

Poppy's Problem

By Kristen H.

CHAPTER 1

There once was a girl named Poppy Elvers, and she lived with her mom, Lana Elvers, her dad, Dan Elvers, and her grandma, which Poppy called Grammy Elvers.

Poppy was a happy child with all of her dolls and toys. The first five years of her life was great. She was a happy baby when she was born and loved life. Until one day, after school, everything changed.

When Poppy's problem first occurred, she was 5 years old and in kindergarten. One day Grammy Elvers came to pick Poppy up from school. "Hey Poppy," Grammy Elvers said. "How was your day at school?" "Fantastic!" Poppy replied enthusiastically. "We got ice cream for being good for about two months. I got vanilla ice cream with sprinkles!"

When Poppy got home, she felt hungry and got some grapes to eat for an afternoon snack. She sat on the couch and ate and then she felt sick to her stomach. "Maybe I had too much ice cream, or I have the tummy buggly," Poppy thought. Poppy thought for a while why she might be feeling sick. After a little while, Poppy's parents came home and then Poppy threw up on the carpet.

CHAPTER 2

After Poppy's incident, she laid down in her bed, and she started to get sleepy. After about 20 minutes, she decided to try and eat some goldfish for a bedtime snack. After she ate one goldfish, she threw it back up and her mom started to get worried. After a while, Poppy's parents decided to take her to the Nebraska Hospital, which was about 20 miles away. When they came to the hospital, the doctor put an IV in Poppy's arm and decide to send her to the Nebraska Children's Hospital, which was about 20 minutes away from the hospital she was already at.

When the ambulance arrived, Poppy's dad sat in the back with Poppy and her mom and grandma would ride in the car. When Poppy and her dad were in the ambulance, Poppy was fast asleep. When Poppy woke up, she was still in the ambulance. "Daddy, where am I, and why do I hear loud noises in this white van?" Poppy asked. "Well," Poppy's dad explained, "You are on the way to the Nebraska Children's Hospital because you couldn't eat anything without being sick and throwing up. Your mom was getting worried, so Grammy Elvers and mommy are on their way in the car while I stay in the ambulance with you." When Poppy got to the hospital, they rushed her to the intensive care unit or ICU.

When they got Poppy in the ICU, they started drawing blood and doing blood samples for the lab check. While all this was going on, Poppy was watching Cinderella on the television they had in the room. Poppy was very brave and her dad was very proud of her and scared for her at the same time. When the doctors were all done,

Poppy watched some more TV for about 30 more minutes. After about 30 to 45 minutes of Cinderella, Poppy fell asleep on the bed and her dad fell asleep on a recliner.

The next day, Poppy's mom and grandma came to check on her. They brought her favorite stuffed animals. A rainbow build-a-bear name Rainbow and a green monkey from Florida named Green Bananas. They also brought the essential for being in the hospital. While Poppy was in the room with her family, a nurse came and asked Poppy her name. Poppy told the nurse her name, and she came back with a banner that said, "Princess Poppy" on it. An hour or so later, a nurse came in and asked Poppy if she wanted to go to the playroom and Poppy got so excited. "YES! I would love to go to the playroom!" Poppy said. She jetted off with her monitor and her mom and dad to the playroom.

CHAPTER 3

When Poppy and her parents got the playroom, her mom made her a pipe cleaner spider in a coffee filter web. Poppy thought it was the coolest thing. Then Poppy and her dad started to make a sign to go above her bed in the hospital room. One of the pieces of paper said, "NO BOYS ALLOWED!" and had animal stickers on it. The piece of paper diagonally from that said, "Girls Rule" on it and had glittery heart stickers on it. The other two just said, "Poppy's Room" on them and had all kinds of stickers on the pieces of paper.

While Poppy was in the playroom, she saw an easel over in the corner of the room. Poppy then painted a picture for her mom to take home with her. The next day a

nurse came in and told Poppy that she would be able to move up to the next floor. That night a nurse told Poppy and her family. One night Grammy Elvers came to the hospital with a polka dot robe and some hello kitty slippers. The next day Shaunna, her neighbor's mom came up with a present from Poppy's friend Jameson. Jameson had bought Poppy a stuffed dog name Tiger and a handmade card. Poppy thought it was so nice. One night a nurse came in to Poppy's hospital room and told her dad and herself that she had Type One Diabetes. The disease is when an organ in your body, called the pancreas, stops producing or produces just a little bit of insulin, a growth hormone and it also helps your body digest food. When Poppy heard she had diabetes, she hadn't even heard of the disease or what it was as far as treatment. The next day, a nurse came into Poppy's hospital room and gave her a coloring book for Poppy to color in while she was waiting for the nurse to come to explain more about what Poppy had and what the symptoms were that they might not have caught while Poppy was at home. When the nurse came in, Poppy was coloring an ice cream truck. "Hello Poppy," the nurse said. "I will be telling you more about Type One Diabetes." She was in there for about one or two hours explaining. About half a week later, Poppy went to go visit her kindergarten friends and tell them what had happened. When Poppy and her parents got there, they had a big card waiting for her with all of their names and get well quotes on the card. Poppy was so thankful that they had made that card for her. Poppy had to stay home with her grandma for the rest of the week to get used to doing the finger pricks and shots before she started to do them at school. When Poppy went back to school, her friends started to be more careful and helpful around her. Poppy eventually got the hang of doing the pricks every day and now goes to galas with her diabetic friends to help

raise money for a program called JDRF or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
This was a true story of the author, and she also changed up a few details.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This was my story, and I hope you liked it. It was kind of hard to explain everything to my friends in real life when I first got this disease. Now, I do not have to do shots because I take my insulin through a pump. I am glad to have the support I have now, and I am still raising awareness.

[P.S. This disease is not contagious, if you are wondering.]