

CONTENTS

Graffiti Girl	1
Two Fat Cats	8
Life Changed	13
The Typewriter	21
Behind the Curtain	33
Some Gaming Trouble	37
A Very Smart Choice	40
Dare Devil	43
Canyon of Choice	45
Just Skate	48
The Amazon	51
BMXing	55
The Secret	58
The Hidden	63

GRAFFITI GIRL



As Dylan was spray-painting a bus stop, she heard police sirens coming toward her. She quickly put her graffiti cans in her bag, took off her hoodie, and stuffed it inside as well. Then she ran through the crowd of people near a jetty.

As a ferry moved away from the dock, the police were still chasing her. She jumped from the jetty to the ferry and barely made it. Some people on the ferry stared at Dylan and some fell into the water, but others were just angry. Dylan had no idea where the ferry was going, but she sat down next to an old lady who was

knitting.

"Where is this ferry going?" Dylan asked, but the old lady just continued knitting.

Dylan stood up and saw a sign pointing to the bathroom. She went there, carrying her bag full of spray paint. After 30 minutes, a queue had formed outside. She walked out with a grin on her face.

The first people in line, a little girl with her mum, walked in together relaxed, but they came straight out, wide-eyed.

"Good luck," the mum said to the next person in line as everyone stared into the bathroom to see what had happened.

Over the speaker, a voice announced, "We have arrived at BANXS." As soon as Dylan heard *Banxs*, she grabbed some trendy clothes from her bag.

But... the town of Banxs had placed wanted posters of her everywhere: at the mall, around town, at beaches, doughnut shops—no joke. They even paid people to drive around with posters of her. Dylan was a suspect in Banxs, and they made sure everyone knew it.

As Dylan got off the boat, she saw police standing at the end of the jetty. She blended in with the people disembarking from the ferry but then spotted a familiar face: Dave, the chief of police, who had been trying to catch her for years. Dave saw Dylan and recognised her despite her disguises.

"Get her!" he said to his officers. But they didn't run because they were fat, mean, unco doughnut lovers. Dylan ran and ran, eventually ducking into the mall. She sprinted into Walmart, grabbed a KitKat and a packet of chips, and hid behind the counter as police blocked every exit. Dylan quickly made a plan. She bolted out of the door behind the counter, which led to the car park. She spotted an old lady getting into her car, and before the lady could close the door, Dylan jumped into the front seat and drove off.

She sped down the main street, feeling clever, but then she saw an extremely fat man standing on the road. For a moment, she thought it was an elephant. But it was Dave. He was so massive that he stopped the car, and all the police officers who had been chasing her surrounded the vehicle.

"Dear Lord," she prayed, "thank you for this day that has finally come. Thank you for all the officers who helped me. In Jesus' name, amen." Then the officers locked her in handcuffs. Dylan tried to come up with excuses for why she shouldn't go to jail.

At Court

"You have been sentenced to jail for stealing, graffiti, going on a ferry without paying, and ding-dong ditching. All of this adds up to five years in prison," the judge with curly white hair said, banging his hammer.

"Or you could go to AAA for eight months," he added as he banged the hammer once more. AAA stood for the Adult Aussie Army. It was a program where you trained with the army, did hard courses, starved, and learned gun skills, among other things.

"Prison is fine," Dylan said sarcastically as she smiled. She put on her bright orange jumpsuit and was pushed into a cell with a roommate named Lexi.

"You must be Dylan. I'm Lexi. I'm a Christian and proud of it. I let God help me through life. What about you?" Lexi said comfortingly.

"I'm Dylan, as you know. How did you end up in jail?" Dylan asked, confused by how sweet Lexi was.

"Well, it's a long story, but I was playing Truth or Dare with my friends. It was my turn, and I picked Dare. The girl who dared me wasn't a Christian, and she told me to rob a bank. Then she said she'd give me \$1,000. I was young at the time, so I did it. I got caught and never got the money. Now, I've been stuck in this cell for eight years," Lexi explained as she nodded toward a calendar

she drew on the wall to count the days until she could leave.

“Sorry to hear that,” Dylan said, though she didn’t care much. Day after day, she was bored. So bored that she eventually started praying with Lexi.

Dylan still wasn’t a Christian, but she had read Lexi’s Bible and might have *started* believing.

One day at lunch, Lexi was called in to see the chief, and that was the last time Dylan saw her. After that, Dylan began praying on her own. Five years passed in jail.

“Dear God, thank you for this day. I pray that...” Dylan meant to say, “One day,” but her prayer was interrupted.

“Dylan, please come to the chief’s office,” the megaphone announced. Dylan walked to the chief’s office.

“Hello, Dylan. We meet again. God has brought us to this day, just like Matthew 24:42 says, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on

what day your Lord will come. Just like this situation—you never knew this day would come, and it can happen any second now. So, I present to you:”

“You have mine and God’s permission to go through those doors and be free once again,” the chief said convincingly as Dylan looked at the door. Through it, she could see the church she had never entered.

Romans 8:2 says, “And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.”

“If I hadn’t snuck onto that ferry or done graffiti, I would have been free all along. But if I hadn’t done those things, I wouldn’t have believed in Christ. Dear Lord, I’m sorry I never believed in you. You are the one who created this amazing universe. If it wasn’t for you, no one would be alive. In Jesus’ name, amen,”

Dylan said as a tear rolled down her cheek.

Suddenly, an angel appeared and said to Dylan, “I was sent down here by Almighty God. You should never doubt yourself like that. As you said, if it wasn’t for God, no one would be alive right now. So, enjoy life while you have one. The Lord Almighty has a plan for you.”

As the angel disappeared, Dylan went for a walk around town. She looked at the mall where she had stolen things, and thought, “God made it.” She looked at the jetty and the ferry stop, and thought, “God made it.”

“God made all these beautiful things. I wish we could all have an enjoyable life, but if He didn’t love us, the world would be full of crime and stealing. But we should all recognise His love and live in peace with God. If He didn’t love us, we would never survive,” she thought, placing her hand against her heart as she watched cars drive past. She walked to a café.

“Are you hiring?” Dylan asked the girl at the counter.

“We are. Are you interested in getting a job?” the lady asked.

“I’ll think about it,” Dylan said with a smile.

The next day, which was Sunday, she went to church.

“We thank you one more time for our food and this amazing town. In Jesus’ name, amen,” the preacher said, hands together in prayer.

“Alright, thank you everyone for coming. I’ll see you next Sunday,” he said as everyone exited the church, talking and giggling. People said things like, “I love how he took questions,” and “His prayer was amazing.”

“Just like it says, we are God’s masterpiece. So, if you create a masterpiece on a canvas, it’s just like God. God created us, and we are His masterpiece,” Dylan said to Lexi after church.

Dylan learned that you get one chance to live your life. Philippians

4:9 says, “The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the peace of God will be with you.” This means practicing enjoying the life God gave you. If you aren’t a Christian and you’re not enjoying your life, try praying before you go to bed, or try reading the Bible—you might actually like it.

This story is based on John 3:16 which says, “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” If you believe in God, you’ll have a good life.



About the Author...

Hi! Barefoot Bob is a strong Christian and believes in Christ. This is one of my best stories, and I had some family help me. I thank all my friends who helped give me ideas. Be strong and courageous, and never doubt God. Have an amazing day.

TWO FAT CATS



“Hi Nibbles,” replied Jelly Bean in a dreamy tone.

“Yo bro, I need you to help me get my pizza out of this thing, oh and don’t you dare eat my pizza while you’re in there.”

Carefully, the very pretty and vain cat stepped into the large box. On the path ahead she could see the pizza and called to her friend.

“It’s all right, you can come in,” she said in a worried tone. On either side of the box there were weird looking buttons with cat-

like pictures on them.

While the curious but scared Jelly Bean was stuffing around with the wires, Nibbles had grabbed his pizza and was starting to walk back. “Come on, I don’t want to eat my pizza in this junk yard,” called Nibbles in an annoyed tone.

So Jelly Bean obeyed her bossy friend and started walking back. The box seemed very long on the inside so you had to walk quite far to get out.

Just as Nibbles was about to step out, he saw a big red button with a picture of pizza on it. Obviously, he couldn’t help himself! Suddenly, he started bounding towards the button.

“Pizza!” screamed Nibbles.

“No, never press the big red button!” shouted Nibbles, but it was too late!

