

Part 1

I was flying through the air. “Splash!” Now I was floating, going down, running out of air. “Jack-come on get up.” I jolted upright, my heart pounding. When I was downstairs my sister was already making my lunch. My mom had died in a car crash and my dad died in World War II.

I grabbed my lunch and ran outside. The bus had just passed. “Dang!” I said chasing it and yelling. The bus stopped and I jumped on and it started again. It was the first day of high school. The school was very crowded. I pushed my way through the hallways to get to my first class.

It was math. The room smelled like fresh apple pie. There were already assigned seats with tags that had our names on them. I was sitting next to a guy named Eli on one side and Emma on the other. Our teacher’s name was Mr. Green. At the end of class Mr. Green called me over.

“The name’s Jack right?”

“Right,” I said.

“I hear you had trouble at your last school. I just wanted you to know that there will be no tolerance for that in this class.” Eli was waiting for me outside.

“What was that about?” he asked.

“Mr. Green was just telling me about homework.” I said. Our next class was History. The teacher was Mr. Tom. He was a nice teacher. The first thing we did was a name game. When the class was over I knew all the people in the class. Then there was English. The class was dark and cold and the teacher was Miss Gretchen. Her eyes were black and she had long black, curly hair.

When she called out my name for the attendance I didn’t hear her so she called out even louder “**JACK!!!**”

I said “here” back. Then she took a long look at me and continued on with the attendance. After school Eli asked if I wanted to come over and I said yes. When we got to his house we went up to his room.

“I saw you eyeing Emma in math...” said Eli.

“I don’t like her” I shouted back.

“Right.” Eli said with a grin. I could only stay for a little while because my sister called me and said that my grandpa was ill in the hospital and we had to go visit him. When I got there he was lying on a bed with tubes and an oxygen mask on his face.

“The doctor said that he only had a few days before he would pass away,” said my sister.

That’s when I started to cry. I only met him when I was ten so I only knew him for a couple of years. After I had said everything that I wanted to say, we left.

Nobody was talking that night at dinner. The next day when I was at school I saw Miss Gretchen talking to a kid. When I saw that it was Eli, I tried to get a better look but she saw me. “Jack come in.” When I saw Eli’s face it told me to get out and fast.

“I was just looking for Eli that’s all.”

“Well you found him, didn’t you,” said Miss Gretchen.

Then I turned around and headed for the door but she grabbed me. She had a firm grip. I turned around and Eli was gone. After school I met up with Eli. I asked him what happened. “I was running in the hall and then she grabbed me and pulled me into her room.”

The next day at school I looked all over for Eli but I couldn’t find him. I asked some of his friends but they said that they hadn’t seen him all day. When it came to English there was a sub named Miss Samples. She announced that the class was going on an overnight field trip to a place called Camp Blue Shoe.

After school I walked over to Eli’s house and knocked on his door. His mom answered. I asked if Eli was home. She said yes then I went up to his room. He was lying in his bed. His face was red and he had bumps on his arms. I asked if he had the flu but he just shook his head. Then I told him about the overnight at Camp Blue Shoe. He said that he was going to be sick for another two years or so and that he couldn’t go to school, so he would take online classes. That same day I was sitting in my living room reading when bang a big streak of lightning came crashing down right next to our house and it started to rain a lot.

I decided to take our dog Rosie for a walk. It was raining so hard that all the trees were sagging over like a wilting flower. I passed by a few people playing soccer in their

yard but other than that it was just me and Rosie. When I got back from our walk it was almost seven o'clock. So I went up to bed and started to do some research on the symptoms of what Eli had. I couldn't find anything after two hours of searching so I finally went to bed.

That next day at school there were only ten people in math and even fewer in all the other classes. I asked Mr. Green where everybody was. He thought that they were all sick. Also in math Mr. Green said that we were going to have to take a boat to Camp Blue Shoe and that if anybody wanted not to go because of the boat ride that that would be fine. The other classes were the same. After school I called Eli to check in on how he was doing. He said that the doctors thought that he has a disease called Plaloplygmy and that it would take two or more years to recover from it.

