



## Nathan's Adventure

Nathan was driving home in his old Toyota. He had been to Bremer Bay with his family and had a lovely time there. Bremer



Bay is on the South coast of Western Australia. It is a fantastic holiday resort with perfectly white beaches and lovely swimming spots. He had slept in his tent and the rest of the family had stayed in a caravan they had hired. They had played games on the beach and fished off the rocks. They had a really good and relaxing break. Now it was time to go back to work.

Nathan was a good and careful driver and he always obeyed the traffic rules as his parents had taught him. He slowed down as he needed to turn off the highway into one of the side streets. As he checked his rear vision mirror he noticed two motor bikes right behind him. That was of course not so unusual. When he turned off the highway they did too. When he slowed down they did the same. He slowed down even more to see if they would perhaps pass him. But no, they stayed right on his heels. Nathan was not concerned at all. After all this was quite a busy road so he had nothing to worry about. But just to be on the safe side he decided to turn off this road at the next opportunity. But he did not see a side street for a long time. And these two motor bikes stayed right behind him.

“Don't be so silly and don't be scared”, he told himself. “Just grow up”.

There was a long stretch of road ahead of him and not a car in sight. And these two motor bikes were still behind him. They were obviously not in a hurry but Nathan started to feel quite uneasy at this stage. As a matter of fact he was getting quite frightened by now.

“I wish there was a turn off soon”, he mumbled to himself.

“I just don’t like it”, he said.

Suddenly he put his foot down and sped off as fast as he could. He checked his rear vision mirror to see what the motor bike drivers behind him would do.

They simply did the same on their powerful bikes. It seemed no effort at all to stay close to Nathan.

By now Nathan was getting quite worried.

What did they want from him?

He was getting quite scared by now.



Then he noticed in his mirror that both men pulled out something black from their pockets as they were driving. They pulled them over their faces to hide their identity. They looked like balaclavas.

That did not look very good. This could only mean they were up to something wicked. Nathan looked around for a way of escape. But where could he go? There were no side streets anywhere and they were by now on a very quiet stretch of road with not a soul in sight. These men had obviously timed it well. Nathan was all by himself on this quiet road. He had nowhere to go and right behind him there were these two men with obvious evil intent.



Suddenly one of the drivers rushed forward and passed Nathan's car and stayed right in front of him and blocked his way. The second driver then sped up a little until he came level with Nathan's vehicle and made movements with his hand indicating for Nathan to move over to the side of the road.

What could he do? He considered for a moment to speed up suddenly. But that would not gain him anything for the bikes of these men were so much more powerful. They would catch up with him immediately.

So he stopped on the side of the road. He felt shivers running down his spine. But he was determined not to show them how frightened he really was.

"What do you want from me?" he said to the men after they had both walked over to the driver's side of Nathan's car.

"Just hand over your wallet and anything of value, camera, mobile phone or things like that", one of the men said.

"And don't get smart. If you just hand it over we won't be too hard on you. But if you don't cooperate we will teach you a lesson or two. Is that understood?" the other man asked.

There was no way of getting out of it. So Nathan handed over his wallet and said: "This is all I've got with me".

"Are you sure that is all you've got?" the other man asked.

In the meantime the first man, the tall one, walked to the other side of the car, opened the door and opened the glove box.

"Look what I found", he exclaimed, "a brand new camera!"

"Aren't we lucky?" the shorter fellow said.

They rummaged a bit longer in the glove box, threw out all the papers, and then they also discovered Nathan's mobile phone.



“You have been telling lies”, the tall man screamed and with that he slapped Nathan in the face.

“Now no more nonsense”, he said, “and tell us if you have anything else of value.

“No, there really isn’t anything else”, Nathan said.

“This is all there is”, he said while he wiped some blood off his face where the ring on the man’s hand had scratched his face. His nose also started to bleed now.

The tall man then said: “Because you have been telling us lies we will tie you up with some rope and make sure you won’t be able to contact anybody for a while until we have disappeared”.

“Get the ropes, Malcolm”, he said to the shorter man, “and make sure he won’t be able to move for a while”.

