

THE ADVENTURES OF DREW AND ELLIE

# The Missing Medal

by Charles Noland



ILLUSTRATED BY  
TOM MOYER

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*By Charles Noland*

*Illustrated by Tom Moyer*



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Published by TMD Enterprises, Rochester, NY

Library of Congress Control Number: 2006908261

ISBN 13: 978-0-9789297-4-9

ISBN 10: 0-9789297-4-8

This book is printed on acid free paper.

Printed in the United States of America

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## A Promise

Ellie held the birthday present Drew had given to her. “I bet I can guess what this is,” she said.

“You can try, but you’ll never get it right,” Drew replied with a grin.

Even though his sister had just turned five, Drew was seven and could still outsmart her when it came to guessing presents.

Ellie shook the box and heard the familiar rattle of cardboard puzzle pieces.

“This one is easy,” Ellie said with confidence. “It’s a puzzle.”

“Okay, if that’s your guess,” Drew said.

Her mom smiled as she watched Ellie tear off the shiny paper and take the lid off the box.

When Ellie looked inside, she realized it wasn't a puzzle after all but a pair of fuzzy pink mittens. Drew had tricked her by putting a handful of loose puzzle pieces in the box before he wrapped it.

“Ha!” Drew shouted, jumping up and down. “I fooled you.”

“That’s enough, Andrew,” his mom ordered. “Put those puzzle pieces away so they don’t get lost.”

“Okay, Mom,” he said.

After doing what his mom had asked, Drew walked over to his sister. “Happy birthday, Ellie,” he said, giving her a big hug. “I hope you like your gift. Mom helped me pick it out.”

“Thank you, Drew,” she said, putting on the mittens. “I really do like them.”



“We thought they would match your hat and scarf,” he added. “They’re really soft, too, just like our pet guinea pig at school.”

Just as Drew started looking through the pile of Ellie’s gifts, his mother called out to him. “Drew, would you do me a favor and pick up all the wrapping paper?” she asked.

“Sure,” he replied, gathering it up and carrying it into the kitchen.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

“Oh, that must be Ellie’s *other* birthday surprise,” their mom said, smiling.

Drew raced to the door. He got there just as his sister was opening it.

“Grandma and Grandpa are here!” they shouted together.

They moved aside as their grandparents came through the door carrying several gift boxes.



After hugs and kisses, their mom said, “You’re just in time for cake and ice cream.”

“Wonderful!” their grandfather said. He followed everyone into the dining room where a beautiful birthday cake awaited Ellie.

Ellie sat down in a chair at the head of the table. The birthday girl patiently waited while her mom lit the candles.

After everyone sang “Happy Birthday,” Ellie made a wish and blew out the candles. They all had a piece of the delicious chocolate cake, then went into the living room so Ellie could open the rest of her presents.

Inside the first box was a colorful handmade sweater. The second box was bigger and contained a beautiful doll that Ellie had wanted for a really long time. She ran over to her grandparents to thank them for the wonderful gifts.



While Ellie sat down on the floor and started unpacking the doll from the box, their grandfather motioned for Drew to come sit with him.

As Drew crossed the room, he saw his grandfather lean back and pull something out of his pocket. To Drew's dismay, his grandfather kept it hidden in his hand as he began to speak.

"Your mom tells me that you just joined Cub Scouts," his grandfather said.

"Yes, because I want to be a Boy Scout someday, just like you were," Drew said admiringly.

"I *was* a Boy Scout, Drew. But more than that, I was an *Eagle Scout*."

"What's an Eagle Scout?" Drew asked.

"An Eagle Scout is someone very special," his grandfather explained. "To become an Eagle is quite an honor. It means you have achieved one of the highest ranks in the Scouting program. But it's not easy—it requires a lot of hard work. Many



famous people are Eagle Scouts, such as congressmen and senators, actors, astronauts...and even a president of the United States.”

“WOW!” Drew exclaimed, his eyes wide with excitement. “Then that’s what I want to be, too!”

“Well,” his grandfather said, looking very pleased. “I’m sure if you stick with it, you will succeed in reaching your goal. I will certainly help you along the way, whenever I can.”

Drew smiled and gave his grandfather a big hug.

“And now...,” his grandfather continued. “This is what you’ll get when you reach that milestone.” He slowly unfolded his hand. In it was a handsome bronze Eagle Scout medal attached to a bright red, white and blue ribbon. At the top of the medal was the Boy Scout motto, *Be Prepared*.

