kit for any bandages but finding none in the kit I knew I would have to improvise. “Hey PDA do you know how to make bandages?” “Yes, you need to find creepvine which grows in warm ocean water. This is similar to kelp use your knife to cut off strips then use the fabricator to make a bandage.”

I climb out the hatch and see a seemingly endless ocean and the silhouette of a moon. A few fluffy clouds are sprinkled about. “Enough cloud gazing.” I chuckled at my own joke. Then I took a leap of faith and jumped in the water. It was warm and inviting, I was in a vast coral reef full of vibrancy and colour. My attention turned to a deep chasm. I spotted a large green leafy plant that I assumed to be creepvine just over the trench. I swam over the chasm, my wound leaving a crimson trail of blood as I swam through the ocean. I arrived at the creepvine and cut a few strips off the plant. I swam back towards the escape pod, I felt uneasy as I swam across the colossal trench in the seafloor. I felt that something was watching me, then suddenly an

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ear-piercing screech seemed to slice through the water leaving me dazed and confused. Then I slowly turned my head down to see a giant eel with glowing yellow eyes, with metallic blue skin with four claws around its mouth extended menacingly. I frantically kicked trying to escape the monster. But it grabbed ahold of my leg and started to drag me down. I clawed at the surface but it was too far, the world slowly faded away as the monster dragged me down into my deep watery grave.

Adrianna Mathieson  
Grade 6  
Arthur Hatton Elementary  
Butterfly Heart 2

Mia's Journal :

September 4

I'm so so very nervous, today is my first day of high school. I'm legit shocked. Mom said I will be fine but it will not be fine at all. I have only ever been to a private school for my whole entire life. I know no one in this whole entire school. But it will still be all cupcakes and rainbows mom says. Ugh! We are here. I have butterflies in my stomach. By, talk later.

Great, it's lunch and now I have no one to sit with. My mom packed me a tuna sandwich. This is the worst day ever. I saw some seniors. Do you know what I really learned today? The older they are, the more attitude they have = 100% more attitude. I am being so honest with you, they literally pushed me into my locker. The only thing I'm really excited about here is the art classes. I heard you do pottery and all this other stuff. I'm also really excited for cooking class. The rest I'd rather fail than do.

It is almost 3:00, almost time to go home, yay. I'm in the gym, last period. We did gym for, like, 2 minutes, and then we stopped because this girl Becky got her Hydro Flask stolen and all her money. Like geez, she told the class that it was \$50 for the Hydro flask and \$50 worth of stickers. She told everyone it was watermelon pink and a sticker and she had a whole lot of money in her wallet. Of course it got stolen. She was *freaking* out.

The bell just rang... yes, yes, yes, yes, yes! I am outta here....ha ha I can still hear Becky scream at the principal about her stolen stuff. It is really funny. Well, I gotta go. Bye, I'll talk to you later.

September 5

I came to school and I saw Becky has a new Hydro Flask. Flexing on everybody with her money. I saw a girl laughing in the corner so I decided to go see her. Her name was Katherine. We decided to hang out, and started talking about crushes. Katherine said she has a crush on a guy named Nathaniel and then asked me if I have a crush. I

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blushed and told her about this guy Hayden. She laughed at me because it's her brother's best friend. Then she asked me if I wanted to come over to her house. I felt like telling her I couldn't because I would be so embarrassed in front of her brother if he found out. That's what I was thinking but I just said, nervously, "My mom is taking me for dinner with my dad." Katherine was like "whatever", but wanted to hang out later. I had such a big smile on my face, as I ran to my mom's car. I literally winded myself. I ran so hard. Lol ha ha ha. Talk to you later.

October 6

Fall Formal is coming up, ahhhhh! What will I do? I can't go by myself!

Later...

I was at school sitting in a corner this morning when Katherine came up and looked guilty. I jumped up and asked her what was up. She stared intensely at me and tried to tell me nothing was going on. Then finally she said to me "Hey, guess what? Um, I may or may not have told Hayden you like him". I looked at her with complete fear in my eyes and ran as far away as I could but all of a sudden I felt a tight grasp on my arm. It was Hayden! He went to say something to me but I broke free running and crying my eyes out in fear people would see me. I was so embarrassed! Luckily I ran so fast that no one saw me. I'm so glad I didn't leave my phone in my locker- I was able to call my mom and she came to pick me up. I was so relieved. Well I guess bye for now.

October 12

It's been a week since I came to school. Luckily most people thought I was sick at home but I was really crying at home in my room not leaving it the whole time. My Mom made me meals and dropped them off at my door. But I promised my Mom I would go to school this week. Right when I got to school Katherine begged me to forgive her and I did. After I forgave her she told me Hayden was sorry he had scared me off like that and was wondering if I would go to the dance with him! She said it so fast I almost didn't

understand. As it sank in I was so excited I squealed!! I was afraid to talk to Hayden but Katherine told me I had to answer him myself. I was freaking out all day but Katherine

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was there to calm me down. I made sure to ask my mom first and she said yes so I went to his house. But when I got there I was so shocked! Hayden was on his knee with his friends holding a poster that said "Will you be my Fall formal girlfriend for forever?" I had the same sensation of butterflies in my stomach that I had when I first started high school. But this time it was not worried butterflies, but happy butterflies like the ones when you are falling in love.

October 20

Long story short we had so much fun at the Fall formal and now we are the most popular and cutest couple at school!

The Man Next Door.

Jane's Chapter

One late night four kids had a sleepover. The oldest kid is Luke and he is thirteen. The next kid is Jason, he is twelve. Second to last is Jane. She is eleven and last but not least Colt and he is eight.

They were playing truth or dare. The boys keep on picking truth. Then Jane picked dare for the third time. The boys thought hard. Here is the dare go to a rock and yell the most embarrassing thing that you ever done or ding dong ditch the man next door! The boys thought they knew what she was going to pick but they didn't. She picked the second one and the boys were shocked so they gave her a few minutes before the dare happened and in that time she wrote a note to the man next door and hid it in her pocket.

If you're wondering why she did what she did here's why. In the past Jane was dared to embarrass herself and she never wanted to do that again. Now back to the story. The four kids were hiding in a bush and Jane went to the door and then..... **DING DONG** Jane I was not done yet!:( “ sorry he he “) Jane started to run and never stopped until

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she got home. When the man walked out he saw the note. ‘ Those boys are in for a wild ride.

## Chapter 2

### The Man

Long ago the old man had a little girl. She was four years old and she never left anywhere without him. One night the bell rang no one was there! He thought it was a ghost. He told his daughter to never open the door. A month later she heard the doorbell she wanted to open even though she couldn't her dad then heard a scream he ran and ran to the door and she was gone.

## Chapter Three

Colt is Now Good.

When I went to school the next day the boys looked awful. I first asked Luke and Jason. They said it was nothing. So I had to get it out of colt. He said I can't men .....tion..... It. Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I'm gonna get haunted." By who?" Jane

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asked. Colt nervously said from the man next door. I asked Colt why don't you say sorry to him? Ok Colt said. So we went over to the man's house. And we knocked on the door. The man came out and said " what do you want." Colt then said he was very sorry for making Jane ding dong ditch him

He also said he did it to be cool and make friends. The man next door said let's get payback.

Colt and I agreed.