Suddenly, the box turned into a cat space ship and the door closed and locked then in. It lifted and shot into space with the two terrified cats trapped inside.

“No!” cried Nibbles in a heart-breaking tone. “I promise to never be tempted by pizza ever again!”



And when they felt hopeless and nothing could get worse, guess what happened... It got worse...

Suddenly, a big group of asteroids started shooting towards them. Now earlier on, they actually learnt how to drive the space ship so they dodged the flashing asteroids and they were safe... except for one asteroid which hit them and the lights turned out.



“Oh no, they hit the power switch and now the ship has stopped. How will we get home now?” cried Jelly Bean in a tearful tone.

“I know where the power switch is and I can help you get back to your home.”

“O-o-ok,” whispered Nibbles in a terrified whisper. “W-w-who are you?”

Do not be afraid for I am the Lord Almighty, your guide and saviour and I will protect you from all harm.

“Please help us!” they cried.

“I will but first you need to stop worshipping your pizza and follow me and second Jelly Bean, you are vain and selfish. You need to stop your habits of bragging. People don’t see your beauty if you act like that. They will see you like a princess if you act kind and caring and selfless.”

The two cats quickly agreed with him and the Lord brought them

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

back home and they were safe.

A few months later they joined Cat Church and decided to learn more about the Lord who had saved them and Nibbles actually stopped eating pizza and went to CrossFit instead.



LIFE CHANGED



Paris was always busy, and so was Maddie. Maddie was a scientist and her coworkers called her Professor Intelligent. Maddie had been working very hard on one thing she had been creating: a magical ball that could show you the future and give you one wish, and whatever you wished for would come true. Maddie called it the magical pearl. Finally, Maddie had finished! She knew it would work so she was positive. Since she was sure that it worked, she didn't want it to get onto the wrong hands! So, she locked it in a small safe then put that small safe into an even

bigger safe, then she put the big safe into another safe, then it goes on. She was sure no one would get to it. Lots of people knew about it because she told people it would ready soon. That's why she was being so cautious about it. So, Maddie went to bed positive that no one would get their hands on it.

Late that night, a purple van drove right up to the lab and three men got out wearing black masks and black suits. In the van, an old thin lady with red hair was clearly the boss and was not getting out of the van.

"Come on!" grumped one of the men. The man was big and round, and in his left hand he was holding a bright pink bobby pin.

"Do we have to do this?" complained a small thin man who had a very squeaky voice. "Why can't boss do it, why do we have to do this instead?"

The round man ordered, "You will do it and if you don't, well, no one knows what will happen. No one has ever disagreed with boss as she is too bossy and would do anything to get her own way!"

"I heard that!" snapped the lady who was in the van.

The last man out of the three men did not say a thing. He was frightened and did not know these strange men. The red-haired lady had picked him off the path and ordered him to do something about a magical ball, but the man didn't know what she meant. He was not listening because he was too frightened.

Though the man had not said a thing, he was thinking a lot. Things like, why did it have to be him who was picked off the side of the road, where was he and why was he there?

Now the men were in the lab and had turned off the alarms so they would not be captured or noticed. They were making their way to a door that read *The Magical Pearl*. As soon as the men noticed it, they were in then out in a flash. The big round man was an expert

at unlocking any safe or lock in an instant with only a bobby pin. As soon as the men were in the lab, they were back in the car speeding away.

In the morning, Maddie went straight to the lab and when she opened the door of the magical pearl room, she had a horrified gasp. In the centre of the room there was an empty stand that was meant for the pearl. The glass cage that had once stood and protected the pearl was now smashed into pieces. Maddie stood there for a moment, not believing her eyes! She looked at the empty stand then down at the smashed glass and then back up to the stand, then suddenly she fainted, falling back onto a couch that was nearby.

One of Maddy's co-workers, Jeff, found her laying on the couch about two hours later. "Good gracious!" cried Jeff in surprise as he realised what happened. He saw the smashed glass and empty stand. Straight away, he brought Maddie to the hospital and she was recovered within twenty-five minutes of the hospital.

The next day, Jeff found Maddy in her garage packing a bag full of food, water and more. Jeff questioned, "What's that for? Are you gonna try find the magic pearl?" he joked.

"Actually yes," said Maddie not knowing that Jeff was being sarcastic. "I came back to the lab last night to investigate, and the bad guys left a clue, or should I say the team of red haired bullies left a clue," grinned Maddie as she held up a rectangle piece of paper with the name *Red Haired Bullies* on it. On the bottom of the paper there was an address and phone number and next to that it said, "For anyone who wants to join the Red Haired Bullies."

"You wanna come?" asked Maddie.

"So, you're actually gonna go get the magic pearl back?" asked Jeff.

"Why wouldn't I? I can't let the magic pearl get into the wrong hands and the people who have it right now are definitely the

wrong hands," said Maddie sternly. "I have to do this."
 "Ok, do what you want but I'm not coming with you on your hilarious plan," said Jeff while walking out of the garage.

"Fine! I don't need your help any way. I don't know why I even asked you!" shouted Maddie with a bit of regret in her voice.

So, the next morning Maddie set off for her long and adventurous mission. The night before she had googled the address and had found out that their base was on top of a very, very tall mountain. In total it was 6000 metres high and was quite steep and had lots of forest. She had printed out a map and now she thought it was just smooth sailing the whole way. She did not know that her life would be changed completely on this trip.

Maddie looked up at the mountain and sighed. The mountain was more like a large hill, but it would still take a few days to get to the top. Maddie decided to write down all that had happened while hiking up so she could look back on them.

1st day on the mountain...

While I was hiking, I thought it would be easy. I thought that it would be all a joke and I thought I would be posting pictures of this fabulous hike... it is not a joke! When I started, it was like a bush walk but then it got steeper and rockier. I already have blistered feet even though I'm wearing good hiking shoes. I know this will be a very hard journey now.

Finally, after days of hiking and blistered feet, Maddie eventually got half way. She was sweaty and tired.

In her diary there were well written notes that described stories of the days she was hiking. There were stories like when she stepped on a large toad and how she got lost but then found her way. Maddie liked writing in her diary because then she didn't feel so

alone.

While Maddie was lighting a fire, someone walked up to her. At first, she was frightened and got a stick, "Stay away from me!" she hissed. But then she saw that the old man was kind and she welcomed him to sit down. For a while they talked about and admired the beautiful nature. But then the old man, whose name was Tom, said something that startled Maddie.

"God has done amazing things today and every day."

"What?" said Maddie in a questioning voice. So, Tom told Maddie (who had no idea who God was) about God and how he made the world, you and me.

"And then Jesus died for our sins and came back to life," Tom finished.

"Woah..." whispered Maddie in amazement. "That's a lot to know."

"And there's a lot more to learn," sighed Tom.

"So, is it all real?" asked Maddie again not quite understanding.

"Why do you think I told you all this?" answered the old man. So, Maddie finally knew what he meant and blurted out...

"I want to become a Christian just like you!" Tom was happy, obviously, so they went over to the fresh water lake and Tom baptised Maddie.

After that Maddie went on to get the pearl back while Tom stayed because he was too old to go on. Finally, Maddie made it to the top of the mountain. From the bottom, you wouldn't be able to see the base, but now it was very clear to see it.

Their base is just a *Garage*? Maddie exclaimed in surprise. She had thought it would be one of those high-tech bases with a bunch of guards surrounding it.

So, Maddie quickly sneaked into the base to look for the gem. She had no idea where to find it. She had no idea where it would be! But surprisingly, the gem was sitting in a glass cage just like the one back at the lab. Maddie quickly thanked God for helping her all the way through this adventure until then. After that, Maddie grabbed an iron stick and hit it against the cage. The cage smashed! Glass went everywhere.

A siren went off and it was sooo annoying! With a loud ringing sound in the air and soldiers running at her, Maddie had no idea what to do, so she grabbed the pearl and ran out.

Outside, Maddie could hear the soldiers coming towards her. She prayed to God for help and suddenly, she got an idea. Maddie had realised that she didn't need the pearl for whatever amazing wish she could get, as she had God and all her amazing friends and she knew that in the future she would have a lot more friends that would stick by her and help her through the hard times.

But then she realised that becoming a Christian would offend her other friends so she would need to have the pearl so that she could wish that her friends would be alright with that and they could even become Christians too.

