***Story***

By Robert Lang

“Mom, do I have to go to school today, Can I stay here with you?” Ben asked.

“No you can’t stay home all day,” she replied.

“But mom all the kids hate me and I have no friends,”he pleaded.

“ But there's that one kid”…

“Mom he laughs at me because of my clothes,” he accused.

“ Go to School and try your best,” she convinced.

“ Fine,” he replied sadly.

Ben's day started great but then at lunch all of his happiness hit rock bottom. As he went to his lunch table two older kids, Kyle and Jim, who were the “all stars of the school” came and flipped his tray of food all over his clothes. They also dumped milk all over his head, they laughed. Ben then attacked and swung at Jim with the tray. They both got separated by the nurse.

“You will pay for this twerp” Jim yelled

Ben was called to the office.

Ben sat down with the principal.

“What could be more important than getting a new change of clothes” Ben argued.

“Ben, I’m so sorry to tell you this…” The principal stuttered

“Yes I know, I’m covered in food!” Ben screamed.

“Ben,your parents were in a fatal car crash…They didn’t survive” he sighed.

“What kind of joke is this... Who set you up to this? Ben asked.

“Ben this isn’t a joke. He said strictly.

“Oh my god… Ben said in shock

Your grandparents are coming to pick you up”

“Ok” Ben said sobbing

Ben had a rough time that day but what he didn’t know was that when things get bad something good happens, but that day was the worst of them all. After the incident, he dropped out of school, because his grandparents were too old to bring him every day. A week later he went to the funeral which in some ways made Ben feel better about what happened. When he arrived back at his grandparents house his grandpa gave him a gift which changed his whole life.

“Ben I have a gift for you” His grandpa said

“What is it?” Ben asked excitedly

His grandpa got up and grabbed out a black compound bow from his room, It was a little worn and didn’t look the best but Ben liked it.

“This bow was your father's, he hunted with it all the time” his grandpa mentioned. “It’s the perfect size for you right now, I think you should have it.”

“Thanks grandpa.” Ben replied and hugged him

Ben started hunting, trying to help feed his family. He didn’t like killing the animals, but he knew that his family was poor, and needed to eat. After a while he got depressed because he didn’t like killing. He felt empty inside, he started to go to therapy which was paid for by their insurance. A year later was a tragic moment: the death of his grandpa.

Ben remembered that day like it was just yesterday. It was late, Ben was coming home after killing a large deer. He approached his house and noticed flashing red and white lights. He instantly dropped the deer and ran. He got in the house, and noticed the rescue squad was trying C.P.R. while Ben went to his grandma crying on the floor. 5 minutes later Ben and his grandpa were called outside and were told that the rescue squad was too late to save him.

It had been 3 years, Ben was 16 now and he started hunting twice as much and applied for a job. His grandma was retired since she was too old to work. Ben started hunting not only for food but also as a stress reliever. One day Ben was out hunting and he came across a pig who seemed tamed , who stared sadly at Ben. Ben, who was ready to shoot the pig put his bow down slowly.

“You better get going or next time I’ll shoot you” Ben warned the pig.

It was almost sunset and Ben made it home, unfortunately with no food. He was tired so he decided to go to bed early. A few hours later he was woken up by a loud noise. He grabbed his bow and approached the loud noise that came from outside. He could barely see, but he could definitely hear. All of a sudden something ran through a bush, Ben shot the bow.

It was quiet, he collected his arrow, but he realized he missed, The animal jumped on him. He realized he wasn't being attacked… he was being licked! He could now see a little and realized it was the pig, Ben dropped the bow and arrow. His grandma was awake after all the commotion. She came outside with a flashlight, and saw the pig in Ben, She shoved it off violently.

“Shoot that pig”! she yelled

“No grandma, everything is ok go back to bed” Ben replied.

“Shoot the pig, I'm starving!”

“No he’s just a baby” Ben mentioned.

“Fine I will shoot it”.

Ben's grandma grabbed the bow, and shot the arrow Ben jumped to stop it from hitting the pig. The arrow flew into Ben’s shoulder. As his grandma panicked Ben hid the pig inside and called 911. The ambulance arrived. He told his Grandma he would be home in a few weeks. The ambulance took him to the hospital, But he didn’t think about leaving a 87 year-old lady alone with no food

After Ben got better had to walk home from the hospital scene he didn’t really have any family left. When he got home he was presented with a horrible smell. He started calling to his grandma… but there was no answer. He walked into the kitchen and found his grandma's corpse. She was as pale as a ghost and was all boney, But she smelled horrible. He had no clue what happened to her.

Ben tried calling 911, but it didn't work. He didn’t know what to do, so he buried her by himself. After he was done he checked on the pig but it was ok.

As the weeks went by Ben was hunting every morning for food, and working in the afternoon to pay the bills. He still lived with the pig, and decided to name him Porky. But as always when things go good something bad always happens.

Ben was heading home from hunting, and he noticed his door was oddly left open. He ran to check on the pig, it was gone. Ben outside and found fresh tracks, he grabbed his bow and followed the tracks. He ended up in an abandoned shelter. He searched the perimeter for the pig. He heard a noise from the basement, so he proceed with caution. It was dark, but bright enough to see the person. Ben suddenly knew exactly who it was, it was Jim. He suddenly started having a vision… 5...4...3 Ben prepared himself ...2...1… he was blinded by the explosion. Ben suddenly woke up in a cold drenching sweat. His heart was racing. Could it really be? Was it really all just a dream?

Ben went into the bathroom and took a shower to help wake himself up. He went downstairs to see his Mom making him breakfast.

“Mom, Do I have to go to school? Can’t I just stay here with you?” Ben Asked.

“No, You cannot stay here with me all day.” Ben”s Mom replied.

“But Mom,” said Ben.

“No Buts,” said Ben’s Mom. “You know that I have to work today and your Grandparents are expecting you.” It wasn’t a school day, Ben thought. Maybe it was all really just a dream after all.

When Ben arrived at his Grandparents, his Mom dropped his off in the yard and quickly drove away. “That’s weird,” Ben thought. As Ben walked through the door of his Grnadparents house, there was a pig eatting them! Oh No! It wasnt a dream