

## Second Place Fighter

By Nazaria P.

4<sup>th</sup> grade

Chapter 1 From the second grade, Royal Manchester knew he was unique, not meaning that he was weird he just acted differently. Things that didn't bother other students bothered him. There was a boy named Louis Brown who liked to taunt Royal. At a young age, Royal didn't care but as he got older he started to care more. "Neat freak" Louis taunted. Even his parents thought his behavior was weird, so they took him to a psychiatrist. "Autism" said the psychiatrist. His parents thought he was a disappointment because he had autism. As soon as he got a middle school everything changed.

Chapter 2 They put Royal in a special room just because his autism was severe. On the first day of middle school, Royal was pretty lonely he had nobody to talk to except for this girl named Rebecca Martinez. Rebecca was just like Royal. "Hey," Rebecca called "hello" Royal replied. They just sat there and Rebecca got up to go to her next class. Royal just sat there feeling warm inside. The next day Royal and Rebecca started talking about their life experiences. It was the beginning of the year so they had to get the clubs situated. Rebecca tried out for art club, even though she was autistic she was an excellent artist.

Chapter 3 Royal didn't know which club to join. Until he saw a flyer for the chess club. When he was younger he loved to play chess. He took a flyer home not knowing if he was going to join the club. He decided that he would give it a try. Royal felt sick inside because the chess tryouts were today. He stayed after school for the chess tryouts, so did Rebecca to cheer him on. He went against a good chess player and won. Royal made it into the chess club. He gave Rebecca a big hug. "I'm so proud of you" she said. When he got home he knew he needed to practice.

Chapter 4 He had nobody to help him so he asked his dad, "I don't know why you're practicing, you're not going to win any competitions," yelled his dad. That

really hurt Royal, and he thought maybe I should just give up on the chess club. So he picked up his phone and texted Rebecca, “meet me at the park” He waited till he saw Rebecca “what’s up” answered Rebecca, Royal ran up to her and started to cry. Rebecca patted him on the back to make him feel better. He explained to her what happened but she said nothing. “Maybe this will help” gleamed Rebecca and gave Royal a kiss. “I have to go home,” Rebecca said. She got up and walked home. After that, he felt a little tingle in his heart.

Chapter 5 Things got very awkward between them at school. Rebecca was planning to stay after school for the art club, so Royal want to tag-a-long. As he watched her paint his heart got slower, till it went with the pace of Rebecca stroking on her paper. After art club, he walked Rebecca home. “Listen, I’m sorry about yesterday” Royal started. “It’s fine,” said Rebecca. “Hey, are you up for some chess practice?” said Royal. “I don’t know how to play,” said Rebecca. “Wait, I got it” and Royal blasted off all the way home.

Chapter 6 Royal got home and ran upstairs and started practicing his chess. He played for hours at a time. In the morning he came to school looking terrible. “What’s up,” said Rebecca. I was...the announcement came on before Royal could finish. “Students of McLaurin middle school chess club will be to today,” said the announcer. “Um, Royal look at this,” said Rebecca. They went up to a flyer, and it said there was going to be a huge chess competition today. “What! That’s not fair,” shouted Royal. “Life isn’t fair Royal,” Royal said sarcastically. “You knocked the words right out of my mouth,” Rebecca said.

Chapter 7 After school Royal’s palms were sweating. “It isn’t a big deal,” said Rebecca. When they walked in the room, he saw something he couldn’t unsee, his parents were there. “Why are they here” said Rebecca. Royal went up to the flyer and it said “your parents are invited,” Rebecca didn’t know how to handle the situation. “Just try to keep calm,” Rebecca tried to encourage him. However, there was no going back. Royal paced back and forth repeating, “I can do this.” The energy in the room was high. Royal just stopped, “pacing around isn’t going to help” Royal whispered. The competition began. The first round was between a boy named Mark Adam and a girl named Adira Cahterine. Royal waited there

miserably, then they called his name. “Royal Manchester against Carlos Mendez.” Everybody knew Carlos as an amateur chess player. Therefore, Royal knew it was going to be a short round.

Chapter 8 “Royal Manchester is the winner of this round.” He felt relieved as he heard that. “Yes, you did it,” Rebecca said as she ran up to him. Rebecca turned to Royal’s parents and she saw they were smiling at Royal. Royal sighed as he sat down for a minute. He felt a tap on his shoulder, “good job” said Royal’s mom. Rebecca was right behind her with her mouth wide open. Royal’s mom was giving him a tender hug. “Did I just see that” Rebecca gasped. Royal didn’t know what to say. “All chess players come to the stage,” said the announcer. “Well good luck” Rebecca said sincerely. “Oliver Brent and Dan Colorado!” said the announcer. They sat and started the game Time flew and Royal didn’t realize it was his turn already. “Royal Manchester and Oliver Brent,” came over the announcement. A couple of minutes later he felt dizzy.

Chapter 9 Royal was very unfocused. So when his round started, he was nervous. “Start,” clink went the pawn. Two hours went by with nobody close to winning or losing. Oliver Brent made his last move and won just like that. Thoughts were racing through Royal’s head. He turned around to see his parents shaking their heads and leaving in disappointment. “Wait!” yelled Rebecca. “The king is not allowed to do it can only move one space at a time.” “Hey you’re right,” blurted Royal. “Oliver Brent you are disqualified.” Said the announcer. Royal stopped and took a look at Rebecca. She turned around and gave him a gigantic hug. “You did it,” sobbed Rebecca. She started to cry on his shoulder. Royal turned around to see his parents smiling at him. He gave them a thumbs up. Rebecca looked at Royal in the eyes and said, “you earned this,” and gave Royal a kiss on the lips this time. “Royal Manchester come to the stage.” Rebecca jumped up for joy. They walked onto the stage together and Royal accepted his trophy. Everyone clapped and cheered for Royal. Rebecca came close to Royal’s ear and whispered, “ you know, you’re my little second-place fighter.”