

The Secret of the Blue Journal by Aubrey P.

Matt is a six year old boy. He loves sports, candy and treats. Like any normal six year old, Matt's life changed when his mom went to jail three months ago. She ended up in jail because she decided one day to rob a bank. She stole \$25,000.00! Furthermore, Matt's dad has autism, so he can't control himself, especially with all of this going on.

When Matt gets hurt, or is feeling left out, he looks for his blue journal. His journal is a place where he can get away! He never lets anyone see what is inside of it! When Matt's dad comes along on school field trips, the kids laugh at him. His dad cannot help what he does or says because of his autism. That is the kind of stuff that Matt writes in his journal.

Matt has two younger brothers. They are both three years old, but they are not twins. "Sometimes I wish I was an only child" says Matt. "My brothers get all of the attention."

But Matt has a secret. There is someone in his class that makes him feel comfortable and safe. That someone is Becca. "Maybe someday I will show Becca what's in my journal", she says. "I trust her."

Today in school was a big day. A big test day. Matt did not know the answers to a lot of the questions, or so he thought. But when he got the results later in the day, he got a big surprise. "A 91%" he yelled. It turned out to be a good day for Matt.

A few days later in school, Matt was sent to the office. He wondered why – he hadn't done anything wrong. The principal met him, and told him that Matt's dad had been rushed to the hospital! Matt screamed out "DADDY!" and the tears from his crying crawled down his neck and down his shirt. Sitting in the office, he quickly pulled out his journal and began to write. Even after the principal walked over to him to say that his dad passed away, all he could do was continue to write. He realized that now he was all alone until his mom got out of jail! And he was going to have to take care of his little brothers!

Returning to class, Matt told his teacher what had happened. She told him that he was welcome to stay with her and her husband. "Today I'm going to show Becca my journal!" Matt said with excitement.

At lunch, Matt met up with Becca. "Becca, this is my blue journal" he said

"Can I read it?" Becca asked.

Matt hands Becca the journal. By the time she turns to the back pages, she hands it to Matt and says, "Matt, look!"

On the very past page of the journal, in red marker, it says the following:

Matt, I love you! I will be back soon. There is a reason why I left.

Love you!

-Mommy

Was it really my mom?