

# The Journey

By Jordan T.



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## Chapter 9

### Hope

S'mores, Pipsqueak, and their friend's feet hurt. They had been walking for days. All of them were drenched in the sticky sweat.

S'mores groaned, "All of you smell really bad. I hope we are almost there." S'mores looked at the map. It was very wet and had the bitter smell of sweat soaked in.

"Look!" Screamed Pipsqueak shaking S'mores. "This is our answer!"

"Not now," S'mores said annoyed.

"Just Look!" Pipsqueak yelled again ripping the sweaty map out of S'mores hand.

"Hey what wa..... woa!" S'mores laughed happily. "It was right here the whole time. Why didn't you guys tell me?"

Pipsqueak rolled her eyes, "I tried."

S'mores read the name of the ship out loud, "The California Cruse Line, this is our answer!"

“Well,” Pipsqueak added. “What are we waiting for?”

The hamsters saw the rope that was holding the boat to the dock. They climbed the rope.

Pipsqueak slipped and barely held on with his front paws. “Help! I can’t hold on for much longer.”

S’mores caught her just in time. They snuck in the boat and stood really close to the wall. Finally they made it on the wonderful cruise ship. It had beautiful red bottom that was glistening in the sun light. The smell of smoke filled the air, and all the hamsters looked up and saw the black smoke stack with the gray smoke spilling out.

The first thing they saw was the fuse ball table with the black and white players that looked like they were waiting for someone to come and play with them. One rod of the white players were tilted slightly. The hamsters built a ladder using their sweaty heads and slowly all of them got to the top. They felt the rough wood of the table. The younger hamsters got on the table and started playing with the ball. Another younger one grabbed the slippery rod and it moved. The hamster climbed up shaking. A little trouble maker hamster

figured out what happened. He moved the rods and started whacking the little hamsters. The others started joining in too. Soon it was a game. The older hamsters did not like this and tried to break them up. This was fun for the younger ones to hit their parents with the players. Since S'mores was the one in charge, she knew she had to do something.

“STOP!” cried S'mores.

All of the hamsters stood in the tracks and let go.

“OW!” cried a little one. One had just let go of their rod and it hit another small brown hamster. S'mores knew that this was not ok. She started going off the fuse ball table. The rest of them knew that she was the leader and slowly followed. They saw a room down a very cheerful and bright red hallway. They went into the first room they saw. There were people there in bright clothes. Almost like beach clothes.

“Ready to go swimming?” one of them asked.

“Sure,” the other replied.

They walked out of the big tan door. The hamsters snuck into the room as the big door slammed shut and made themselves at home. Two king sized beds were in

the middle of the room. It was a big suite with a large kitchen with granite countertops. There was a giant widescreen T.V right in front of the bed. In the corner there was two small chairs. S'mores started crawling up the sheets and the rest followed.

“Ewwwww boys have cooties! They have to sleep on the other bed,” yelled the littlest one.

All the boys rolled their eyes and got off the bed and moved to the other one. They felt the silky sheets rub against their head. It only took a few minutes for most of them to fall asleep. S'mores felt that since she was the leader of the group that she needed to stay up until the rest fell asleep so she could watch over them. S'mores wondered if this was the right ship or even a safe enough room to stay. She was just glad to not be walking anymore. She couldn't stay up anymore. Her eyes slowly closed. S'mores snored loudly.

All the sudden there was a scream and all of the hamsters woke up. The people they had seen earlier came back. This time they had the chlorine smell all over their clothes. She was in different clothes than she was in last time. More fancy dinner clothes. The one who wanted to go swimming had a bright yellow dress with

bright pink flowers on it. The other lady was wearing jeans and a bright green top with pink flowers on it also.

The ladies ran out of the room screaming, “HELP THERE ARE RATS IN OUR ROOM AND THEY ARE SLEEPING ON THE BED!”

While the girls were running the hamsters hid in the closet. S’mores stayed out to make sure all of them got in the closet before anyone else came in the room.