They dragged Nathan out of the car and pushed him onto the back seat. They tied his hands and feet very firmly and left him there.

The tall man gave him one more slap in the face.

“That’s for not cooperating”, he said.

“It’s your own fault. You asked for it”.

Then they jumped on their bikes and took off back to where they came from leaving a cloud of fumes behind.

Nathan was feeling quite sorry for himself.

“Here you are”, he thought, “just driving along and minding your own business. And look what has happened”.

After a while he had calmed down somewhat and he thought to himself: “How do I get out of this now?”

It would be hopeless to start calling or screaming. Nobody would hear you in this deserted place.



Perhaps some traffic might come past later on. He better try to sit up in case somebody did come past. Otherwise they would not even see him.

He suddenly remembered that the thieves had not even discovered his old mobile phone in the glove box. The new one they found but not his old one. They must have been in too much of a hurry. "If I can manage to make a call that will probably get me out of my predicament", he thought.

It was no good phoning his parents as they were still in their holiday place near the beach. They had planned to leave a few hours after him.

If only he could get in touch with the police that would be good. "But how can I get that mobile phone out of the glove box or even make a call with my hands tied up?", he thought.

He suddenly heard the noise of an approaching car. He tried to sit up again so that he could attract their attention.

But the driver did not notice anything and soon disappeared in the distance.

"Well, I better try and see what I can do", Nathan said.

"If I wriggle and push, and perhaps use my teeth as well, I might be able to undo these ropes".

Another car was coming up from behind. If only he could wave but his hands were tied. He pressed his face against the window and hoped the driver would see him. Much to his surprise the driver of that car noticed something unusual and stopped.

He soon realised the predicament Nathan was in and tried to undo the ropes.

"They certainly tied you up properly", this man said.



After a while he was finished with the ropes on Nathan's hands and then he got to work on his feet. That was even harder and when he had finally finished Nathan got terrible pins and needles in both his feet. After a while he was able to stand on his feet again.

"Tell me what happened", said the friendly man whose name was Jason.

Nathan briefly told Jason what happened.

"We have been hearing a lot of this sort of thing lately", Jason mentioned. "It was even in the newspaper last week. An old man was robbed of all his belongings on a quiet road out of town. And, if I remember correctly, there were also two motor bike drivers involved", he added.

"I better be on my way", Nathan said and he thanked Jason warmly for his help.

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Nathan then turned his car around for he had only turned into this road to try and avoid these two robbers. Then he remembered his old mobile phone. So he stopped his car and parked on the side of the road and tried to ring the police to report what had happened to him. But the battery was empty so that was not very helpful. Soon he was back into the little town he had passed earlier. He decided to first go to the Police Station. That was not hard to find. At the desk he spoke to a friendly policeman and he reported how he had been ordered off the road and how he had been robbed and



later tied up. The policeman took all the particulars and also Nathan's contact details.

Then he went to the shopping centre to buy a new mobile phone for he felt lost without one of those. While he was there he decided to buy a new camera as well.



When that was done he went to the nearest MacDonalDs restaurant to have something to eat for he was quite hungry after his ordeal.

He sat down at one of the tables and enjoyed his meal. It was a peaceful evening and it was a pleasure to watch the sunset. He wondered if his parents would be home already. Then he took the new camera out of the package and just to try it out he pointed it towards the sunset. Just as he did he noticed two men having their meal at a table near the exit. One was quite tall and the other was much shorter. Everything about them reminded Nathan very much about the two men who had robbed him. The more he looked at them the more convinced he was that these were the two criminals. On the spur of the moment he quickly took a picture of them. The tall man noticed the sudden flash of the camera and looked around to see who took a picture. Much to his surprise he saw Nathan with a camera in his hand. The man was obviously shocked. Nathan saw them whispering to each other and realised they had recognised him. So he quickly got up and started to move towards the exit but from the corner of his eye he observed the two men also getting up from their seats. They started to move towards him. Of course they did not want to attract too much attention. Nathan realised the problem and quickly went behind the counter and gave the camera to one of the

girls and whispered: “Hang onto this for me, please. The police might want to have a look at it”.

