

S T E V E N   B O W M A N

GROWING  
UP AS A  
LITTLE  
BROTHER





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Growing Up as a Little Brother

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Young brothers will often be each other's best friends. They will laugh together, get into trouble together and create memories that will last a lifetime.

– DAVID LEADS



# Contents

Chapter One	1
Chapter Two	7
Chapter Three	12
Chapter Four	20
Chapter Five	28
Chapter Six	35
Chapter Seven	42
Chapter Eight	47
Chapter Nine	57
Chapter Ten	67
Chapter Eleven	77
Chapter Twelve	83
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## Chapter One

**T**here we were, just two loving brothers playing football in the park. It is sunny and too bright. So, I had to shield the sun from my eyes.

Then, after a while of playing, my brother realized that I could not catch the football. It is the epitome of my lack of catching a football.

“Just go farther back,” he said, “So, you will not be able to catch this, will you?”

“I am trying my best,” I say, “At least, I hope. Right, bro?”

“Come on, bro. You cannot catch this football?” my brother teased me. “What is wrong with you?”

“Quit it, bro!” I yelled. “You know what is at stake for you if you do not stop teasing me.”

My brother giggled. “Oh, well. I guess you are right. Sorry, bro.”

“I will try harder to throw it next time. At least, I hope.”

“Haha, you will never catch it, bro!” teased my brother, “You are lackin’ a lot, bro.”

“Again, quit it!” I yelled. “Stop it, or else they will ground you.”

“Okay, okay, I will stop,” my brother eased up, “sorry, bro, try your best. That is all I want.”

“Whatever!” I started blushing from embarrassment. “You do not have to be such a bully to me. I did nothing to deserve this, bro.”

“Alright, I am sorry. Gosh!” my brother says. His face was turning red. “Okay, how many times do I have to apologize?”

“Keep apologizing to me for all the amounts of teasing.”

“Oh, is that so?” says my brother. He started teasing me again. “I guess that I must do it more than once! Because you are way too easy to tease.”

“Quit it!” I yelled, and now my face was bright red. “Okay, I am telling Mommy!”

My brother teases me some more. “Baby! Baby! You are such a baby!”

“That is enough!” I raised my voice. I felt too embarrassed. “Could we put this aside and just continue playing football?”

“Okay, fine! We will play football,” says my brother, “look, can we not tell Ma about me teasing you? Can we keep it our little secret?”

“Very well, bro,” I say, as my brother’s apologizing. “Okay, I am guessing that you will stop teasing me. Right, bro?”

“Yes, little bro. I will stop teasing you,” winks my brother, “as long as you keep the secret of me teasing you from Mommy and Daddy.”

I laughed. “Yes, your secret’s safe with me, bro. Cross my heart, and hope not to die.”

Then, my brother and I went back to playing football, even though I still could not catch the ball because of the sun so brightly on my face. And yet, it was not my fault. Stupid sun!

And then we played until we had to come home for dinner when the sun went down. Tonight’s dinner was cheeseburgers and fries with a side of potato chips. *Yummy!*

## CHAPTER ONE

\* \* \*

*The next day.*

*Yawn!* As the daylight came through my window, I realized it was morning. So, I looked at my watch: 9:32 am.

Of course, this means I have slept the entire night while in my jammies with my teddy bear right by my side in my bed.

Then, as I yawned and stretched, sitting at the side of my bed, I would get a strange urge to wake up my brother.

I walked to my brother's room and went to his bed. And I shook him awake, "It is time to wake up, bro!"

My brother snorts. "Huh, cannot you see I am sleeping, bro?"

"So what?" I shook him some more. "I am waking you up, anyway!"

"Go back to sleep, bro!" my brother yells. He seemed mad. "Or else—"

I interrupted him. "—Or else what?"

"What is wrong with you?" my brother grunted. "Are you fucked up in the head or something, bro?"

"Ooh, you cursed!" I teased him, "I am telling Mommy!"

