

VALERIE SHERROD

KIDS

ARE

AMAZING!



INSPIRATIONAL STORIES
ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT
VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

DEDICATION

These short stories
are dedicated to kids
all over the world.
Each are gifted with
unique talents and
created especially to
touch the soul of
humanity in a very
special way.



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT
VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

CONTENTS

Loving Bullies	5
Eagles and Bears	9
Nobody Asks The Donkey	13



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgments are extended to:

I AM

He who gives a voice to kids when they can or can't speak for themselves. Thank you for creating kids. What an amazing creation. You have declared "A Child Shall Lead Them." So Be It.

PARENTS

who teach their kid(s) that valuable life lessons begin in the home

TEACHERS

who are placing their lives in harms way by going above and beyond the call of duty to protect our children

CHARITIES

who are giving unconditionally

ALL

who are making a positive contribution in the life of a child

A SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO KIDS

you are the joy of the world, born to be creative, have fun, laugh and just be a kid. No matter what you face in life, LOVE is on your side



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

1 CHAPTER

LOVING BULLIES



Elmo and Rocky were the worst bullies in school. Every day they wandered the halls and everybody tried to stay out of their way. Sometimes they beat up the boys but more often, they pulled girl's hair or teased them until they cried. Nobody knew what to do about Elmo and Rocky so everyone just learned to stay away from them. If they did catch you, you should cry right away because that made them happy. Afterwards, they would go to the next person to bully.

One day a new girl started school in the fifth grade. Her name was Maggie and the rumor went around fast that she was the daughter of the new Principal at the Right Way Elementary School which was the biggest school in town. Jade and Maggie became friends right away and Jade knew she had to warn Maggie about the bullies pretty fast but it was too late. As Jade turned the corner in the halls to her locker, she saw Elmo and Rocky beginning to bully Maggie. They were teasing her and laughing but Maggie didn't cry. "Cry Maggie, cry." Jade whispered under her breath hoping Maggie would get the message but she didn't.

The bell rang and soon the halls were filled with kids and everyone was running out to the bus or to get picked up by their parents in the pickup line so Jade didn't get a chance to find out what happened. But the next day she ran up to Maggie as soon as she saw her.

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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



"Maggie, I saw you talking to Elmo and Rocky. I wanted to warn you about them. They are really mean bullies. So be careful." Maggie just smiled a big happy smile and said "Ok Jade. Don't worry." Elmo saw Maggie at her locker before Rocky did. "Hey Rocky, there's that new girl." He commented.

"Something is different about her." Rocky said. But they walked toward her their usual scary walk that usually made kids run away. "Hey it's the principal's kid. I bet the principal's kid is the worst kid of all. That's what they say about principal's children you know." Rocky taunted her. That's when Maggie did something so unexpected that both bullies just froze in place not knowing what to say.

"Oh hi Rocky. Hi Elmo. I was hoping to see you today." And she gave them the biggest smile either of them had ever seen. Her smile was so pretty and full of friendship and love that they were paralyzed. "Oh, I saw you had a chocolate bar in your pocket yesterday Elmo." She continued. "We have a bunch of those. I asked my mommy if I could bring you some and she said yes and that you sounded like super nice boys. She asked me to invite you over to play video games at our retreat youth night this weekend if you want to."

Then Maggie put a chocolate bar in each boys hand and hugged them both and ran off to class singing a happy song and skipping.

"What just happened?" Rocky said finally, when he could speak again. Rocky didn't know but he liked it. Then when they recovered their senses, they saw what seemed to be the whole school staring at what just happened and how a little fearless girl caused the meanest bullies in the school to stop in their places as she hugged them and skipped away singing.



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



The next day was more amazing yet. Instead of wandering the halls, pushing people's books out of their hands and pushing girls down, Elmo and Rocky went straight to Maggie. And instead of those mean smirking ugly smiles that meant they were going to hurt her, they glowed as she talked to them. Jade watched in amazement as Maggie talked to them for several minutes during the lunch hour. At the end she hugged them again and the two bullies went outside and didn't bully anyone for the rest of the day. That was Friday, so everyone was curious about what was going to happen on Monday.

