

Josh M.

The Survivor

It was today. Nathan knew it from the second he had woken up in his little trashy hut. It was today that he would leave his garbage life behind, and move on. *It was today that he would escape.* 6 months ago, on this same day, he was shipwrecked here. Alone. Who knows where his loved ones had gone, or if they even survived. And it was 6 months later that he would be getting off the island once and for all. How did he know this was going to work? Well, let's just say Nathan had been planning this for 6 months, and he had the power to accomplish this task.

Nathan's muscles ached. He had been collecting wood for 2 hours non-stop, getting his raft ready. Swing after swing, Nathan chopped down small, thin trees with his hatchet, hauling wood from place to place. Finally, after almost 3 hours he had all the wood he needed. But, he still needed something to bind the wood together, he needed food for the journey, and clean water. But he also needed the raft to be accessible. If Nathan was going to get off this island today, he would need to work fast, and hard. About an hour and $\frac{1}{2}$ later, he was ready. The raft was afloat in the water, and as he walked towards the boat, he began to have second thoughts. A million thoughts rushed by in his head. *"Where will I go", "Will I even make it", and "Should I really do this."* Finally, Nathan made up his mind, he was gonna do it.

The first hour or so went by smoothly. There was a nice breeze, the water slowly rocked him back and forth, and there was a warm sunshine. A few hours later, he was hungry, tired, and itchy from his wet clothes. Luckily he brought food, and a water canteen. He ate and drank a

small amount, then decided to sleep. The water gently rocked him asleep. Little did he know that this would be the last bit of peace on his journey.

Nathan was jerked awake by something loud. He looked around, the sky was dark and the waves were bigger. **BOOM!!!** The sound of thunder filled the air. Panic raced inside of Nathan. He had seen big ocean storms over the years on the island, but he had never been *in* the ocean during one. **BOOM!!! CRACK!!!** The waves started to swell bigger than any he had ever seen before. **SNAP!!** A wood branch snapped off his boat. **SPLASH!!!** Water soaked him as waves crashed over him. He knew that these might be his final moments. Suddenly, a wave bigger than any wave he had ever seen before formed. As that final wave roared towards him, he thought he saw a light. But before he had time to see what it was, he was engulfed by the huge waves. *Everything went black.*

Beep _____ Beep _____ Beep _____ Beep. Nathan opened his eyes, everything was foggy. He blinked over and over, and his vision still didn't clear completely. He tried to look around and see where he was, but he couldn't tell besides the fact that he was in a bed. All he heard was an annoying beeping noise. Finally, when he had enough of the noise, he grunted loudly out of annoyance. It was then that he heard footsteps. Slow, faster, *faster*, **faster**. And then he appeared, a man in a white coat. '**HE'S AWAKE!!!!!!**' the man called. Suddenly, Nathan heard more footsteps. More people with white coats came in and closed the door. They started doing stuff to him, checking him, doing tests, then finally, they opened the door. "He's ready", one of them said. 4 people walked in. Nathan's heart stopped. No matter how blurry his eyes were, he saw these people clearer than anything. "Welcome home" his mom said through happy tears. "Welcome home."

In the Months Following

When Nathan came home for the first time in almost 7 months, everyone was astonished.

Nobody could believe that he survived for about 7 months alone without any help. His friends and family threw a huge celebration, and Nathan was happier than ever to be back home.

Later, Nathan found out that the light he had seen was a rescue boat, and it had saved his life.

Unfortunately Nathan had to be held back a grade due to missing almost 7 months of school, but eventually he worked hard and caught up to his real grade level. Although Nathan started to live a normal life, he knew that with his experiences, he would never be close to normal.

Nathan grew up knowing that he had the power to exceed. Nathan's great show of courage and responsibility was unbelievable and was a great inspiration to many people.