

# Jungle Boy

By: Kato

In a world made up of rules, you would think no one would try to disobey especially a group of students. Our story begins with a boy named Mark before we can even begin the story we first have to learn more about our main character, let's first get some background on our new friend Mark. Mark, a cool cucumber-type guy, he has always followed the rules and never had to fight, growing up in a hard-working middle-class family, Mark has always looked up to his parents.

On a normal Saturday evening it had been cooler than normal but the sun still shined brighter than any other day. Mark outside playing with his dog throwing a tennis ball around while he and his dog would race after it. It had been their little special game for years now of course his dog would always win, Mark had never been the most athletic person but that never affected him. After a few rounds of playing with his dog, his dad came outside to tell him something. His dad unlike Mark had a more athletic build, people would even say Mark's dad had the athleticism of a horse. Walking with confidence Mark's dad came up to him "Markie" he said, that's what he would always call him, Mark used to like it but now he has grown out of it Mark would always get embarrassed when his dad called him that in public. "Yes, dad" Mark responded. "Have you started packing for your trip to your grandma's house", Mark had totally forgotten "oh ya how could I forget I'm too excited to forget" Mark said. He knew he had been lying and he didn't like it.

Walking away his dad knew he that he had been lying but he didn't say anything. After his dad left Mark rushed inside his house pack his suitcase. He packed it quickly he didn't care if he forgot some things all he needed had been a toothbrush and some clothes. It took him a while but he had finished. Laying down and feeling tired Mark started thinking about his mom when Mark had only been a kid his mom had left him and his family he never knew why his mom had left him but he would always think about her. Before Mark knew it, he dozed off. He would always doze off when he had been thinking, most people called him lazy for that but he never cared.

During Mark's little naps, he had the weirdest dream. It was one of the weirdest dreams he has ever dreamed. With his blurry vision, he tried to make out what was going on, with only the slightest of eyesight he saw a crowd with what looked like weapons, he didn't get the chance to come closer and take a look, because just when he saw it he woke up. With sweaty palms and sweat dripping down from his forehead, as if he had just finished exercising, Mark woke up from his weird dream. Confused about what he had just seen he looked at his phone to check the time, to his surprise it had been over 3 hours since he had fallen asleep.

Feeling tired he got up and walked slowly to the kitchen, he walked past his sister's room with the door barely open he managed to see what she was up to, in the small opening he could see Ava his sister, Ava was just like Mark except she was more popular than him and most of Marks friends only knew him because of his sister. When he peeked in her room he saw Ava and her BF Andrew talking about something. You

see in Mark's household the number one rule had to be "Always leave the door open when having guests in your room" that's what his dad would always say, but clearly, Ava didn't care. Right before he walked away he heard Andrew say something " Hey Mark could you close the door" without any hesitation, Mark closed the door slowly and walked away.

Looking through the fridge he decided to make some leftovers before he could go to bed. While putting his food in the microwave he started thinking about the dream he had just had, he felt so weird as if he had already experienced what happened in the dream but he knew he never did, for now, he wasn't going to think about it. After finishing his dinner he proceeds to get to bed. Going to bed he struggled the most, he still felt as if his whole body had been sitting in a hot room with no air conditioning Mark struggled to sleep but he still managed to fall asleep, during his sleep, he had the same dream but this time it had more detail, this time he could see his cousin standing beside telling him something but he couldn't hear anything it felt like he had large earphone covering his ears. Without even being able to get ahold of what had been happening he got pulled into another dream in this dream he found himself running he didn't know what had been happening but all he could hear had been footsteps louder than a car running up from behind him once again he got pulled into another dream but this time it had been a normal dream he had been playing with his friends.

When he woke up, he could see rays of sun coming into his room "did I oversleep?" he asked himself. With no warning, his dad barged into the room with a

smile bigger than the sun “Are you ready to see your grandma, Markie” he said with a big smile. With a smile on his face” Of course I'm excited” Mark said. Slowly Mark started getting out of bed and started his morning routine. Usually, Mark would always be the last one to wake up but this morning he had been only the second to his dad to wake up his younger brother and his older sister had still been asleep. After his shower he rushed to the kitchen to get his breakfast, eating as fast as a cheetah he would be done with breakfast in less than two minutes. With a big smile on his face, he waited for his dad to take them to their grandma's house. While in the car he thought about the last time he visited. It had been so much fun that he didn't want to leave. As he got in the car he looked through his phone and started playing games. After a few hours of being on his phone, it had been hotter than a pizza fresh out of the oven.

