Surviving Each Other

by

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Chapter 1

Megan was obsessed with technology. She was either on her iphone, her ipad, her computer; or sometimes on all of them at the same time! Talia, her younger sister, on the other hand, was not.

At age 10, Talia was devoted to nature and the environment. She was determined to save the earth from global warming.

One day, their mother announced "Girls. We are going to the Galapagos." Both girls were in shock.

Megan screamed in horror "NO WIFI!?"

Talia squealed in delight "Nature. Animals! I'm in heaven!"

When they landed on the Galapagos, Megan refused to get off the family owned jet. "I'm sleeping in here where there are outlets!"

"Suit yourself! I'm going exploring" Talia called back!

At dinner time, the parents sent Talia to get Megan.

"Megan, it's time for dinner!" she called out.

"I'm not coming out." responded Megan angrily.

"Fine! Cook your own meal!" Talia said impatiently as she stormed out of the jet.

A while later Megan shuffled her way back to the cabin her parents had rented on the Islands.

"I'm starving. What's for dinner?"

"Chicken noodle soup sweetie; your favorite," sang her mother.

"Yum. I'll have some please, but I don't want to sit next to **her**" huffed Megan pointing at Talia.

"Whatever," Talia said rolling her eyes.

The sisters ate dinner in silence and after clearing the table found their way to their bedrooms and went to sleep.

Chapter 2

The next morning Talia woke up early, excited to get a head start exploring the outdoors.

She was about to go outside when she realized the cabin was unusually quiet. It was then she realized her parents were not around. She looked in their bedroom, the kitchen and all around the cabin, but did not see them. She walked to the jet sitting on a field not far from the cabin. They were not on board. She headed back to the cabin to wake Megan up.

"Megan! Wake up!" Talia said shaking her sister awake.

"Ugggg. One more minute" mumbled Megan.

"Seriously Megan, get up. I can't find mom or dad" cried Talia.

"What?" Megan said groggily "They're probably out adventuring. Let me sleep."

Talia pulled the covers off and dragged her sister out of bed.

"Cut it out! I'm sleeping!" shouted Megan.

"Megan. You are going to help me find mom and dad **right now**!"

Megan was not used to Talia shouting; she was used to the quiet Talia that kept to herself. Something was wrong.

Talia stormed out of the room in tears, sobbing "I'll meet you outside."

"Mom. And. Dad. Are. Missing!" Talia snapped once Megan was outside.

"How do you know?" asked Megan cautiously.

"They left the maps, the cameras and the compass behind" Talia said sternly.

That caught Megan's attention. Their parents **always** took their exploring kit with them.

After a few minutes of nervous silence Talia finally declared, "Let's go."

"Where?"

"To find them! Are you coming?"

"Wait! At least let's grab the exploring kit and something to eat. I'm starving," Megan responded.

Typical, thought Talia.

Chapter 3

After about an hour of walking through the humid dense forest, Megan sat down on a rock and sighed "I can't go on."

"You can't give up now, we're half way there!" Talia exclaimed.

"Half way **where**, exactly?" Megan asked.

"The cave. While I was exploring yesterday I found a cave and all kinds of things in it; nets, rope, grappling hooks. And a pair of glasses" explained Talia.

"Glasses? What kind of glasses?" questioned Megan.

"Kind of like Dad's, but I am not sure."

The word 'Dad' floated in the air for a few minutes.

"Hum, looks like the perfect plan for kidnapping. Or parentnapping in this case" Talia thought softly out loud.

Megan couldn't believe what she heard. "WHAT? Kidnapping? You are **so** weird. You're making me nervous."

"Whatever, you big baby; c'mon let's go. I'll show you," sighed Talia.

"Fine!" snapped Megan.

Sometime later, Talia heard a screech. She looked back, surprised to find her sister cowering at a stick.

What now, she thought. "What's the matter" she said sarcastically, "see a snake?"

"Exactly! A horrible, slimy snake. I stepped on it!" screamed Megan.

"You didn't hurt it, did you?" Talia asked worriedly.