Then he raced through the kitchen and out of the back door. But the two men were very fast and just as Nathan was about to get into his car they grabbed him.

Nathan was just about to scream when the taller of the two men held his mouth close to Nathan’s ear and said:



“Don’t scream if you value your life. Quickly walk in front of us towards that green van parked over there. Pretend everything is fine. Don’t make a fuss and you will be OK”.

The tall man, whose name apparently was Shane, got in behind the wheel and the shorter fellow pushed Nathan into the vehicle and jumped in after him making sure that he was in between the two of them.



They travelled for several miles until they were out of the town. Then they turned into a quiet road and after about twenty minutes they turned left. Not far from that corner they came to an old derelict house surrounded by many trees and shrubs. They drove straight into the garage at the back of the house and locked the door behind them before they allowed Nathan to get out of the car. Both men grabbed hold of Nathan and pushed him into the house. After they had locked all the doors they told Nathan to sit down on a chair. They were keen to get hold of Nathan’s new camera for they realised that Nathan had taken a picture of them. And that would be disastrous for them if the police got hold of it. They were quite



sure that Nathan had managed to take a picture of them in the MacDonalds restaurant.

Therefore they must get that camera urgently.

“Now give us that new camera”, said Shane. “You certainly did not waste any time buying a new one, did you?”

“I haven’t got it any more”, said Nathan. “I gave it to one of the girls at the MacDonalds restaurant just as I passed through the kitchen”.

First the men did not want to believe it but after a while they realised that this boy was smarter than they had expected.

Just to make sure, though, Shane said: “Search his pockets, Malcolm, and see where he is hiding it. It was only a small camera so he can easily have it in one of his pockets”.

After a thorough search Malcolm only found the mobile phone that Shane had just bought. But he had to admit that the camera really was not there.

This made Shane very angry and he walked up to Nathan and slapped him in the face. Nathan wisely did not say anything even though the pain brought tears into his eyes. He did not want to invite another smack in the face.

Shane was not very happy about this new development. Now the police can find a picture of both of them and tomorrow their photo will be on the front page of the newspaper.

The other problem was the stolen green van. They had to make that disappear very quickly.

After talking together for a while they decided to take the green van away and just park it somewhere.



Shane told Malcolm to follow him on his motor bike and they would get rid of the green van somewhere out of the city on a quiet road.

But first they took Nathan down to the basement of this house to some type of cellar. They didn't know how he had managed to escape from his car so quickly. So they did not want to take any risks now with this smart lad.

They tied him up securely. They put his hands behind his back and tied them to the chair and both his legs were securely tied to the legs of the chair.

They were confident that he would never be able to escape. They locked the door behind them and then they left in a big hurry leaving the frightened boy in the semi dark cellar.

Nathan heard the garage door and then he heard the green van disappear followed by Malcolm on the motor bike. He heard that they had not forgotten to close the garage door. They were not taking any risks.

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At the MacDonalds restaurant there was quite some commotion in the kitchen. The girl Nathan had spoken to was quite puzzled at first about the camera. She did not comprehend so quickly what Nathan meant with his comment about the Police. So she went to the Supervisor and explained what had happened.

“What?” he said, “those two men got away?”



“If they chased that boy through the kitchen then they must have been up to some mischief. Let us quickly have a look outside and see if we can still see them.”

Of course, the confusion had caused enough delay to allow the two men to escape. They could not see Nathan and neither could they find the two men. They walked all around the building but they were nowhere to be seen.

“What shall we do with that lovely camera?” one of the girls said. “It’s a brand new one. The wrapping paper is still on the table where he had his meal”.

“I think we better get the Police involved”, said the Supervisor.

“All this looks rather mysterious to me, if you ask me”.

So he picked up the telephone and spoke to the local Police Station. He quickly explained what happened and the policeman promised to be there in the next ten minutes.

After a while a couple of Policemen entered the restaurant and were greeted by the Supervisor.

They all sat down together at a table in the kitchen.

“Now tell us what happened”, one of the Policemen said.

“Katy, you better tell them what happened”, the Supervisor said to one of the assistants. “You saw it all happen”.