Maddie was new to God so she didn't really think God had that much power yet and he couldn't change someone's life even though that had happened to her before her very eyes. Maddie had two decisions: to smash the pearl because she didn't need it or to keep the pearl and use it so her friends wouldn't be offended. So, Maddie chose...

Keep the Pearl

...Maddie ran and ran with the pearl in her hand. She needed the pearl to have her friends. She didn't notice she was doing the wrong thing. She wanted what she wanted and she didn't know

that when you follow God there would be hard times like losing your friends and good times like getting new, better friends who followed God like she did.

Maddie was running and running. She was so focused on keeping the pearl safe that she ran for a couple of hours and had reached her garage. She was going to quickly use the pearl then, just in case the soldiers turned up knocking on her door demanding for the pearl. She rubbed the pearl with a cloth, the pearl shone, and Maddie said her wish.

As soon as she finished saying her wish, the pearl dropped from her hands and smashed into bits. Maddie screamed in fright and in horror. After all those years of researching and hard work it was destroyed. Maddie sunk to the ground on both knees. "God, I'm sorry, I now know that you have great power and that there is definitely no need for magic." And then suddenly, she teleported back to the top of the mountain with the pearl in her hands. "A second chance?" Maddie asked. "Oh of course, God will always give us a second chance in faith and just in life!"

No Pearl

Maddie clutched the pearl in her hands, and she had decided that instead of smashing it, she would give it to the museum where it would be kept safe. She ran down the mountain as fast as she could! When she got there, she went straight to the museum to hand it in. The people at the museum inspected the piece and told Maddie that the pearl was dangerous and that they would definitely keep it safe at the museum, and hoped it was safe enough so that no one got their hands on it again...

One year later...

"Hi Jeff, you coming to church today?" asked Maddie.

"Yeah, I wouldn't miss it for anything. I'm so happy you convinced me that God is great and real." The two friends walked into church

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

with smiles on their faces and worshiped God.

This story teaches us to love and worship God and never disobey him and his word. Never be scared to teach or ask someone about God because you could end up changing people's lives forever and they could experience God's love and peace in Heaven and on Earth.

Romans 5:8 says, "God commanded his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

THE TYPEWRITER



Most days were ordinary for Aurora. But not today. Today was her birthday and she was turning 16. She could finally start to drive. Today she got a new iPhone and had the significant feeling of being 16. She had waited for so long for the day to finally arrive

and this was it. Aurora was a city girl, she lived in Brooklyn and loved God wholeheartedly.

First, she helped her dad set up all the decorations. Once she had finished everyone was starting to arrive. Her best friend Ariya came through the door with a small little box in her hands. Next, her Grandpa arrived with a big box!

“What could be in it?” Aurora wondered.

Following the cake, she started opening her presents. She got some amazing gifts but the one she had most been intrigued by was the present from Grandpa. It was a typewriter. What could she do with that? How does it even work? Why did he give it to her? Aurora was confused.

“Thanks, Grandpa,” she smiled with a heartfelt tilt.

“That's alright, kiddo,” he smiled back.

After the party, Aurora studied the typewriter like she had never studied anything before. She was intrigued by all the little buttons and knobs, and with all the small keys with the faded letters. She wasn't quite sure how she was going to work out how to use it, but she knew that she would figure it out somehow. She always did. On her own (sigh).

3 days later...

Aurora was about to head out for her morning bike ride with Ariya when suddenly, as she was walking out the door, a black limo pulled out the front of the house. Two men in suits stepped out of the vehicle. Her eyes filled with tears. They talked to mum. She was crying. Tears ran down her face, then dropped on the ground. Grandpa had died. She was devastated. She loved and trusted grandpa so much, and now he was gone.

Sorrow filled the house for days after. She and Ariya hung out a lot.

Sometime after it passed, Aurora invited Ariya to try and figure out the typewriter even though it hurt to think of grandpa. As the days went by, she had started to figure out how to use it.

The keys were old, but how beautiful! All the brown colours! Oh, how she loved antique things. Even though she was a city girl, she felt as if she was a beautiful girl that lived in a cottage in a forest, but she was dreaming. No dreaming, she told herself.

After school one morning, she pulled herself together to try and write a story.

“Once upon a time...” She kept typing. “There was a girl who lived in a forest, a beautiful forest covered in greens all around her.”

Suddenly, she was surrounded by greens all around her! Where was she! Aurora felt like nothing she'd felt before. She heard the most beautiful sounds ever! And felt the softest grass.

But when she opened her eyes, she was back in her room! What? So, she typed again.

“There's a deer!” It was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen! Aurora decided to try typing a mythical unicorn. It worked! As she typed, things started to come to life. But when she opened her eyes, it was gone!

“Use it wisely,” a voice whispered in the distance.

Aurora was terrified as she didn't know what to expect. Was it a ghost? Or a mummy? She wasn't sure, but she *was* sure she needed some air, so she went for a bike ride with Ariya.

“That's when I heard it! It was a deep voice, but it sounded familiar.” Aurora faded her voice as she described it to Ariya.

“Wow! I wouldn't use the typewriter if I were you!” exclaimed Ariya.

“Yeah, maybe,” she said softly.

Once they got home from the bike ride, Aurora went straight back to her room to type. She was happy when she typed. She felt as if she was finally free, and the burden was falling off her back. All her worries were gone. But that was crazy. Why was she thinking like this?

The more she typed, the more she fell in love with her stories. She typed...

There was a wobba cat in a library reading a book. Once upon a time two fairies lived in Mushroom Land happily. There were magical creatures living all around them like the splendiferous catlika deer and a toad. They did everything together. One day she was reading a book when a bad shadow started to follow her...

"AHHH!" Aurora screamed as she opened her eyes. She was back in her room. (Sigh!)

"Ok, let's try and see if the shadow will follow me now," she thought.

Candy land...

Taking steps so slow, the two sisters continued their search through Candy Land.

Looking around, they could see ice creams on rooftops, fairy floss clouds, mini gummy bears scurrying around on the sprinkle flavoured tiles, honeycomb trees and a HUGE jelly castle towering over them... and they looked so delicious. One of the girls took a huge bite of a sugarcane tree when a huge chocolate gummy bear giant towered over them!

"Who dares to eat my dessert!" shouted the giant.

The girl's mouths were open wide. But nothing came out.

"Are you deaf!" screamed the chocolate monster.

The two sisters froze in amazement but at the same time they were scared out of their wits.

They ran as fast as they could, thinking that they could outrun the terrifying monster. Screaming so loud, the chocolate-covered giant ran after them...

Continuing typing...

...They never saw the girls ever again.

That's so sad! Why did that happen? Was Aurora even in the candy land! She was so confused.

Once in a far-away land there lived an alien. He was a spacecraft monkey. He was brown and looked like a normal monkey but he studied the movement of asteroids and planets. Then each month he would report back to earth. Suddenly, one quiet night, loads of asteroids were hitting and smashing against his ship. There were big ones and small ones but they each got bigger every time. Sadly, the spacecraft monkey died. The end.

What? Where did that come from... she wasn't writing that? Her imagination was taking her away. Or was someone doing it on purpose? She didn't know but she did know she needed to get some sleep.

After a good night's sleep, Aurora realised that she had to go to school (sigh).

7 hours later...

Once school was finally finished, Aurora invited Ariya to come with her and they went straight back to the typewriter. There was a girl. She lived in a small town under the sign of

Hollybollywood. She was a poor girl, and her dad only earned \$5 a day and that wasn't a lot of money. One day, she was going to get some food...

...when a man kidnapped her and they never saw her again.

The end. (She got killed by the way).

Seriously, where did that actually come from! Was someone targeting her?

Ping! It was her phone. The message said, "I am onto you. I am waiting."

"It didn't have a number?" explained Aurora.

"I told you! You shouldn't be using that typewriter! It gives me the CREEPS!" screamed Ariya.

"IT'S NOT YOUR TYPEWRITER!" screamed Aurora back. "Besides, it reminds me of Grandpa!" she wailed.

Then Ariya stormed off, almost looking offended.

"Okay, back to the text," sighed Aurora as she exhaled calmly.

Typing, typing, typing was all Aurora could think about.

Once a girl lived in a small part of town. She lived with her grandparents. She was happy until one day her grandparents were nowhere to be found. She was devastated. MISSING GRANDPARENTS! She could see it on a headline already. NO! That can't happen. She can't think like this.

