

Press Ganged

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Aois 11

THE year was 1650. Just before midnight I was walking home. The silence scared me. I wanted to just sprint home but I felt I was being watched and it frightened me. Suddenly, a weird looking man leaped from the darkness and knocked me out with his weapon.

When I woke up I was face down on hard timber and could hear water flowing smoothly beneath me. I realised I had been press-ganged. The voices of fearsome men frightened me but the shouts of a man with an aggressive voice terrified me the most. I lifted myself up slowly and scanned the area. I crept quietly up to the poop deck. The person I presumed to be the captain darted his eyes around and stared straight at me. "What are you doing here?" he asked furiously. He reached behind him and raising his hand with a vicious looking whip. It was the Cat-o-Nine Tails! I found myself in hell being flogged. Screaming for mercy, he finally stopped. His panting was the only thing that could be heard in the room.

A few weeks later I had started to get along with the others. Even if I had left my comfortable house, I was satisfied in staying with these pirates, my new friends. On a cold, damp morning when everyone was gathered on the deck conversation changed quickly from a boring discussion when one of the crew announced "We will start a mutiny!"

I panicked and walked hastily to the captain, trying not to draw attention to myself. When I met him I nervously spat the words out. He angrily gathered his most trusted men and ended the chaos by forcing the traitors to walk the plank.

"Those bilge rats were stopped thanks to you," he said looking down to me.

"Your reward will be bestowed on you when we dock in England," he smiled.

Sure enough I was generously rewarded with a barrel of grog and set free into the new world, England.

Limelight

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DAWN strutted out on stage. She bit her lip and the music started. It was 'Symphony by Zara Larsson'. She started dancing. Dawn poured her heart into it. When she was done, the crowd clapped and clapped. She realised she had done it! She was a star.

When she was back stage, she drank a gallon of water then realised that wasn't a good idea. She went to the bathroom and redid her make-up. Arina strutted in.

"Hi, you did great" Arina sang.

"Thanks, I was so nervous" Dawn mutters.

Mrs Hallwood bounced in, "It's your time Arina" she announced.

"Good Luck" Dawn whispered.

"You did great, Dawn," Mrs Hallwood exclaimed.

Arina and Mrs Hallwood left.

Dawn went into the team's dressing room. Her Mom met her eyes.

Dawn ran to her.

"You're only twelve and you already made an imprint on the world," her Mother exclaimed.

Dawn smiled. It was good to get positive feedback.

Arina dashed in.

"How did you do?" asked Dawn.

"Great!" Arina called as she ran to her mirror to redo her make-up before they announced the winners and the runners up.

"In third place of the under fifteens category is..." called a booming voice that Dawn could barely hear over the sound of her heart in her ears. "Charlene Hearten!"

There was a massive applause.

"In second place ...Arina Develara. In first place, of the under fifteens category, is Dawn O'Dwyer!"

She couldn't hear anything except clapping. She pinched herself thinking it was a dream. Chewing her nails and biting her lip, she walked

to centre stage and took the cup - VICTORY!

Dawn was sitting in front of her computer thinking of what to write as an English essay, when she got a text from Mrs Hallwood to be at the studio. She ran downstairs, grabbed her bag and took off. The dance studio was only two blocks away so she walked. Dawn galloped up the steps. Charlene stood in the studio with Mrs Hallwood's phone.

"Looking for someone?" asked Charlene tauntingly.

"Yes!" Dawn blurted out, confused.

"So you won the championship, you think you're a star... well you're wrong. You're just a stupid little girl!" shouted Charlene confidently.

Dawn was crumbling. Charlene nudged her. It was only a small nudge but Dawn fell. She was so scared she couldn't think straight. She couldn't stand upright. Her legs felt numb but they weren't. She went for her phone. Charlene kicked it out of reach.

All of a sudden, there was a knock on the door.

Charlene ran. Dawn couldn't.

Mrs Hallwood walked in and saw Dawn.