“OK”, the girl said. “I was just making a milkshake for one of the customers when I saw a flash from a camera from the corner of my eye. And the next moment this boy runs behind the counter and gives me this camera and tells me that the Police might want it”.

“And what happened next?” one of the Policemen asked.



“Then this boy rushed through the kitchen and disappeared through the backdoor. Right behind him were two men”.

“What did they look like?” the Policeman asked.

“One was tall and the other one was quite short”, the girl remembered. “And both wore dark clothes”.

“Did you hear them say anything?”

“Yes, they said that they should not let him get away”, the girl answered.

The Supervisor then explained to the Policemen that everything happened so fast from there on. “When they realised what was happening they all rushed outside but those men as well as the boy had all disappeared”, he told the policemen.

“Did you perhaps notice what type of car they were driving?” asked the other policeman.

“No”, as I said, “they had vanished into thin air by the time we came outside”, said the Supervisor.

The Policemen then took some notes, asked them for their names, addresses and phone numbers and thanked them for their help.



“We will have to take the camera with us, of course”, they said. The girl handed them the camera and then both Policemen went back to their car.

“You will hear from us soon”, they said.

At the Police Station the two Police Officers reported to the sergeant and showed him the camera.

They saw the picture the boy had taken of those two men at the MacDonalds restaurant.



One of the other officers walked into the room and asked to have a look at the picture.

“You know what”, he said, “they look very much like those two guys who robbed that old gentleman in the shopping centre a few days ago. That was a tall man and a short one and both were wearing dark clothes according to that gentleman”.

“Yes, you are probably right”, the sergeant said.



“James, you better check these pictures on the computer and see if we have a record of these two guys”, the sergeant instructed one of the officers.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if we will find some useful information on the computer”, he said.

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Nathan in the meantime was struggling with his ropes. But no matter how hard he tried he could not undo them. He was getting quite anxious and upset.

When he had been tied up in the car earlier that day he wasn’t really so frightened. He expected that somebody would eventually come along and rescue him.

But now in this deserted house, far away from people, he was truly scared. He had tears in his eyes.

And it was then that he thought of God in heaven.

Nathan had always been a church goer. He had always attended church faithfully. He even went twice each Sunday like the rest of



the family. He had been taught the Catechism and had publicly professed his faith in church before many witnesses.

But if he was honest with himself he had to admit that he had only been going through the motions so to say. He had simply been a pew warmer. He attended the Bible study club. He did all the outward things, the things that people can see.

But he knew very well that God sees the heart. Yes, God even knows our thoughts. Nothing is hidden from Him.

Was it fair of him to now call on the Lord when he was in need? Was it right to only pray to God when you need Him? He had not needed the Lord up to now. Was it then the right thing to do to call on the Lord only when you are in trouble and not to pray to Him and thank Him for all the blessings that he received every day?

He had been so richly blessed by the Lord with good health and a happy family life. He did not lack anything.

But did he live a thankful life? He knew better. Deep down he was selfish and wanted to do his own things.

Nathan was ashamed of himself.

But then he reminded himself that God is also a God of love and compassion.

And there deep down in the cellar he called on God. He prayed for deliverance.

“Lord, I am in trouble and I need you”, he prayed. “Please help me and get me out of this place”.

Just before he was about to say “Amen” he remembered that you are meant to say “Your will be done”.



He thought about that for a moment and then added “Your will be done, Amen”.

He continued to struggle with the ropes but this time the men had taken no risks so that he could not even move his hands.

“What could he do?” he thought.

“These men will be back soon and what are they going to do to me then?” Nathan wondered.

Again he tried to free himself. He wriggled and struggled. But no matter how hard he tried it made no difference. This time he was truly tied up properly.

But he did not want to give up. Even though the ropes were hurting and every movement hurt his skin he continued to struggle. He started to sweat because of his efforts and also because of his great fear.

He became more and more anxious and moved around frantically and then suddenly.....ouch!

All the wild and jerky movements caused him to fall over with the chair. He could not stop himself to prevent injuries. So he fell hard on the concrete floor. He hurt his shoulder and his elbow. He

also felt something poking into his back. After a while he realised that the fall had broken the back of the chair. And the broken end was poking into his back.