Ping! It was yet another message, from the same person, except it was a voice mail.

"Why have you not come looking for me?" it questioned in a really creepy voice.

That's it, she was not going to be scared anymore. She was going to go to find the mysterious person and see what they wanted, and why they wanted her.

She journeyed through her typewriter. Travelling through different worlds fascinated her. Magical everything: animals, trees, clouds and so much more. Then suddenly – there – to the North! She started walking then saw she had entered a war zone.

Guns just lying on the ground. But Aurora noticed a figure walking towards her with slow steps. The image became clearer. It was a man - with a gun!

BANG! Aurora heard gunshots in the distance and she needed to hide quickly!

The strange man wasn't the one shooting though - he was just trying to make her scared. Aurora ran with full power, in the opposite direction, away from the mysterious man. Was he the man that was sending her scary messages?

BANG!

There it was again. She needed to find somewhere to hide away, immediately. As Aurora glanced around frantically, she spotted a giant hole she could hide in until she figured out what to do next. As she approached the hole, she saw something she never wanted to look at.

Bodies. Blood. Everywhere. (That's what was in the hole). Aurora never wanted to look at anything like this.

Suddenly, icy cold fingers gripped her shoulder. She didn't know who it was. But then a voice whispered in her ear, "You look lost?"

She felt like she recognised the voice. Was it from the message? Was this the man she was looking for?

"Who are you and what do you want?" questioned Aurora.

“Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't introduce myself. I am the Lucius!” he replied.

She didn't know what to do. She didn't have any friends to talk to. This was awful. Then suddenly, things went black.

The next thing that Aurora could recall was waking up on the floor in a room with Lucius next to her, in a war hospital. Was she typing this? What? Why?

“You fainted,” Lucius explained.

She still didn't trust him.

“Do you think I'm sending you the scary messages?” asked Lucius.

“What! How do you know that?” screamed Aurora uneasily.

“You talked in your sleep,” he said while trying to hide his smile.

Humph. Why did he have to be so intimidating? And annoying?

“And no, I am not sending messages. I was a soldier, but the war is starting to end so now I am practically free.”

He sounded very free - not alone, like her (sigh).

After a few hours of recovery, she went for a walk with Lucius. They walked and talked. And the conversations were endless - they didn't stop and if they did, they would start up right again. They entered different lands and worlds every once in a while, too. There were pretty worlds with unicorns and fairies. There were weird worlds with aliens and sweet worlds with lollies and sweets. If only she could stay there forever! But she was dreaming. No dreaming she told herself, again.

Then they entered a dark place. A sign said *The Devils Land*. It was foggy and they could hear birds croaking. She didn't want to be there so they stuck close to each other. They got closer and closer

to the big gloomy castle and the closer they got, the scarier it felt.

“WHO DARES DISTURB MY BEAUTY SLEEP!” a cranky man's voice boomed and echoed.

“I AM THE DEVIL. DEXTER THE DEVIL!” he described with pride.

“We should get out of here,” whispered Lucius.

“Yeah, good idea,” Aurora whispered back.

“YOU CAN'T LEAVE!” yelled the devil.

“Why does he yell so much?” asked Aurora.

“I don't know, but he sounds pretty dumb,” laughed Lucius. “But I wouldn't play around with him,” he said becoming serious again.

As they walked further, they started to notice all the statues of the people that used to live there. It was a small town but it looked like an almost an abandoned one. Yet still, very poor people did live there. They don't get much attention from Dexter the Devil.

A kind lady whispered to Aurora and Lucius, “Dexter used to be a nice man and he ruled with sympathy and compassion, but one day he started changing and turning the innocent into statues because they would not obey his every command, which included bowing down to him. We didn't do it because we knew it wasn't right - knowing we should only worship the one and only God.”

“Are you a Christian Aurora?” asked Lucius.

“Yes, I go to church, but seeing all this, I don't know what to believe,” Aurora said with a sigh.

“Ahh, well, being a Christian doesn't just mean you have to go to church. It means you know that God saved you and you have repented. Reading the Bible also helps,” he explained sounding exceptionally clever.

She took what he said into her heart deeply.

Suddenly, fire balls started going in all the directions possible. They were coming from the castle. In the distance they could hear...

“HA! HA! HA!”

It was Dexter. He was aiming fireballs directly at Aurora and Lucius. They were going everywhere. The pair ran but the fireballs kept coming. They were as hot as coal in a fire and could burn your whole body in half a second - maybe even quicker. The pair needed to hide, away from there, ASAP! They could see houses getting demolished by the fire. They were creating bush fires and it just wasn't a safe environment to be in at all!

“RUUNNN!” everybody was yelling. It was hurting their ears. Yelling, yelling and yelling was all they could hear.

Aurora was terrified: scared that she could be separated from her family forever. Scared she would lose her best friends and was even more scared that she could lose Lucius. She didn't want to lose Lucius! Why was she even thinking like this? Was she typing this? She didn't know what to do.

They were still running frantically. Aurora's legs hurt and her heart was racing. She just wanted to go home, but now she only knew what running away felt like. Miraculously, Aurora and Lucius stumbled upon a hut. They ran in and slammed the door shut before anyone else could get in. Hearts pounding, they hid there for what felt like hours, all scrunched up crying, trying to figure a way out. Aurora was embarrassed by her crying but Lucius was comforting her, and she felt safe with Lucius.

1 hour later...

“I am going to go check if the coast is clear,” Lucius spoke with a

smile on his face.

“You're a good man Lucius,” sighed Aurora.

“Don't worry, I'll be back,” he grinned.

“But what if you're not?” Aurora wailed.

“Then tell my parents I'm dead,” he insisted.

They both let out a chuckle and smiled back at one another. Then gave each other a long hug. I do love you Lucius, thought Aurora. Should she say it? Yes, I will do it.

“I do love you Lucius,” smiled Aurora.

“Me too,” he smiled back. “I hope I see you in Heaven Aurora.”

“That's *if* I die.” They grinned and chuckled as he walked out the door.

She still heard lots of screaming and big bangs. BANG! That one was really loud. Oh no, Lucius! There he was! Burned! Dead!

Aurora was devastated. She had lost everything, including love and trust from everyone. But not God! She remembered she was not alone. Even if she had lost everything, God was still on her side.

Aurora fell to the floor.

She woke up in her bed with a doctor by her side. Her parents and Aryia were there as well. Did they still love her? Was she alive? She thought she was dead! But wait! Her imagination took her away and she wasn't dead. She'd just been sleeping and it all made sense now!

“Your'e alive!” Aryia screamed while crying. “I thought you were dead! You cried in your sleep and were out for days!”

“Are we still friends?” asked Aurora emotionally.

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

Then they gave each other the biggest hug ever and Aurora felt loved. Thanks to God!

“Lucius!” screamed Aurora. “You’re not my imagination!” She was confused.

“Well, you loved me so much, I am now a real person.” He always did have a smile on his face.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



“Hey mum, can you please get me a doll to play with? I really want one!” asked Edith.

“No, you don’t need one, you have friends,” replied her mum with an annoyed tone.

“But whyyyyy?” Edith begged with a sadly. So later at night when Edith was told to go to bed she sneaked out and wandered across the street until she saw the doll shop she had dreamt of. She went in just before the store closed and hid behind the curtains.

As soon as the shopkeeper locked the shop and left, she heard some noises from a doll, but she couldn't understand what it was saying because it was muffled. Cautiously, she left the curtains and checked both sides of the hallway and rooms.

Edith prayed to God saying with sadness, "Lord I am sorry, I shouldn't have disobeyed my mother and come here, but please help me get out of here, safely."

She went down the hallway looking for a way to get out and she saw something around the corner. Not a key, not an exit, but a talking doll with a shining light around her. Edith sprinted right back to the main room as fast as she could and hid behind the curtain once again, as she was panting with fear and regret. After about a few minutes of hiding, she saw the light of a talking doll. It started the muffled talking again but this time it was saying something she could barely understand. It sounded something like how she wouldn't escape, and even said her name!

Edith prayed once again, but this time saying, "Lord please get this doll out of here, it was wrong of me to come here but now I need to get out!"