#### Chapter Four

Payback time :)

They went to the lunchroom at school and put a fake spider in their lunches. The day of the prank is now happening. The two boys opened up their lunch and .....

AHHHHHHHHHHHHH! They ran and hid behind garbage cans. At the end of school they begged colt to bring more food for ten large chocolate bars. So he did. For the chocolate of course. "Don't judge me, I'm eight." They probably know that's what a eight year old would do Colt. The next night they all had a Sleepover and they played truth or dare. Colt went first and picked truth . His question was does his name stand for something. Colt said, "yes it does. It stands for Colter." Jake and Jason both giggled. Jane said it was cute and gave the two 'I will kill you eyes if you don't apologize' and

then they said sorry. Colt passed his turn and gave it to Jane. She asked Luke truth or dare he said truth. Jane said what do you have in your basement? He said.....

#### Chapter five WHAT!!!!????

“The man next door’s daughter” “OMG YOU DUMB DUMB HEAD! I’m leaving!” Jane yelled “me too.” agreed Colt Instead of going home they told the man everything we went to the house and saw a lot of locks (4) on the the door so we went and looked at every painting and found a key it went to Luke's room and saw Katy Perry everywhere and saw a key card for the door 3 more to go the man said we checked the room and saw a key that said mom we went to the door that said mom and saw justin bieber everywhere we saw a clue a hand feeling around the door but we looked around first and found a key colt was doing what the clue showed and then yelled **I found TWO!!** Me and the man ran to the door unlocked as fast as he could and saw his daughter.

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She yelled "Papa!!" The man yelled, "Emma!!" Emma ran upstairs to give him a hug. They ran into the car to the police station and told them everything. They got Jake there for two nights. When they got home, the man said, " I finally got you back." Emma looked happy. Then Jane asked what the man's name was. He said "James".

**THE END**

About the author

Hi my name is Alex and I wrote this book because I love mystery. I played a lot of imaginary games when I was little. My school is Beatte and I am eleven years old. Hope you enjoyed it. ♥

## Silent Screams

There I was alone in the forest. Parents dead, being hunted by a murderer. Not exactly my definition of fun.

When I was 6 years old, a man named Lucio Romain shot both of my parents, the last sentence I heard from my mother was, "Run Abigail, and never come back." So I did what she said. I ran far and never stopped. I ran from the cops. I ran and ran and ran. No food, no shelter, nobody to help me, it was scary.

Now 13 years old, robbing gas stations and hiding in the forest with my pet dog named Sasha. Still not fun, but better than being killed. My life was different from most until I found a little girl I have named Eclipse (of course that's not her real name but I like it). She's around 7 years old, but I'm not really sure. She had long black hair, deep green eyes like a forest, and only one shoe. Eclipse was wounded pretty bad and can only say a few words. She's my new best friend.

When I was talking to Eclipse she said one thing, only one thing. "Abigail, I need find mommy," and that's when it hit me. Her parents are alive and she's lost. I have now made a vow to help her find her parents and make her life better, let her live a better life than me. The thought took a moment to process. Doing that would mean never seeing her again. It did seem like a nice thing to do... for her.

So we started our quest looking for pictures of her parents in the newspaper, at the gas stations I robbed, school's, you know - almost everywhere. Then one day we saw a poster. LOST CHILD NAMED ATLEY HOREMAN IF FOUND CALL 311-243-7665. The only problem was that the phone number was from Vancouver and we are in Kamloops. So we started a new quest

to Vancouver. We asked for money on the streets and after about one week we made enough to get bus tickets to Vancouver. We were on our way.

It was beautiful there. The city had sunny skies, and an ocean breeze. It felt like home. Eclipse was starting to cry. But I knew better than to ask, it only makes you feel worse. So we kept walking. Trying to find the nearest telephone booth. When we did it felt like the best thing in the world, like we would actually find her parents. It took a few tries until they picked up. On the other end of the phone you could hear her parents crying. I was crying too.

It was crazy that we got this far. It was the first time I was actually scared in forever. They showed up in an old small car, like the ones you would see in a movie. Eclipse's mom came out of the car first and ran toward her. They seemed like nice people. They asked about our journey and invited me over for dinner. The house was nice with high roofs and carpeted floors. Just another thing to remind me of home.

I slept at their house and at breakfast they asked if I wanted to live with them for the rest of my life. Honestly, I was scared to say yes, but I did anyway.

We got the adoption papers and made it official. I had a new family, a new home, a new beginning.

## Saturn

Mia woke up freezing cold. She sat up, looking around wildly. All around her was black sky. Mia's older brother, Caleb, was sitting up next to her.

Mia shivered. She couldn't put it into words just how cold it was. Her brother looked over at her and tossed her his jacket.

"You don't need to give me that," Mia sighed. "I already have one."

"You need it. Do you know where we are?" Caleb asked. "Look around."

Mia scanned her surroundings. It was then she realized where she was. The stars, the dark sky, the planets - the rings around the place she was standing on. Suddenly, Mia felt like there was no air. She grabbed her chest, breathing heavily. Eventually she gave up and held her breath.

Yes, it was true. Mia was on Saturn.

"Mia, don't hold your breath," Caleb gasped out. He was struggling to breathe as well. "You'll die. Take slow, deep breaths. We've gotta get out of here." Caleb stood on the platform we were sleeping on. Mia couldn't help but wonder how they got there. Why would someone bring them here? Who would want to kill them?

Suddenly, Caleb was tapping aggressively on Mia's shoulder. He didn't have the strength to speak anymore. Mia saw the terror in his dark green eyes as he showed her what he found.

In a little compartment where they had been sitting was what they had both hoped to have but never thought they would. It was oxygen masks. Mia tossed one to Caleb and put one on

## Saturn

By Payton Shields, Juniper Ridge Elementary, Grade 6

herself. They both swung an oxygen tank over their backs and connected the tube from the mask to the tank.

Now that they could breathe somewhat properly, they both noticed more now than before just how cold it really was. Why hadn't they just died already? Tears streamed down Mia's face and soaked her pajama shirt. Her pale green eyes glistened in the darkness of space. Caleb glanced over at his sister and grasped her hand. It was like holding onto an ice brick. Space was supposed to be beautiful, not painful torture. People who went to space talked about how wonderful it was and that it was the absolute 'trip of a lifetime.' Mia couldn't even begin to picture a world where hanging out in space was 'fun.'

"We need warmth," Caleb said joylessly. Mia had never seen her older brother so down.

"Brilliant," Mia replied, sighing. She pulled her long brown hair over her ears and cheeks, only to figure out that it was frozen.

"My hair is gonna snap off!" Mia cried.

"That is definitely the least of our worries." Caleb snapped. "Come on. We're gonna die out here if we don't find something warm."

"We should have died already. What's saving us?"

"I dunno," Caleb began to check all the compartments on the platform only to find nothing. Mia choked back a sob. Their parents were probably so worried about them! Awful thoughts swarmed Mia's brain until she eventually blacked out from the cold.

Saturn

By Payton Shields, Juniper Ridge Elementary, Grade 6

When Mia woke up again, her brother was hovering over her in a spacesuit. Her body was filled with warmth. It felt like she was sitting next to the fireplace with her cat, Spark. Mia drowsily lifted her head and looked down. Caleb had put her in a spacesuit too!

“Where did you find these?” Mia exclaimed.

