

# *The Train*

-By Emmaline Ferrin

Okay, so sorry I had to tell you this first, but I am talking to you. Here is the story of how I got my sprained ankle, the earthquake, and the cowboys. It's a long story, but not a bad one, so listen up. It all started with the train.

It was a dark morning when Johnny woke up, ready to face the day. Then she remembered that she had school and everything else. She looked around for the time and saw the clock that she had gotten a few days ago.

*It's 5:36 again,* She thought because she had been waking up at that time the last few times. She had no idea why, but had been taking advantage of it by reading and doing her homework. It was *time to get doing homework,* she thought.

When Johnny got to school, she read the school name like always and it read, "Gray Middle School". She kind of thought the name was made up, but she went along with it. She went inside the middle school, hoping today would be different then the rest.

*No such luck,* she thought as the biggest bullies in the school walked up to her.

"Hey, Johnny. Why not be wearing trousers like a boy would?" One of the bullies yelled to her.

"I'm not a boy, Herald. I'm a girl and proud to be one."

"Okay, fine. Fine." Herald muttered as Johnny walked away.

Johnny hated her name because almost everyone at school teased her about it. Everyone except her one friend, Manny. Manny also had a not- as- good- name. She and Johnny met each other in elementary school, and had been friends since. They knew each other well because they both learned each other's feelings when they were teased with their names. They helped each other at school, like with homework.

Today, after school they planned to get the surprise Johnny's parents had promised to tell them about. They both hoped it was a good surprise because lately, they had been more tired after school and felt like they deserved it.

After school, Manny and Johnny rushed home to Johnny's house and burst open the door.

"What's the surpr-" and stopped dead in the sentence because of what they saw. It was the fact that both of Johnny's parents were there. The last time either Manny or Johnny had seen Johnny's dad was a month ago. He usually wasn't there because he had work trips to other states. So when he was there at that time, they were amazed.

"What are you doing here?" Manny asked, confused. "I thought you were on a work trip."

"Well, I'm here for the surprise. You know where we are going, right?" He responded.

"No!" Both Manny and Johnny said, getting more confused by the minute.

"Oh, I forgot to tell you," Johnny's mom interrupted them. "The surprise is that we are going on a train for a couple of days. You will miss school, but we will have a fun time. In Wyoming!"

*Okay, thought Johnny, I guess we are going to Wyoming. Wait,....*

"Is the train a luxury train?" Asked Johnny wondering

"Oh come on, you guessed the surprise that I didn't tell anyone! Yes, it is a luxury train, we will have our own cart, and Manny's family is coming with us!"

Yes! Both Manny and Johnny thought as they packed for the long trip. After all, they were going for a few days and would be missing school, teasing and everything else.

**Lets just say that I had no idea of what was to come later on.**

After they met up at the train station they got on and found their boxcar.

*'Mom was right, thought Johnny. It really is a luxury train.'*

There was a bunk bed if Manny and Johnny wanted them, (Manny's parents would be sleeping in a different room) there was a bathroom, a table, a T.V. and movie seats. There was even a queen size bed for Johnny's parents, a fridge, a microwave and last but not least,

A.....door!? Manny thought. *What's that there for? We already have one door!*

Manny did not have a chance to open the door because then the train started and everyone swayed sideways. Some of the things slid sideways and by the time they had moved them back, Johnny had seen the door.

That was a mistake to open the door. It led to so many things, that I kind of regret going on the trip. Okay, back to the trip.

So of course, when Johnny saw the door she wondered the same thing that Manny thought. Johnny and Manny locked eyes, then went toward the door. They counted to three and opened the door, to find something they had not expected. It was a door to a balcony? The wind rushed past Manny and Johnny as they stepped onto the balcony at the end of the train. They could see the wide open, the brush, the grass, the rocks and the dirt. As Johnny stepped forward Manny was scared that they were going to fall off, so she pulled Johnny back. They rushed back inside the train to tell their parents and after they did they had lunch.

"Don't fall off girls. I don't want to be all serious, but we are going pretty fast. It would take a long time to find you." said Johnny's dad

"Okay." agreed the girls.

Here comes the fun part. You'll love it.

After lunch they were told that they could explore their boxcar. Johnny went to the balcony and watched the land go by. But then the train went over a bump, and Johnny tumbled off the train thinking *I was told not to do this*, then blacked out.

When Johnny regained consciousness, she found herself laying on the ground, with the train nowhere to be found. She was laying on the only grassy spot with some bush under her. When she sat up, she felt a pang of pain in her ankle. She gingerly felt her ankle, because she was afraid it was broken. When she tried wiggling it she found with relief that it was only sprained and would hopefully be able to heal within a few days. She tried walking on it, she only limped a little. Then she came into shock and realized she was stranded, just like her dad had said.

"I should have listened to him." Johnny said out loud. It was true and she now believed it. She had to figure out a way to get back home, to get to the train, to get to Manny, and most importantly, to get to her family. When she looked around for anything to help her get back or give her a hint, she saw the train tracks.

*I only have to follow them to get home*, she realized. So what did she do, she followed them until she got thirsty. When Johnny looked around, she was in luck again. There was a stream of water around a few hundred feet, so she walked to it. Then she drank until she was ready to burst, in case there wasn't a stream around next time she was thirsty. When she started walking again along the train tracks there was a rumbling sound, as if it came from the earth. As it became gradually louder, the ground became broken up. That was when Johnny realized.

Johnny yelled "It's an earthquake, I have to get cover!" She looked around for cover when everything went black.

When again, she regained consciousness, she saw something that really didn't make sense. She saw herself riding on a horse? It seemed like it was happening, so she became fully awake. She then saw the cowboys around her.

I'm not kidding, they were cowboys. They had the hat, the cowboy boots, and the scowl on their faces.

Johnny was really confused about all that was going on so she asked "Anyone, can you take me back to the train I was on. I fell off and- wait are you taking me somewhere?"

"Kid, you gotta listen up. **Don't talk or ask questions**, yelled one of the cowboys, "But we are going to kidnap some more kids, maybe on a train."

By then of course, Manny and everyone else that knew her on that train was searching for her. Johnny's parents were frantic over her and threatened to stop the train. But Manny knew what to do. She had to get off the train and hope to find Johnny. She went to the door and opened it and then remembered she was scared of falling off. She then jumped off the train because jumping is not the same as falling. She landed on the brush, then looked around. There were some

people on horses riding toward her. She tried to run, but they easily caught up to her. Then she blacked out.

"Manny, Manny, Manny! You're here!" Manny heard someone yell. It sounded like it was Johnny, but that wasn't possible. Then Manny sat up and saw something that was hard to register. It was Johnny, riding on a horse with Manny. They were glad to see each other, but were grim to know that they were captives. They talked in hushed tones and came up with a plan to escape. They would pretend to fall asleep, but would be awake and wait for the others to fall asleep. When everyone was asleep, they would take two horses and ride back to the train.

When everyone was asleep, they put their plan into action. They grabbed the horses and rode until they could see the train tracks. They then realized that they were close to the end of the road when they saw the train station. They galloped ahead on their horses, eager to see their parents. That was when two groups of parents walked out of the train, with their heads down.

"Mom!! Dad!!" Both Manny and Johnny screamed in unison. They fell off their horses, trying to get to them. Manny and Johnny tackled their parents with hugs, they were so happy. When everyone came up for air, Manny and Johnny were crying, but were happy and had learned a lesson.

"I'll never forget that, and now I know that I shouldn't fall off a train." Johnny realized. And everyone agreed.