

# **Nate and Farak Avert a Tragedy**

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A Birthday story for Nate by Granpa Harry

Once upon a time there was a boy whose name was Nate. He had two brothers, one older and one younger, but their names were not Liam and Ben. Nate had a room all to himself on the third floor of his home. There was a big window that looked across the yard to the house of his best friend, Farak. Farak also had a third floor bedroom. The boys in the summer could open their windows and use their walkie talkies to communicate.

Nate had a good life. He loved sports. School was sort of interesting. He loved video games and was even learning to cook with his Dad. But his favorite hobby was making starships out of Legos and taking them on adventures among the stars. Farak was also very good at designing Lego planes. Together Nate and Farak built a slim very fast jet plane that with a flick of a switch could become invisible. In this invisible jet they went on all sorts of spy adventures to discover plots against their country.

One day Farak told Nate that engines had been invented that made it possible to build drones, sort of like a helicopter with four engines. Unfortunately these were quite expensive and not sold to boys. But Farak had read in a magazine that the engines with the computer to fly them could be brought separate. Nate said, "Wouldn't it be cool if we buy the engines and build our own Lego Drone."

Farak quickly agreed. "Let's also built it so it can hold a movie camera that permits us to use it as a spy plane."

So the boys pooled their money and brought the engines and after a lot of experimenting were able to build their Spy Drone and even get it to fly. They got so good at flying it that it could take off from Nate's room, fly out his window, fly across the yard and enter Farak's room. When Nate and Farak's parents heard about this they said, "You have to go out in the farms around town to fly your drone or you may cause some expensive damage. So Nate and Farah started to bicycle out with the drone in a back packs and fly their invention on an abandon farm.

Now Farak and his parents were Muslim and went to the local mosque in town. Nate and his parents went to a Christian Church. There were rumors in town that some of the young men in the mosque were being radicalized. Also, rumors that a group of angry white young men were buying guns to go kill Muslims. Most of the Muslims in Farak's

mosque were against violence, but they also felt the U.S. in the Mideast was killing a lot of innocent Muslims. Most of the Christians in Nate's Church were against violence but some supported politicians who were arguing that if Muslims declare war on us, we need to kill them first. While Nate and Farak had overheard their parents talking about the rumors, they hadn't been paying much attention.

But one day on the outskirts of town flying their Spy Drone, they flew it into the open window of an empty barn. On the floor of the barn the drone camera saw a lot of assault guns and ammunition. Nate parked the drone in the loft and turned off the engine but left on the movie camera. They ducked out of sight when they saw a pick-up truck with 5 young men in fatigue uniforms drive up to the barn door. The truck had a bumper sticker that said "Send Muslims Home and, if they won't go, to Hell."

"Danger" said Nate to Farak as the men walked into the barn. "This doesn't look good."

They turned on the walkie talkie on the spy drone to hear what the men were saying. It wasn't very clear but something like "It's time we visited that Mosque."

"Oh no," said Farak. "It's Friday and Muslims will be going to afternoon prayers. We've got to do something to stop them."

Nate said, "Farak you go and warn your folks and have them call the police. I'm going to see what I can do to slow them down."

He crept over and let the air out of one of the back tires. Then he ran back into the woods, took his phone out of his nap sack and called his Dad and told him what was happening.

In about 15 minutes the men started coming out of the barn with all sort of rifles wearing masks. They really got angry when they saw the flat tire, but it took them only about 20 minutes to change tires. Then they roared off in their pick up truck toward the mosque. Nate quickly retrieved the Spy Drone, put it in his nap sack, jumped on his bike and raced for home.

His Mother was nervously watching the TV when he arrived. What he saw made him very proud of his father and his two brothers. The TV cameras and trucks were in the Mosque parking lot. Nate's dad and brothers were standing blocking the entrance of the mosque with arms linked with Farak's family and surrounded by neighbors.

The masked men in the Truck were surprised. Nate's father yelled out to them. "We know who you are. If you so much as lift your guns to fire at any of us, the police who

have you surrounded will have to open fire and you'll all be dead in 5 seconds. Violence is not going to make us safe. We have to isolate the radicals who preach violence. We all have to work to eliminate the injustices that make them radical. We need to convince Muslim young people there are better ways to protect their people. If you really want to protect America, join us in this cause.”

Later that night on the late TV news, in addition to Nate's dad's speech at the mosque, there were pictures of Nate and Farak, their Spy Drone and a story about what they had done to save the country from another atrocity. The next day President Obama sent both boys a special medal for their bravery and inventiveness. His message said, “Nate and Farak are examples of the young people we need in our country and of how friendships across religious divides make us stronger as a nation.”

*The End.*

**Happy Birthday Nate, Enclosed with this story is a \$50 Gift**