After she prayed, she turned around to see a bunch of toys in boxes. Three of the boxes had glowing keys. As the creepy doll left the strange room into the mysterious hallway, Edith exited through the curtain with the glowing keys in her hand. As she spotted an exit door, she tried the red one first. Didn't work! Next, she tried the green key and it also didn't work. In fact, it wasn't even close. She tried the final key, a golden key, and it worked!

As she happily exited the creepy haunted doll house, she sighed with relief while looking at the ground. When she was looking for her home, she saw that it was already daytime.

Happily, Edith prayed once again, "Lord thank you so much for

helping me get out of there alive and please help my mum not to worry about where I am."

Once she found her home, she sneaked back inside and pretended she was asleep because it was still early in the morning. When Edith's mother awoke, Edith told her everything, but her mother hardly believed what she heard, although after a while of convincing, her mother believed and called the police to come check what was happening at the doll store.

When the police arrived, they visited the doll store and questioned the shopkeeper. He said that nothing was going on, even though it was easy to tell he was lying.

The police investigated the doll store and saw a mysterious door that was locked up, so they kicked the door down and went in because the shopkeeper had lied once again, obviously. Unfortunately, the police saw the dolls moving around and had to try get rid of them somehow, although they decided to keep them alive for research. After 10 minutes of arresting the dolls, they were in hand cuffs and could hardly move at all.

A while later, the police forgot about where the shopkeeper went because they couldn't see him anywhere, but after some thought, they sent a search team to find him. The search team easily found him in an alleyway and took him to custody.

At court he was proven guilty and confessed that he made a potion that turned humans into talking dolls. He was charged and sentenced to 32 years in prison.

Some researchers were also taken into custody for making the potion, but fortunately, some good researchers had already been working on a potion to quickly turn the dolls back into humans.

It turned out that the people that were turned into dolls were little kids which loved God and were in the same position as Edith was when she was at the doll store, but sadly got caught.

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

This story teaches us that disobeying our parents and going after our own desires without thinking about the consequences can lead to dangerous situations. But...

It also shows the power of prayer and how we should trust in God for help. So, when you find yourself in trouble, seek God's help and guidance.

Disobedience may seem harmless at first, but it can lead to unexpected dangers and regrets. Thankfully, God is always there, even when we make mistakes, to guide us back. Trust God and He will protect you from the traps of this world!

Obedying your parents may be hard sometimes but disobeying them will make things go wrong and exactly how you don't want them.

Ephesians 6: 1-2 says, "Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. Honor your father and mother. This is the first commandment with a promise."

SOME GAMING TROUBLE



You are a gamer and non-Christian and you put your games on YouTube. One day you are playing games and the power goes out. Everything goes black and that is so annoying because you were right in the middle of a YouTube video. So, you try and get up and go to bed because you've stayed up all night trying to get this game right.

When you're walking to your room, it is pitch black because you

closed all your curtains before the game and it's so dark you can't open them again. As you walk to your room, you accidentally knock over the glass of water you had while you were gaming. All of a sudden, the tv screen cracks open and a green and purple portal pops open and sucks you in!

Everything goes black. You open your eyes to see exactly what you saw in your video game! And then you look at your hands and they're digital! You faint AGAIN.

You wake up again and finally you're used to it. You look at your watch and it's 12 in the afternoon. Wow! You were asleep that long! You look around your surroundings and you're in your Minecraft game! So, you knew you were going to have to start chopping down trees first and boy, it hurt! Finally, you have enough to make a few tools.

You lose hope and it feels like you're going to be stuck in Minecraft forever! But then you see two doors and weirdly there's a sign on each door, so you go over to them and read them. The right door says, *Riches and Fame*, and on the left door it says, *The Way...* Weird!

Right Door

You choose the right door because riches and fame sound good. When you step in you are still blocked like in Minecraft, but you see millions of gold blocks and red stones and diamonds. But there are also a few zombies that definitely didn't want to share their fortune with you and something really weird happens that has never happened on Minecraft before. One of the zombies said, "My name is Fame," and another one says, "My name is Fortune."

"The last one says, "My name is Envy." Wow! You weren't expecting that!

They start chasing you, but you want all this glory, so you stand up to the zombies. After a while, you know you have no chance against these zombies and just before you die again, a glowing gold hand reaches down and you see a man in gold garments with pierces in his hands and feet, and one in his side. He takes you out of the right door and places you in front of the left door that says *The Way*.

Left Door

You take one last look at him, and you see a glowing Bible in His hands. As you walk into the left door, you see him standing in front of you smiling. Then you end up on your couch with that same glowing, glittering Bible in your hands. You read and read!

Revaluation 1: 7 says, "Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!"

Proverbs 1:7-8 says, "Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

Psalm 103:12 says, "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."

A VERY SMART CHOICE



You are a famous, wonderful kid, known for always making tough choices and getting through them. You are a strong Christian, and you love to help people. You want to help kids all over the world, which is why you take on challenges to raise money for them.

Today, you are standing outside a big supermarket, ready to take on another challenge. Your task is to go around the shopping centre and buy whatever you want, but you obviously have to pay for it. Your money is in a small yellow envelope, but you don't know how much money is in there—it's a mystery. Whatever you buy has to be equal to or less than the amount of money in the

envelope. If you spend the right amount, you get to keep all the items and receive double the amount of money. However, if you spend even one cent over, you have to return everything and give \$9,000 to each person you intended to buy from.

When you walk in, you suddenly realise that you're in a trap. If you go over the amount of money, you'll lose all your savings! You wonder how you could do this, but you decide to go ahead anyway. You're not worried because you trust in God. So, you start shopping.

You are competing against another person—a boy who has already bought ten Ninja Turtles for \$100 each. He also bought 100 chocolate bars for all his friends, keeping half for himself, at \$10 each. Lastly, he bought 20 lollies for \$1 each, totaling \$2,020.

In the end, you buy a giant Squish-mallow for \$100. Then you get 1,000 fidgets, including squishies, poppets, and more, all totaling \$200. That means you would have to pay \$300 so far. You don't know if you've gone under or over the budget, so you pray to God, and He tells you that you still have a lot of room in your budget. But you're not done yet. Next, you buy a lifetime supply of lollies for \$500. You love buying stuff, so you head to the "Stuff" store and buy a load of "stuff." Next, you buy a mansion for \$1,000.

That's all you got, and it would cost a total of \$2,000. You bought it all for your friends and for kids in need in other countries. You will only keep what's left. You see one more thing that you want for yourself—a giant gummy bear for \$20—but you hear God's voice telling you not to get the gummy bear, and you choose to...

No Gummy Bear

You decide not to buy it because it was just one thing, and you could come back and get it later. You go to the counter and hand in your items. The person at the counter opens the envelope while you pray under your breath, asking God to help you get through this. She pulls out the money, and you sigh with relief. The

envelope contains \$2,000. You made it through and can now help the homeless and poor kids around the world. You thank God for His help and tell everyone about this marvelous challenge. Now, you travel around the world, spreading the good news and helping the homeless, even though you're young.

Your opponent, on the other hand, hands out the money to the shop owners and then slumps out of the shop. You feel sorry for him and share your prize with him. The boy takes the money and runs off without thanking you. You don't care because everyone sins, so you ask God to forgive and protect him.

Yummy Gummy Bear

You choose the gummy bear and go to the counter, happy with your decision, but you feel a bit of guilt for not listening to God. The lady at the counter opens the envelope and pulls out the money. As soon as you see the money, your heart sinks—you were \$20 over, and now you have to pay the price for not listening to God.

You go to the shop owners and give them the money. Then, you return home and realise you can't buy anything because you have no money left.

Your opponent wins, even though he spent the same amount, because he was the first one to finish shopping. The boy jumps for joy and runs out of the shop to tell his friends.

This story teaches you not to turn away from God and His instructions. If you trust in God and follow Him, you will live an enjoyable and awesome life with God forever and ever!

Philippians 2:13 says, "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

DARE DEVIL



You are a curious, experienced, daredevil deep-sea diver, always on the lookout for new, strange, and creepy species to report to wildlife researchers for documentation. If you're not careful though, you risk being fired. Today, you realise that your next dive will take you to your least favourite beach. You're a bit annoyed but also excited at the same time.

Once there, you dive to a depth of 500 meters. As you look around, you see all sorts of fish swimming around you, and you're amazed and dazzled by the sight. You keep going deeper, captivated by the even stranger fish you encounter. You're so absorbed in the

experience that you forget to document them.