"What are you doing?" Mrs Hallwood questioned.

"Eh, just practicing" said Dawn unconvincingly, because it was Sunday.

"Right, I just came back for my phone," Mrs Hallwood said cautiously.

She helped Dawn up, and then retrieved her phone from the floor. She told Dawn to go home. Before she could say anything, Dawn shot out the door. She didn't understand how Charlene could do this?

She ran along home. When she got home, she was going to tell her Mom but couldn't. She had to tell someone but whom?

Charlene made her getaway through a window in the bathroom and ran. She thought of her days of victory. Everyone thought she was the star but when she overheard Dawn's Mom say that Dawn had made an imprint on the world, she couldn't take it. SHE IS THE STAR NOT SOME STUPID LITTLE KID! It wasn't fair. HOW did she come third?! She couldn't listen to this anymore!

Dawn's Mom saw Dawn crying. Dawn wiped the tears away and ran upstairs. She sat down. It kept replaying in her mind. All of a sudden, it made sense. She was jealous, Charlene was jealous. Of course, she was. She was meant to be in the limelight.

It was two days since the incident. She needed to tell someone. She had an idea. What if she wrote a letter to her Mom? It might be easier. She sat with a pen and paper. It all came flooding back to her and she started writing and writing. When she was finished, she left it on the couch. She hid in her room wanting and wishing that everything would be okay. She heard her Mom with the page. Then she heard crying.

Her Mom was crying.

Charlene was waiting for Dawn in the park. She spotted her, ran to her and hugged her.

“I’m so sorry,” Charlene announced.

“It’s okay,” replied Dawn. They bounced off to the swings and swung for hours.

Dawn was in the car. She got asked to do an interview with the news. She wanted to get the bullying point across.

She was questioned all about training, different awards and stuff like that. Then her opportunity came.

“Well Dawn I know it seems all hunky dory to us but I heard that you were bullied”.

The crowd went silent.

“I was bullied but I got over it. Anyone can. You have to tell someone. Anyone. Just get it out” Dawn said confidently.

Now she was helping others get over bullying. She never gave up dancing. She never would! She loved the limelight too much!

Fight

Scott Ó Broin

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Aois 11

ONCE upon a time Joey and Kendrick were playing football at school. They hated school. All of the teachers were nasty and mean. They always gave a lot of homework. Sandra loved homework. She would always have it done and she would make no mistakes.

On the other hand, Kendrick and Joey never had it done. They would always be doing something wrong. They would always leave their homework at school and make up silly excuses as to why they didn't have their homework done. Joey was able to come up with good excuses, but Kendrick wasn't.

The week before, he had said he couldn't do his homework because his toes exploded and Sandra just laughed.

The bell went. All of the children rushed to get out of school because they knew that if they were last they would have to help the cleaner to clean up the bathroom. The two boys just made it- it was really close! They decided to go and play some football.

All of a sudden they heard a voice asking to join in the game. Who was that? It was Sandra. Joey told her that she could join in. She asked what kind of ball they were using because it seemed like a really good one. Joey wasn't sure because he had found it up in a tree.

Joey noticed that Kendrick had disappeared. He searched for him but couldn't find him anywhere. He decided to call to his house. His mam told Joey that Kendrick was playing around the corner. When Joey found Kendrick, Kendrick was annoyed with him. He wasn't sure why. It turned out that Kendrick was jealous. He wanted to be best friends with Joey and didn't like Sandra asking to join in their game.

Joey didn't know what to do. He wanted to be best friends with Kendrick too but also thought he should be able to play with other people.

He asked Sandra to help him decide what to do. He explained that Kendrick did not really like playing with girls and that he wanted Joey to

be his best friend. Sandra suggested buying Kendrick a present to show that they were best friends. They decided to buy him something from the sports shop.

When Joey called to Kendrick's house with the present, Kendrick was really happy and they decided to put the whole fight behind them.