“I didn’t find them,” Caleb told her. “This person found us,” Caleb pointed to a person in a spacesuit. Mia couldn’t help but gasp with excitement and relief. They weren’t alone!

“Who are you?” Mia asked.

“My name is Zoey,” the person replied. “I’ve been on Saturn for quite some time now. I’m not quite sure how I’ve survived. These spacesuits have a water pouch, but it isn’t very big. I have to be careful with what I drink. As for food, one of Saturn’s many moons has food on it. Despite the accommodations I have come across, I need someone to get me off of this planet. I think someone might be coming for us.”

“You’re lying,” Caleb accused. “There’s no way anyone knows we’re here.”

“Oh, but there is,” Zoey grinned through her spacesuit helmet. “I’ve searched the inside and outside of this spacesuit high and low and have found a manual that lets you signal other spaceships.”

“You’re lying again,” Mia said.

“I’m not. I swear.”

Saturn

By Payton Shields, Juniper Ridge Elementary, Grade 6

“Okay, fine. I believe you,” Mia smiled ear to ear. “Now come on, let’s explore this planet.”

Saturn was beautiful. From the pristine rings to it’s 70+ moons. No, Mia didn’t count. She knew from her science class.

The part that was the most beautiful, however, was the space around Saturn. There were so many stars, each one with a different glisten and glow.

“Wow,” Caleb said in awe. “Zoey, would you rather live on Saturn or Earth?”

“Earth,” Zoey replied quickly. “I hate it here. I mean, sure, it’s gorgeous, but nobody is supposed to *survive* on Saturn. It’s basically a death sentence. The fact that someone would drug us so we stay asleep, bring us to Saturn, and leave us to die is awful.”

“But they left us supplies!” Mia protested.

“They hid them from us!” Zoey snarled. “I can’t believe you like it here.”

“I don’t like that I was sent here to die, but it’s an extremely pretty planet. Under different circumstances, I’d love to live here.”

“Whatever,” Zoey looked away and crossed her arms. There was a pause before she screamed with joy and started waving her arms. “The spaceship! It’s here for us!” She had tears of happiness rolling down her cheeks. Caleb pumped his fist in the air and yelled things like “let’s go!” and “yeah baby!” Mia just jumped up and down. The spaceship pulled up beside them and the door opened. Hopefully they found who did this to them, but at least they were leaving.

# The Twinventors

Ainsley M

Grade 6

École South Sahali

The Malt children weren't like other children in Norwich, England. It was 1910, and everyone thought the world was going to end the next day, but it didn't. The Malt children never truly believed this nonsense because as June Malt always said the world can't end today because it's tomorrow somewhere else. Peter and June Malt were fraternal twins born on May 5th, 1899. They had many passions but one of their favourites was inventing.

Peter and June made useful inventions but some didn't go so well. The twins focused on inventions that would save the planet. They made inventions like the Feeder Up which would have solved world hunger if the wires hadn't caught fire and made the whole machine burn to ash. The Clean Car was really good; it was a car that ran on nothing but soap. The best part about that invention was when it drove on the streets it cleaned the streets too. The one thing that didn't go well with that machine was that they ran out of soap to run it and their parents refused to buy more.

Nobody knew that they had been inventing such incredible inventions other than June and Peter's parents and the Mayor, Charlie Wilt, who had been trying to steal their inventions for months. Charlie was rich, greedy and wanted more and more money, so he developed a plan to steal the blueprints of their next invention which was going to be their best yet. The plan was to start a fire in the Malts' house to cause a the blueprints from their workshop right under their

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Ainsley M

Grade 6

École South Sahali

noses. The night of the plan he got dressed in black, went outside his house with matches and ran as fast as he could to the Malts' house. Once he had gotten to the house he looked through the window to see the Malt family having a late dinner, which was great for Charlie. He found an open window, lit a match and accidentally got his blazer caught on fire. He then found a well and threw his blazer into the water. Once he was cool again he lit his last match and threw it into the Malts' house. The family screamed in terror! Charlie ran as fast as he could to get the blueprints and went home.

That night after the Malt family had put out the fire June and Peter couldn't fall asleep so they went to their workshop and discovered that the blueprints were gone. Peter and June knew that Charlie Wilt had stolen them.

While the twins were trying to figure out how to get the blueprints back Charlie was trying to figure out who to sell the blueprints to and what F and F stood for. Charlie tried to look at the blueprints and understand them but couldn't figure out what the two letters meant. The blueprints said that there was a way that you could make a flame that was cold.

The Malt children had created this invention one day when playing in a lake near their house. They had gotten cold and got out and tried to ignite a flame from a rock and flint. Once it

# The Twinventors

Ainsley M

Grade 6

École South Sahali

lit, they noticed that the fire wasn't giving off heat but cold. They put out the fire, collected the rock and brought it back to their workshop. They observed the rock and knew it wasn't an ordinary rock. They made blueprints for the rock and flame. They knew how to ignite it and they named it F and F for Frosty Flame.

Charlie observed the blueprints and found that it was a creation for a cold flame. He found a Mining Company to sell the blueprints to. The next day Charlie went to the Mining Company and talked to them about the invention. He told them that the Malt children sold the blueprints to him and he had paid them fairly. The Mining Company couldn't believe what the blueprints said. They would give him a test of the rocks that they mined everyday. Charlie and the Mining Company had been at it for weeks and they hadn't found the rock that could make a flame cold. The Mining Company started to get mad at Charlie because they had wasted so much time on this project, so Charlie started to blame June and Peter Malt and soon the Mining Company turned their anger onto the Malt family. June and Peter had told them that it was possible to make a cold flame. Charlie kept saying that they had tricked him into giving them money and that it was hocus pocus about the cold flame.

The Malt children made a plan to invite the head of the Mining Company and Charlie over. They were going to explain to the Mining Company that Charlie had stolen their blueprints

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and that the Frosty Flame wasn't hocus pocus, but that it was real. They invited the two over and sat down and ate dinner. Once they had finished June went to go get the rock and the flint. She and Peter explained what Charlie had done and they showed the Mining Company the rock and flint and made a fire that gave off cold. The Head of the Mining Company immediately saw opportunity for this invention such as refrigeration and air conditioning. The Mining Company was astonished at how June and Peter had discovered Frosty Flame and called the police for what Charlie had done.

Charlie was arrested and taken to prison. The whole town of Norwich was so amazed by the two talented inventors that they donated \$200,000 to them. June and Peter Malt never stopped inventing and became known to everyone in Norwich, England as the two most brilliant inventors of the century.

## Bounce Back Shot

Three seconds left, wide open net, Steve Nash Jr attempts a three point shot... Inside, feeling no feeling, can't feel my arms to my feet. What happened, did I die, what about Mom and Dad? Steve wakes up, and it hurts to move. He looks around and sees his dad looking sad.

“Son, you will be alright but when you went for the game winning shot you got hit hard. You have a minor concussion and you have completely torn your ACL,”

Steve looks confused as his head is hurting, he starts to cry. Steve falls asleep and remembers what happened. He can hear the announcers, like he's watching the game.

“Steve Nash Jr brings the ball up for Victoria High School in the championship. Six seconds left. Now, three seconds left, wide open net, Steve Nash Jr attempts the three point shot and he swishes it. Steve's on the ground, he got hit hard by a kid from South-Kam.”

As Steve wakes up he cries, “I remember, I remember I made the shot.”