Meanwhile the ladies were complaining to the front office about their room. The front office gave them a new room and a refund and went to check out of their room. The cruise line had mouse traps they were going to set up just to be safe. They checked under the sheets and in every cabinet. They opened the white sliding door to the closet. It opened with a creak.

“Nothing in here,” one with a long brown beard called.

The hamsters ran down the hall.

“Let’s swim!” called Pipsqueak as they entered the fresh air.

S’mores took a deep breath of the fresh air. They all ran toward the pool.

Then an old lady saw them and yelled, "RAT!"

"RUN!" yelled Pipsqueak.

All the hamsters ran for their life with people chasing them all over. People came out of every direction. S'mores took a sharp turn around the smoke stack and the rest followed. S'mores just noticed after running for what seemed like forever the people were all in bright colors just like the people they saw in the room. S'mores just didn't get why most everyone there had flowers on their clothes. They saw a door on the other side of the ship. S'mores knew that would be a better place to hide than wide out in the open.

"Follow me," S'mores whispered.

All the hamsters slowly crept behind S'mores.

They went into the black hidden door and S'mores read the sign quietly, "Employees only"

None of them knew what that meant so they went in. It was loud and there was music, slow music. A whole bunch of characters were dancing and they all looked like pretty princesses.

"This reminds me of the time we sneaked to Disney Land," the littlest hamster said happily.



“Wait a minute,” said Pipsqueak. “This is a lot like the Disney cruise. In fact I think it is!”

The hamsters watched in awe as their jaws dropped open. This is the best thing they have seen in their entire life. After the show, they all sneaked behind the stage to watch some of the characters. Once they got there they realized that not all the characters had been in the show. They saw a dog with the name tag that said Pluto. All the hamsters were confused. They never saw a dog walk on their hind legs before. Sure dogs sometimes get trained to walk on their hind legs, but this dog was big and it was walking everywhere on its hind legs. They looked down the row of characters. They were all like that walking around on their hind legs or they at least had something wrong with them.

“This is weird lets go,” Pipsqueak said very seriously.

All of them were walking in a bunch. When one of them spotted something that made them run.

“MOUSE, MOUSE, MOUSE, RUN!” screamed the oldest of the group of hamsters.

A character with giant black round ears and a long pointed nose waved to the crowd of humans.



The group of hamsters went running. They didn't care about staying away from people. They needed to get away. People were screaming where ever they went. The wind in their hair felt good as they ran. They made it in their room just in time.

"I'm tired and I'm sure that you are all too," S'mores stated. "So we will go to bed."

They all got in the bed and snuggled up. Bed time was the part the S'mores disliked the most. She had to stay up all night in the pitch black darkness of the big bedroom. S'mores fell asleep anyway. She was the leader. She worked the hardest so she should get to go to sleep first.

The sun shone through the window and the light woke up S'mores. All the hamsters were playing and jumping around the room. The elderly were curled up in a bundle in the chair that was in the corner.

"It's about time you woke up. We have been waiting for you forever," groaned Pipsqueak.

She stretched, got out of the bed, and wished she would have not. There was a loud screech and the boat slowly started to sink.

## Chapter 10

### Why Now?

The captain spoke over the intercom in a calm but urgent voice, “The boat has gone past a reef and hit some rocks. I need you all to remain calm and get into a life boat.”

The hamsters waited for all the humans to get out of the boat first. Then, they crept out the room and slowly followed behind. One human they were pretty sure that they saw them in the room, turned around.

“Run into that cooler!” whispered S’mores.

All the hamsters scurried in. It took all of them to lift the lid. Before they knew the coast was clear they felt the cooler being lifted up and moved.

The next thing they knew they were tied to a bright yellow life boat with the captain in it. S’mores peaked out the lid. The rope was long so they were pretty far behind it so if they came out they wouldn’t get seen.

The littler ones were shaking with fear.

“It will be alright we are safe now,” said S’mores.