The next day at school Mr. Green announced that the captain of the ship was going to take one of the students to train with him on a separate boat trip and that all the students that wanted to have a chance at going should get a raffle ticket. At the end of the school day they would pick a number out of a hat. Mr. Green started to hand out raffle tickets. My number was 33.

At the end of the day all of the students that had drawn a raffle ticket came to the gym.

The lucky number was 33 and I was off on an adventure!

Part 2

The wind blowing through my hair felt so good. "Jack," I heard the captain call. I turned around and called back "What?"

The captain said back "Come here ya lad."

I strolled back to the captain. "We're in trouble," he replied and then I heard it: a big crack. The boat had a hole in it.

I rushed down to the lower deck and swam over to the hole and called "It's filling up fast and the hole's getting bigger."

No reply. I screamed, "Captain!" Still no reply. I swam over to the stairs which were almost completely under water. I climbed up. The captain was not in sight. I got to my feet and then realized the mast was lying on top of him. I ran over to him and lifted

the mast off of him. He had a cut on his chest and was bleeding badly. I propped his head up.

He was dying. A big wave crashed over the boat. I was washed off my feet and I was gone.

The next thing I knew I was lying face down, sand in my face. When I turned over I saw palm trees. My back ached and my head hurt. The sun was about halfway across the sky which meant that it was about noon. I got to my feet, turned around and looked out to the sea.

Way out I could see boats. I decided to go explore the island. When I was done exploring I started to think about making a place that I could sleep. First I started to sharpen a stick for protection then I realized that I had packed a knife so I reached into my pocket and pulled it out.

The knife was a simple pull out kind. Part of it was serrated and the other part was just a regular knife blade. I made it myself. It took me about 20 minutes to make a spear. Then I started to make a lean to. By the time I was done the sun was almost all the way down. I decided to try to go to sleep.

In the morning I went to the other side of the island and found a little inlet that looked like there were boats dragged up the sand. I decided to follow the tracks. After about 20 steps, the tracks disappeared. I looked all around then there was a big “Whoosh!” and I was lifted off my feet. The next thing I knew I was upside down hanging from a tree about 40 feet in the air. When I looked around I saw a tree house type thing.

It was a whole new world. There were ziplines going from platform to platform. Suddenly, I started falling fast. I hit the ground hard. I saw a dark figure over me and then I was lifted to my feet. The person took me to a house. I asked him his name and he said, “Boba.” I asked him how he got to this island and he didn’t answer. I stood up and walked out of the house. Bahm! I got hit, this time knocked out.

Next thing I knew I was strapped down to a chair with people all around me. “I wish Eli was here” I mumbled. They started to speak in a different language and then suddenly they untied me.

One of them stepped forward and said, “My name is Zabo. I will be taking care of you and teaching you our ways.” Everybody then turned away and went about their normal things.

I followed Zabo to his house where we sat and ate dinner. We had a dish called Zanara. Zabo told me where to sleep and then he left me to it. In the morning I woke up to a loud horn. Then Zabo kicked me lightly and I got up. Zabo told me that the horn meant that everyone had to get up and get ready for inspection. So I made my bed, got dressed and put on my shoes.

After inspection Zabo taught me how to ride the zip lines from one tree house to another. He also gave me a special tool that I could clip on the line and hang from it. After I had ridden them for a little while Zabo introduced me to someone named Felton. He was a retired commander. I asked what he commanded.

“The Army of course!” he said.

Part 3

I had mastered everything that Zabo had told me to do and now I was on the final test. I had to climb a cliff and cut a limb from a Piotas Tree. I started climbing the cliff. I was about 30 feet up when I looked down. It seemed that the whole village was watching me.

I slipped and almost fell. I climbed 10 more feet and I made it. I got out my knife, cut the limb, and climbed back down.

That night there was a ceremony. I had done it!

Now that I'm on this island and living with these people I can hardly remember my sister, Eli, or my new school. I wonder what would have happened if I hadn't entered the raffle.