Monday was so amazing it was almost impossible for the kids and even the teachers to believe. Elmo and Rocky showed up in regular clothes, not bully clothes, and they were smiling and even seemed a little shy. But when they saw Maggie, they ran to her and hugged her. Jade saw this and thought she even saw Rocky cry a little bit. The bell rang and they went to class. After class, she finally got a chance to talk to Maggie.

"What did you do to Elmo and Rocky, Maggie?" She asked eagerly.

"I loved them." Maggie answered happily. "They are really very sweet. I will introduce you to them at lunch. Elmo is way funny." She giggled.

"You loved them?" Jade said in amazement. "But they are bullies." She objected.

"I learned a valuable lesson at camp this summer. We are to love our enemies and you know what amazing thing happens when you love your enemies Jade?"

"What?"

"Some of them stop being enemies. That's what my daddy taught me and what he teaches every summer at our youth retreat."



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

He does that because that is what he was taught." I believe it! Maggie continued. "I invited Elmo and Rocky to our annual youth retreat group and one night they decided to change. They are going to join our youth group. Instead of using their talents to hurt people, they are going to learn to help kids by going on a kids helping kids humanitarian trip next summer."



And just as Maggie said, Elmo and Rocky not only stopped being bullies, they became the most popular boys in school. In fact, no bullies could do anything in Jade's school because Elmo and Rocky knew all the bullies and wouldn't let them hurt people and started sharing inspirational messages with them. The messages were so powerful that other bullies in the school stopped bullying others. A no bullying campaign was started and the news spread from school to school.

"How did you have the courage to love them, Maggie?" Jade said with awe.

"It doesn't take courage Jade." Maggie answered. "It's what all of us should do by sharing the love within us with others, they will follow too and before long, everybody will love because of the love within them. Wouldn't that be so cool?"

And Jade had to admit. She saw it work with Elmo and Rocky so what was taught about loving enemies proved to be a truly miraculous teaching that Maggie showed everybody how to live out at their school that year.



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

2 CHAPTER

EAGLES AND BEARS



The war had been going on for centuries. The war between the Eagles and the Bears. Nobody in the forest knew what started the war. But everyone know how often Bears were injured terribly or killed by dive bombing Eagles or just as often Eagles were killed in large numbers by sudden attacks by Bears or as they dove and the Bears swatted them from the sky. Far too often the ones hurt the most were the children or babies or mommies of the baby Eagles and Bears who wanted nothing more than peace to raise their children.

Nevertheless, rumor had been in the air for a long time of a war to end all wars. A final battle was coming that would pit every Bear in the woods against every Eagle and a final victor will emerge. But nobody knew when that day would come. But that day did come, before anyone was prepared for it. It came about when Chipper Bear was playing in the woods by himself. He wasn't supposed to do that but sometimes children forget the warnings of their parents because they want so much to explore and learn. He was chasing a butterfly laughing and leaping at it from a log to a stump to a rock and then to the ground.

Suddenly he felt a shooting pain in his foot. He cried out before he even knew what happened but he heard the SNAP of that man trap close on his foot and he knew he was in big trouble. He must have cried for hours wishing his Mommy or Daddy would come. Little did he know they were preparing for the final battle, the war to end all wars with the Eagles.



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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



The butterfly lit on his bear shoulder. "Can't you get your foot out Chipper?" The butterfly said. "I want to play some more."

"NO," the little Bear cried with great big tears in his eyes. "This trap has my leg in these pointy claws, it really hurts."

"There is another one right next to it."

Mr. Butterfly observed. "Make sure you don't get your other foot in it. I will fly for help."