“Cool!” Drew said, as he picked up the medal and held it in his own hands. “This is awesome! I

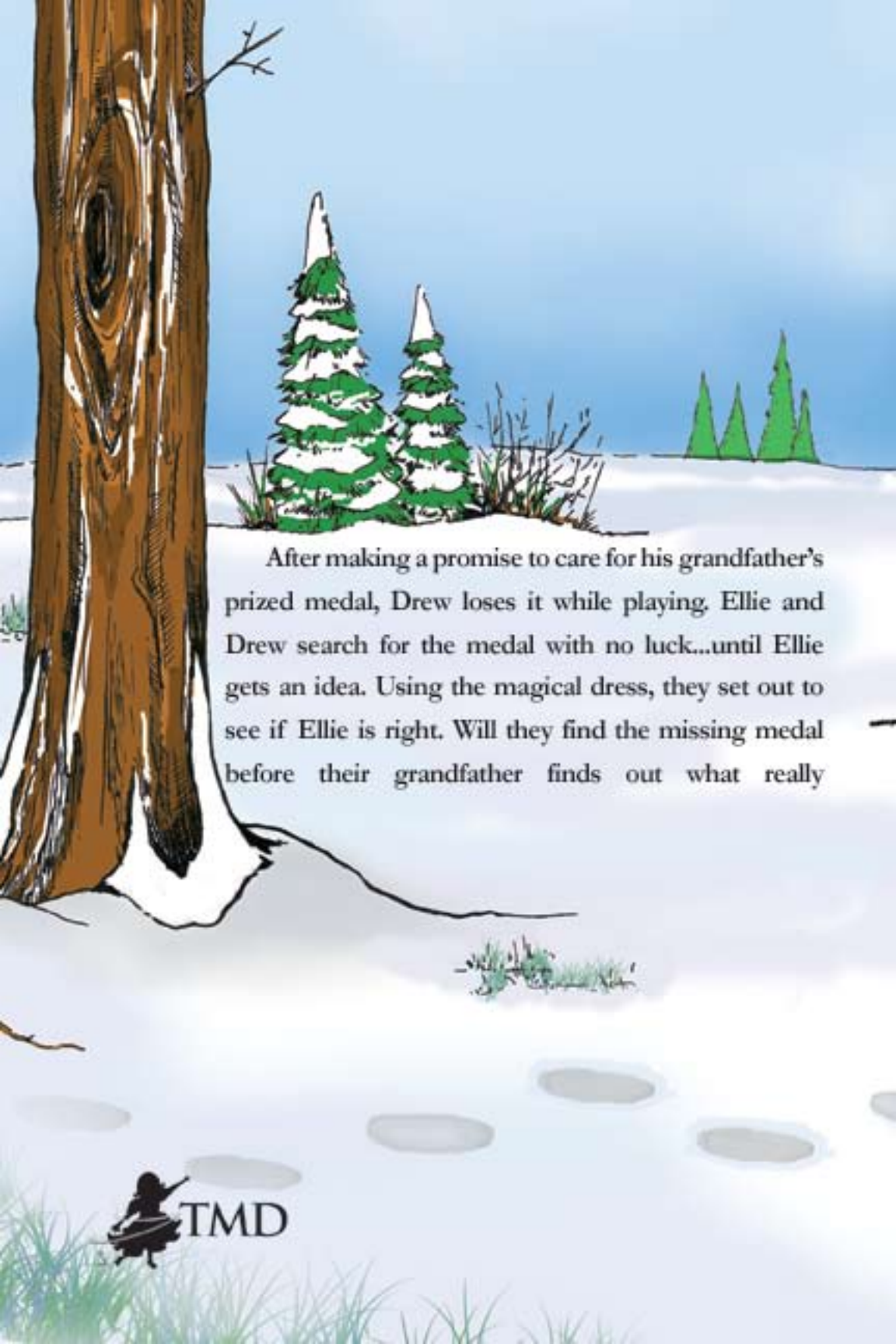
wish I could show it to my friend Sanjay who's in Cub Scouts with me."

"Well, let me see." His grandfather thought for a moment. "I suppose I could leave it with you while we go visit your Aunt Berta, and then I can pick it up when we stop back here on our way home."

"Could you *really*?" Drew asked. "I promise, I will take super good care of it."

His grandfather chuckled at Drew's enthusiasm. "You know, one of the traits of a Boy Scout is being trustworthy, so this is a good test for you," he replied. "Just be careful with it. That medal is very special to me."

"Oh, I will," Drew promised. He slid off his grandfather's lap and went to show his mom one of the coolest things he'd ever seen. Little did he know just how much trouble that medal would bring him.



After making a promise to care for his grandfather's prized medal, Drew loses it while playing. Ellie and Drew search for the medal with no luck...until Ellie gets an idea. Using the magical dress, they set out to see if Ellie is right. Will they find the missing medal before their grandfather finds out what really



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