You continue descending until you reach a depth of 1000 meters. By now, the surroundings have become truly bizarre. You're pretty sure you see a glowing fish that looks like a cluster of aliens. Then, out of nowhere, you notice a big shadow following you. Slowly, you start to panic and swim faster. When you glance behind you, you realise it's a massive, creepy, 30-metre long Megalodon!

You swim away as fast as you can, but then you realise that you're running low on oxygen. You have to think quickly. You do have a spare tank, but there's a decent-sized hole in it. Your other option is to use your life jacket, but there's a chance it won't work. Time is running out, and the Megalodon is gaining on you.

First Option

You decide to use the tank with the hole in it because your daredevil spirit pushes you to see who is faster—you or the Megalodon. You start to swim, but the Megalodon catches you in its jaws. Sadly, curiosity killed the cat.

Second Option

You decide to use the life jacket and pull the string. Luckily, it works! You narrowly escape being eaten by the Megalodon. Congratulations—you're free. You didn't let your daredevil side take over this time. However, the consequences of your choices catch up with you, and you lose your job.

James 1:5 says, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking."

So, if *you* find yourself in a tricky situation, a bit like in this story, seek God's wisdom before you be a daredevil.

CANYON OF CHOICE



You are a promising explorer visiting the Sahara Desert for research and fame, when a huge sandstorm swallows you. You can't see anything. You choose to keep walking (even though your training advises you to stop and take shelter), but you don't find any protection. If you listened to your training, you wouldn't have tripped on a rock and fallen into a deep canyon.

Uninjured, you slowly pick yourself up and trudge along the rocky floor of the canyon, sheltered from the howling sandstorm. Your arms and legs sting with scratches. Eventually, you find a split in

the path ahead. The first option looks like it's going up out of the canyon and the second one goes down into a submerged cave.

You like the look of the one going upwards, so you choose that track. You keep going up until the path flattens ahead of you, so you take a break to rest. Just as you stop, the ground below you opens up and you fall through the roof of an ancient cave right onto a stalactite and get shrieked at by a horde of ugly, brown bats. You survive but it takes time to recover and you discover the bats are friendly.

You end up living deep underground in the dark cave for the next four years studying their screeches and become an expert in bat research.

The second path goes down straight into a different cave, which gradually lightens up as you go further in. Before you know it, you are in a well-lit underground city, where you discover the shadowy figures of several dwarves secretly extracting precious gems. Luckily, they didn't see you slide behind a dark cavity at the tunnel entrance.

The small miners are not at all pleased when they see your dusty footprints and they chase you out of hiding with worn-down pickaxes and shovels, shouting and cursing at you.

"Come back! Get over here!"

"Not a chance! I will not stop!"

You hope for an invisible cloak, but you are not a magician.

Instead, grabbing a nearby shovel, you turn and face them.

"Action!" They smile and rush forward to shake your hand.

When you see their cameras and hidden microphones, you realise that it is a film crew! You breathe out a silent prayer of gratitude. They ask you to join their production of Indiana Jones and you become famous, but not in the way you first expected.

Proverbs 15:24 says, "The path of life leads upward for the prudent."

Proverbs 16:4 says, "The Lord works out everything to its proper end."

JUST SKATE



You are a young boy named Jack, and you are very good at skateboarding. You decide it's time to take your skills to the next level.

The next day, you hear your friends talking about the National Skateboarding Competition. This gives you the idea to truly challenge yourself. You do some research to find out when it is and whether you'll have enough time to practise. After gathering all the information, you decide it's time to sign up. The next day, you go to the registration, fill in your personal details, enter your name, and you're ready to go.

When you get home, you think, "It's practise time!" You head to your local skate park to practise. You get your phone and speaker, put on your favourite song (*Do You Like Waffles?*) and start skating. You perform ollies, shuvits, kickflips, and heelflips. Once you feel ready, you decide you can start working on harder tricks. After a good practice session, you head back home.

At home, you decide to call your friends over to help you decide which tricks you should do in the competition. You call your best friends, Chris and Zack, and they come over to help you with your routine.

The day you've been waiting for finally arrives—the day of the National Skateboarding Competition. You feel very nervous. When it's your turn, you climb up the stairs to the top of the halfpipe, getting into position to drop in. Suddenly, you hear a familiar voice, "Go, Jack! Go, Jack!" It's Chris and Zack cheering you on. This makes you even more nervous than before, so you pray to God for help. God gives you the courage you need, and you drop in down the halfpipe. You perform a series of tricks without messing up. Your score is 98.7, and you're currently in second place.

As you're going down the stairs, the next competitor goes down the halfpipe, but he takes a bad fall. It's very embarrassing for him, and you have two thoughts in your head.

Your First Thought

You look at what happened, ride your skateboard up to him, and think about spitting on him, saying, "That sucked. How did you even make it into the competition?" As soon as the judge hears this, he disqualifies you. Feeling upset, you go home with Chris and Zack, who help you feel better.

Your Second Thought

You look at what happened and feel sorry for him. You imagine how embarrassing that must have been for him, so you pray for him. You say, "Dear Lord, I want to pray for this man. He just fell off

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

his skateboard and is bleeding. Please help him, Lord."

You then ride up to him on your skateboard, help him up, and say, "Good luck."

Because of this act of kindness, the judge moves you up one place, putting you in first place on the leaderboard.

At the end of the competition, the judge announces the scores, saying, "In first place, we have Jack Smith! Get up here!"

When you step onto the stage, the crowd starts chanting, "Speech! Speech!" So you say, "I would just like to thank my parents. When I was little, they gave me a skateboard, and that's what got me into skateboarding. I would also like to thank Chris and Zack for cheering me on."

Afterward, you celebrate with Chris and Zack by getting milkshakes. When you get back home, you thank God for helping you in the competition.

THE AMAZON



You are a brave explorer and fast runner, and yet no one knows about you as you have no family and no friends: not that you tried to make any. You are passionately searching the Amazon Rainforest with hope that you can find the most poisonous frog in the world. Food is almost gone and you have been searching for the frog for the past 3 weeks and everywhere you go is lonely and damp. Your camp continues to get wrecked and you must find a new shelter almost every night. The crickets are the only thing that you can hear, in your gloomy search, and you are heart-broken nothing had gone right for the past few weeks, and it hurts

to even think about the path ahead. With your compass broken and no signal for your phone, you feel like escape is hopeless.

Hopeless with no escape, you slowly drag yourself back to your broken and battered camp. Deep within the jungle, and only a few meters off your camp, you hear something; something new. Turning ever so slightly, you see a creature duck down and sprint away into the depths of the jungle, not to be seen ever again. Fear grips your heart. You blink and rub your eyes, sure you must be dreaming.

But that night, as you lay in your swag, you hear the sound again. You ignore it for the first hour, until you can stand it no more and leap out of your bed. You want change but you decide there is no time so you put on the same clothes as the day before as you grab your flashlight. With your flashlight circling the camp, you are sure you will see a sign to help you.

Just before the light can touch it, an emerged shape ducks and sprints away. You remember where you had seen those movements before. This time the creature won't escape you; you are sure of it. As you sprint into the dark jungle, you realise you have totally lost your way. Wondering how you will get back to your camp, you stop, sure you're doomed. Then you see a cave and hope that you will somehow return to civilisation.

You run towards the cave, turning off your flashlight; you're sure you know the way. But turning off your flashlight is never a good idea; and what happens next just proves it. As you run, you trip and fall into a pit that seems like it will never end. The pit ends just 2 minutes after you first tripped.

You try to turn on the flashlight. Flat batteries! You know you should have charged it before you left. You want to scream, but then you see a light. Turning around, you see a door: 2 doors actually!

The first door reads, "Fortune and escape for the humble," and the next one reads, "Fortune and escape for all who want to rich." You are confused and imprisoned. You don't know which door to pick. Decisions have never been easy for you to make and you feel hopeless.

You pick the second door, because, who doesn't want to be rich? You step longingly into the room and feast your eyes on... nothing! You search the room for the gold that was promised to you, but the more you search the more delirious and wanting you become. Confused, angry and delirious thoughts are all swirling around in your head and you become crazy and silly, but when you are silly you do silly things. This time, you run into a wall, but the vibrations cause the cave around you to collapse and "cave in" on you. You die.