"Yes please hurry." The sad little Bear begged his friend. It was not long later that Chipper saw his help coming. Dozens and dozens of bears appeared on the ridge. "Wow they sent everyone" he remarked to himself as more and more Bears lined up on that ridge and just stood there staring over at the other ridge on the opposite side of the valley Chipper was in.

On the other side, the army of the Eagles were gathering. Filling the trees of the thick forest there, they dug their talons in and stared hatefully at the army of Bears just across the way not knowing the poor helpless Bear cub was trapped between them.

"DADDY HELP ME!" Chipper's voice suddenly rang out. Both armies looked into the valley and recognized the plight of the child Bear. He was crying loudly as he looked up spotting his Mommy and Daddy in the Bear army on the ridge. Oh, the hearts of Mommy and Daddy were torn seeing their child in that spot. When the battle begins in just moments, the two armies will rush into that valley and the killing will be most awful.

The Chieftain of the Eagles watched the little Bear. His heart was touched but not enough to call off the attack. "Daddy we have to stop it." His son Dominion Eagle said to him while perched on the same branch with him.



KIDS ARE AMAZING!

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



"No son." The king of the Eagles declared. "We can only hope somehow the Bear child survives the battle." The Chieftain of the Eagles watched the situation, unwilling to call the attack but unwilling to call it off. He did not see the tiny Mr. Butterfly light on the beak of Dominion Eagle.

The entire army of Bears were in anguish watching Chipper struggle. But despite the begging of Chipper's Mommy and Daddy, the King of the Bears would not call off the attack.

The clamor for war began to rise and Chipper was terribly afraid. Suddenly, before the call to attack, a lone eagle soared out from the wooded side of the valley ridge. All eyes were glued to that lone figure as it did several near spins and spiraled down in long elegant arches toward the stranded Chipper. All of a sudden, the king of the Eagles knew who it was.

"DOMINION!" The cry went out and both armies tensed knowing the son of the King of the Eagles had gone into the valley first. He landed at the side of the frightened Bear and looked at his injured leg. "Don't worry." Dominion said to Chipper. "I came to help" as he moved around assessing the problem. SNAP the other trap closed on Dominion's foot. While Dominion was a soldier, the pain of the trap caused him to cry out in misery.

Without a call to war, suddenly two figures burst from either side of the valley. The King of the Eagles shot from the ranks to the aid of his son and the King of the Bears rushed to help the fallen Chipper. Seeing their kings rush to save the children, both sides suddenly dropped their armor and weapons and rushed into the valley. The thunderous stampede was not a charge to battle and death but to save the precious youth and for mercy.