It only took a few hours to his grandma's house, and when he arrived he saw the first thing he had done had been talking about all the things that had happened after he left. After doing some unpacking he had been called into the kitchen, his grandma and his cousins had all been in the kitchen, and his grandma told Mark his cousins, Adrain, Fred, and him had to go pick up Martin from his school. Without arguing Mark and his cousins faster than their grandma could say anything. They knew if they stayed they would have to do chores. While heading out of the house their grandma told them to be careful on their way to the school, they didn't think much of it though.

On their walk to the school, they played a few such as: “Truth or dare” and “Never Have I Ever”. It had been over a year since they had seen each other but they

didn't have much to say to each other. The silence would become louder than a jet plane, so Mark decided to be the one to break "Why do you think grandma told us to be careful" he asked, Adrain who had been the oldest by 1 year and the smartest said "Maybe because she had been worried we would get kidnapped" he said in a sarcastic tone. "Do you think so?" Fred asked, he had never been the smartest he would fall for almost anything, Adrain could say anything and he would fall for it. With a straight face, Adrian said "Of course, not dummy". After that brief conversation, it would be only 6 minutes before they would reach the school even those minutes it had been pure silence, before they reached the school, Adrian told Mark to hide so they could surprise Martin when he walks out of the school. Quickly Mark looked for the best hiding place.

After hiding, Adrain and Fred went to look for Martin. After a few minutes of Mark going into hiding, he heard a group of students shouting, he couldn't hear anything they had been saying, so he didn't attention to it. After 6 minutes of hiding, he started to wonder where Adrain, Marin, and Fred had been. So he got out of his hiding spot while trying to get out he scraped his knee on a rock which caused him to trip and fall down over. When getting up he saw he heard students screaming he couldn't believe his eyes.

It had been something he had never seen before and something he would never have expected he saw an image he had been very familiar with. It had been an image of students causing a riot. He couldn't believe something he thought would impossible had happening right in front of him and he couldn't move. This seemed like a dream it

seemed too insane to be possible. His heart pounding palms sweating and body shaking he tried to come back to reality but it had been too horrific. After seconds of feelings paralyzed he managed to come back to reality all he could think about had been trying to find his cousins. He could his feet shaking as he struggled to walk this all had felt like a dream. Without even getting 5 steps in he heard a loud voice call out “Hey kid!” he felt his heart skip a beat and start pounding even fast “Is he talking to me” Mark thought after a few seconds he heard the voice again this time even closer than before” Hey kid!”, Mark had to look back, and then looked back what he saw had been something that he thought could only happen in movies. What he saw had been a group of fifteen students all holding some type of weapon and all of them walking towards him. Mark couldn’t feel his body all he could feel had been his heart beating faster than his body could handle, it only took a few seconds for the group to reach him. Making a circle the group surrounded Mark.

With Mark still on his knees he started panicking then one of the kids said” why do you look scared kid”. Mark didn’t respond. Why would he, all the kids surrounding him looked much older than he did, Mark had been too scared that if he had given the wrong answer it would be the end for him. It became silent, but that didn’t last long. One of the kids walked closer and grabbed Mark by his shirt and picked him up off the ground, Mark had thought that the boy had been going to punch him but he instead helped him up. The boy then asked him “What are you doing here”. Mark tried to say something but all he could do had been to stutter “I-I-I-I was pi-pi-picking u-u-u-up my

cousin” he said. He had been surprised he could even speak. The boy then responded,” You poke a bad time to be picking up your cousin” and then left.

He saw the boys walk away, he didn’t know what had happened but he had still been shaken. Getting up he saw Adrain, Fred, and Martin all running toward him, they all looked like they had seen a ghost. When they reached Mark they asked him if he had been hurt, but Mark had still been too shaken to even speak, 20 seconds passed and Mark still hadn’t said anything. Everyone had a worried look on their faces, then all of a sudden something came out of Mark’s mouth voice trembling and lips shaking he said “I thought they were gonna fight me” everyone’s expressions worsened. “At least they didn’t that’s all that matters” Adrian said with a straight face. “Let’s head back home before it gets worse or one of us gets injured” Martin said.

