

_____ by Issac A.

There's a street that lies in the depths of Round Rock, Texas - Mays Street, and on this street is a man. This man was once loved, but that time is over. People know him as the beggar. No one takes the time to care for him. But when all seems lost, someone arises from the depths of Round Rock for the beggar.

There is a boy, and this boy is nothing like the others, for he is generous and warm-hearted. He is the type of person who stands out from a crowd full of people. He is about 4'11" with short black hair that gleams red in the sunlight. He always wears checkered flannels with skinny pants and his checkerboard vans.

The boy approaches the beggar asking for directions to the market for his mother needs makeup. The beggar does what he is asked, and gives the boy directions but asks the boy for one little thing.

"May you purchase me bread so I can last?"

The boy puts his hand in his pocket and pulls out a few bucks, looks at the beggar, then continues on his way to the market. It takes him about an hour but at least he reaches the market.

As the boy is entering the market, he starts heading to the makeup aisle. When he arrives he starts looking for the right type, then suddenly he remembers the beggar. He stands in his tracks for a few seconds then turns back around and heads for the deli sandwiches. He gets two ham and Swiss sandwiches and goes to get water bottles. When he gets the water then he goes to get a book.

After purchasing all the food he anxiously makes his way through town looking for that certain person. After 40 minutes have passed, the boy finally finds the beggar. The boy makes his way across the street and notices the make looking down, fiddling with his fingers. The beggar doesn't seem to notice him so the boy simply places the sandwiches, the water, and the book in front of him. The beggar stares at the food and book for a few seconds then gets up and hugs the boy. Then backs up, sniffs, wipes his teary eyes, and says, "Thank you. I haven't been cared for in a long time, and it's good to know that someone does. I mean, yeah, I get \$5 or \$10 here and there but never this much. Thank you."

Then the beggar asks, "What's your name?"

The boy answers, "Marcus. What's your name?"

"Daniel," the beggar answers.

They both say their last words and then Marcus makes his way home.

The next day school is over and Marcus goes to talk with the beggar. As they start talking, Marcus realizes that they both have a lot in common. They love food, movies, reading, and exploring. But one of those similarities sticks out to them both: their passion for dogs. They both very much want a dog but can't afford it. After a few minutes Marcus says goodbye and heads home. Over the months the two continuously talk to each other slowly creating a strong bond, but everything changes sooner than they think.

It's a normal day, or so it seems. School is over and the beggar knows that Marcus walks with two or more people, and when he sees them, they're not talking like normal, and Marcus isn't there. When

they get near him, he calls out to them. They look at him so he calls them over, and when they get there, he asks, "Where is Marcus?"

Sadly the answer he gets are words he never wanted to hear. Daniel himself starts crying. All he could think of was Marcus. Knowing that Marcus got in a car wreck and didn't survive was heart breaking. But what could he do now? Marcus, his best and only friend, has passed away. Now it's back to normal, unloved, not cared for.

"Think, Daniel, think. What does he like? What's a way to remember him?" Daniel thinks aloud. "Oh! He always wanted dogs. But they were too much to afford. He only had like \$35, but if it's got to do with Marcus then it is most definitely worth the money. He makes his way through Round Rock and eventually gets to a pet store. He walks in and looks for the cheapest dogs they have there. Sadly the cheapest dog he finds is about \$70. Daniel found a dog that he thought Marcus would like so he goes to one of the coworkers and shows them the dog.

He says, "How much does this dog cost?"

The lady replies, "Only \$72.95.

And that's when Daniel strikes. "Could I make a deal with you? If I give you all the money I have which is \$35, then I'll give you more money when I get some, kind of like a slow payment. Please, my only friend has just passed, and I need something to remember him".

The coworker hesitated for a minute or so but finally came to a conclusion. "Yes. Just promise to actually pay me. And since you're going through hard times, I'll even throw in a free leash to control it more."

Daniel repeatedly thanked the woman for her generosity and finally walked out with his new buddy. And with no struggle, Daniel named the dog Marcus, Jr., and the dog and Daniel lived happily together.