“Yes, buddy you did. Mom is coming home to see you, nice shot,” Steve's dad replies. Steve lays there in pain knowing he's trying to follow his dad's path into the NBA. “I'm going home to get your pillow. Your sister will be coming to visit. You should call me,” Steve's dad says.

Steve picks up his phone and it hurts his head a little. He calls his mom and when answered, Steve hears “Hello”.

“Hi mom, Dad told me to call you and say I'm okay, you don't need to be worried.”

Cole Rigler  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
Bounce Back Shot

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“I know hunny I gotta go, bye,” The phone hangs up. Steve is tired and falls asleep. He wakes up at 8:00pm with his sister Ruby and his dad looking at him. Steve looks and sees his pillow. He waves at Ruby and falls back asleep.

The next day he wakes up and he sees it’s morning and the doctors are getting ready for something. He is in a different room and the doctor says, “Okay kid ready, take one deep breath, two deep breaths and three.”

One Month Later.

Steve is at home looking at his scholarships. He had 24 and he’s down to 4. From UBC, TRU, Duke, and Ohio State. Tomorrow is decision day, and he does not know where to go. Steve distracts himself with video games, and at midnight goes to bed. The next morning he has breakfast, puts on his suit and goes to school. Everyone is there to see what university he will pick. He sits down in front of four hats. One for each university. He puts his hand over Duke and then slides it to Ohio State and puts on the hat. Most clap, some walk out, and Steve smiles and gives his parents a hug.

First Day At Ohio State.

Steve arrives at Ohio State to check in. He walks up to one of the tables and says, “Hi, my name is Steve Nash Jr.”

“Oh my gosh you’re Steve Nash’s kid, nice to meet you. Your dorm will be building 8, apartment 131, enjoy.”

Steve finds his dorm. There's nobody there, and two beds. He picks the bed on the left. He lays there, excited for the season but he knows he can't participate for the first month. A few minutes later the door swings open and someone walks in. It takes him a second to realize but it's the number one recruit in America, Angelo Vanceesci.

Angelo says, "What's up man." He stops and his jaw drops. "You are Steve Nash's kid, nice to meet you. We're going to be the best basketball team in the NCAA," Angelo exclaims.

Steve just lays there thinking, "he doesn't know that I'm out for the first month."

First Day Of Basketball Practice.

The first day of practice Steve shows up not being able to participate with his injury. He approaches his coach Chris Holtmann and says. "Hey coach, I'm Steve Nash Jr.. I won't be able to participate for the first month, as you probably know."

The coach replies with, "I know son. your the boss of your own body, you tell me if it hurts."

"Yes sir," Steve responds. Steve sits on the side and watches practice.

One Month Later. Season Opener.

Announcers. "Hello folks today we have Ohio State vs Penn State." Later in the game, "Nash has been struggling due to his injury, he only has two points and looks in pain. We just hope for the best for him." After the game. "Ohio State won 76-69." Steve goes back to his dorm and lays down in pain.

Cole Rigler  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
Bounce Back Shot

4

The next day Steve goes to the trainer, who says, “You will have to sit next game and then you will be a full go.”

#### NCAA Men's Basketball Championship

Announcers “Today we have the championship game between Ohio State and Duke”  
Near the end of the game. “Nash brings the ball up for Ohio State, six seconds left down 84-82. Now three seconds left, wide open net Steve Nash Jr jumps up for the 3 point shot and he swishes it, the game winner, oh my gosh he is Houdini”. The team celebrates and Steve takes a second and realizes he just won the game in the same exact scenario from high school. Steve starts to cry as his dad comes over to congratulate him. Steve is awarded the game MVP!

One Week Later.

Steve gets a text that says:

Steve this is an official invite to the 2021 NBA draft congratulations. After one year of college we think you have NBA talent, hope to see you there.

Steve replies:

Thank you for this opportunity. I would love to enter the draft, thank you.

Immediately after he calls his dad. “Dad I just got an invite to the NBA draft, I accepted! I’m gonna be in the NBA.”

Congrats buddy, enjoy the draft”

Cole Rigler  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
Bounce Back Shot

5

Steve hangs up.

NBA Draft

With the first pick in the 2021 NBA draft, the L.A. Lakers select Steve Nash Jr.

I'm Ash, and this is my Christmas miracle. I finally got the role of Clara in *The Nutcracker* which happens every three years over winter break. It is really something to be chosen because I have to wear a brace during all of my dance classes. I have a condition which causes my knee to dislocate whenever I turn the wrong way.

I don't know how it's possible, but I lost my knee brace.

It wasn't until we were home and unpacking from our trip to Prague that I realized it wasn't where I thought I put it. I opened up every compartment of my backpack and rummaged through until I got down to the bottom of everything.

No luck.

I bet it's under the seat on the plane where I put it to give my knee a break. I wish we could go to Prague all over again, first to see all the beautiful ballerinas on the Czech Opera House stage, and second, to *not* leave my brace behind. The show is a day away and it takes three days for a brace to ship to any location, so there's no hope.

In the afternoon, when I was sitting on my couch, Frantiček came in and plopped himself down beside me. We just sat there for a while and then he broke the silence, saying shyly, "What's bothering you?"

“Nothing,” I said, trying to avoid eye contact.

“Well I know it’s something, I can tell.”

“Okay,” I sighed, “I wasn’t planning on telling anyone, but I left my knee brace on the airplane and now I’ll be dancing tomorrow without it.”

“Oh... well, what about the family Christmas wish?” he asked.

“What do you mean?” I asked curiously.

“You know, the Christmas tradition Nana and Papa started where you make a wish in the month of December? Well, maybe you should make yours now.”

I nod, thinking about what he said. “Thank you,” I whisper.

We sat a little longer and then he left, closing the door softly behind him. Sometimes I forget that he’s only 9. He gives great pep talks even if they’re short. He’s very smart.

\* \* \*

In the evening, after I prepared all my garment bags, I made my wish. I wished for my knee not to dislocate when I'm dancing.

\* \* \*

I have made it through the whole beginning of the show. Now I am on the sidelines of the magnificent stage, waiting to go on for the finale. My heart is beating so fast it feels like a hummingbird in my chest trying to escape. Butterflies in my stomach are bustling about. I cannot explain the emotions I am feeling. The only thing I am holding onto is hope, and my Christmas wish.

I can hear the moment in the music that tells me I will be going on soon. I look down at my not-so-trustworthy legs and wonder if they will support me during the leaps in this last dance.

The stage-hands cue me in.

I go on.

I can feel the eyes of the audience watching me as the rays of light blind me. I can see all the moves to do in my mind's eye. I read them as if it were a book and I can hear the voices of my teachers' instructions surrounding me. The two leaps in a row at the end are in eight counts. I can feel my muscles tensing up, holding my kneecap in place.

Then I leap.

First the Firebird, then the Tour Jeté.

The audience erupts in applause as I hold my final position.

My knee didn't dislocate.

My wish came true!

\* \* \*

After the bows, I gathered all my costumes and thanked the stage-hands. Then I went to find my dance teacher.

“You did such an amazing job darling, but where is your knee brace? I was shocked to see you without it!” she exclaimed in her Italian accent.

“I'm sorry Miss Pepper, I left it on the plane when I came back from Prague. I — ”

“No need to apologize darling, but how did you manage to not dislocate your knee whilst doing the leaps?” she interrupted.