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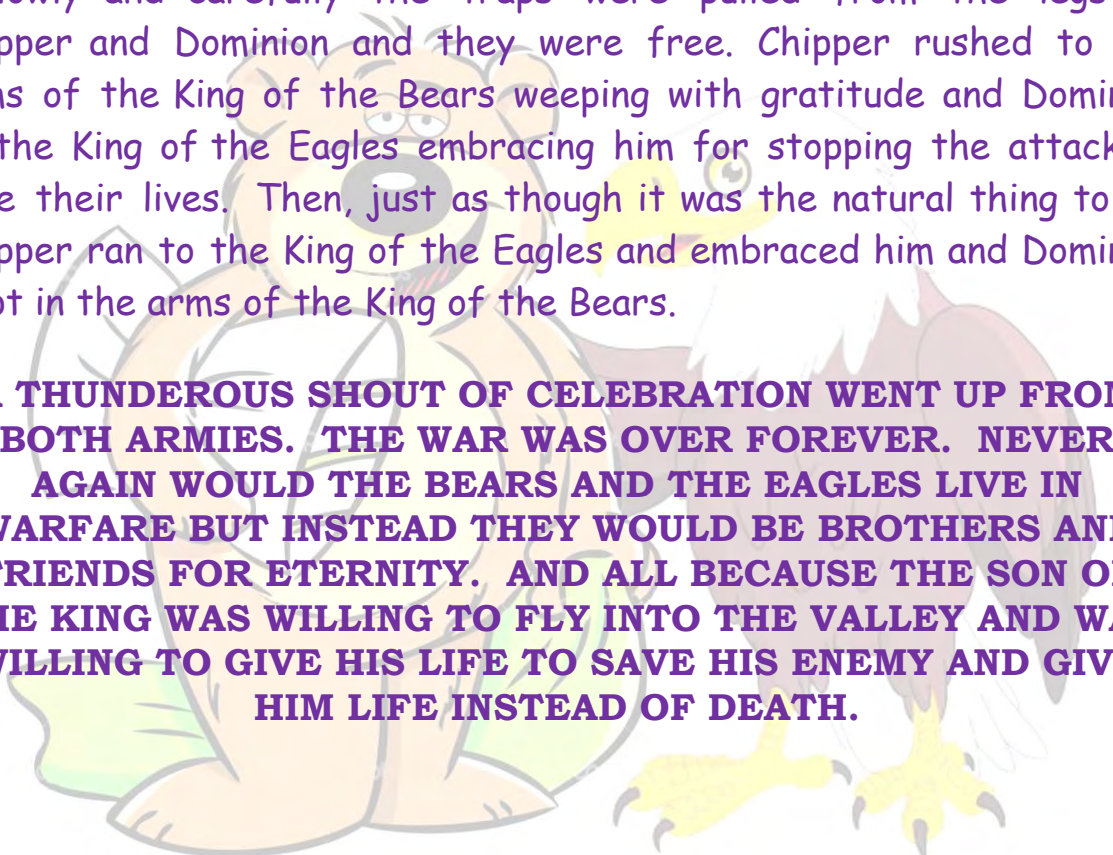
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Within moments, the two armies were working like a single-minded people to free the children. The Bears had the strength to pull open the traps and the Eagles had the keen eyesight and ability to figure out the mechanisms so they opened them safely.

Slowly and carefully the traps were pulled from the legs of Chipper and Dominion and they were free. Chipper rushed to the arms of the King of the Bears weeping with gratitude and Dominion to the King of the Eagles embracing him for stopping the attack to save their lives. Then, just as though it was the natural thing to do, Chipper ran to the King of the Eagles and embraced him and Dominion wept in the arms of the King of the Bears.

A THUNDEROUS SHOUT OF CELEBRATION WENT UP FROM BOTH ARMIES. THE WAR WAS OVER FOREVER. NEVER AGAIN WOULD THE BEARS AND THE EAGLES LIVE IN WARFARE BUT INSTEAD THEY WOULD BE BROTHERS AND FRIENDS FOR ETERNITY. AND ALL BECAUSE THE SON OF THE KING WAS WILLING TO FLY INTO THE VALLEY AND WAS WILLING TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE HIS ENEMY AND GIVE HIM LIFE INSTEAD OF DEATH.





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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

NOBODY ASKS THE DONKEY



Sydney the Donkey and Anwar the sheep walked along the rough road trying to keep up with the crowd. Everyone was all in a rush and upset and pushing and yelling ever since Martin finally got the president to let the people go. Martin told the nation to pack up everything and march toward the sea and to freedom.

"Well this was an unexpected trip." Anwar said running a bit to keep away from the switch her master was using to keep the animals moving.

"What are you complaining about?" Sydney responded. "Look at all the junk I have on my back. They make me carry everything."

"Well why don't you just dump it on the road? You are a donkey, people expect you to be stubborn." The helpful sheep advised.

"Well it's not that bad. Besides this is what I was created to do and if it makes me useful, then I will have a place in the Promised Land." Sydney said optimistically.

"What is that?" Anwar asked.

"That is where we are going silly." The donkey informed his friend. "This isn't just a vacation trip you know. Many miracles were performed to get us out of slavery and take us to the Promised Land, which they say, is like paradise. This is the trip to get there Anwar. Pretty exciting huh?" Sydney answered her.