But imagine you choose the first door because you like the sound of being humble rather than being rich and wealthy! You cautiously step into the room, making sure that you don't over-react if there is anything that might make you go crazy with wanting. You walk in and see nothing, but instead of looking for the money again, you don't think much of it and look for the exit instead. As you step out into the exit, you see a plane that is ready for you to fly home in!

When you arrive home, you tell no one about your adventure, so that if someone else encounters what you found, then they can Choose for themselves if they want to be humble or rich. You survive because you are wise.

The lesson in this story is clear: greed leads to destruction, but God's door leads to never being lost and never being alone. His door isn't always the flashiest or the richest, but it's the one that leads to life and peace. When you stop chasing after what the world values and choose God's door, He provides the way forward, guiding you to where you truly belong.

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

Matthew 7: 13-14 says, “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.”

But Proverbs 3: 5-6 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

BMXING



You're a young boy named Chris, and you have a passion for BMXing. Living in Australia, you discover there is a Junior BMX competition that could take you to the nationals. Excited, you join the competition and prepare to perform your best trick: a backflip off a tightrope. You train hard, and when the day comes, you execute the trick flawlessly. The judges love it, and you qualify for the national BMX competition. You're so happy that you can barely hold back your tears.

With the nationals only a month away, you start thinking about

your next move. You know that the tightrope backflip won't be enough to win at that level.

As the day approaches to submit your trick for the nationals, you decide on a daring move: a quadruple backflip followed by a quadruple front flip. The organisers think you're crazy, but they don't say no. Determined to get it right, you throw yourself into training.

With only two weeks left, you've mastered the quadruple front flip, but you can only manage a triple backflip. You know that getting it right is crucial, or you'll lose. So, you go to your room and pray, "Lord, whoever you pick to win, I hope it's the right choice. I hope they don't brag about it, and I hope they trust in You. Amen."

The day of the competition arrives. You're twentieth in line, waiting for your turn. Boom! The first rider performs a double backflip on a tandem bike. Then boom! The next rider does five backflips in a row. As rider after rider goes, you start to feel bored. After what feels like an eternity, there are still ten people ahead of you.

"This is taking forever," you think to yourself. You're about to drift off to sleep when BOOOOOM! The tenth rider's turn grabs your attention. You think it was cool, and then the next rider goes, and the next. The line is moving faster now.

Feeling the time is right and you pray, "Dear Heavenly Father, I hope there are no accidents from now on. I hope nobody feels jealous. Amen."

You open your eyes, and there are now only five people ahead of you. Your nerves start to build. You close your eyes again, and when you open them, there are just two riders left in front of you.

Finally, there's only one person ahead of you. As he attempts a backflip, BOOOOOM! His pants get stuck in the chain, and they fall down. You suddenly have two choices: laugh at him and bully him, or help him by pulling his pants back up and cheering him

on.

Laugh and Bully him

His pants fall down, and you decide to laugh at him. You yell to the crowd to join in, but they shout back, "No!" The judges look disappointed and tell you that you shouldn't have done that. You argue, saying, "If you were in my shoes..." But it's too late—you get disqualified. You cry and later go to your room to pray, "Lord, I'm sorry for what I did. Please forgive me. I did the wrong thing."

Pull his Pants Up

You go over to him and say, "Get up," as you pull his pants back up and cheer him on. The judges are amazed—they didn't expect to see such sportsmanship. In the end, you win the gold medal, but when they praise you, you say, "Don't praise me, praise God."

THE SECRET



“Bye, Mum! Have fun at your party!” said Portia in a happy tone.
 “Thanks. Always remember I love you,” her mother replied.
 “I love you too,” said Portia, a smile spreading across her face.
 As her mum left with her friends, Portia exclaimed, “I am free!”
 But suddenly, she felt sad. She had never felt this way before.
 Normally, she would be happy when her mum left, but this time
 she wanted her to come back.
 “I can do what I want. Why am I sad? There is no reason to be

sad. Hmm... is this what depression feels like?” Portia wondered quietly to herself.

She walked past the pantry to get some food and sang, “Don't be suspicious, don't be suspicious.”

A mouse popped out and squeaked, “What were you singing? You are acting suspicious.”

“WHAT? NO, I'M NOT!” screamed Portia.

“You're cringey,” said the little mouse as it ran away.

Portia ate her chips and sighed, “That was weird.” She went into her room and watched YouTube, but soon got bored. “It's midnight. Why isn't Mum back yet? Maybe she is staying at a friend's house, but she would have at least texted me to tell me,” Portia thought, her worry growing. But eventually, she fell asleep. KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

“What's that? It's 6 a.m.”

“ARE YOU PORTIA LINDA ROSÈ?” yelled a police officer.

Portia yawned, “Yes, that's me. Why?”

“I'm very sorry for your loss. Your mother died in a car accident last night,” said the police officer.

Portia sat down, her mind racing with questions. “W-w-what do you mean, Officer?”

“I am very sorry,” said the police officer. The officer led Portia to his car. “We will go and see the person who is going to look after you from now on.”

“So, we will meet this person, then I will get all my stuff and pack?” asked Portia.

“Yes, we will do that. You are handling this very well!” smiled the officer. Portia stayed silent the whole car ride. The officer kept asking questions, but she ignored him. He could tell she was upset. Eventually, they arrived at the house.

“You didn't say he lives in a skyscraper. I'm more used to living in a farmhouse. I might not like it here,” cried Portia.

“You will love James. He is nearly the same age as you,” the officer

informed her.

“How old is he? You have to be over 18 to be a foster parent, and I'm 16,” Portia asked curiously.

They walked in, and James came out. He ignored them. He was an 18-year-old rich person. “You are the brat whose mother died?”

“Hey, I'm not a brat!” cried Portia. “You're mean!”

James scoffed.

The next day, Portia went home and started to pack her room. The officer left to buy her lunch. When the officer left, she rolled up the carpet and found a diary. It was her mother's. Portia was very interested and couldn't resist reading the whole thing. The last page brought her to tears... “Dear Portia Linda Rose, if you are reading this, you might think I am dead, but I'm not. You need to listen carefully. Do you remember your father? He left before you were born. Well, the story is complicated. When I was pregnant, I was 16, and your father was 24. He wanted nothing to do with the baby, so he left. I was homeless and pregnant, but luckily, James's father gave me a house, and I became rich. Your father was very angry, so now he has kidnapped me. You cannot go to James's house. He helped your father. Don't trust anyone.”

Portia was terrified. Was her mother really kidnapped? Should she trust her mother? Should she live with James? A thousand questions raced through her mind. She prayed to the Lord and asked for His guidance. Although she believed He was listening, she started having a panic attack. She lost hope in the Lord for a moment, but then she thought, “This is God's plan. Maybe everything will be okay, but right now, I just need to calm down.”

She sat on her bed and tried not to cry. It was so hard to think, so she picked up her phone and called her good friend Sebastian.

Sebastian came over and asked, “What's up? Are you okay? You look sad.”

Portia told him everything - the whole story, including her mum dying, the diary, James, the police, and every little detail.

It took about three hours to explain, and then Sebastian was really

confused.

“Are you okay? That sounds so hard. I could not have done that. We need to sort it out,” Sebastian said, very worried about his friend.

“Thanks, you're a great friend, but I need to sort this out myself. I wish my mum was here to tell me it would be okay. Every time I think of something, I always worry that it might be bad for someone. I sometimes forget that I have to look after myself too, but I don't know what's good for me right now. I have to try and figure out what the diary means,” Portia said, tears sliding down her face.

Sebastian looked at Portia, worried. “Are you sure you don't need me to do anything? Do you want a snack? You look like you need something to eat.”

“It's okay, Sebastian. I had some chips this morning,” said Portia as she tried to figure out what to do.

“Okay, well, I'm going to help you pack up and do some cleaning if you want me to.”

“It's good; the officer should be back sometime soon,” said Portia. She looked at her phone. “Should I call 911?”

“No, that will just cause more trouble. I think you should just focus on yourself at the moment,” said Sebastian as he made a sandwich for Portia.

“Thanks, but you didn't need to do that. You are a great friend. You've always been there for me when I need you. Thank you.”

Sebastian left after a while, and Portia was left alone. She didn't know what to do. She had two options: she could either listen to Sebastian and continue to pack, or she could call the police and tell them everything. Which one would she choose?

Portia decided to contact the police and tell them everything. They started an investigation, and soon they found her mother. Her father was arrested. She couldn't have been happier. She never stopped hugging her mum when they found her. They also put James in jail.