I smiled at her and said, “The magic of Christmas.”

\* \* \*

When I met up with my family, my parents congratulated me on doing a great job, though they didn't notice that my knee brace was gone. Franticek gave me a huge bear hug and winked, knowing I'd understand. Our parents dropped us off at home on their way back to work, telling us to help ourselves to a hot chocolate celebration.

When we got inside, I dropped all my bags, kicked off my shoes and flopped onto the couch with Frantiček right behind me. He burst out in laughter when I started to pretend to snore loudly. "So, how about that hot chocolate with marshmallows on top?" I asked, even though I knew the answer.

"Yes, please!" he exclaimed.

"Alright, I'll be right back," I assured him as I went to put the red speckled kettle on to boil.

A few minutes later, I returned with two brightly coloured mugs.

Once Franticek gulped down half of his hot drink, he gave a toast saying in a goofy voice, "To Ash, who did the best Clara *The Nutcracker* will ever have!"

We burst out in laughter again. I could feel I was blushing as my face went beet red. For the first time in my life, I felt embarrassed by my sibling's compliments.

“You are over-exaggerating,” I uttered with a small smile.

“Nah, you deserve it!”

“Well, thanks.”

\* \* \*

After break, everything went back to normal. I got a new brace and I went back to my dance classes (ballet, pointe, two hip hop classes, jazz, tap, lyrical, contemporary, salsa dancing and ballroom dancing) and Franticek and I went back to school. In a way it seemed like a dream.

I will always remember the magic of Christmas.

Always.

This is a Christmas I will never forget.

Izumi H  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
An Unexpected Adventure

We began our voyage on a beautiful, blue skied day. I sat in the stern, looking back at La Paz until my eyes strained to find the small speck that had grown increasingly smaller. Growing up by the ocean I'd always been fascinated by sea life; whales in particular. Once a year I was allowed to take a whale watching tour with my older cousin Gabriella and I never missed the opportunity.

After about 2 and a half hours at sea the captain informed us of a rapidly approaching storm. My excitement died as quickly as it had begun. Everyone panicked, the dozen or so people reassuring one another that it was going to be okay.

I fidgeted in my seat beside Gabriella. She took a deep breath and adjusted her life jacket, "Just in case," she said. I looked up. Large raindrops were already falling from the immense grey clouds that had appeared out of nowhere and now covered the once blue sky. At that moment I wished I could reach Mámá; I knew she'd be worried sick.

By now thunder was rumbling in the sky, and I shivered from the cold as well as from the fear that was building up inside me. I took a deep breath in an attempt to calm myself, but I was terrified. Large waves surrounded us and no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't slow my rapidly beating heart.

Izumi H  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
An Unexpected Adventure

Suddenly, an especially large wave rose up from the sea. I felt as though we were sinking while the wave got bigger and bigger. Then, it was upon us. I was too scared to scream. I took a deep breath seconds before I was completely submerged in the water. The boat flipped over and we all went overboard. Thankfully my life jacket propelled me upwards and led me to the surface. I scanned the area for Gabriella but all I saw was the wildly churning ocean in every direction. “Gabriella!” I called but there was no use, even if she were nearby she wouldn’t be able to hear me over the storm. Now that I was in the water, my life jacket allowed me to float over the waves without the risk of being pushed under, but I was still scared. The storm was taking me further and further away from the capsized boat. I couldn’t see any of the other passengers but I prayed they’d be okay.

After 2 hours with nothing but water in all directions, I was getting desperate. I was overwhelmed by thirst and the waves were continuously getting bigger. The thunder still rumbled overhead and every now and then I’d see lightning flash across the dark sky. Just when I was losing all hope, a speck of land came into view. “Home!” I cried, my throat hoarse. I used the last of my strength to pull myself ashore before I lost consciousness.

I was roused by murmurs coming from above. I squinted as my eyes adjusted to the bright sunlight. I was still on the beach, the sea licking at my toes. There was a big group of people around me. They all wore concerned expressions. Most of them looked like tourists but there was

Izumi H  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
An Unexpected Adventure

one in the front, the tour guide I thought, that was speaking rapid-fire spanish into his sat-phone. I looked beyond them, and realized that I hadn't made it back to La Paz after all. In fact, there wasn't a single house or car in view.

After briefly speaking with the tour guide, he told me that I was on Espiritu Santo island, which is 36 kilometres away from La Paz. The tour guide had also called the Mexican Coast Guard who informed him that my whale watching boat had been reported missing and that a search was underway even as the storm still lingered on. Unable to go home due to the weather, I spent my time exploring Espiritu Santo and I discovered many things including a beautiful coral reef, an area full of cacti, and a cave full of turquoise water. I attempted to talk to the tourists but they all spoke English and I could hardly understand what they were saying. However, I did learn that the tourists were also stranded due to the storm and were, like me, anxiously waiting to return home.

Finally, the day came when I received the wonderful news that I could go home. The storm had died down and the skies were once again, a bright blue. The boat that came to get us was an old, rust-red trawler but I couldn't have been happier. Just when I thought the day couldn't have gotten better, a massive blue whale surfaced and spewed mist high in the air; I got to see a whale after all! When I returned home later that day I was greeted by Mámá, Pápá, and Gabriella.

Izumi H  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
An Unexpected Adventure

“Lucia!” Gabriella cried, throwing her arms around me.

“Are you okay?” Pápá asked.

“We were so worried!” Mámá exclaimed.

“Yes, I’m fine,” I laughed.

“Where were you after the boat flipped over?” Gabriella demanded.

“I resurfaced, and I looked for you but I got pulled away by the storm and all I saw was the boat,” I responded.

“I was holding on to the boat! You must have seen the other side” she said, “The Coast Guard found us almost 5 hours after we were thrown into the sea.”

“Anyway, we’re both safe now,” I said, “ I have so many things to tell you about!”

Even after what happened, not many things changed. I continued to be fascinated by marine life.

I still went whale watching with Gabriella every year, and although it wasn’t what I had envisioned it to be, that trip turned out to be the most memorable of them all.

Theo T  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
Skiing Antics

It was time for our annual ski trip with our class. I always loved the annual ski trips because I'm way ahead of the group every time. The reason for that is because I can ski faster than the majority of the group. This year our class went to Mount Washington to go skiing. But this year it was different, this year we would go out on our own, in groups of two.

The teacher's goal was for us to ski every single run on the hill so she assigned every duo to different runs. But there was this one run that made this ski trip not as exciting. This run nobody in the class wanted to get assigned to. But just my luck, my friend Jake and I got it.

The run had its very own chairlift. This chair was a two-seater with no bar, only a pole to hang on to that was made of brittle wood. The bar felt like it was going to snap every time we grasped it. The chair went up to the top of the hill that the run is on. While we were riding the chair it kept shaking after every pole we passed by and it felt very rickety like the chair was going to break.

When we got off the chair I felt this subtle feeling as if someone *or* something was watching me. I tried to shake off this feeling but with no luck, I gave up. Jake and I skated over to the start of the run, ignoring that feeling that something was watching us. As we got to the top of the run we looked down and we saw that the powder was waist high and there were trees growing in the middle of the run that were almost blocking the whole run. We started to make turns down the

Theo T  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
Skiing Antics

run trying not to hit any of the trees. The snow was almost too high to make turns in. By shifting our body weight we managed to plow a path through the heavy snow.

