

Our Little Adventure Story

CHAPTER 1.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A BOUNCING BALL...

It was Sunday and I was playing ball alone on the outside wall of my house in the garden. Dad had just bought a new car two days ago. When he returned from work yesterday, he was happy because all his colleagues had complimented him on his purchase. It was actually a nice car, one of the modern red ones that was quite large and really beautiful. While I was playing with the ball, making it bounce on the wall, I observed the car that was shining in the rays of light of that splendid sunny day and I was amazed looking at it that a ray of light ended up right into my eyes and the ball bounced and accidentally ended up directly to the car's window and the sound of glass breaking had broken the silence. It was the worst sight my eyes could ever see, a hole had been created in the window. "How was I going to explain all of this to my father? How could I tell him that I accidentally broke one window of his new car?". My dad wasn't too proud of me and I didn't have a good relationship with him because at school I wasn't the model kid that gets good grades everytime. I always thought that I was doing the best that I could, but they never changed their expression while looking at me. I was angry, but more than that I was sad because I saw how the other parents of my friends looked at their kids, with a happy face, smiling and laughing. But for me it was different. My mom always picked me up after school and my dad was always at work, so I couldn't see him that much, but when he always comes home he doesn't say anything and doesn't ask me how school was or if I was alright. The only times that I hear him talking is at dinner and on Sundays, because he doesn't have to work that day.

The noise had caught dad's attention and he stared at me realizing that I made a hole in the window of his car and his eyes became full of anger. He headed towards me with an infuriated face, he was so angry that I ran away from him because I was scared. Luckily for me there was a forest not far from my garden and even if I knew that it might be a bad decision, I ran towards it as fast as I could. While I was trying to escape from my father, who was screaming -Lucas Franklin, come back here right now- and cursing behind me, I stumbled on a root of a dark tree and I fell into the river and soon found myself soaked in water. I immediately started to sneeze, but the moment after I heard someone laughing.

CHAPTER 2.

MY BEST FRIEND

“Who is that?” I said. “Hey ya there, whatcha’ doin’?” That person was my best friend, James Cooper, the only one that I could trust at school. I met him the first day at school. I was in class, thinking of anything else that’s not school stuff, not listening to the presentation of my classmates and just heating the chair by sitting on it, when at the end of school, someone suddenly approached me and said “Hi, my name is James, James Cooper, nice to meet you.” with a smiley face. I didn’t understand why he talked to me so I asked him “why did you suddenly talk to me?” I asked him confused. “Well, if you didn’t notice, we are sitting right next to each other and I noticed that you weren’t that excited.” “Why? Are you excited to go to school?” “Yes I am because I can meet and talk to other people, make friends, talk to other people, make other friends, meet other people, make others...” but I stopped him saying “Okay, I understood, thanks” while laughing. I thought that he was strange, but that was the first time that I laughed that much. “Oh, I forgot to introduce myself. I’m...” “You are Lucas Franklin, 11 years old, you don’t have brothers or sisters and you like to play football.” “how did you know all of that?” “You really forgot already? You presented yourself in class in front of everybody.” “Ohhhhhh, right, I forgot. Well, it’s nice to meet you.” and that’s how we became friends, best friends and right now he was in front of me laughing out loud because he saw me stuck in the river. “Ha.Ha.Ha. Yes, this is very funny for you. Now, can you help me? My father is chasing me again.” I said. “Yes, I know, I heard ya runnin’ and falling in that lake. Let’s go.” “Thank you.”. He took my hand and helped me get out of the lake and then we ran, following some dots on the trees that created a path, even if we already knew where we needed to go, until we found the big tree that was hiding in the middle of the forest. “There you are.” said James. At the base of the tree there was a sign where it was written -if you are brave enough, climb this rope-. We started to climb on the rope that was attached to a branch of the tree that led us to our “secret base”, a house on a tree. When we arrived in front of the house we opened the door with another sign that said -wow, you really made it?-. Inside there was all the stuff that we cared about, because we were sure that this place was the most secure for us. There were magazines and games, but when we didn’t want to read or play with the toys that we brought there, we played on the wall drawing with some crayons that James brought from his house, all kinds of stuff, everything that came up on our minds: superheroes, dragons and sometimes we played tris. “James, how did you find me? We were supposed to meet here at our base.” “Well, it was late and you weren’t here so I went to check where you were. I started going towards your house and when I was near I saw you falling in the lake.” he said. “Thank God you were there. If you weren’t there to help me my father would have caught me, but what are we gonna do now?” I asked him. “We wait until your father cools down. Simple like that.” He told me it was something simple to do. “But it’s not better to...” I tried to say, but he suddenly stopped me saying “Now, take this and let’s go catch some fish at the river. ” and I said “Okay fine, but just for a couple of minutes, because when we’ll be back, we need to find a way to fix the mess that I created.” and we climbed down the rope that we used to go on our tree house. He gave me a stick with a string attached to it. I guess it was a fishing rod, a really “expensive” one, so we went fishing. In a quarter of minutes we caught