She sounded a whole lot more confident than she felt. Sometimes she didn't like being a leader. S'mores had been staying up late and all day she had been thinking about how to get their land back. She knew she would have to tell Pipsqueak her greatest fear. She was afraid of snakes. She knew that is what they would have to battle if they ever wanted a good place to live. S'mores had been thinking that since maybe they were traveling to a new part of California that maybe the snakes haven't took over that area that they battled for. Maybe they found somewhere better and this all would be over.

"Hey S'mores stop day dreaming and help us come up with something to do!" laughed Pipsqueak.

S'mores thought very hard before she opened her eyes hoping this would all be a dream and they would be back in China living their terrible life. She opened her eyes and blinked a few times. Ocean waves lapped against the side of the cooler.

"Dang it is not a dream it is real," groaned S'mores.

"What are you talking about?" wondered Pipsqueak.

"Oh nothing," replied S'mores.

“Well at least help us come up with something to do we are all so bored,” Pipsqueak muttered frustrated.

“Just go skip some rocks,” S’mores tiredly said.

“Great idea!” Pipsqueak yelled. “But where are we going to find some rocks. I mean well we are in the middle of the ocean.”

“Just don’t bug me. I don’t care do whatever you want,” replied S’mores.

“YEAY!” they all screamed together.

One by one they all slowly got into the warm water of the ocean.

“Look I’m a water fountain!” a little one called as she was spitting the salty water way up high out of her mouth.

All the racket woke S’mores up, and she was not happy at what she saw.

“WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!” yelled S’mores.

“Well you told us you didn’t care what we did so we went swimming,” Pipsqueak said really fast.

“I thought you would know better than to go swimming in the ocean. You could have got someone killed in the currents!” S’mores yelled.

S’mores felt bad, she didn’t mean to yell at her friend. She took deep breaths and let the air come in. S’mores closed her eyes and fell asleep again. Meanwhile, the other hamsters needed to come up with an idea of how to not be bored. Pipsqueak was envious. S’mores did not understand how it felt to be bored. She was the leader, got to make all the decisions, and always got her way. Pipsqueak wanted revenge from her friends mean behavior. She thought and this thinking made her not so bored. She thought and she thought until a great idea came into her head.

A few minutes later Pipsqueak’s plan went into action. They were gathering the coldest water they could find and stored it in their mouths. Pipsqueak counted down bobbing her head up and down.

“ONE, TWO, THREE!” Pipsqueaks head bobbed up and down since they all had water in their cheeks. They dumped it all over S’mores and before she could open her eyes all the hamsters hid except Pipsqueak. The rest of the hamsters hid hanging on the outside of the cooler.

“WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU ARE SUCH A BAD LEADER. YOU LET ALL THE HAMSTERS GET AWAY WHILE YOU WERE TAKING YOUR SNOOSE,” yelled Pipsqueak.

“Well” S’mores replied. She didn’t get a chance to finish because they heard a deafening boat horn.

“EVERYONE GET ON!” yelled a voice that sounded somewhat like the captain.

The hamsters felt a tug on the boat. The captain was pulling the rope to get their food on the new boat.

“Get in the cooler,” yelled S’mores

All the hamsters huddled up in the cooler. It felt like forever until they heard no voices and felt the cooler being put on board.

When the hamsters opened the cooler, they realized that the boat had lots of packages. It was a boat that if you ordered things online and you pay for the shipping that was the boat that would bring it to you.

“Where were they all hiding? I thought you said they all ran away while I was taking a snooze!” S’mores said to Pipsqueak.

“Well it was all a prank to get you back for yelling at us and getting to boss us all around! They were hanging on the outside of the cooler,” Pipsqueak laughed.

“Well now we’re even. So can we be friends again now?” wondered S’mores.

“Sure,” replied Pipsqueak.

They all found a nice place to sleep under a few boxes for the night in a large metal freight container. The next morning they all woke up and the boat had stopped and all the people with the bright clothes had gone. An enormous crane picked up their freight container and placed it on the dock. The hamster peaked out. A sign on the dock read Welcome to California.

“We’re here!” A little one said.

To Be Contuied.....