That hurt quite a bit.



After he had calmed down and thought about it for a while and looked at the broken ends of the chair he realised that he had some movement on his hands. He wriggled, and shoved and pushed and after some great effort he managed to



slide the ropes of the back of the chair. And after some more tugging and pushing he managed to free one hand. Fortunately it was his right hand so perhaps he could now use that hand to undo the ropes on the other hand. Hopefully he might even be able to undo the ropes on his legs. He would have to hurry, though. These men could be back soon.

He had to struggle for quite some time and finally his other arm was also free. Then he quickly started to undo the rope on his left leg. That was easier now that he could use both his hands.

But what could he hear? If he was not mistaken he could hear the noise of the motorbike. These men must be coming back already. “What now?” he thought. He panicked and sweated and struggled some more. He could hear their voices already.

He heard the garage door open and they were now obviously in the garage.

And still he was not free altogether. If they found him now they would only tie him up again and probably stay with him to make sure he could not escape.

The men were quite close now. He heard the tall men say: “Malcolm, you go and check on that boy while I make a cup of coffee”.

Nathan heard footsteps outside the door.

He panicked and struggled some more and just before he heard Malcolm put the key into the lock of the door he was completely free. When he stood up he noticed that with all the struggling and wriggling one of the legs of the chair had broken off. It was probably cracked already due to the fall. He quickly picked up that leg and positioned himself near the door. He lifted the piece



of timber and then the unsuspecting Malcolm carelessly walked into the room. The next moment Nathan hit him on his skull and Malcolm quietly sank down to the floor. He did not even make a sound.

Nathan quickly dragged Malcolm's body away from the doorway for he was expecting Shane to come any minute to see why Malcolm was not coming back.

By now it was getting quite dark already.

Nathan positioned himself again near the door waiting for Shane to appear.

He hoped it would work out as he expected. He knew that Shane, the taller man, was quite smart and probably stronger than the shorter fellow.

He did not seem the type who would take risks.

After a while he heard Shane call out: "The coffee is ready, Malcolm".

The next few moments were going to be crucial and would decide if Nathan would walk away from this house as a free boy.

He heard footsteps. No doubt Shane was wondering why Malcolm had not answered him. As Nathan had expected Shane was a careful man. He quietly approached the doorway as he was suspecting something was wrong. He did not come in, though. He carefully stuck his head around the corner to see what was going on.

"Where are you, Malcolm?" he called out.

Nathan noticed some apprehension in Shane's voice.

As Shane came from the light he needed to adjust to the dim light in the cellar. Nathan on the other hand could see Shane quite well.



He waited for the right moment and when Shane looked around the corner again he hit him on his head just like he had done to Malcolm.

But Shane had just pulled his head back again so the piece of timber only barely touched the side of his head and slipped off his shoulder.

Suddenly Shane, shocked and furious, jumped into the room. He still did not know what was happening. His eyes still had not adjusted enough to the dim light in the cellar. He had seen the movement from the corner of his eye and quickly grabbed the timber from Nathan's hand.

Nathan, however, took advantage of the semi darkness because his eyes were used to it. He grabbed Shane by the legs. Shane had not expected this and he lost his balance and hit his head against the doorframe. It did not hurt him enough to cause a blackout. He suddenly jumped at Nathan and at the same time called out to Malcolm. "Now I am lost", Nathan thought.

"I will have no chance against two strong men".

But Malcolm was still a bit fuzzy in his head and instead of grabbing hold of Nathan he knocked Shane off balance again. The semi darkness did not help either.

Nathan realised what happened and quickly picked up the chair leg again and gave Shane another blow on his head. Then he swung around and also knocked Malcolm on the head again. This settled the battle.

What now?

Nathan quickly found the ropes and tied up Shane first and then he did the same to Malcolm.

Then he raced through the door and through the garage. After a while he managed to open the garage door and walked into the fresh air. He was so glad and thankful.



The Lord had been good to Him.

