

## Dream Big

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It all started in that hospital room. My mother, whom I knew for a short time had just given birth to me. My father, was standing on the other side of me. My mother hugged me close to her chest.

“He’s beautiful.” My mother sighed. I remember those words. For those were the last I heard from her.

“Yes- ma'am, we have some shocking news. You see, when you delivered your son, there was a problem you see...” The nurse said shakily.

That’s when I started crying.

The nurse took me from my mother. My mother stared at my father.

“What do you mean?” My mom asked.

“This may be shocking since you just delivered... Ma’am. You have five minutes.”

“What?” My mom asked. My dad stared back at the nurse.

“Five minutes till what?” My father asked the nurse.

The nurse looked at him then frowned. “To live sir.” She replied.

They exchanged looks. The nurse handed my mother me once again.

“I’ll give you a moment.” and she left the room.

“I’m so sorry Clare. This was never supposed to happen.” Said my father, pacing the room with his face in his hands. But my mom wasn’t listening. She stared right at me with her brilliant blue eyes. The world stopped like it was just us two. I instantly stopped crying.

She smiled and whispered slowly to me, “I’m going to name you Alexander.” and with that, my mom held me close to her lap and closed her eyes, never to be opened again.

“NURSE! NURSE!” I could hear my dad screaming.

I started crying once more.

12 years later.

I sat down on my small bed and stared at the ceiling. I live with my dad now. Since my mom was a scientist, my dad does not allow anything science in our house. No science homework, articles, even the WORD is banned. But the thing is, I get it from her. It’s my DREAM to be a scientist. Yesterday in class, the teacher handed out forms to enroll in the science fair. My mission was to butter up my dad real good, and get that form. So I headed downstairs.

“Hey dad... You look really good today!” I chuckled at my dad. He stopped cooking and stared at me.

“What do you want Alex?” He asked.

“Oh, well you see...” Here it goes... “There is a science fair...”

My dad’s eyes widened. The fear shown through anger and despair. “NO SCIENCE!” He marched over to me and ripped the form out of my hand and tore it into several pieces.

“NO!” I screamed. I ran to my room, anger swelling inside me. Tears building inside me.

That’s when I decided I can be whatever. I walked over to my stash of all things science and put them in a suitcase. I threw in my clothes, scuba gear, and my favorite books. I stomped down the stairs.

“I’M RUNNING AWAY!” I announced. My father stopped dead.

He smiled and walked towards me. He kneeled down.

“What for?” He asked. *WHAT FOR?!*

“What for? Because you don’t understand me! I’m running away and there’s nothing you can do to stop me!” I told him.

“Why do you have to be so much like your mother?” My dad asked. He smiled and wrapped his caring arms around me. “She never took no for an answer.”

Tears filled my eyes. Anger filled my stomach. I ran out of his grasp and to the door, my hand was turning the handle when my dad shouted,

“Can I at least give you a ride?”

I sighed. “Don’t bother.” I snarled and ran out the door. I didn’t stop running till I reached my nana’s house.

“Alex?” My nana called. “What are you doing here?”

I dropped my suitcase on the driveway and hugged her. “I ran away.”

“You did?” She asked, surprised. “Why?”

“Because nobody understands me, I want to be just like my mom!” I said, tears gliding down my cheek.

“Please Alex.” Nana scoffed. “You can be *whatever, whenever* you want.”