When we got to the middle of the run we realized that the run separated into two parts. Jack and I discussed which run we should take down the hill. Finally, we decided that we would take the run on the right. It looked better than the one on the left because there were fewer rocks and powder.

As we started on the sub run, we immediately found out that this decision was a big mistake. The run was almost all obscured by fog and there were big jagged cliffs that dropped off and we couldn't see the bottom because of the fog. Jake and I talked for a while and finally decided on just going for it because there is no sense waiting for something to happen when it's going to happen anyway. With the first cliff, we decided to take it slowly one bit at a time. I went off first. When I jumped off the mini cliff my whole body became weightless. It felt like I was in the air for 10 minutes, then I finally landed not breaking anything, thankfully. We kept on repeating that process until Jake broke his wrist so we had to ditch his poles which made things 10x harder for Jake. When we went off the last cliff of the run, it felt like I kept on speeding up and up until I heard a thud... Darkness.

Theo T  
Grade 6  
South Sahali Elementary  
Skiing Antics

When I awoke I realized that I had landed in a very deep bank of snow with at least two meters of fresh powder up to my neck. When I tried to move I felt this jolt of pain shoot up my leg as if hundreds of needles were being pierced into me repeatedly. I started to panic. I looked around to see where Jake was. He was still skiing, coming down the last little part of the slope before me. I called for him to come help get me out of the deep snow. When Jake came over to me I saw that he was very banged up. He had a splint on his arm which was just a piece of wood tied onto his arm with some gauze. He also had some wood in his hair which looked like he had been in a tree well or something. As he tried to help me out I quickly realized that my skis were not on my feet. They must have come off in the crash. When Jake got me out of the snow we quickly realized what was causing the tremendous pain in my leg. A small piece of ice was stabbed into my leg. It was a little piece of ice, not a big one, but still, it hurt a lot. Jake and I quickly bandaged up my leg in some gauze from our first aid kit and put some disinfectant on it.

Luckily for us, for the most part, the rest of the run wasn't as hard as the cliffs on the sub run. There were still trees and rocks, but not as bad as before. Taking it slow, we managed to make it down the rest of the run without any more injuries and in a way we kind of enjoyed the rest of the run. There was just enough powder to make it fun.

When we got to the bottom of the run we found that our whole class was waiting for our arrival. As we greeted our teacher we realized that everybody else had been waiting for us for 30

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Skiing Antics

minutes now. The following days consisted of consistent medical check-ups about our injuries, sprained wrist, ice shards, etc. Jake and I only shared our story with our parents so we wouldn't draw too much attention to ourselves. From there life just went on as normal. Jack and I went back to school and mostly forgot about it. But still, to this very day when I'm writing this, I get scared thinking about it.

## Again

Fae sat in the rooftop park of her apartment. It was the summer of 2172. The air was hot and humid. Fae was 200 years old and everyone, even Fae herself, assumed that she was immortal. Fae was upset. She was worried about her great, great, great granddaughter Fern.

Fern was an accomplished scientist. Earlier that day, much to Fae's disapproval, Fern, 30 years old and pregnant, had gone back in time in her time warp machine to study smallpox. Fae spotted Fern in the distance. She rushed over to her and tried to embrace her. Fern took a step back and said,

Fern took a step back and said, "Grandma, I have a rash and I feel terribly hot. I think I have smallpox."

Without another word Fae rushed Fern to the hospital. When they arrived at the hospital Fae wasn't surprised to find that they did not have a cure for smallpox.

Smallpox had disappeared long ago so no one had needed a cure for it... until now. The doctors knew that smallpox would spread like wildfire due to over population and people living so close together. All hands were on deck to deal with the crisis. There were doctors, mathematicians, scientists and epidemiologists. They had to do something fast. They knew that by morning whole apartment buildings could be filled with smallpox. They were right to worry. The next morning many others got sick regardless of everyone's efforts to keep it contained. Without a cure, Fae knew that

Fern and her child would die. If no one else could find a solution, then old, weak boned and wrinkled Fae would. She went to ask the smartest person she knew.

“Fern,” said Fae, “is there anything I can do?”

Fern said, “According to the doctors we’ve got less than 7 days left.”

She looked down at her stomach and a tear rolled down her cheek. Fae gave her a second.

“There is one thing you can do,” said Fern coming back to her senses. “The time warp machine, I’ve programmed it to go into the future as well as the past. I have been working with another woman by the name of Dr. Calia Straus. The machine will take you to her lab in the future. You will have to go to the other side of the building and find her. Meet up with Calia and ask her for an antidote.”

“Ah...okay... Calia. Antidote,” Fae repeatedly whispered as she ran out the hospital doors.

The time warp machine was standing outside. Fae took a deep breath and hopped inside. Zooming through time was extremely frightening. Colors flew by her like lightning through the dark. “I must be going at least at the speed of light,” thought Fae.

Then everything stopped. The spinning world slowed down. Fae was inside a building, just as Fern said she would be. Fae saw two men guarding a door labeled **-NO ENTRY-** in bold and dramatic writing. She was about to ask the guards if she could enter when she saw that they were holding rifles and that she may not be welcome.

One of the men whispered something to the other about a washroom break and rushed off. That was when she had an idea. Fae put on her old woman act and walked over to the remaining guard.

“Oooh! Hello, my kind sir,” said Fae, holding her back.

“Is there something you need from me ma’am?” said the guard.

“Oh yes...thank you for asking sir,” said Fae. “I believe I have lost my cane in that fountain over there and I can barely walk without it. Would you mind giving me a hand?”

“Not at all ma’am,” said the guard running over to the beautiful huge fountain Fae had pointed to.

Fae tiptoed through the door just as the guards came back.

Fae saw a woman wearing a long white coat. Fae could just barely read her name on her identification badge. It was Calia! Fae rushed over to her and said breathlessly, “Where is the antidote for smallpox?”

“Oh! Hi! You’re Fern’s grandmother, correct?”

Fae nodded.

“The antidotes are stored over here,” Calia said walking over to a cabinet and she read aloud neatly placed labels on small glass jars. “Cancer, Parkinsons, Multiple Sclerosis ... here,” she said pointing to the bottom shelf, “smallpox.”

Romy H  
Grade 5  
South Sahali Elementary  
Again

Fae snatched the antidote and as she rushed it back through the door marked **-NO ENTRY-** she heard Dr. Strauss shouting behind her "Remember! A teaspoon of that stuff will cure 50 people. Fae kept on going back, back through time... back to Fern.

The doctors distributed the antidote to the town. A few days later Fern's baby was born, She was a healthy baby girl, named Fiore Fae Pauletta after Fae Pauletta Grey. Fae Pauletta, the one who died the day Fiore was born. The one who was not immortal after all.

## Cayleigh M Grade. 6 Summit Elementary Love Is Blind

I woke up with a paining feeling in my eyes. It felt like swords were slicing them. I couldn't see anything. I felt around for my glasses, but I couldn't find them. Everything was blurry and I couldn't even see my hands. I yelled for help and 15 figures came rushing... Was I in a hospital? I heard them loud and clear, but couldn't see them. Who were they? Where am I? How did I get here? Then I heard a very familiar voice next to me. It was my mother. She kept asking me if I was okay. I didn't know what to say.

