

The Heart of a Hero

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Grade 4

Age, 10

There was a boy. A nice boy I must say, with greenish grey eyes, soft brown hair, and a scar down the middle of his chest from a previous surgery. Every day that young boy would wander the streets in a little superhero cape his mom made him for his birthday, helping each and every person that needed any sort of help.

The boy's name was Jack. Jack had a heart disease and had experienced over seven surgeries and still gets sick easily though. Every day he woke up, puts on his cape and becomes the neighborhood superhero. Now let's begin.

"Mom I want to go outside," Jack whined as he entered the room.

"Jack, you can't go outside until you eat your breakfast," his mother replied flipping a pancake.

Jack sighed and stared out the window.

It was the first morning of the month in which there was no fog and Jack was dying to see the October sunrise. The stars were still awake and eager to stay up past their bed time.

"Here you go," his mother said placing a small plate of pancakes.

Jack ate them quickly as the first sight of dawn appeared. Then he rushed to the door.

"Jack don't forget to get your cape." She handed him a little blue cape with the embroidered letters F and J for *Fearless Jack*.

"Thanks mom." Jack buttoned it around his neck and ran out.

"Hello there, Jack," said an old woman placing a lawn chair in the grassy area between her house and Jack's house.

"Hello, Mrs. Brown," Jack said taking a seat on the dewy lawn.

Mrs. Brown was Jack's neighbor from Texas. She was kind and taller than most other eighty year olds. She had puffy white hair which was always covered in a seasonal hat. Today it was a witch hat.

"Out and about this early?" Mrs. Brown asked taking a seat in her lawn chair.

"I didn't want to miss it," Jack rolled over and sighed.

"We're not the only people who had this idea you know," Mrs. Brown said pointing to the families across the street watching the sunrise.

"I know, but we got the best spot," and they spent the next few minutes watching each ray rise above the earth. One after another, after another, after another. Until all the stars fell asleep and the world was light again.

"Need any help getting up Mrs. Brown?" Jack said offering his hand.

"Of course, *Fearless Jack*," she said noticing his cape.

With kind hands, he pulled Mrs. Brown up and on her feet.

"Thank you very much, *Fearless Jack*." She picked up her lawn chair and walked into her house.

"What should I do today?" Jack wondered to himself. "Mom wanted to have cinnamon muffins for the past few days. Maybe I can buy a few with my money." He reached in his back pocket for some money.

He couldn't feel anything so he tried his other pocket and felt all around until he felt a rough piece of paper. Jack pulled it out of his pocket.

"Twenty dollars. That should be enough," he muttered to himself walking down the street to *Old Town Bakery*, the place his mom always got her muffins.

When he walked in a little chime rang and Jack sniffed the air. It smelled warm and sweet and just the sniff made him smile.

"Why if it isn't my favorite customer, *Fearless Jack*," called the man from behind the counter.

The man's name was Robert and he had gotten so used to Jack and his mom coming they became his favorite customers.

"Good morning," Jack said smiling as he walked up to the counter.

"So, what are you up to today?" he asked looking down from the counter.

"I'm getting my mom some cinnamon muffins," Jack replied.

"That's very kind of you. How many do you want?" He got out a box.

"How much would twenty dollars get me?" Jack said looking down at his twenty dollar bill.

"A half dozen," Robert replied. "And maybe a coffee and hot chocolate for free. Only because you are my favorite customers," he said filling the box.

"Great," Jack handed Robert his money over the counter.

"Here you go *Fearless Jack*. Have a nice day." He put the muffins, coffee, and hot chocolate in a bag and gave it to Jack.

"Thank you." Jack took the bag and walked out as the chimes chimed again.

As Jack walked home people said things like "*Fearless Jack* strikes again" and "*Fearless Jack* saves the day" and he smiled at them.

Once he got home it was around lunch time and the sun was shining directly in his eyes.

"I'm home," Jack called from the front door.

"The door's open. Come in," his mother called back to him.

“Hi mom, I got you some cinnamon muffins.”

“You didn’t have to do that.”

“That’s what kind of super hero I am.”

All of a sudden Jack started to breathe heavily and he took out a pill from his front pocket, then swallowed it.

“This is the third time since the surgery. I need to call Dr. Jane.” His mom took a hold of the phone and dialed a number. And as she held it up to her ear, her face grew pale. Then she placed it down.

“Jack, we are going to have to save the cinnamon muffin for later okay,” his mother said trying to smile.

“Mom, what’s going on?” Jack nervously looked up at his mother.

“It’s okay, it’s okay.” She comforted him though she seemed to also be comforting herself.

“Come on Jack, lets go to the doctors’ office.” She dragged Jack to the car and started to drive quickly.

Jack felt uncomfortable. He knew by his mom’s tone of voice everything wasn’t okay. But instead of going into the *Checkup Section*, his mother went into the *Emergency Section*. His mom talked to the doctor with a nervous look on her face and then he was put on a bed and rushed down a hall.

“Just be, *Fearless Jack*,” his mom called after him.

Once he entered the room the doctors gave him medicine.

He woke up five hours later with new stiches along his scar.

“Mom, what happened?” Jack asked.

"They gave you a new heart," His mother said holding his hand.

"Mom, I want to go home." Jack squeezed his mother's hand.

"In a little bit," and his mother smiled at him.

"Thanks for being *Fearless Jack*, everyone is rooting for you," she kissed his hand.

Jack looked around. Presents and get well cards surrounded his bed and they all were about *Fearless Jack*.

The light through the window was dim and he felt the sun falling beneath the earth only to come back the next day.

A few weeks later they got home. The sky was getting dark and early stars were popping up here and there.

Jack was there to see the sun set and as dark fell and the day ended, he felt a new beginning then he thought to himself.

"Who gave me the heart?"

Mrs. Brown slowly wandered outside and instead of the witch hat she was wearing a short top hat with leaves along the rim. Mrs. Brown saw him and asked, "Fearless Jack, how is my hero doing?"

"Good as new," replied Jack.

He suddenly realized he had been saved by a hero. A hero had saved him.

Then he realized he now had the heart of a hero.