Talia looked down at what Megan was pointing to; then looked at Megan; then down again.

"That's a stick, silly! laughed Talia.

"Stop it! It's not funny!" cried Megan still horrified. "I hate it here!"

"I'm sorry," apologized Talia. "C'mon. It's not that far."

Talia took the lead again and kept walking through the forest.

Megan looked back at where they had come from and sighed. She turned to follow her sister, but her sister was gone! Megan froze and started hyperventilating not knowing what to do next. She was breathing so hard she could hardly hear the sounds of nature all around her.

In between breaths, she heard a faint cry.

"Talia?" Megan yelled desperately.

"I'm over here", she heard Talia sob softly.

Megan ran over to where Talia's voice was coming from and discovered her sister lying on the ground clutching her leg. There was blood on her hands.

"What happened?! Are you okay?"

"Duh, no!" responded Talia in pain. "I tripped over a rock and cut open my leg. Scraped my hands too."

"Oh no, it's all my fault," cried Megan guiltily. "I should've been paying attention; after all I am the older sister."

"It's not your fault. **I** should've been looking where I was going. I need to wrap my leg; can you go find some banana leaves? You know what they look like right?" Talia hoped Megan did.

"Yes, I **know**. I do pay **some** attention in biology class" Megan snapped.

A few minutes later, Megan came back with some banana leaves in her arms.

"Here, let me wrap it. These leaves have healing properties, you know," Megan said sounding worried while she tended to her sister's leg.

*At least she knows **something** about nature*, thought Talia.

Chapter 4

As Megan led the way to the find the cave, Talia waddled unsteadily behind, calling out directions. Every once in a while Talia would sit down to catch her breath.

How am I supposed to take care of Talia? What if we can't find mom or dad? wondered Megan as she focused on moving forward.

Suddenly, Megan heard screeching. She turned quickly, only to find her sister gone… again.

What now, she thought.

"Talia, **don't** play tricks on me!" Megan yelled.

Abruptly, the screeching stopped.

Don't panic, thought Megan to herself.

She looked around and found nothing but forest and more forest. Then she looked down. Footprints! She followed them hoping they were Talia's. But then the footprints disappeared.

Looking up, she felt relief as she spotted the entrance to a cave. She ran to it and found a rope, a grappling hook, and a pair of glasses.

This is the cave Talia was talking about! Megan thought to herself.

As she made her way into the cave she found Talia asleep.

"Talia!" Megan cried running to her sister. "What happened?!"

Talia slowly opened her eyes.

"Wwwhat?" Talia mumbled sitting up.

"I'm going to get you out of here." Megan said in a hushed voice.

"Megan, sweetie, you don't have to do that," a voice echoed from the back of the cave. "She's safe here."

"How do you know my… wait a minute. **MOM**!?" Megan cried out. "What? Where have you…" Megan mumbled confused.

Her mother stepped out of the dark with a smile on her face.

Why is she smiling? Megan wondered.

Then it hit her!

"Hold on! Mom!? Did you set this up?" Megan asked a little unsure.

"Uh huh" she said nodding. "Your dad too. We set up cameras all over the forest to watch you."

"What? Why?!" cried Megan.

"To test your teamwork and survival skills." Her mom replied.

"Huh?" Megan questioned.

"You and Talia **never** seem to get along. You are always plugged in and Talia seems to only care about nature. It worries us. I mean when we aren't around who will take care of you and Talia? If you don't care for each other, then **who** will?" Megan's mother explained.