"Oh, just shut up!" my brother yelled, "why do you have got to wake me up this early? I am just going back to bed!"

"I am telling Mommy that you cursed. Ooh, you are in big trouble!"

My brother hands me his wallet. "Here, take five bucks."

"What for?" I ask curiously.

"For keeping the cursing a secret," my brother whispers, "take the five bucks and leave me alone, please!"

"Okay, I guess?" I felt weird. "Very well, I will take the five

bucks.”

“Please do,” my brother insisted, “now, can you please leave my room?”

I went to my brother’s door. “Sure, I can leave your room, bro.”

Then, I jiggled the door handle, opened the door, and left my brother’s room. At least I have got five bucks from my brother.

Sure, it is for keeping the cursing a secret. However, I am feeling unusual about the five dollars I received. But I will get over it, eventually.

\* \* \*

Then, as the day became the afternoon, according to my watch: 1:30 pm, I got hungry, and my tummy was aching.

Also, when I asked my Mommy how long I was awake. Three hours and fifty-eight minutes, she says. Then, I asked my Mommy what I could have for lunch.

I tell my Mommy I am hungry. “Mommy, it is lunchtime. What can I have?”

“Okay, Hunny,” in a sweet voice, my Mommy says, “I will make your lunch. What do you want for lunch, Baby?”

“Oh, I do not know, Mommy,” I say as I scratch my head, “how about a sandwich? May I have a sandwich, please?”

“Sure, Hunny. What kind of sandwich, Baby?”

“May I please have a ham and cheese sandwich with mayo, Mommy?”

“Yes, Baby,” my Mommy says, “do you want any chips with your sandwich, Hunny?”

“Sure, Mommy,” I replied, “may you make the cheese cheddar, please?”

“Yes, I will do that, Hunny.”

“Thank you, Mommy,” I thanked her, “hey, I love you.”

My Mommy giggled. “Hey, I love you more, Baby.”

“No, I love you more, Mommy!”

“Okay, I give up. You win, Hunny,” my Mommy says. I believe I won. “Now, let me make your sandwich, Baby. Give me like a minute or two, please.”

Then a minute passes. My sandwich got made and cut into four triangles with chips on the side of my plate. Oh, boy! It will be yummy in my tummy!

After I finished my sandwiches, I felt satisfied and full. Then, I got up and thanked my Mommy for making me the sandwiches.

Of course, she says, “*No problem, Hunny.*” And then I went to my room and took a nap until dinner.

\* \* \*

*Yawn!* After waking up from my nap, I looked at my watch: it was 5:45 pm. I went out of my room and went downstairs for dinner.

I asked my Mommy how long I would nap, and she told me it was four hours and fifteen minutes.

My brother and I then started setting up for dinner. After that, we ate our dinner. For tonight’s dinner, we had steak and mashed potatoes with a little side dish of mac and cheese.

Then the room was silent for two minutes, as my brother and I stared at the white ceiling until we got asked how our day was.

My brother went first, then me, Mommy, and then Daddy.

“My day—?” my brother pauses after he swallows some mac and cheese, “—it went pretty okay. Well, I did nothing all day, honestly.”

“That is good, Hunny,” my Mommy says. “How about you, Baby?”

“My day went well, Mommy,” I replied, “well, I was sleeping through it, mostly.”

My Mommy smiles. “Very well, Baby. Good, I am glad.”

“How about you, Daddy?” my Mommy asked, “what was Daddy’s day like today?”

“Mine went pretty well, Dear,” replies Daddy, “it was busy as I worked and worked.”

“And what about Mommy’s day?” I wondered as I smiled. “How was Mommy’s day today?”

“It was well, Baby. It was busy as I worked and worked,” replies Mommy, “just like Daddy’s day today, Hunny.”

Then, we ate our dinner as a family, and by the time we finished, it was 7:30 pm. And my brother and I cleaned up from dinner, got into our jammies, then brushed our teeth.

And then we got into our beds as Mommy kissed our foreheads. Good night. After that, she read me a bedtime story. It was 9:45 pm by the time she read the story.