some fish and I was ready to go back until James saw a jewel in the water and screamed “Hey, Lucas, there is something shiny under the water!” so he tried to take it, but the current dragged him away. “James!” The current was strong, so I tried to get him by his arm, but he took me away with him and he made me jump in the water.

CHAPTER 3.

RED WING TOWN

“Wha... What happened? Wait- James! James, where are you???” I was scared. I didn’t know where I was, my head was spinning, I searched him, but I couldn’t find him, until “Lucas... down here...” His arm was stuck under a small fallen tree. I ran to him, raised the tree and threw it in the water. “Thanks Lucas.” he said. “James! James, are you alright? Did you get hurt? where? Does it hurt a lot? I’m sorry, I should’ve...” but he suddenly stopped me and said “Don’t worry, it’s not your fault, the water current was too strong.” he said trying to calm me down a little bit. “If you say so, but I’m still sorry.” I replied. James started wondering where we were, so we searched for people on the side of the river, to see if there were people that were fishing. We found one man that had two buckets, one full of fish and the other one full of bait. “hello sir.” James said. “hey ya there- oh wow, what happened to you two???” said the old man, seeing both of us having our clothes all ripped. “We live at Maiden Rock and we were fishing in the Mississippi river, but we fell and the water current brought us here, but I don’t know where we are right now.” and he replied “Kid, we are at Red Wing , to the other side of the Mississippi River. We ran in search for a city to ask if anyone would be kind enough to lend us their boat, if somebody was willing to help us to return home as soon as possible or if someone could call my father to calm him, saying that we were okay, but the Red Wing town was very poor and no one in that place didn’t have a phone, but at least they gave us some clothes to wear. “We are so lucky, aren’t we?” Said James trying to make me laugh. “We don’t have many options but to walk home.” I told him. “What? Are you crazy? It’s gonna take us more than 3 hours! The man told us that there was a bridge, but it was broken.” He replied thinking it wasn’t possible to make it. “Yes, but he also told us that if we make a good jump, we will make it to the other side.” I said while he looked at me in a strange way. “You are crazy.” He said. “I know, but it’s not impossible. Even if the water current was strong we made it alive somehow, so why don’t we try?” I told him to convince him. “I don’t know, Lucas. It seems really dangerous for me.” He replied. “Oh, come on, where is the James that I know? The one that literally jumped in the water to take something that might have been just a piece of glass? If you don’t wanna try and just stay here being a crybaby then do as you want.” I said. After that I started to walk away and I was scared that maybe he wouldn’t have followed me, but as soon as I made my fifteenth step, I heard someone running from behind me. “That’s the James that I know!” and we started running to the bridge that we were told about from the man. At first we were so alive, trying to get home, thinking about the adventure that we could’ve told to others, but about half an hour later we were already tired. I screamed at him to get his attention. “Lucaas.” and I said “yes?” “Where do we have to go

now?" He replied. "still straight until we see a bridge." I told him. "But we've been walking for too long and we still haven't found any trace of that bridge." He said. We were exhausted and we couldn't walk anymore until we heard the sound of a car. It was going so fast that we couldn't react, but fortunately the man that was drinking a bottle of alcohol saw us and stopped right before crushing us.