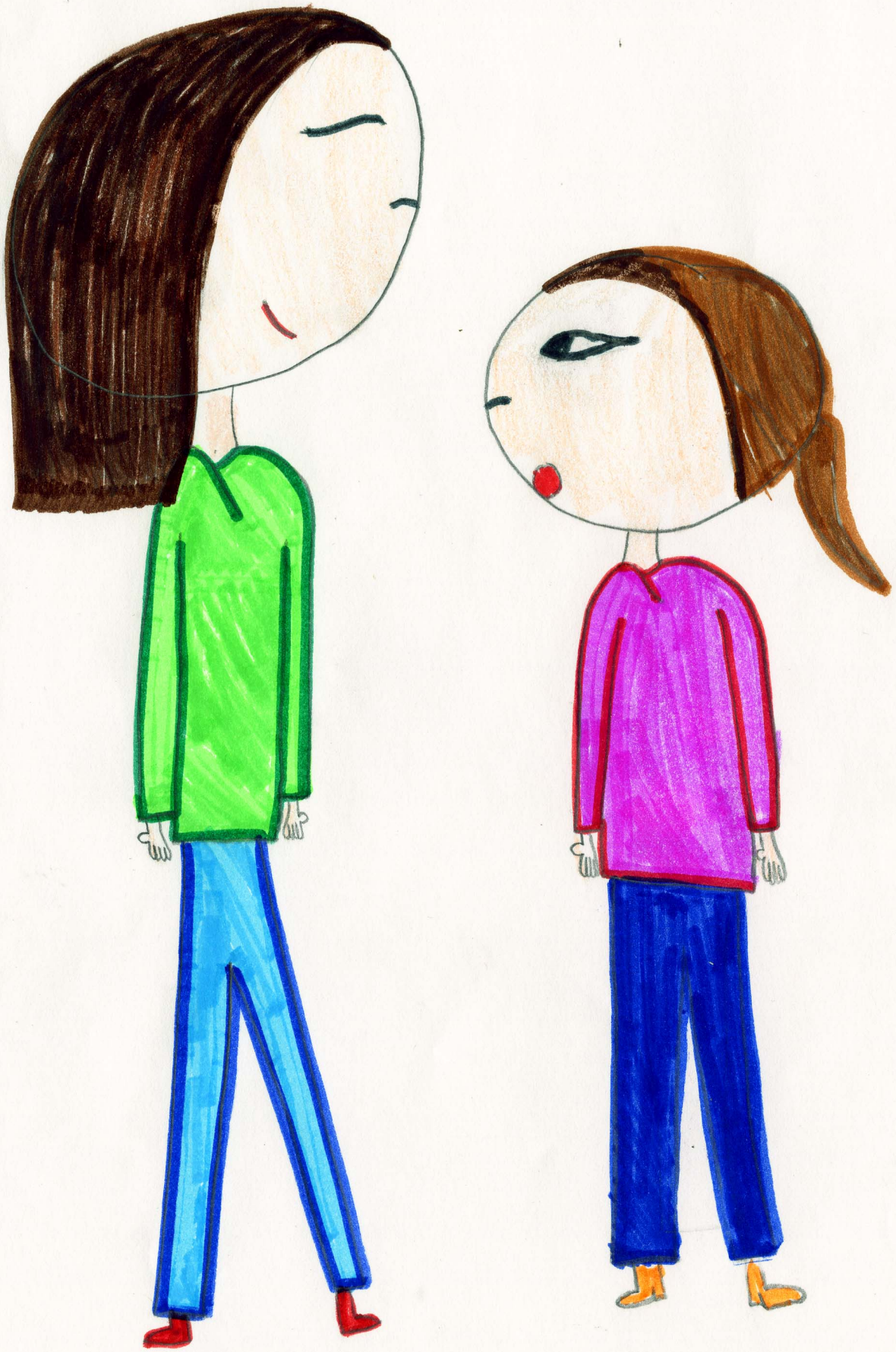
"Is Talia okay?!"

"Your sister is **fine**. I saw to her leg."

"You used banana leaves… Clever. Very impressive," the mom said proudly.

"Can we go back to the cabin?" Megan asked.

"Sure sweetie."



Chapter 5

Back at the cabin Megan pulled Talia aside.

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah. Just wondering…" answered Talia

"'Bout what?"

"Even though we fight all the time, we make a pretty good team." Talia concluded.

"Yeah. We do."

"Hey… now that I've survived the jungle, forest or whatever it is… I can say that I survived you too!" Megan smirked.

"Whatever. C'mon. Let's go explore" said Talia excitedly.

"NO WAY! I've had enough exploring for one day. I'm starving. Let's eat!"