"What happened?" Was the first thing I said. My mother's voice sounded like she was crying. I hear doctors talking, but I focus on my mother's soft voice.

"Oh Sapphire, Are you hurt?" She replied.

"I can't see anything. Why am I here?" I asked.

"You were brought here by your sister when you fell out of that tree. Remember?" I could tell she was trying to be strong. But I never climbed up a tree, nor would I. I am very careful with my surroundings and I needed my glasses changed because I couldn't see 5 feet in front of me.

"No. What are you talking about?" I asked.

"Morgan. She said you fell after playing a game of tag, you decided to climb a tree thinking no one would look." She explained.

That's when I remembered exactly what had happened.

## Cayleigh M Grade. 6 Summit Elementary Love Is Blind

“Mom, whatever you do, don’t trust her.” I said sternly.

“What's wrong? Why can’t I trust her?” I heard my mom say.

“Who?” said a doctor.

“Check her heartbeat!” said another.

Mixed feelings were rushing through me. I heard doctors asking questions, scratching on clipboards, instructing nurses to check my health status. But out of all of the sounds, I heard my mother’s voice. Softly ringing in my ear,

“Sapphire? Saph? Listen to me hunny, what happened?”

Then everything went black.

\*2 months later\*

“Are you ready for college?” Mom said.

“Of course I am! But, how long will I stay there for?” I asked,

“About 4 years. But don’t worry you will be fine without me, and besides,

I have a young lady who is about your age that has volunteered to be your guide. She will arrive tomorrow, so you better be Prepared!” She says.

## Cayleigh M Grade. 6 Summit Elementary Love Is Blind

“I am.” I sigh.

I fell asleep instantly when I hit my mattress.

I woke up with my clothes still on from yesterday.

I got dressed and headed downstairs. That’s when I heard the doorbell. It was my guide. I almost tripped on my own walking pole going to the door.

I opened the door to my student guide, I couldn’t really figure out what she looked like because my vision has gotten worse since the trip to the hospital.

“Hello Sapphire!” She said in a very peppy tone, “ I’m Amethyst, but you can call me Amy” She shook my hand.

“Hey sweetie, you all packed to go?” I heard my mom call out from behind me.

“Of course mom, and it’s all thanks to you.” I smiled.

“Awe, I’m going to miss you!. Have an amazing time, and don’t forget to call!”

She started to tear up.

“Tell Sarah I kissed her goodbye.” I cried too..

My mom gave me the biggest hug I have ever received and kissed me goodbye. Then I closed the door.

“So, any questions?” Amy asks.

## Cayleigh M Grade. 6 Summit Elementary Love Is Blind

“I want to know what you want to be. It's kinda clear you are intelligent.” I snickered.

“Oh well thank you, I'm studying to help people with your type of disease. Amblyopia.”

Amy talks on and on about the amazing activities, the flights and of course the gourmet food! Soon enough I'm fast asleep on an airplane.

When I wake up I am greeted by a young man named Noah. Apparently he heard about my arrival and is good friends with Amy.

“We should probably head to our dorm, And unpack.” Amy explains.

The next day Noah meets us at our dorm. I can't make out his face, but I understand that He's upset.

“What's wrong?” Amy asks.

“Morgan just transferred here.” Noah said.

“What!” I yelled, hoping that all of this was just some stupid nightmare. I realized I attracted some people walking by because all the moving blurs suddenly stopped.

“Sapphire! We are still at college remember?” Amy tried calming me down.

“That doesn't matter Amethyst!” I yell storming off into the halls. I don't know where I was going, but soon enough I found my dorm.

I tried calling Mother, but I couldn't understand the brass numbers. I finally reached her,

## Cayleigh M Grade. 6 Summit Elementary Love Is Blind

But she doesn't answer.

"That's weird." I say.

"Sapphire? You here?" I hear Amy's voice from the hall.

"Yeah, I am." I say even though I just want space.

She comes into the room and sits beside me.

"Let's get some rest. It's late and we have a big day tomorrow!" She says.

"Ugh, you sound like my mom!" I laugh.

We laughed and fell asleep.

The next day wasn't any ordinary day. We had lots of stuff to do including our walk around town. But something catches my eye when Amy guides me to chemistry.

"Oh look! It's Sapphire and her "walking pole"!" Morgan's idiotic voice is heard behind me.

"Ignore it Saph." Amy says. But I can't! All the memories of her start flooding back to me. Everything she did to me!

"Morgan Grace, who do you think you are talking about?" I yell.

"Oh come on Sapphire! You know you got what you deserved!"

And then I thought for the first time ever...

What if she's right?

## The Hunt

She raced around trees, her long tail streaming out behind her. The creature crashed through the forest after her, making no attempt at stealth. She shot like a bullet through the brush. Her sharp eyes scanned the dense forest ahead, searching for a place to hide. Her head swivelled around like an owl. She saw the creature now running beside her, and saw a flash of azure blue scales through the undergrowth. Then the rustling stopped. She kept running, but the forest was now silent, all except for the birds chirping, and occasional moans of hadrosaurs. She slowed, gently placing her claws on the ground. Her sickle claw twitched, digging a small dent in the soft earth. The leaves of the trees rustled in the gentle breeze, and tree dwelling rodents scurried among the branches. Everything seemed peaceful. Yet Jupiter's heart still raced, and something didn't feel right. Then a familiar scent bathed over her, one she knew like her own claws. She growled, crouching down in a battle position. Suddenly another velociraptor exploded from the bushes to her left, claws extended. He crashed into Jupiter, his deep blue scales glimmering in a ray of sunshine. Jupiter rolled with him, hooking her foreclaws around his shoulders. She flung him over her head. He yowled in surprise, twisting in the air to quickly recover his shock. He leapt again, barreling into Jupiter. She thumped onto the ground, wincing as her head made contact with a rock. She hissed, attempting to kick him off. He jerked his belly to the side, causing Jupiter's claws to make contact with nothing but air. Jupiter snarled again, raising her foreclaws and slashing them across his snout. "Ow!" cried the velociraptor, rearing back. He sat back on his haunches as if nothing had happened. "Why'd you do that?" he complained,

whipping the small trickle of blood from his flaring nostrils. “Why? Cobra, you attacked me!” Jupiter exclaimed.

“I was only *playing*. You didn’t have to be so *aggressive*,” he muttered, poking the spot where she had scratched him. “*Playing?* You idiot, you dug your clumsy claws into my side!” she growled, jesting to the scrape on her side. Cobra grumbled about his innocence. “Well, I’m going hunting. That is, if you haven’t scared all the prey, lumbering through the woods like a startled Camarasaurus!” Jupiter swatted him gently on the top of the head with her tail as she turned and walked back into the forest.