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

16 Years Later...

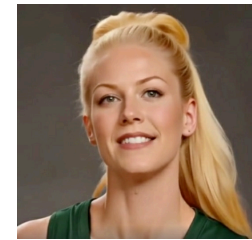
Now, Portia is the queen. Her mother died of old age, and Portia happily got married and had a child at the age of 30.

The moral of the story is to never to lose faith in the Lord. Even though it might not seem like it, Portia was a Christian, and the whole time, she trusted in the Lord, and everything worked out. Also, never trust a mean adult.

Psalm 28:7 says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song, I praise Him."

God sees everything that happens to you. He knows all and has protected you from it.

THE HIDDEN



Hey, it's Jeremy R. I am a God-loving lady and I like basketball, and of course I do a lot of story writing as well. I hope you like my latest story, *The Hidden*, and I also hope God has inspired you to do something amazing, because there is no excuse for not knowing God. Have the best day, and God bless you!



Rowan could barely breathe. He was overwhelmed and disheartened. He was imprisoned.

A tall figure, a cloaked man, walked into the dark room. As if to threaten Rowan, he smiled crudely and stepped towards the boy. Rowan was sprawled across the prison cell floor, taking big gasps of air. His heart pounding, he risked his energy to look up at the man. The man's dark lips curled and he pushed his spiked boot further into the floor.

For a moment the two just looked at each other, pain in each of their eyes. Rowan winced and dragged himself to the wall, grasping at the cracks in it to get away from the petrifying man. The cloaked figure unsheathed his sword and aimed it at Rowan. Although he was faint, Rowan had the strength to fight for himself, to remember the things he had mastered with the sword. Rowan was surprised by the weight and strain on his arms as he unsheathed his own sword. He was so surprised he could barely

hold it.

Rowan was weak.

The first scrape of metal clashing sounded too loud through the air. It hurt Rowan's head. This man didn't like Rowan. Rowan felt the same way about the man.

Suddenly, Rowan was down. Arm injured. Wincing at the pain in his leg. Barely breathing. Gasping. Heart pounding.

The man sheathed his sword. "What is your name, boy?"

Rowan didn't want to say.

"...Alex."

"Well...Alex, you are injured, yes?"

"No." Rowan didn't want this man to count his weaknesses. Rowan wanted the man to be... frightened.

"You are!" the cloaked man boomed.

Rowan looked at his feet. He couldn't hide his pain. He rubbed his leg. The man knelt next to Rowan, making the boy shudder. The man's cloak brushed Rowan's arm and he winced.

"What do you want with me? And who are you?" Rowan's voice almost raised to a scream as he said it.

He didn't regret it. But he regretted trusting the man before his imprisonment. It was why he was in the dark cell.

"I am the great and mighty swordsman. I go by the name Ezra. And I am more powerful than you."

Rowan now had a plan in mind. "You are," he said confidently.

Ezra stared into Rowan's soul. "The name you revealed to me is Alex. But Alex is not your real name."

"I go by the name Alex now."

"You do not," the man said calmly. "What is your name... in the language of your kind?"

Rowan knew what he was talking about. Ezra wanted to know Rowan's middle name... the name that described him. Every one of his kind had one. And his kind was the race of the Hidden. The Hidden were the people that hid from the world and the evil masterminds that ruled in it cruelly.

Rowan had been told his name. It was Alihan, which in the Hidden language meant "blessing". But he couldn't tell anyone.

"Idlan." Rowan had to lie. If anyone knew his true name, they could use it to their power to harm the Hidden. Rowan knew Idlan meant 'death to the harmful'.

Ezra seemed taken aback. He stepped backwards slowly, ever so slightly. His eyes had fear in them. But he shook his head and pushed his feelings to the side.

"Idlan. You... you are nothing compared to my power! I will see more of you... in time."

The next day, Rowan woke up feeling slightly stronger. He had decided that he didn't have a limit to how much power he had. Ezra stalked into the cell. Rowan got to his feet. His plan having failed the previous day, he had come up with a new one.

"I am healed, Ezra. I *am* a match to your power. I do not limit myself. *You*, I believe, are nothing compared to *my* power."

"Challenge accepted."

They lunged at each other. Rowan faked and ducked around Ezra. Ezra snarled and whipped his sword to Rowan's face, but Rowan swung his sword so that the swords met. Then he turned sharply

and had his sword under Ezra's chin.

"Do you surrender?" Rowan asked cunningly.

"Never!" Ezra ruthlessly yelled at the boy. "I won't lose to a child!" "You will... and you have. Now unless you don't want to live to see another day, let me out and do not betray me to the guards."

Ezra did something that was unimaginable. He surrendered.

Rowan cautiously removed his sword and ran.

"Guards! A prisoner has escaped!"

Rowan halted and stared back at his betrayer, Ezra. "Don't repeat it."

"Guards! A prisoner..."

He stopped in his tracks, not taking his eyes off Rowan. He couldn't. By simply holding out his hand, Rowan had silenced Ezra.

Rowan was surprised he had achieved a feat like that. He was astonished.

He took his hand away and kept running. When one guard, alone, came running at him, he stopped and bowed. "There is a prisoner on the left-hand cell, guard. But the cell isn't locked. Go bolt it."

"You are the prisoner!" The guard yelled. The guard ran at him, not falling for the trick.

Rowan put one foot forward and touched the floor. The guard slowed to a walk and obeyed Rowan and bolted the prison cell door shut.

Rowan wiped his eyebrow, surprised by the energy it had taken him to perform such feats. It was like... nothing Rowan had ever experienced, let alone he himself made happen.

As he went on, more guards came to stop him. He stepped his foot forward to make them stop. And some of them were so stunned and shocked, they couldn't even open their eyes. So, Rowan walked past. Others walked past him and didn't say anything.

At last, Rowan made it to the prison door, which would lead him out of that awful place. But before he could reach the door, he heard someone breathe, almost completely silently, but not quite. The person took another whisper of a breath. Rowan pivoted around and stared at the figure. It was a woman.

"Son of the Hidden, I know who you are. You are Alihan and your mother is Saline - the daughter of the Queen of Amketray, the city of the Hidden," the woman said knowledgeably, maintaining eye contact with Rowan.

"I never knew my parents, nor did I ever know where I came from. I was raised in a small town, north of Skalray City. I was lonely there. I am not royalty. And who are you to know who I am?" Rowan fumed, his voice going from a whisper to a shout toward the end.

Everyone seemed to know what he was worth and who he was. So he ran. The woman followed.

"Wait!" she yelled. Rowan stopped. The woman caught up and said swiftly, "Follow me, quietly."

Rowan couldn't refuse the look in her eyes. She seemed to know something he didn't. Like who he was.

"Where are you taking me?"

"To Amketray."

"That must be miles away!"

"Believe me, it's not."

Rowan knew that Amketray was an isolated city, but that was all he had heard about it. He was surprised when only an hour later, they reached the city. He realised that everything was under a clouded mist, and he didn't like the look of the place. It had a sense of evil and pain. Rowan felt as if something bad would happen. But he now knew if he was imprisoned he could escape. He was not powerless, although he was scared.

Rowan slowed and stopped a few metres before the city. Anxiety began to cloud his mind but he bravely walked on.

As the woman stopped in front of the city, she studied Rowan. She suddenly turned, bowed and stalked away. When she looked back at Rowan, she looked guilty. Rowan thought all these people he had met were very strange.

Now that Rowan was in Amketray, he decided to try find food and water, but he remembered he had been robbed of his money. But as he explored the city, he worried that his health wouldn't last. He hadn't eaten or drunk anything lately and his actions in power had made him weak.

But as he went further into the city, someone stopped him on the street.

"Boy. I see something special in you. Come with me," a woman said. Rowan was suspicious, but as the woman stepped her foot forward, Rowan was forced to follow her.

As he walked inside, he regretted coming to Amketray. He shouldn't trust anyone, even if they knew all about him, like a friend would. This woman was no friend. Rowan was scared; he walked inside the house anxiously.

Someone pinned him against a wall. It knocked the breath out of

LILY BRIGHTSTAR, BAREFOOT BOB AND JEREMY R

him. Why did people want him so badly? Did they know of his power?

But he would escape, he knew that. He was tough - brave.

He was Alihan.

Proof