

Nick's Book

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Chapter 1

Seed Folks

Revenge of the Tomatoes

In a world where there was a garden. One man grows tomatoes. His name is Curtis. I am a tomato. One year ago today Curtis started growing me and the other tomatoes. I found out that he was just growing us to impress a girl named Latesha. So I talked with the

seeds he planted and told them not to grow. I was starting a strike. A month later Curtis noticed there were no tomatoes growing so he took my brother Greg and took the seeds out of him. He planted the seeds in the garden. I followed him to his room by rolling and I was shocked to find Greg being made into Ketchup. I was mad! I went back to the garden and saw people taking tomatoes. I started after them, and then I stopped. I thought I could die if I did that. I could roll out into the street and be smashed by a car, I could be taken away and eaten, or worse I could have been made into ketchup. Then I went to the seeds and told them to grow because there weren't anymore tomatoes left. I had a plan and I needed some other tomatoes to help me out. I wanted to get back at Curtis for taking away my brother and not showing respect to the tomatoes.

I remember when Greg and I were growing. We had many cousins that we had great times with. We played I spy with each other. We would try and scare the lima beans out of their shells. The pumpkins were always picking on us because we were smaller. I remember Greg always wanted to be a dentist, not ketchup like most tomatoes.

One month later Curtis had more tomatoes in his section of the garden. I had tomatoes fall off the vines and roll out where they would be stepped on so Curtis would get mad. Then Curtis came out and got mad and stormed off to the side of the building. Then I had tomatoes fall off and roll to where Curtis was so he thought people were throwing his tomatoes at him. This made him even angrier. He started to cry because he didn't think Latesha would like him if he got mad all the time. I felt bad after that because all he wanted was love. I asked the plants to grow big, red, and juicy tomatoes. Curtis was happy that his tomatoes were growing better than ever. Latesha noticed but she was not impressed. So Curtis decided to open up a store that sold tomatoes and homemade ketchup. He had a little farm behind the store and workers plated, plucked, and grew tomatoes. The workers took the ripe tomatoes and put them on the shelf or made them into ketchup.

There was a day when Curtis was never responsible. He just wanted to impress girls. Curtis used his muscles to show off. He lost Latesha once by

trying to impress other girls. He spent too much time at the gym.

A month later Latesha came to the store and thought that Curtis had learned to be responsible. Curtis asked Latesha to marry him and they lived happily ever after. At least until they had children but that's another story for me to tell.

The End

Chapter 2

Of Beetles and Angels

Of Beetles & Angels

Mawi is a very interesting person. He was bad sometimes but most of the time he is a very good person. He was very bad at Halloween when he stole candy from people and bowls just sitting on the ground. I think now he will stop doing mischief because he has no one too watch his back. I still wonder how they can afford to stay in Wheaton, Illinois.

If I went to school with Mawi I would not be mean to him I would be friends with him even if my fiends didn't like me and did stuff to me I would set

the straight one way or another. Even if I did not even make an effort to talk to him I would not be mean to him because he was poor and had a lack of friends in America. I would still stop people picking on him. I think that Mawi was stupid too not do fighting in self defense when he was attacked. I would not think that his dad would be happy if he came home to his house with broken bones. I would not want to go to school with Mawi because of a very good reason in my opinion it is very expensive to live in Wheaton I would probably be living in a one story house with a small basement.

That is pretty much how I would react with Mawi if I went to school with him. There are two reasons why I would never go to school with him though. The first one is we were born in different time periods. The second one is we live in different states and my family does want to be in Wheaton. That is what I think in a nutshell.

Of Beetles & Angels

Mawi and his family had to make many adjustments after they moved to America. In Sudan they lived in a one room hut with no TV. They were accustomed to fighting for reputation with no punishment. The parents had good jobs. The American economy was very difficult to understand. They survived on goat milk, cheese, and what they grew.

Moving to a new country is not easy. The entire family had to learn to speak English. His father knew a little bit of English. School was a difficult adjustment. In Sudan the boys fought for their reputations, in America if you fight you can get thrown into “the house of imprisonment”. The boys father told them it was okay to fight in Sudan but in America they should not fight back.

