

CHAPTER 21

'PARTY TIME'

The atmosphere inside of the Pizza Ferret was joyous- chaotic and super super loud, as over fifty children occupied the Ferret Family Fun Center- in a rowdy rambunctious crowd. Some of them 'RA' 'RA' 'RAN' around carrying paper plates with delicious pepperoni pizza slices- I do not remember all of their names, but they all raced around like happy little monkeys 'SHA' 'SHA' 'SHOVING' silver Ferret Tokens into the many Pizza Ferret games. Everyone wore birthday hats- Mya's rules*Pink for the gals and blue for her pals- NO EXCEPTIONS!*

Inside of a banquet hall- down the same hallway that the Ferret Fun Center was in, Hoagie quietly sat across a table from Aunt Gerty 'PA' 'PA' 'PICKING' pepperoni from a slice of pizza with his left hand rested beneath his chin. Hoagie was upset that he had to attend such an un'coolio party for his little sister and the rest of her little embarrassing infant friends*he was almost a cool kid for crying out loud!*

"What's with the sad face Hoagie?", questioned Aunt Gerty- as Debra 'RA' 'RA' 'RACED' around them clearing the leftover plates of pizza- cups- and other trash from the tabletops.

"I'm bored", cried Hoagie.

"WHAT!With all the groovy games that they got in this joint- don't you wanna go and play your favorite video machine?The one with all the kicking- and punching- and flipping!".

"No- not really ...I wanted to go to the park with my new friends and play basketball, but mom made me come to this stupid party!".

"HOAGIE- I'M SURPRISED AT YOU!This is your only sister's birthday party!This is a very special day for her and your suppose to support her!I wish that I had any one of my sisters still around so that I could go to their birthday parties and see them enjoying themselves! The only thing that you and Mya will have when you get my age are all these happy childhood memories!Pretty soon- you'll both be headed off to college, you'll marry and get jobs halfway across the world from each other and barely see each other until the holidays!And that's only if you can make it!Nephew- these are the good times that will get you through a tough period in your lifeThe good ole days!I had a little sister that I never even got the chance to knowI envy you Hoagie- I really do", she stressed- before taking a silent reflective pause. The boy had gotten to her- he had!

"What happened to your sister?", he asked.

"Well my dad and mom- your great grand- Parents ...Took my sick newborn baby sister to see a voodoo doctor, back when I was only three years oldAnd-and-andAnd they didn't bring her backEVER!It's the oldest and saddest memory that I got in this old prehistoric head of mineThey say that time heals all wounds- but trust me, whatever happened that night with that voodoo doctor stole a piece of my parent's soul til their very deaths!", she replied- with misty sad eyes.

"What's a voodoo doctor?".

"A voodoo doctor is someone that does Well- they do all sorts of magic and spells that heal peopleVoodoo is an old African religion- but most folks now days consider it to be a form of witchcraft or black magic".

"Like a wizard!".

"Yes- I suppose you could say that".

"WHOA'AAA!".

"So nephew- enjoy your sister while you still have time, because life is as unpredictable as a board gameAnd the dice call the shots!", she stressed- just as Debra walked past and spotted Aunt Gerty *'DA' 'DA' 'DABBING'* her eyes with a napkin.

"HOAGIE- I need some help with this cleanup!", piped Debra- as she looked to him while holding two handfuls of trash within her hands.

"BUT- MOM!I was just about to go and play some video games!", he protested.

"Well then- you've got three seconds to get your tail on out of here!ONE!", she sang.

"OKAY-OKAY- I'M GOING!", he tooted out- as he leapt to his feet and swiftly disappeared through the exit. Barely escaping every kid's worst nightmare *WORK!*

"I swear- the words help me- and clean- are like child repellent!", she marveled- as she *'PA' 'PA' 'PATTED'* Aunt Gerty gently upon the shoulders.

Inside of the Pizza Ferret Fun Center.....

Mya and Katey stood next to each other- taking turns *'RA' RA' 'ROLLING'* wooden balls up the ramp of a skeet ball machine, as the small red siren atop of it did *'RING' 'RING' 'ALING'* and *'CHA' 'CHA' 'CHING'!* White Ferret Tickets did slide from out of the machine's ticket slot, after Mya and Katey each sunk a ball into the hundred point cylinder spot! They *'SQUA' 'SQUA' 'SQUEALED'* with delight- they did!

"MYA- MYA- MYA!", called out a girl- as she raced toward the skeet ball machines with a cinnamon churro in hand. She stopped behind Mya and Katey- causing them both to quickly spin around to face her!

"What's up Leticia?", questioned Mya.

"LOOK!", exclaimed Leticia- as she pointed to the left of the fun center with her churro.

Mya's eyes followed the girl's churro over to the left side of the room, where she spotted a sight that made her little heart *'THA' 'THA' 'THUMP'* and *'BOOM'!* Mya's excited face lit up super super bright like a Christmas lights- it did! To the left side of the Fun Center stood Alexis- with both arms crossed over her chest. She leaned against a Fun Center wall curiously watching two boys as they shot hoops into a small basketball rim with tiny basketballs.

Without another word- Mya raced off in her direction like a bullet train- she did! **"MYA- I!",** tooted out Katey*but Mya had already gone.*

Alexis with her naturally sour face- silently scoped out the enchanting scene, from the many arcade games- to a Pop Goes the Weasel activity machine. The other children began to quickly acknowledge her captivating presence with loud whispers and

pointing fingers displayed, causing Hoagie to glance over his right shoulder from the screen of the Super Commando arcade game that he currently played!

