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The Boy Named Atom

Atom was born on May 27th, 3055 at the Shrien Hospital located on the west side of what used to be known as the United States now called The West American Provenance. Atom was born an orphan and is to be taken care of by robots. Sounds strange, however social care services changed back in 3030 to become something better for the world when there weren't enough people to take care of the overpopulated orphan children. Atom was born a happy and healthy baby with no birth complications, other than the fact that his mother died during labor and his dad was no where to be found.

Atom grew up unlike many of the children his age. The robots decided to raise Atom in the orphanage, and he was not allowed to see other non-orphaned children, he had to stay on the orphanage property, and he was not allowed to attend public school. Until one day, the robots were no longer being reprogramed as the company lost money and having no updates to the robot's software made it difficult for the robots to properly teach the children the correct material to later go into the world as adults. Atom must attend High School for the first time. Atom was not really worried, he had always been very smart, quick, could read and write well, good math skills, had good creativity, and spoke well. Atom immediately thought about joining a sports team, he had always been insanely coordinated and athletic compared to the rest of his peers and he had an incredible love for all sports.

Throughout the process of Atom preparing himself for his first day of high school, the robots were acting funny. They kept glitching and saying things like "warning" and "beware" to Atom when he would walk by them in the Forum. Atom felt as though this was unusual behavior and was concerned with it, but he was so excited to enter in a real school with real peers that he did not think on longer than a few minutes. Atom had his bag packed, he had

everything ready for his first day at school. The company prepared him with normal clothing, the correct shoes, gym clothes, papers, pencils, binders, highlighters, etc. This was more items for one specific thing than Atom had ever received. He was beyond excited to bring his new backpack and where his new clothes to school and attend a real school with peers his own age. Back at the orphanage, Atom was the only boy his age, the rest of the children at the orphanage were ages ranged from 1-13 and they had other interests that Atom did not.

It was 8am on Thursday morning and Atom was dropped off at school by the robots 3020 hovercraft car. As they pulled up to the school Atom's face became wide with excitement. Atom could not believe he was about to venture into high school for the first time. He was what they call a sophomore, and he was going to the main office to receive his schedule. He walked through the quad while he looked at the school map that directed him up the escalator around the aquarium and as he rounded the corner, he was met by the "main office" written in large letters on the building that floated off the ground to show its importance.

Atom received his schedule and student ID card, upon doing so he was making his way to his first class. As Atom walked through the halls, he noticed everyone was looking at him and he just could not figure out why, Atom found it a little weird, but he thought maybe it was because he was the new kid and everyone was talking about how they had never seen him. He sat down at a desk in his first period class, Advanced Trigonometry, and immediately began dissecting the room to see what a real classroom looked like. Around the room were virtual posters, computer screens, virtual boards, and charging stations for all devices. The tone rang and all the students began flooding into the class in groups at a time. He noticed that everyone had one thing in common, they all had dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. He thought that was a little strange considering all the children at his orphanage all had different hair colors; blonde, red, black, brown, you name it.

Atom went to his second period class an hour later; this class was going to be his favorite Architectural Design. As he walked into the room, he saw holographic tables meant for play and realistic design making. Atom was stoked, he had never seen anything like this before. He immediately walked over to the table and began asking questions, super interested in the

material, and wanted to know exactly how to use it and exactly what he could do to understand it better.

The tone rang again, and students began flooding in the room once again. The lesson began and Atom already knew exactly how to run the program, what buttons to click, and he had already begun creating a whole layout of the house he wanted to have one day. All the students were astonished at how quickly Atom had figured the system out because even the most prestigious students had not caught on as quickly as Atom had. Atom had quickly made some friends and some enemies because of how smart he was.

The day was finally over and Atom was reflecting on his drive back home. He felt a bit out of place and a bit odd compared to the other kids in his class. He was beginning to think that he was special for some reason, but he was not sure why. He had to find out.

Fast forward a few days later, football tryouts were posted in the locker room. Atom went to tryouts and after just one hour, Atom had an entire pack of recruits watching at practice. The high school coach was standing on the field calling every college and professional scout he knew to come watch Atom and see how gifted he was. Not only was Atom noticed for his ability, but later there was an excerpt in the newspaper about him and the headline ran "Blonde, Bad, and Bold—New Football Prospect at C19 High School Promises State Championship." Everything became very questionable for Atom after this day, things were getting too weird.

One day at school, there was a giant flu outbreak, every single person in Atom's gym class was sick...everyone except Atom.

The evidence kept piling on, Atom had to get answers, and he wanted them fast. He decided to go straight to the source for answers. The robots.

Atom came home from football practice and took a shower. Throughout the entire shower he was planning what he would say and ran through the conversation in his head 100x over. He finally built up the courage to ask his closest robot friend, 226IE. He talked to 226 almost as if this was parent. He broke down and asked the robot, "Why am I the only person

with blonde hair at school?? Why am I the smartest in my class if I have never been the High School? Why am I so good at football if I have never played sports before?" These were all questions that 226 knew would come one day. 226 led Atom upstairs to the attic where he told Atom to unlock the cabinet and grab out a box labeled "CRISPR patient 534—2055." 226 explained that CRISPR was a genome editing tool that genetically modifies the genetics of people, 226 said it had been around since 1987 and that his parents decided they wanted to genetically modify Atom to give him favorable traits (3). Atom did not understand how this could be, however he thought everything that 226 made sense based on what he was experiencing at school. 226 explained that CRISPR was created to prevent disease (4), but that as the world began creating negativity around a what he called "the designer baby" (2), which was genetically modified child that had began to take the world by storm when everyday people began affording the modification. 226 added that this became a very dangerous and crazy time and that many people thought it was ethically wrong to continue using CRISPR for things non-medical and there was much controversy around the topic (1 and 5). Atom was confused, however the more he continued to take information in, the more everything made sense. 226 explained that his parents illegally genetically modified his genes, and this is why they had to give him up to the orphanage because Atom looked nothing like his parents and it would be obvious that they had used CRISPR if they kept him. Atom burst into tears at this information because he had always wondered why he was an orphan. Atom then realized all the other children in the orphanage must be products of the same experiment and this made him feel less alone. He felt blessed and afraid all at the same time. This was dangerous if someone found out his true identity, but he felt great about his endless ability in the classroom, football field, and charisma.

The next day Atom returned to school to find all the students and staff waiting for him and as soon as he saw them, he turned to run away he ran until he could no longer run and when he finally found a dark alley to hide in, he was met by a man in a dark suit. He had no energy to run and was sure he was caught, he plead for amnesty, but the man drugged him.

Atom woke up where he found...

THE END.

Work Cited

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