The economy in America was different that the Sudan’s economy. In Sudan all the people lived in huts, in America everyone lives in houses. The family changed from a one room hut in Sudan to a two story

house in Wheaton, IL. The family couldn't afford the rent so they rented out the top floor. They don't shop in super markets in Sudan. Mawi's mother does not know how to prepare Sudan's food's with American ingredients. Fortunately two Sudanese women bring some of the foods that they like and give Tsege recipes. They are all very happy then.

When they were living in the hotel they found a TV and the started watching it and they were amazed at how good the graphics were. They were also questioning some things they saw on the TV. The first thing they watched was a murder report of a boy stabbing a girl. They saw next what I would like to call the mother channel with a mother wiping off a boys face. Mawi mom said that if you have one speck of dirt on your self they will chase you out of school. I would say that TV was an eye opening experience for the entire family.

Mawi has gone though some life changing experiences in his first few days of being in America. I

expect Mawi will go through even more changes through out the book.

Of Beetles & Angels Reading Letter

Dear Reader,

Hi, I am reading the book “Of Beetles & Angles”, you may be reading it too.. This book is very interesting. It is not the best book I have ever read but it is pretty good. I am glad I didn’t get another book. This one was probably the best, book. I thought that some of the parts that I read were really funny. Like when the boys were taking all the candy from the bowls at Halloween that says take one.

The story is told in the order in which it happened. There are a few flash backs in the book so far. The book starts with the family crossing the dessert to get to a refugee camp in Sudan. After that it tells about the families like at the camp. It goes on to

tell how and why they went to America. Followed by what they thought of America when they got there. They were amazed when they saw a colored TV and how big the cars were. They were also amazed by how many cars there were. It was funny to learn about these experiences in the city. Then things got messy. Mawi and his brother Tewolde started fighting on the play ground at school and injuring kids. The brothers took on criminal behavior during Halloween they were steeling candy from people, taking the whole bucket to treats. In my opinion the boys behavior became worse when they stole a parking meter to get the change out.

There were many things I could visualize in the book. The first one was “I remember playing soccer with rocks”. I visualized kids stubbing their toes while playing with rocks. Another one was “beware the fishermen”. I pictured an angry fisherman trying to beat some kids senseless for losing his bait. Those are the funniest things I have ever pictured in a book.

From,

Chapter 3

Pet Essay

My Pets

Ha Ha!! My family laughed. Ted and Tibs were fighting again. They always fight. Ted was running around in a circle, he was jumping on to the couch then jumping off then jumping off the couch. Until Tibs tried to leave then Ted went up and kissed her then Tibs started to slap at him. They look really funny while they fight.

Ted is my dog. He is a mini Dachshund. Tibs is my cat. Her origin is unknown because we got her when she was a kitten and people found her abandoned in the forests.. I like Ted more. He likes

to be lazy but he sometimes is a bucket of energy.

Tibs is very mean to everyone and she treats Ted like a little brother. Ted and Tibs can not be close to each other or else they start to fight.

Ted cannot stay still for a while unless he is sleeping. Ted barks when he hears a dog bark, even on TV he starts barking and running towards the front door. When Ted sees someone he hasn't seen in a while or when he just meets someone he starts jumping on them. He will not leave my mom alone for even one minute. Unless he is cut off from her. Ted can jump onto the couches and onto the beds. I remember when he jumped onto my parent's bed which is almost three feet above the ground. That was one big jump. I was amazed because he is only six inches tall. I could not believe Ted would not play fetch when we got him. I was so sad then that I left the room and went to bed. The following day, my mom explained to me that Ted was only nine weeks old and he wouldn't know how to play fetch. Now

Ted plays fetch with me. Sometimes when I play fetch with him he grabs the toy then runs away from me. I am happy I got Ted. Ted got out of the house twice and it was extremely hard to catch him. One time dad let him out the first time and my brother the second time. I think Ted will be getting a shock collar to keep him from running away soon. (Hopefully)

Tibs can be a very unfriendly cat. She does not like company or to be touched. I tried to pet her but she just tried to bite me. She gets attacked everyday by Ted. She slaps at Ted most of the time. This usually happens when she gets attack by Ted. Tibs has to eat in the same room as Ted. That is very bad. Every time she gets out of the house there is a problem. One time she got out and we did not know. It was the middle of the night when my parents heard a meow. I was asleep so my family has to find and catch her without my help. She had been attacked by an animal, I felt bad for Tibs. I really felt bad for my parents and

my brother too because they had to find her in a bush.

