

The Bravest Person in the World

Today was no ordinary day. Today was the day Tommy and his friends, Max and Oliver, were to become explorers.

Since the war began, Tommy's mum wanted him to come straight home from school. 'Tommy, I know you want to play with your friends but until the war is over, I want you to come straight home so I know that you are safe' Tommy knew that these rules were to keep him safe in case a German attack came without any warning. But Tommy missed playing and he couldn't wait any longer. It was time for an adventure.

As the school bell rang, Tommy stepped onto the school playground and waited for his two best friends, Max and Oliver. The school doors burst open and out came Max and Oliver with their bags and coats flung across their shoulders.

'My fellow explorers, today we have a very important job.' Tommy declared, causing Max and Oliver to huddle in closer. 'We need to protect the RAF airfield. Are we ready?'

'Yes' shouted Max and Oliver, and all three boys placed their hands into the centre of the huddle, looking into each other eyes with huge smiles on their faces. Tommy reached into his bag and pulled out his brown explorers hat and placed it on his head.

The three boys walked down the path, through a gate and towards a village. Tommy was leading the boys through a very muddy path when Oliver shouted from behind them. 'Explorers, come quick!'

Max and Tommy rushed over to Oliver who was staring at the tall green grass.

'What? What's the matter? What are you looking at?' Max asked. As the two boys got closer to Oliver, they could see an old black dog hiding in the tall green grass.

'He's out here all alone' said Oliver. 'We can't just leave him.' The three boys stepped closer to the dog, quietly and calmly, careful not to scare him. They crouched down in front of the dog and Oliver slowly reached out his hand to show the old dog that he wasn't in danger. The dog liked his new friends and got so excited he licked Max's face, showing he wasn't afraid.

'Ewww' groaned Max as his face was all wet.

'You're out here all on your own. What a brave boy' said Oliver.

'Dogs can't be brave' snapped Max.

'Of course they can. Anybody can be brave' replied Oliver.

Max rolled his eyes. 'Somebody who is brave, is a hero' said Max. 'A person who helps other people all the time. That's what being brave means. Who is the bravest person you know, Tommy?'

Tommy slowly stood up. He had never been asked this question before and wondered who it was. Oliver and Max stared at Tommy, waiting for an answer. 'Hmmm. Who is the bravest

person I know?' thought Tommy. Tommy looked around, whilst he was thinking. Just as this thought crossed his mind, a tall man, dressed in a clean, blue, Royal Air Force uniform appeared on the other side of the path, walking confidently with his wife, and their dog.

Tommy stopped and shouted, 'That man in the uniform is the bravest man, I know!' Tommy, Max and Oliver stared at the man, and his wife. Everything about him was hero-like. He walked like a hero, he dressed like a hero, so he must be the bravest man in the world.

'Excuse me, are you the bravest person in the whole world?' Oliver called out with excitement. The man chuckled. 'I am not the bravest person in the world' said the RAF officer. 'My wife here is braver than me.'

'But she's not wearing a uniform' replied Max.

'Ah, but she's the one who looks after my children and protects them when I am away flying planes. Sometimes being brave is simply carrying on and enjoying life in the face of hardship!' He looked at his wife with love in his eyes and kissed her on the cheek. The man leaned forward and whispered to the boys 'And she's not afraid of the dark, and I am!'

The boys nodded; they were also all afraid of the dark.

'Are you the bravest person in the world then?' Oliver asked the wife. 'Who me? Definitely not! The bravest person I know is Mr Hughes, the Air Raid Warden. His job is to stay awake all night and keep a look out for enemy planes and protect the village' she said.

'Wow!' exclaimed Oliver.

'He must be fearless' shouted Max.

'We must find him and thank him' Tommy decided.

'Be careful and stay safe' the officer said.

'Yes sir. I'll protect us' Tommy smiled.

'Me too' Max said.

'Me three' Oliver replied.

They saluted the pilot and his wife before running through the countryside in search of the world's bravest person. They walked to the left, they jumped to the right, they skipped between the trees, and climbed over rubble. 'We're going on an adventure, we're going on an adventure, to find the bravest person' they sang.

Now what the children hadn't noticed, as they enjoyed their adventure, was that it was getting dark.

'Mr Hughes, Mr Hughes' shouted the boys as they rushed towards him.

'By golly children, what are you doing out at this time. It's almost night, you should be at home' Mr Hughes grumbled.

'We wanted to say thank you for being the bravest person in the world!'

A slight smile appeared on Mr Hughes wrinkled face. 'Who? Me? Well.... I suppose I am pretty bra....' The boys were very thankful for Mr Hughes' bravery, that they started clapping and cheering.

'Children, children, stop that. Your mother is the bravest person, I know. I bet she's worried sick, it's almost night' said Mr Hughes.

The boys looked up at the sky and noticed how dark it was. For a moment there, everything had seemed normal again, they had forgotten the dangers of the war and of walking around in the evening alone.

The boys turned quickly and ran in the direction of their house. They ran through an alleyway, between the trees, over the garden fence and crash landed into their front door.

'Mum!' 'Mum!' 'Mum!' the boys shouted.

The front door of the house swung open and their mum was standing there.

'Oh boys, are you okay? Where have you been? Let me have a look at you' she said, as she fell to her knees and checked them all over to see if they were okay. She sighed with relief.

'We're sorry. Oliver found a dog he thought was the bravest in the world, but I told him that it wasn't the bravest. Then Tommy said the RAF officer was the bravest in the world who said his wife was the bravest, and then she said Mr Hughes was the bravest, who said that you were the bravest person in the world....' Max rambled, as he struggled to catch his breath.

'Wooooah, easy Max' said his mother. 'I'm just glad you're home safe.'

'Well, is it true, are you the bravest person in the world?' asked Tommy.

Their mum looked at the three children and sighed. 'No, Tommy. I'm not.'

Mum looked at Tommy. He had grown up so quickly over the past year because of the war. Her son who protected and cared for Max and Oliver every single day. You see Max and Oliver, were two children who'd had to come and live in the countryside because of the war. They'd had their whole world turned upside down but they continued to be strong, caring and brave young men.

Their mum wrapped her arms around the three boys and squeezed them tight.

'As I watch you three grow, I have no doubt, you kids are the bravest people I know.'