CHAPTER 4.

A DRUNK MAN

"Why the heck you two were walking on the street? Are you perhaps dumb?" he told us not in a friendly way. James is super sensitive and in fact he started saying "Well, first thing you should've paid attention to the street and-" but I stopped him before he could have said something bad and I replied "excuse me for the language of my best friend but we are so tired of walking and we really needed some help." "Lucas, whatcha' doin'?" He almost killed us!" He whispered at me and I told him whispering as well "We can't do this alone, we need someone that can help us and he has a car, so make two plus two..." I waited for him to realize and then he told me "...and maybe it can help us going back home. You are a genius." He told me while I looked at him like I wasn't surprised at all. "Exactly, that's why I'm the head and you are the muscle." I said to him, but the man suddenly stopped us. "Ehm, sorry for interrupting you two, but I'm trying to go back home, so if you two can move a little bit, I can go." said him impatiently. "Well, actually, we have something that you can do for us." We said to him, but he replied with a voice of someone that is drunk "Me? do something for you two? I don't even know you two and you're asking me for something? Hell nah, can't do it." so we said "Well, since you almost hit us, I thought that you might do us a favor." We told him with 4 puppy eyes. "Fine, but just because I almost killed you." "thank you so much..." I didn't finish the phrase because I didn't know his name, but then he said "I'm Richard Wellbond, Rich for friends." "Thank you so much Rich." I told him gratefully. "I said Rich just for friends. Who are you two?" He said, so I introduced both of us to him. "I'm Lucas and he's James. we were-" but he suddenly stopped me saying "I didn't ask for your story, just go in the back of the car. Destination?" He asked. "The first bridge that you see on your left." We responded. "Then the first bridge that I see it is." We were so relieved that we could rest for a bit and we were happy to be with someone else, even if he was drunk driving a car on a road made of dirt, but we didn't think about it. He turned on the radio and we started dancing in the car and singing for half an hour while the sun was setting, wondering when the bridge would appear, until the worst happened. "Guys, I heard something make a pop sound. Is it a bad sign?" I said and Rich, after checking the car, replied "We have bad news, boys. A tire went flat and if you wanna go home tomorrow then stay with me, but if you want to go back home for this evening, you two should go by yourselves." He said. "Why don't you go with us?" We asked him, so maybe he would have come with us, but he said "I'm drunk, I don't think that you want me to pass out and bring home a man's body, right?" So we were a little bit sad, but it was okay. "Then, thank you for the help Richard." I told him. "No problem, boy. Now go home, it's almost dark."

We started running to our destination, until Richard screamed “And next time that we meet, just call me Rich, did you hear me?”.

CHAPTER 5.