"I really don't see what all the hype is about ... She's just a little girl with a stupid pair of clown boots", reasoned Hoagie to himself- as he continued to **'TA' 'TA' 'TAP'** upon the control buttons.

Mya swiftly approached and stopped before Alexis with a wide Kooly'aid smile upon her enchanted little face. **"HELLO ALEXUS- I'm so glad that you decided to come!I really think....."**

"Look Beady- we're not friends or anything like that- we're not!I just came for a teenie min- cause the crazy rac wanted to see what was so special about a birthday partyAnd I don't see anything special about it- I don't! ", wailed out Alexis.

"Oh yeah- the rac!What's a rac?", questioned Mya.

"GOLLY GEE BEADY!The racThe raccoon!", tooted out Alexis.

"WOW- you have a pet raccoon!Where is it?", exclaimed Mya.

"Right over there- eating", informed Alexis- as she pointed her right index finger past Mya's rear. Mya instantly spun around and followed Alexis's finger, locking her eyes onto a trash receptacle. Upon the receptacle stood a small raccoon, **'NA' 'NA' 'NIBBLING'** upon a half slice of discarded pizza- as several children watched on with excitement!

"COOL'LLL!What's its name?", asked Mya- as she continued to watch on.

"His name's Little Baby Squeeky Face, because all I ever hear is squeeks coming from his face", replied Alexis.

"I have a pet dog!His name's P.J.My dad named him!", chimed Mya- as she spun back around to face Alexis.

[*Suddenly*] A tall and slender teenage male employee, dressed in a two-piece candy cane-striped uniform and large red flight goggles appeared! He stealthily **'CA' 'CA' 'CREPT'** his way over to the trash receptacle with a broom held high within his hands like a sword! Once in striking distance of the raccoon- he swung the broom down upon the trash receptacle with a **'WA' 'WA' 'WHACK'**, instantly causing Little Baby Squeeky Face to swiftly leap out of the way! Following three good swings- the employee pulled the broom back and looked for his kill *...but there wasn't any!* He then quickly **'LA' 'LA' 'LOOKED'** from left to right for the slippery little rascal, until he spotted it on top of a near arcade game! The employee once again raised the broom and slowly **'CA' 'CA' 'CREPT'** toward the arcade game!

"PS'SSST!Aye- little homieThere's a giant rat on-top off your gameDo me a favor- and slowly back away from it ...Slowly!", whispered the employee.

Hoagie instantly looked up and spotted the **'SQUEE' 'SQUEE' 'SQUEAKING'** raccoon above his head, causing him to instantly **'BA' 'BA' 'BACK'** away!

The employee raised the broom high and slowly crept forward- passing Hoagie! He stopped and readied the broom with a few light practice swings to the front- and back, preparing to give Little Baby Squeeky Face a really really good **'SMACK'!** **"GRIFFY'YYYYYYY!"**, sang out the employee- as he took a quick home run swing.

Little Baby Squeaky Face leapt from the top of the arcade game before the bristles of the broom even went 'SWOOSH'ing past, causing the employee to spin around in a full circle- fast! **"DID I GET IT!"** tooted the employee as he raised his goggles and looked all about the floor for an injured rodent.

"NO- it got away!", informed Hoagie.

"AWE MAN- I just knew I got it!Did you check out that swing dog! Perfect extension!.....", chimed the employee. The employee lowered his goggles and turned around to face Hoagie. **".....Which way did it go?"**, he asked.

Hoagie quickly pointed to the far left, instantly causing the employee to swing his head in that direction.

"Thanks little homieThat's one big- RAT! We got a whole lot of cheese here to protect, and I'm not talkin' bout the green kind- know what I mean!.....", sang the employee- before he spun to the left and stepped off like the Terminator. Hoagie watched silently, as the employee walked off in search of the rodent. **".....HERE RAT- RAT- RATTY'YYY"**, chanted the employee.

Hoagie looked from the employee- over toward the right wall at Alexis, who stood in conversation with Mya- while thinking to himself *.....that only a girl like that, would travel in the company of a rats- squirrels and bats!*

"GOLLY GEE!What's Tubby doing here?", wailed Alexis- upon spotting him watching them from across the room. Mya quickly spun around- instantly realizing that the person that Alexis had referred to as Tubby, was none other than her brother Hoagie *.....aka- BOOGER BOY!*

"OH- you must mean HoagieThat's just my stupid brotherMy mom invited him!", she apologized.

"If he's your brother, I feel sorry for you- I do! He couldn't play dodge ball if his life depended on it!He'll freeze up on ya like a big ole tub of chocolate ice cream- he will!", stressed Alexis.

"Alexis can you please come and play skeet ball with me and my friendOOPS- I mean Katey! You can help us win tickets so that I can get a pink Kimb'vette from the prize booth!Only six hundred and eighty tickets!We already got thirty-nine of them!Can you help us!PLEASE- OH PLEASE- OH PLEASE!", she begged.

"Sure thing BeadyI s'pose a couple of last fare thee well games won't hurt noneI haven't met a game that I wasn't the best at- I haven't!", bragged Alexis- as she stood up straight and adjusted her arm gloves.

"THANK YOU- THANK YOU- THANK YOU!", graced Mya- as she joyously ushered Alexis over towards the skeet ball machine section with many other curious kids following along the way. They just knew that Alexis was about to do something super super Awesome, with a capitol A- they did!