"Oh oh, trouble." Anwar remarked and she knew what she was talking about. Just ahead, the caravan came to the edge of the sea and they were grinding to a halt. "This is terrible, Sydney" Anwar said in a panic. "Look at that river. You can't even see the other side and it is churning and flowing. It must be a mile deep. Nobody can cross that. Look at Martin just staring at it. He didn't have a plan for this. I knew it. This is just what the mistress of our family said



KIDS ARE AMAZING!

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



all along. Martin should have left us in slavery. At least we wouldn't be backed up to the sea ready to be slaughtered." And then Anwar the sheep started to cry which is a pretty unpleasant thing to listen to.

"Haven't you been paying any attention all this time?" Sydney said nudging the weeping sheep so maybe she would stop crying. "Remember what happened in history when people crossed over into other lands for freedom? They eventually made it. I believe a stronger force was guiding their path." The donkey said in his honking donkey voice.

"How do you know we will be saved from this? This is hopeless. All of the humans are upset and panicking. If you are so smart, how come none of them know what you know?" Anwar said critically continuing to snifle.

"Well, nobody asks a donkey what he thinks about things." Sydney said sounding somewhat hurt that he was never consulted. "It is amazing to me that people don't have faith. Look at all the miracles that happen in people's lives daily. It's the little things.

Suddenly the panic in the crowd got much worse. The people were screaming, "Our enemy is right behind us. They are almost here!" The children were running around crying and bumping in to things and being stepped on by the adults.

"Come here children" Sydney said to the panicking children. But all they heard was a "BRAY" from his donkey face. But they seemed to



KIDS ARE AMAZING!

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS



understand because they hid under his legs to keep from being trampled.

"Any room for a sheep under there?" Anwar said shyly. Sydney scooted the five year old into her brother's lap and Anwar snuggled in and all the children hugged her warm fur.

"Sydney, I am afraid." Anwar said softly so the children wouldn't cry.

"Get ready, Anwar. I don't know what God is going to do but He won't let His people die like this. God is faithful. He sent Martin from far away to save us from slavery. One day The Great One will come and take all of his people to paradise. I hope that includes slightly smelly donkeys and scared little sheep like you Anwar." The donkey laughed.

"Well, that is someday. For now our enemies will be here any minute and I hear they like lamb stew quite a lot," she said and then she started to cry again. The children started to cry because she was crying and everybody was upset.

"You have to trust in faith you little sheep." The donkey scolded. "Look, see at what Martin is doing?"

Anwar peeked around Sydney's legs and when she did, the children peeked too. Because they were on a ridge, they could see Martin standing in front of the raging sea facing it with his chest out. Then, he lifted his staff and spoke some words they could not make out. All of a sudden, the sea began to crash and twist and change and a valley opened up and pulled apart to make a huge pathway that was completely dry. Martin signaled and the people started crossing it to safety, to salvation and to the Promised Land.