She sped up until she was running, maneuvering to avoid trampling sticks and leaves. She didn’t want to alert any prey. Her claws kicked up soft earth as she ran. She lifted her head and sniffed. She straightened. A camptosaurus! Jupiter tracked it down, prowling silently through the woods. Her claws twitched as she spotted the young hadrosaur. She swiped her tongue over her lips. She slithered forward, crouched so low to the ground that her belly rubbed against dirt. She clawed forward, slowly, steadily nearing the unsuspecting camptosaur. It munched on some leaves, not knowing that it was trailing very far behind its herd. Jupiter waited until the herd was long gone. She rolled her eyes. Such a dumb animal. But, she reminded herself, it was food. Food was always welcome. She sprung from the undergrowth, claws slashing. The hadrosaur called out to the group, but it was too late. Jupiter clung to its back as it reared and bucked. She sank her claws into its spine, slashing and hissing. She growled, sinking her teeth into the back of its neck. It howled in pain. Lashing out,

Jupiter sank her sickle claw into flesh. Finally, the hadrosaur flung Jupiter from its back, sending her flying into a tree. Jupiter flopped to the ground, pain clouding her vision for a few moments as the camptosaurus lumbered into the woods. She stood up, hissing, and chased after it. She wasn't worried. She had wounded her prey enough. She followed after it at a trot, catching up easily as it stumbled forward. She watched it struggle, moaning in pain. Then, as it lifted its foot for another unsteady step, it collapsed, dust rising as it thumped to the ground. It let out a last call before it shuddered and fell still.

Jupiter was arguably the best solo velociraptor in the forest. She was very skilled. "Nice catch!" Jupiter turned as she heard her father's voice. He walked from the ferns, his tangerine orange tail swishing the grass. "Come share," Jupiter invited, pleased at the praise. He padded forward, bending his head to take a bite. But before he could eat a piece of the mouth watering meal, the earth began shaking. Jupiter looked up, surprised. The earth continued to shake for several minutes. Some weak trees lay on the ground, and birds had been startled from their nests. Jupiter shrugged. A small earthquake wasn't abnormal. She bent to take a bite of the vibrating camptosaur, but suddenly a loud rumbling sounded. Once again, Jupiter looked up. Her jaw dropped as she saw that, in the distance, a huge tidal wave of water ripped up palm trees, crushing the trunks to splinters. The wave rushed forward at an alarming rate, swallowing everything in its path like a dripping hand swiping over the earth's surface. "RUN!" Jupiter screeched, running full tilt into the trees. She glanced back to

see if her father was following, and saw that he was staring at the huge wall of water, frozen in fear and jaw hanging, shocked. "Father!" she yowled. "DAD!" she raced back, shoving desperately at his shoulder. He turned and saw the urgency in her gaze. He seemed to come alive again, for he ran into the trees after Jupiter. But the tsunami was already upon them. It crashed over their heads with the force of a million boulders falling from the sky. Jupiter gasped in pain as she felt her body slam into the ground under the pressure, only to choke on flurries of bubbles. She swirled around in the rough current, the life slowly draining from her as she consumed more water. She closed her eyes, and her body went limp.

## The Pride Of Lions

Onyx raced through the tall grass, fleeing desperately away from the lion. The scent of blood overwhelmed her. Onyx felt the attacker's claws dig deep into her sides. Pain clouded her vision, making her clumsy and unsteady. She writhed in pain and wanted to scream. Onyx struggled to take in more air. She was going to *die*. Onyx couldn't let this happen. She was so close to freedom, it was as if it was at her grasp, so she lashed out with her claws and rolled the attacker on to his back, biting down on his neck. She felt his body go completely limp. Her attacker was *dead*.

After the gruesome attack, Onyx started to flounder to the nearest waterhole, moaning in agony. All of a sudden, she caught a glimpse of who she feared the most, the ones that she had feared since the day her father was killed. All pain forgotten, she bolted into the tall grass, where she crouched and cowered in fear. The poachers were coming near. Onyx was panicking, deciding whether she would survive or not. She heard the murmuring of the poachers, then heard the clank of weapons. Onyx was now shivering in fear. She saw what happened to her father, and she knew how this was going to end. After moments of contemplating about what she was going to do next, she decided to stay low until the poachers left. Then, after what felt like decades, she heard the poachers trudging through the dense, murky brown mud, away from Onyx. Finally, she felt free, free of the poachers, and their clanking weapons.

Onyx started to walk towards the waterhole, completely forgetting about her bleeding limb, until finally, she arrived at the crisp, cool, quiet waterhole, where everyone was safe from the dangers of the savanna. She slowly crept towards the waterhole and took her first few gulps. To all the other animals it was just water, but to Onyx it was like heaven was trickling down her throat. Onyx was ready to conquer tomorrow, but she had to survive the night first. Onyx nestled herself into a pile of leaves, and with ease, she fell asleep listening to the savanna's wildlife. She could hear the frogs croaking, the hawk's cawing, and she could also hear the faint sound of fish splish-splashing. Onyx closed her eyes and waited for tomorrow's adventure to come. Finally, dawn came and awoke Onyx. She stretched and drank some water until Onyx felt ready for the day. She decided to go and search the savanna for prey, after all, she was quite hungry.

Onyx ambled across the savanna not knowing where she would end up, but in the distance, she could see another lion, a female who didn't look very threatening, Onyx decided to approach her. When she got near the new lion, Onyx brought her chest forward and tried to look strong and muscular when walking towards her. The new lion greeted her with friendliness. She turned out to be a refugee from another pride! Onyx couldn't even imagine leaving her pride, but now she could because her entire pride and family were *dead*. The new lion's name was Phoenix. She had tawny fur and deep brown eyes. Onyx decided to trust her. After all, Onyx had a friend. In her old pride, she didn't have many friends. It was mostly a family all the time.

They talked, and talked, for hours about prey, their pride, siblings, you name it! It felt like having a sister, someone she could trust. For weeks Onyx and Phoenix fought together, hunted together, and practically did everything together, but lately, something was off about Phoenix. She always tried to avoid Onyx now. What had Onyx ever done?

I mean, sure she killed a few lions in her life, but surely that didn't mean anything to Phoenix, right? She decided this would be the night she told Phoenix everything, including everything about the poachers, her father, and about the lion who attacked her, and after this everything would be fine. That very night Onyx crept towards Phoenix and told her about everything. When she told her about the lion who attacked her and who she killed, she looked at Onyx and said, " I think that was my *brother*." Phoenix was emotionless, the world had paused. *Everything* in Phoenix changed.

Now Phoenix rarely said good morning to Onyx or went hunting or exploring with her. It felt like she lost her best friend. For days Phoenix ignored Onyx. A deep sadness yawned inside her like a hole in her heart, she wanted Phoenix back so badly. Onyx couldn't take it any longer. Onyx could feel the soft dead grass under her paws, she looked at Phoenix hoping for a smile or a look of forgiveness, but all she got back was a glare of hatred. She tried to talk to Phoenix, but nothing worked. She started to lose hope in her friend.

It had been a few days since Onyx approached Phoenix. Her and Phoenix have been avoiding each other for a little over a month now, and all-day she thought about Phoenix and her brother. She started wishing nothing had ever happened. That it was

all just a dream or her imagination. Lost in her thoughts, she ran into Phoenix. Phoenix hissed and growled at her, Onyx was livid. Couldn't she see that it wasn't her fault? She never meant to purposefully kill her brother to hurt her. Heck, she didn't even know that was her brother!

Onyx yelled angrily at Phoenix, "I'm SORRY! I'm sorry for killing your brother, I am so sorry Phoenix."

She predicted Phoenix was going to be mad, but instead, she gave her a smile, the first smile in weeks. They hugged each other, forgetting about their problems and mistakes. They felt like friends again. She glanced up at Phoenix with tears in her eyes, It felt so good to have her friend back, the holes in heartfelt as if like they have been patched up, the sadness that yawned in her heart was gone, instead it was replaced with overwhelming happiness.