I found out that the cat and the dog have many human and weird qualities. The cat is always puking up hairballs all over the ground. The dog is afraid of heights, the washer, the dryer, and the Driggs dog Lily. He barks like he is really tough but when the dogs come close his tail goes between his legs and he backs away. That usually means he is scared.. I used to be afraid of big dogs too. Tibs can be very annoying. She meows in the middle of the night to get attention. Also she walks around my parent's bed to wake Ted up so he will chase her. She runs away from everyone. She used to come up to people and sniff them then run away, but now she just runs away. Ted and Tibs are about the same size. Tibs is just a little bit bigger. That really surprised me. I didn't think Ted would be that small. I thought he would have ended up bigger.

My dog and cat can't be together for long without attacking each other. It is really funny to

watch them because it looks like they are trying to kill each other. But they are really just playing. Sometimes Ted can be very annoying to everybody. He gets a little too peppy and gets nippy. This usually happens while we are playing. One time he bit me and it nearly broke the skin I hate when that happens. Once Ted tried to slap at Tibs like she slaps at him. Ted couldn't do it because he only has 4 inch long legs. It was really funny to watch him try to do it. Tibs slapped me in the face once. I didn't think I deserved that but I was blowing in her face.

My cat and dog are really unfriendly to each other but deep down inside I think they really like each other. I like my dog he is very awesome. He has his own innocent look. It looks so convincing. I don't really like my cat as much as my dog. I don't think I am her best friend either. Ted and Tibs have brought a new understanding of pets and their behavior to me, now I know their behavior is very chaotic.

Chapter 4

Reading Letters

October 22, 2006

Dear Regis and Aaron,

My book is Jurassic Park by: Michael Crichton. Michael Crichton was born in Chicago in 1942. He has written many books like Congo, Airframe, and Prey. The sequel to the book I am reading is called The lost World. Both these books were made into movies. So far Jurassic Park the movie is nothing like Jurassic Park the book.

The main idea in chapter 1 is the discovery of a Proconsognathus. The first chapter is called the First irritation. The chapter is just about researchers trying to find what their mystery animal is. There have been reports of lizards biting children. Their first big find

on the dinosaur was when a researcher found one of the lizards dead so they were able to study it more.

The main idea in chapter 2 is everyone is trying to find out what InGen is doing on Isla Nublar. Alan was contacted by Bob Morris of the Environmental Protection Agency. They talked about the park and recent events that have been occurring in Costa Rica. A competing company has been curious about what InGen was up to on Isla Nublar. They had found out that InGen was cloning dinosaurs. They hired an important InGen employee to get information and DNA samples.

I have enjoyed reading what happened in the book and how it differed from the movie that I love to watch.

Your Friend,

Nick Siegel

November 13, 2006

Dear Regis and Aaron,

As you know, I am reading Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton. My mom told me about the book. I decided to read it because I liked the movie Jurassic Park. Also I wanted to find out the differences between the book and the movie. To this point the book is nothing like the movie. I prefer the book because it has more action.

There is a scene in the book where the main computer operator, Dennis Nedry, was shot in the eyes with spit by a dilophosaurs. That scene is almost exactly like the movie. Dennis Nedry surprised me when he said there was a rocket launcher in the car. There were no rocket launchers in the movie. I do not like this character because he betrayed INGEN for money.

The main idea for the chapter Fifth Iteration is man versus nature. The characters in the book ran

into a T-Rex while they were on a park tour. There was a major storm and they lost power to electric cars. This left them stranded in front of the tyrannosaur paddock. Unaware that the power to the fences was also out the characters were attacked by the T-Rex. Everybody but one survived the attack. But who will remain a mystery until you read this book.

I predict that Tim will get the power on because he is the only person left who knows about computers. I hope you decide to read this book because it's very good.

From,

Nick Siegel

January 2, 2007

Dear Aaron and Regis,

I hope you had a good December break. I'm still reading *The Lost World* by Michael Crichton. I find the book more interesting as it goes on. The book is at its climax. Raptors attacked the high hide with Dr. Levine, Arby, Kelly and Eddie in it. The attack was very intense.

The raptors found a candy bar wrapper on the ground under the high hide. That caused the raptors to find out Dr. Levine's position. The raptors started to jump up at the high hide that scared everybody in the high hide. Eddie was hitting the raptors with a strap when they caught onto the high hide. Soon after that one raptor caught the strap and pulled Eddie over. You wouldn't be surprised what happened to Eddie. The other people started climbing up the high hide to the roof. Arby fell while climbing up. He got up, went over to the shark cage and locked himself in there. A velociraptor took the key. The mystery of whether they find the key or not is one you will have to find out by reading the book.