With everyone on the same page, they started heading out of the school it took a few minutes to get to the exit of the school but just before they could leave they all noticed something in the corner of their eyes. Mark froze his skin ran cold with fear and he seemed as if he had been shot, the sight that Mark and everyone saw had been frightening and a nightmare they saw a group of 10 people going against one person it had been unfair and cruel but they didn’t care, they couldn’t see anything but they could hear someone screaming for help it felt like something that could only happen in a movie. Mark had still been frozen Adrain started screaming at him to snap out of it but he could hear him. “That could have been me” Mark said in a whisper with a scared face. “That doesn’t matter, it wasn’t you” Martin said in a sorry tone.

Right before they could keep on moving Martin saw one of the boys look their way and point at them then the boys said something to other and they started walking towards them. Without a second hesitation, everyone started running for their lives. They could hear all the boys screaming and yelling to get them, but none of them looked back they all just kept running. It took them minutes to outrun them but they had to keep running, after a few minutes of running they slowed down and started walking. "What was happening Martin" Adrain said in an almost dead voice "it is too much to explain" Martin said in a similar tone. "We have a long time, explain" Adrian said in a demanding tone. "This was a planned riot, everyone in grades 11-12 was supposed to participate" Martin said, "Why is that, and why is it that you know about it?" Adrian asked. Martin went silent for a few seconds, then responded with the most shocking answer. "It's because the school has gone under the influence of gangs and half the school, has been split up, and the reason I know of this is because, I'm the one that had the idea for riot but I didn't think he would take me seriously" he said. "Whos "he" " Adrian asked with a disturbed face. "He is one gang leaders, me and him are close friends".

Now everyone knew, they knew all this happened because Martin decided to suggest one of the gang leaders. They all looked at each other and they all knew what they had all been thinking. They now knew who to blame for all of this, but did they want? With a disappointed face, Mark said "Let's all head home it is getting dark", they all nodded their heads and agreed. Walking in silence and shock no one said anything or tried to make conversation. "Let's not tell anyone about this" Fred said. "Ya let's keep



this to ourselves” Martin said, “this will be our little secret” said Adrain. It took them 5 minutes to arrive at the house but by that time the sun had already set and the street lights had already been turned on. That night no one said anything about what had happened. When their grandma had asked why it took them so long to get home all they said had been “oh we took a different route to catch on up all the things that happened”. That had worked because their grandma didn’t ask them any more questions about what had happened.

When Mark went to sleep he couldn’t believe his dream, “why did it have to be this” he thought. He had been dreaming about what had just happened but this time he had been the one getting beat up. He could feel every single blow that had been being dealt to him, had this been a dream, or had been it real? He struggled to get out his, he started screaming but his voice had been mute. Struggling to move he managed to somehow get out of the dream and somehow got into a worse dream than before. He didn’t want to stay and luckily he wouldn’t because, after a few moments of being in the dream, he got woken up by someone. He saw rays of sunlight and the heat of the rays touching his face. Then he heard his dad yelling at him” MARKIE WAKE UP YOUR GONNA BE LATE FOR SCHOOL” what had been happening while he had been asleep, his head felt heavy and his breathing had been abnormal. Then he felt his eyes slightly open and he could see a worried face which had been his dad. Had it all been a dream? No, it couldn’t be, he looked around for his calendar it said it had been the 8th of April. So it had been a dream he thought. He looked at his dad with a confused face” Are you ok Mark” his dad said with a worried and confused face. “Oh it’s nothing, I was just

having a bad dream,” he said. “Well, your gonna have a bad day if you're late for school,” his dad said. Mark got up fast and started getting ready for school.

Before he left for school he checked his calendar and saw a date that looked unfamiliar. It said ” Grandma's funeral” He had been flabbergasted, then he remembered the week before he could go visit his grandma he got the news that she had died. It wasn't surprising due to her age, but he felt shaken by the news. Walking away from his room he said goodbye to his dad and waited for his friend in the same spot where they would always meet. And on their way to school, Mark told his friend about the dream he had, and, his friend didn't believe him, but Mark knew it had been all true.