

PEANUT THE GREAT by April JV

I am Peanut, Peanut the Great. I live in the clouds, in a neon-colored town, Cotton Candyville. I am a cute baby elephant, with the smoothest shade of grey skin, that you've ever seen. I'm bubbly, kind, caring and playful. Some might even say I'm a hero, but that story, is in another book!

It started to rain in Cotton Candyville, another stormy day, perfect for my nemesis, Rotten Cashew, to find ways to argue with me again. He is mean, pushy and has won the Villain of the Month Award, every single month. There is no black in our town, except for Rotten Cashew's mask, cape and soul. So dark, thundering days like today, are his favorite!

On my daily run to the Post Office, Rotten Cashew bumped into me.

"Peanut!" shouted Rotten Cashew. He was short tempered today.

"What, Rotten Cashew?" I replied.

"You bumped me over," growled Rotten Cashew.

"NO! You bumped into me," I added.

Rotten Cashew's hard, yellow shell turned red because of his anger. "This is WAR!" yelled Rotten Cashew. But before he could start, the Mayor of Cotton Candyville, Pecan, kicked Rotten Cashew out of town, banned him for life.

But what we I didn't know was that Rotten Cashew had a brother in town, Almond.

Rotten Cashew called Almond and they joined forces to start this war.

Pecan had to fight back and protect the town from Rotten Cashew and Almond, but he couldn't battle by himself, he would lose! He called me, Peanut the Great, to help him beat those two evil villains.

We named our team PP (Pecan and Peanut) but when our opponents heard the name, they burst out laughing! In response they called their team DW, Da Winners.

We hoped we would beat them in this war. But if they succeeded, town life would be horrifying, bad things would happen and you'd feel like you wanted to die, living here. There'd be no vibrant neon colors, no fresh flowers smelling like cotton candy and no talking animals – no nicest place to live.

Uncle Unicorn, the most colorful inhabitant of our town, would move away. Percy Pegasus, the jokester of Cotton Candyville, would no longer laugh. Glinda Goldfish, our social butterfly, wouldn't organize any fun, town events. And Betsy Bulldog, would never play fetch again!

The fight was about to begin. The whole town came to watch PP vs DW!

Rotten Cashew came prepared, bringing his glowing orb machine. It looked like a theatre camera on a tripod, but the buttons on the side, if pushed, shot bright colored radioactive dots, that could either freeze or burn your opponent. He also brought his grappling hook, a three-pointed dart, allowing you to get onto the roof of a building, without using the stairs.

And the EJM, the Elephant Jump Machine.

Pecan and I brought a donut and a strip of bacon!?!?

"This isn't a picnic," moaned Almond when he saw our weapons.

What DW didn't know, was that the bacon and donut were disguised weapons! The bacon was a snake launcher, and the donut was a multi-colored water balloon canon and a water squirter, that tickled you. If it hit you, you would laugh so hard, you would be knocked off your feet.

The crowd went wild chanting "FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!"

We pretended to eat our weapons, so we could fire them by surprise. DW quickly aimed and launched their EJM at me. I couldn't move anymore; I was stuck jumping up and down. In the meantime, Pecan ran round the side and shot snakes, out the bacon, at Almond, while chanting a spell he learnt at magic school, at me "Ala-ka-zaaamo!" It worked, I stopped jumping.

But then we saw the snakes weren't chasing Almond anymore, they were coming straight for us.

"OH NO, OH NO, NO NO NO!" exclaimed Pecan.

He couldn't remember the spell to makes the snakes disappear. What now?

I had only one idea ... "RUN!!!!!" There was no hope!

But DW didn't want the fight to be over so quickly. They wanted to have some evil fun on this rainy day! So Rotten Cashew froze the snakes chasing us, with his glowing orb machine. But we kept running, until we were over 3 miles away! Pecan recited a teleportation spell to get us back to the fight scene, "Teleleleleleportatatation." We landed right on DW's heads! Rotten Cashew was knocked unconscious. It was 1 vs 2 now. Almond grabbed the glowing orb machine and froze us, to help his brother, which is surprising as they are both evil and evil people don't do nice things for anyone. Rotten Cashew regained consciousness and he unfroze us. Pecan and I decided that we had enough and raised the white flag, showing that we officially surrendered the fight.

"Look Peanut," said Rotten Cashew, "You can't beat me every time."

"I know that," I squeaked, "No need to rub it in!"

"You haven't seen the end of me," shouted Rotten Cashew.

"You're right," I replied, "I'll see you at the Knitting Circle on Wednesdays!"

"UGH! You know what I mean," grunted Rotten Cashew.

The war was over! Our Mayor and his citizens, thinking Rotten Cashew would take over the town having won the battle, moved out of Cotton Candyville and found a new town to live in, somewhere over the rainbow.

Rotten Cashew, who should have taken over the town as Mayor, was clueless and didn't know he was supposed to do that. He, and his brother, left Cotton Candyville too finding a new home in the storm cloud of Hurricane Hoover – a perfect setting for evil villains.

So Cotton Candyville was never destroyed in the fight, or by Rotten Cashew and it is still as bright and beautiful today, as it ever was, back then. I loved my town and go and visit it every few weeks.

It's my secret ... don't tell anyone!!

THE END