

The Adventures of Prince Papi

By: *Miah E. Amerman*

Papi pulled of a Karrots Kitchen book from the shelf. Before he could open it, his friends Max and Buddy came in. “Hey, what’s up?” greeted Papi as he set the book on a table. “An annoying German Shepherd decided that he would run around and trip a Chihuahua making her spill all the juice she was carrying. Keep him here because he’ll just make an even bigger mess.” Said Buddy nudging Max. Papi nodded, and Buddy bolted out of the room. Papi loved tutoring so he thought that he would tutor Max in reading. Reading was hard for Max because all the letters looked like smudges, but Papi was extremally good at convincing Max that they were letters, not smudges.

For the next hour, Papi managed to get Max at a 1st grade reading level. Once they were done with going over basic words, Papi showed Max where some books were that were his reading level. “Only read these books; you’re not quite ready for the others yet.” Explained Papi pointing a claw to the bottom shelf. Max nodded and pulled one out. “Caves are cool. Caves are dark. Caves are made of rocks. Caves can be scary.” Read Max. Buddy entered and smiled. “Hey, where’s Max?” asked Buddy looking around. Papi pointed to a table. Max was gone. A black blur ran past them and down the hall. “Where’s the fire?” asked a palace guard who was watching. Buddy muttered “The stupid dog is going to get himself killed.” Papi stepped out of the library and was grabbed by his neck scruff. Max had grabbed him and was now running away. “MAX!!” screamed Buddy chasing them. Max knew that he had to listen, so he turned and crashed on a bed. Buddy barged in and

demanded why Max did that. “There’s nothing exciting so I thought that we could go to a cave. Please? I’ll be on my best behavior, I promise.” Begged Max with his puppy eyes.

Papi sighed. “Fine! But if you miss behave too much then we’re going to go back.” Said Buddy. Max smiled and gave them each a bag that had food and a LED collar light. They were heading east within ten minutes. Soon they were at the entrance of the cave. “Stick together and lights on.” Said Buddy as he clicked his on; Max and Papi did the same. Max screamed and they jumped. “What’s wrong?!” cried Papi. “There’s teeth on the top of the cave!” wailed Max. Papi looked up and laughed. Hanging from the ceiling were stalactites. Max was not amused. He hated it when he was wrong.

Fuming, he looked around and yipped. By the time Papi realized what was happening, Max was gone. “Max!!” screamed Buddy giving chase. “He ran in between the stalagmites! He could kill them if he’s not careful!” yelled Papi as he passed him. Suddenly, he ran right into Max who had stopped at several exits. Papi pointed his light at Max, and it flickered and died. Papi glared at Max but didn’t say a word. Buddy came in a few minutes later catching his breath. “Max, what color was the battery charger when you put them in the lights?” asked Papi through gritted teeth. “Red.” Papi charged at Max yelling at him. Buddy gave a quick shout and pointed to the ceiling. Papi looked up and saw eyes. “Bats!” yelled Papi. They all ducked and covered their ears because the bats were screeching. When they were gone, they got up and saw Buddy’s light flicker and die.

Max ran deeper in the cave knowing that he would be pursued. After a few minutes he looked back and noticed that his light had gone out too. Unfortunately, he ran straight into a giant stalagnate supporting the cave. *Crash!* When his friends arrived, they saw Max unconscious beside a cracking

stalagnate. After a few minutes, Max regained consciousness sat up. “Owww! That hurt!” said Max wincing as he touched the forming know on his head. “Of course, it does, you knucklehead!!” Pointed out Buddy. *Crack!* Papi looked up and saw rocks falling. A cave in. “Guys, the caves going to collapses!” Cried Papi pointing to the stalagnate. They looked up and bolted just as the stalagnate fell over. They ran faster as the cave began collapsing behind them. Papi tripped just as he was about to exit and Max picked him up, threw him, and barley made it out uninjured. “Let’s go home and do that again!” Said Max. His friends glared at him until he offered to carry them back home. They climbed on his back and went toward the setting sun in the distance.

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