I think that Kelly and Sarah are going to get the key back that the raptor took. They party had some custom made rifles, and they had darts made for them with a very deadly poison in it. What I want to know is will Malcom get off the island alive.

From,

Nick S.

January 16, 2007

Dear Regis and Aaron,

I am reading Star Wars Republic Commando by Karen Traviss. As you can tell, I enjoy reading Star Wars books very much. This is my 4th one I've read. The books are as exciting to read as the movies are exciting to watch. If you are not a Star Wars fan these books would not be very exciting to read.

The book is basically about a mission to destroy a powerful weapon. The main characters are Darman, Fi, Niner, Atin, Hokan, Etain and Jinart. Out of these seven people Hokan is the only bad guy as far as I know. The story takes place on the planet Qiilura. This planet is neutral territory until Hokan hands the planet over to the separatist. The moods of the characters are good to bad and somewhere in between. The mood of the characters never stays the same for very long. When things are going good something always happens to bring them down. Fi, Niner and Atin were separated from Darman and they could not contact him because of a factory that intercepts long range transmissions. Niner took explosives and blew up the factory. This allowed them to use their transmitters and they were reunited with Darman.

I predict that the group will destroy the weapon they seek. I think this because this weapon can destroy the Republic's army so they are very determined.

From,

Nick Siegel

January 24, 2007

Dear Reader,

I am reading a book called Star Wars Republic Commando Hard Contact by Karen Traviss. I have read a book by her before. This book is very interesting. That is why I chose to read it. This book takes place between Star Wars Episode 2 and Episode 3. None of the original Star Wars characters are in the book. I always like reading Star Wars books. They are my favorite type of book.

The main characters are Darman, Niner, Atin, Fi, Etain, Jinart and Ghez Hoken. The first four main characters are all clones that were cloned from a bounty Hunter named Jango Fett. The four have the same look but different personalities. Etain is a Jedi. Jinart is Gurlanin or shape shifter. Ghez Hoken is the bad guy in this book. The six good guys are trying to destroy a nanovirus that can kill clones and humans. Ghez Hoken can not use the virus because it can kill humans too.

The Author of this book did not choose very hard words too understand. Most of the words she wrote did not confuse me, besides the Star Wars words. This sentence confused me a little bit. “The droid’s comrades lifted the joist and aligned it with a horizontal beam, knocking over a fine Naboo vase and smashing it.” I didn’t understand why she used the word horizontal. Until I realized that she was describing the direction the beam was laying.

There were many metaphors in the book. I could only find a few of them. The best one I could find was “Then he looked up and his face was a big sweaty grin”. I found this one on page 258. The building that the clones were in was really hot and Hokan was tracking the clones through the building with the help of Hurati. When Hokan came upon Hurati he looked up grinning with a sweaty face.

From,
Nick Siegel

February 4, 2007

Dear Reader,

I am not reading a Star Wars book if that is what you are thinking. I am reading a book called A Wizard

of Earthsea. By: Ursula K. Le Guin. On the back of this book it describes Earthsea as similar to Narnia from the Chronicles of Narnia and Middle Earth from Lord of the Rings. I decided to read this book since it claims to be like Lord of the Rings.

This story is about a boy in a village named Dunny. He heard his aunt say a rhyme and her goats came to her. So Dunny tried it and it worked for him. His aunt saw the goats chasing him and said another rhyme to make them stop. She then told him he is a Mage. This is also known as a spell caster. She begins his training and after he single handedly fought off an army a powerful Mage came to train him. His name was Ogion. He gave Dunny his true name and it is Ged.

So far there weren't many causes and effects that I have read so far. The first one I read was Dunny over exceeded his limit and the effect was he nearly died in protection of his village. Another one was Ged wanted to prove to a girl that he could change his

form. So he looked into some of Ogion's books and the effect was he was nearly scared to death. Those were a few of the causes and effects.

I have drawn a few conclusions from this book so far. The first one is Ged hates this kid named Jasper so he will probably do something stupid to show he is better than Jasper. That is pretty much the only conclusion I can draw.

From,

Nick Siegel