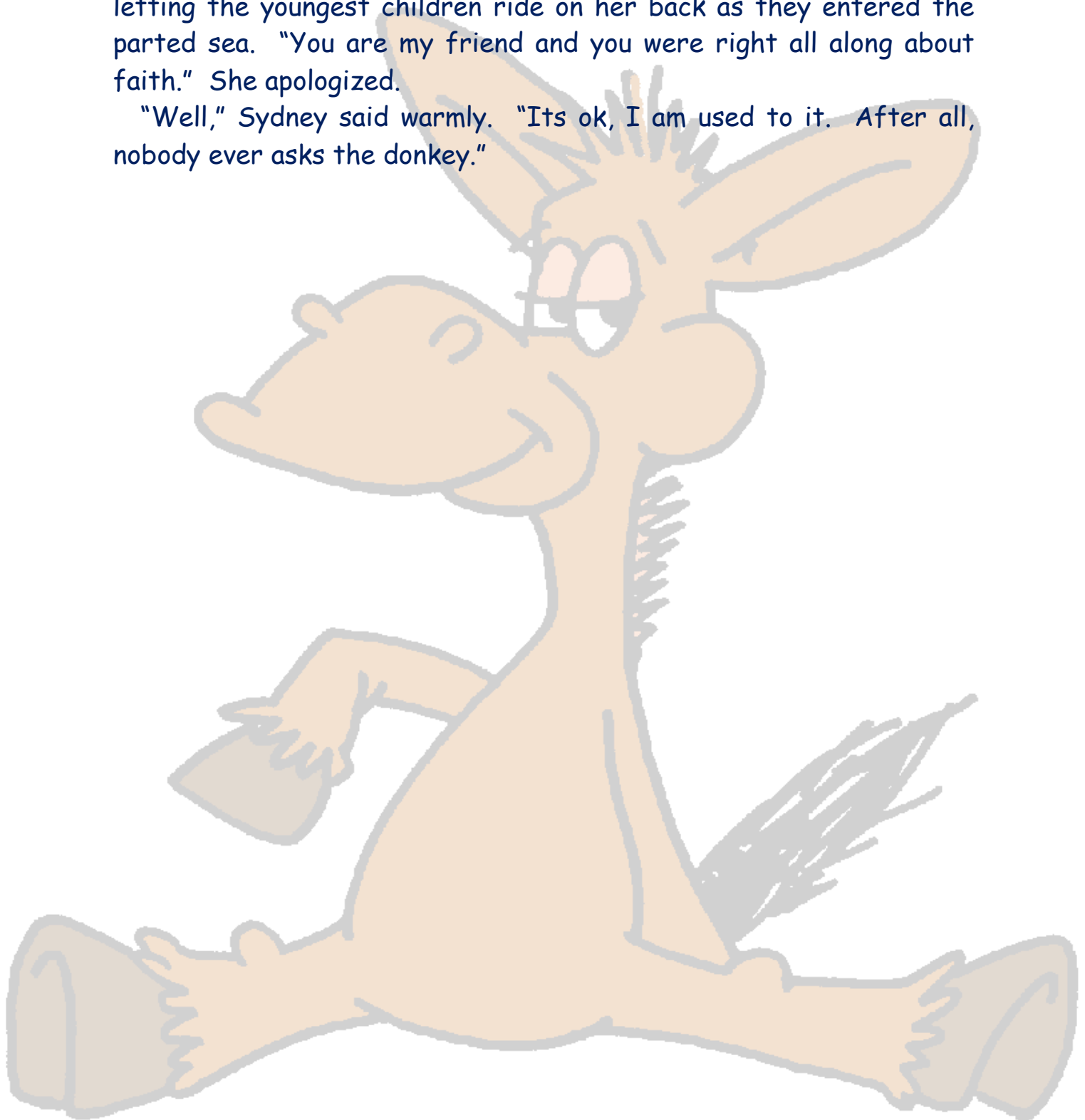


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INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

"I am sorry I was such a big baby, Sydney." Anwar apologized letting the youngest children ride on her back as they entered the parted sea. "You are my friend and you were right all along about faith." She apologized.

"Well," Sydney said warmly. "Its ok, I am used to it. After all, nobody ever asks the donkey."





KIDS ARE AMAZING!

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES ABOUT
VALUABLE LIFE LESSONS

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Valerie Sherrod is an entrepreneur, author, book publishing strategist, graphic designer, and humanitarian. She is also considered a multi-gifted artist who is also known for her wisdom and sense of humor.

The author is also founder of Sherrod Publishing and Enterprises, which focuses on the different aspects of her publishing empire, including The 90 Day Author, The 90 Day Author Kids, Couleure Fashion Magazine and Dominion 12 - Superhero Kids Against Bullying and Kids Are Amazing.

Valerie has worked with many authors to get their works in print by navigating the challenging, yet rewarding process.

Passionate about what she does, Valerie has taught life skills to women and teenagers, engaged in foreign missions, and has aided in the development of leaders and entrepreneurs by implementing strategies for success.