Library of the Future

RUNNER UP

Category 11-14 years old

"It's More than just a Book"

Written by R.S.

As Coral sat on the bench in the library, she looked desperately at the librarian who walked up to her. "We don't specifically have any books on brain tumours, but there is a story book that talks about it," she said, leading her to the pod. "It's this one. Abel's adventures in Enderheim. I hope you find the information you are looking for." She walked off. As Coral stepped inside the pod, and closed the hatch, she sat down on the soft cushioned chair, albeit a bit crusty from so many people sitting on it. She flipped the black helmet on, and after waiting a few minutes, was transported into the world of Enderheim.

She looked to her left, and saw a colossal horse that someone was fighting. That brave warrior must have been Abel. She raced towards him, and grabbed his shoulder. He said, "This is not the best time!" and shoved her out the way of the horse's hoof. Coral noticed two axes on the floor. She grabbed them, and threw one dead in the horse's eye. The horse struggled to beat the pain, and fell to the floor, stone cold. As Abel put his two daggers away, she jogged up to him, still slightly shaken from the sight of the horse. "What's your name?" she asked, wanting to be proven he was in fact Abel, and she wasn't just seeking help from the villain of the story. "Abel. Abel Stoneheart. You?" he asked, his long, brown hair tied up in a man bun for maximum comfort and style. "Coral Smith," she said, timidly, "I, I need your help. Do you know anything about brain tumours? I know, strange question and all but I-" He shushed her, and said, "Calm down. I understand. You've got it, haven't you?

"No, a friend has it. Well, she's my only friend, and I don't want to send her to the hospital, because the current state of them is just horrible. I was hoping I could get some information so I, a student, could do something," she said.

"Well, since this is a story book, I can't just tell you information. You'll need to get me out of this world, and into the real world." He held out his hands, and she took them. They felt rough, like bark. "You know this isn't real?" she said, staring into his blue eyes. "Yes. One person entered my world, and told me everything. I tried to not believe it, but, I just gave up," he said. "Well," she said, "Let's get you in there real world, shall we?" Abel looked over at a small village, with a unhappy expression. "Yes. I think it's about time I left this place." Coral knew what he had to lose, but didn't say anything of it, so she didn't distress him even more. He blinked his tears away, though Coral didn't see he had any, thanks to his stern face. He turned to face her again. "I think I know where to go. Come. We've got no time to lose!" he said, valiantly. He turned to a large black castle in the distance. He started to race to it, with Coral following closely behind.

"Here we are. Are you sure you want to come with?" he asked her, while crouching behind a large rock just outside the castle. Her anxiety had already kicked in, so all she let out was a little squeak. "I'll take that as a no," he said starting to move away from the rock.

"Wait! This is for Abigail. I need to come to," she said, seizing his arm. He nodded, and said, "Remember. You can get hurt, and if you die, you will go back to the beginning of the book. OK? So watch out for yourself." She smiled, and wished deep down, that she hadn't agreed to come with him to the castle. But the words got stuck in her throat. She gulped and started crawling away from the rock, just as Abel did. They crept inside a window, and ended up in the throne room of the book's villain, Arturo. He was a mighty bear, guarding the one thing they needed. A potion. They crept into the room, and tip toed to the table with the bottle on it. Abel lifted Coral up, so she could reach the potion, but she accidentally fell, waking the beast up. He roared, and grabbed the potion. Abel and Coral dashed around his feet, trying not to get stomped on. With a big leap, Abel grabbed the potion and smashed it on the floor. Luckily, Abel caught some of the potion in his mouth when it smashed. Transporting him to the real world.

Coral pressed a button on her helmet in real life, so she could leave the book. She got out of the pod and rushed to Abel's side. "I can show you things! You can save Abigail!" he said, with joy. They rushed to Abigail's house, and with some skill on Coral's part, they managed to remove the tumour.

After that, Coral and Abigail visited Abel. Coral peered through the door to an abandoned shed, to see Abel sitting down, by the stone wall. Coral creeper closer, and said, "Abel? What are you doing?" He noticed her, and sighed. "What's wrong?" she said, sitting down next to him. "I told the librarian, how I got out of the book, and she told the whole library. They all humiliated me, and said to me: Go back home! And I miss my family," he said, miserably.

"Don't listen to them. And I know you miss your family. But, why don't you become my family?" Abel gasped. "Really?"
"Yes, really. And, thank you. For everything." They both leaned in for a hug, and stayed like that for what felt like hours. It was a magical moment. A friendship between two people from different worlds.

The End