Well, it is lights out and sleepy time for me until the next day. Oh, I am getting sleepy-sleepy, *yawn!* Okay, good night, world! I will not see you until tomorrow, so sleep well!

## Chapter Two

**Y**awn! Good morning, world! It is now 9:32 am, and I am waking up in my bed, along with my teddy bear, while I was in my jammies all night.

Then I stretched while sitting on the side of my bed. Strangely, today, I did not feel like waking up my brother. It is weird, but I will get over it eventually.

I came out of my room and went downstairs for breakfast. Then my tummy started aching, and it was time to eat breakfast.

However, I do not know what to eat. Weirdly, I am craving some smiley face chocolate chip pancakes with maple syrup. So, I came into my Mommy's room quietly.

I started complaining to my Mommy that my tummy was aching and hungry. She understood, slipped on her pink fuzzy slippers, and grabbed her pink fuzzy robe.

She went downstairs and cooked me some smiley face chocolate chip pancakes with maple syrup in the kitchen. *Oh boy!*

My Mommy yawned and handed me a plate. "Here you go, Baby. Some smiley-faced chocolate chip pancakes with maple syrup."

"Thank you, Mommy," I thanked her, my face lit up, "you are the best Mommy in the world!"

My Mommy aches and stretches. "You are welcome, Hunny. Thank you, Baby."

Then, I ate the pancakes until they were all gone. After that, I was bouncy. I am guessing it is the sugar. And yet, I could not sit still. Then things started to crash slowly.

That is the sugar high coming to a halt, I am guessing. And then I looked at my watch: 10:15 am. And I went into my room and slept until the afternoon came for lunch.

\* \* \*

*Yawn!* Oh, boy, was that resting well or what? After stretching, I looked at my watch. The time was 1:30 pm, and then I came downstairs from my room.

And I went to ask my Mommy what I could have for lunch. But before I asked her for lunch, I asked her how long I slept. And she tells me, three hours and fifteen minutes.

"Hey, Mommy. My tummy's aching me," I told my Mommy. "I believe I am getting hungry because of it being lunch. May I have lunch, please?"

My Mommy nods her head. "Sure, Baby. What do you want for lunch?"

"Mommy, what can I have?" I wondered.

"Well, I can make you whatever, Hunny. Just name it, please."

"Very well, Mommy," I rubbed my tummy ache. "May I please have a leftover cheeseburger with some mac and cheese?"

My Mommy nods with a smile. "Yes, Baby. Is that what you want?"

I nodded with a smile. "Please, Mommy."



“Okay, let me make you that, Hunny,” my Mommy started getting up. “I will make that for you, Baby. Just give me five minutes, please.”

“Yes, okay, Mommy. Thank you, I love you.”

My Mommy smiles. “Anytime. I love you too, Baby.”

After five minutes, my Mommy handed me my lunch, and I ate it all. It is the most delicious meal I have ever eaten.

Then, after I finished eating, I did not have the urge to take a nap. So, I asked my Mommy if I could go outside and play.

She said, “Yes, *and be safe now, Baby.*” Then, as I went out, I walked to my friend’s house to ask him if he’d like to play with me.

\* \* \*

I got to my friend’s house, rang his doorbell, and waited for a response. Yet, it took about three minutes for an answer.

Then, standing at the door as it opened was my friend’s Mommy. As she opened the door, we talked for a while, then I asked for my friend. So we could play together.

“Hello, Mrs. Blakeman. You look lovely,” I politely say after she opens the door, “And how are you doing today, madam?”

“Thank you, Westley. You are very nice,” giggled Mrs. Blakeman, “I am doing well, kiddo, and how about you?”

“Anytime, madam. Thank you,” I say, smiling, “I am doing well, Mrs. Blakeman.”

“Okay, Westley,” says Mrs. Blakeman. Then she asks, “Are you here for somebody, kiddo?”

“Yes, Mrs. Blakeman, I am,” I reply, smiling. “Is Jax here right

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