THE JUMP

After another 15 minutes we finally saw the bridge from a distance. I said to James “We made it!” and he told me “we really did it! After the help of Richard, we finally arrived.” We were standing in front of the bridge. It was a really big bridge made of rocks with moss growing on it. As the man in the town told us, the bridge was divided and a big hole was separating us to the other part of the Mississippi river. I asked James “Are you ready James? You have to be careful here.” and he said “Y-Yes, obviously, I was born ready.” but I knew he wasn't. He was lying just to make him brave in my eyes. But I knew what to do. “James, I know that you are afraid to fall.” “N-No, I'm not, I am brave, watch me jump t-to the other s-side.” He stood at the cliff that was separating us from home and he started counting. “one...twoo...” before he jumped I took him from his hand. “See? You are clearly shaking.” “I can't do it. I can't make that jump. It's too scary.” “So what? You are not alone. That's why we are best friends. I am the brain and you are the muscles. If the brain is missing, then who is gonna activate the muscle? But this is not the case. We are together and we'll go home together. So take my hand and let's jump at my three. You think you can make it?” “Yes.” “good.” and I started counting. “One...Two...Three!” We jumped over that hole and... We've made it. We were back. I could have already seen the fishing rod that we left there. “We made it. We are back!” We started jumping and dancing and going back and forth screaming “We are back from this adventure!!!” After this little moment of celebration, we sprinted right to my house. I knocked on the door. “Yes, who's- Oh my God, Lucas...” He started crying while saying “I was so worried, I couldn't find you anywhere and...And...” “It's okay dad, I'm home.”. We went inside and we immediately called James' parents who had the same reaction as my dad and said goodbye to him saying “That was a good adventure. Bye James.” “Thanks for giving me the strength, there at the broken bridge, I owe you a soda.” and he left. Finally I could have slept in my bed, after that bad but at the same time adventurous day.

CHAPTER 6.

AN OLD FRIEND

20 YEARS LATER, AT AN HOSPITAL...

I went to the reception. “Hello sir, do you have an appointment?” said a gentle woman to me. “Yes, with Richard Wellbond.” “Oh, another person went to his room. His name was” I stopped her and I said “James Cooper. That person is James Cooper.” “Oh right. How did you know that?” “He is an old friend.” “Okay, would you like to tell me your name?” “My name is Lucas Franklin.” “Let’s see... You’re right here. Mr. Franklin, please follow me.” After a couple of seconds, we found ourselves in front of a room. Room n. 021. “Here you are sir, if you need something, come to the reception, okay?” and she went away.

When I opened the door I saw James talking to Richard. “Rich, do you remember that time- Oh, here is the last one of our trio. How are ya’, Lucas?” James started saying to me. “I’m fine, thanks for asking. Hey Rich, how is your stomach with fifty thousand liters of alcohol?” and he told me “Hey, I tried to stop drinking, but as you know, my brain couldn’t resist drinking a little bit of alcohol.” but James said “A little bit? Just a little bit? The doctor told me that you drank twenty cans of beer. twenty!!!” but he whispered “Actually I drank 25, but we can eliminate that from our memory.” Then he started talking normally again asking “So, what do you have to tell me today?” and we said “Well, we have news. We actually wrote a book.”. He was surprised “You wrote a book? You two??? That’s incredible. I never thought that you two would do something. I’m impressed. So, tell me, how did you two decide to write a book?” and I said “Well, after I graduated from high school, I actually studied medicine, but soon found out that it wasn’t my path, so I continuously searched for something that might have been my path. Five years ago I went to the library to search for some books for my studies, until I found a book, but not just a normal one. It was small, with a red cover, without any title. That made me take it and sit to read what was inside, but to my surprise, it wasn’t a diary or a notebook that someone left there, no. It was a small short story about two guys. I fell in love with it when I finished reading it and then I thought that when I was little, I never realized how much I liked to read. Somehow, that little book lit a spark in me. I found it, my path that I was searching for. I immediately thought about something to write and James was the first person that came to my mind. I told him my idea, we started working together and here is the result.” I handed him our creation. A brand new small book, with a blue cover that surrounded some pages. “Good job guys, but why did you have to come here?” “Well, we wanted to surprise you.” “Like what, a bottle of vodka?” “No, we added you in our nook.” “you did what??? Why???” “Well, if it weren’t for you, we wouldn’t be here to talk to you, so we wanted to thank you for your help.” “Thank you so much. Now, who wants to read this book for this old man that is in a hospital bed?” “Surely not me!” said James ironically. “Wait, before you start to read, what’s the title of this book?” “Oh right, I forgot to tell you, I took inspiration from the old red book that I found, so I didn’t add anything on the cover, but the title is -Our Little adventure story-. Hope you’ll like it.” “We will see.” and James started reading the book “Chapter one: It all started with a bouncing ball...”.