He suddenly remembered that he had left the door of the cellar open. So he quickly went back. Fortunately Malcolm had left the key in the lock. He quickly turned the key and the door was locked.

He heard the men yelling at him. They were obviously not very hurt and were not unconscious for long. They were very angry. But he ignored their yelling and grumbling.

He had a long way to walk home. But where was he?

He had absolutely no idea. He was a long way out of town. If he still had his mobile phone with him he could phone his parents and they could then get in touch with the police.

Then he had a bright idea. He was sure that one of the men must have had a mobile phone with them.

He walked back into the house. He could hear the men still yelling at each other. They were both very angry and blaming each other.

“How could you be so stupid”, said Shane to Malcolm.

After a while both men calmed down a bit.

“All this yelling at each other isn’t going to help us at all”, Shane said.

“Do you have your mobile still in your pocket?” Shane asked Malcolm.



“A mobile phone isn’t going to help them”, Nathan thought, “for I have tied them up securely. Even if they had one they still would not be able to use it”.

But then he got such a fright. It sounded as if someone was walking around in that cellar. Maybe he had not tied them up well enough.

“Give me that phone”, Shane said. “I left mine on the kitchen table. I’m going to ring Piggy and get him to get us out of here. He could be here in about half an hour if he hurries up”.

In the meantime Nathan found a mobile phone on the kitchen table. He walked away from the house and quickly phoned his parents.

“Where are you?” they said. “We have been very worried about you ever since we came home from Bremer Bay. We have already phoned the police and they said something about a MacDonalds restaurant. But we couldn’t understand what they meant with that”.

Tell us quickly where you are.

“Well, that’s exactly the problem”, Nathan replied.

“I have no idea where I am. They drove me to this deserted house in a green van and I don’t recognize this district at all.

“Why don’t you walk to the road and see if you can see some name or something you may recognize”, his father suggested.

So Nathan went to the road. It was not far at all to the next corner. Luckily it had a road sign on a post.

“Yes, Dad, this is Gibbs Road. I hope you can find it”.



“We will phone the police now and get them to find you there. We hope you will be fine until, they come”.

“I’ll be fine, Dad. Don’t worry about me”.

Nathan walked back to the house and as he got closer he heard Shane talking on a mobile to one of his mates.

“Yes, that boy got away. He locked us up in the basement. You will find the spare key in the top drawer of the kitchen cupboard. You better be quick for you never know what this boy is up to. He is smarter than we thought. Right now he is most likely trying to get in touch with the police. If you see him walking on the road somewhere you better offer him a lift and bring him with you to the house. Then we will teach him a lesson”.

“What did you say? No, we can’t get out. You remember we put bars on that small window?”

“Anyway, you better hurry before it is too late.”

Nathan had heard it all. So he quietly slipped into the kitchen, opened the top drawer and took the spare key which he put safely in his pocket.

Then he found a good place to hide behind some bushes in the garden. After a while he could hear a car approaching.

A man jumped out and went into the house.

After some time Nathan heard him yell to the men in the basement.

“You stupid guys, there is no key in that top drawer.”

“Yes, there is”, Shane yelled back at him. “Open your eyes and you better hurry”.

“OK, I will have another look”, said this other man.

He went back into the kitchen and checked all three drawers just to be sure.

Then he started yelling at them again.

“You guys must be mad and absolutely stupid. Two men get themselves locked up by a boy and you also lost the key. That is not very clever”.



Nathan heard some more yelling and screaming from the cellar but he also heard the noise of a car.

The men were so busy yelling at each other that they did not even hear the car and just as the man came out of the house two policemen jumped out of the car and grabbed him by the arm.

Then it was time for Nathan to come forward.

Three more police officers came out of the vehicle and they quickly put handcuffs on the man.

“Where are the other men”, they demanded.

“I have no idea”, he said. “I have nothing to do with this. I just happened to be coming past this place. I don’t know why you treat me like this. What’s going on, anyway?”

Then it was time for Nathan to come forward and he briefly told the officers what had happened.

“There are two men in the basement”, he said.

With a big grin on his face he put his hand in his pocket and took the key out of his pocket.

“This is the key to the basement”, he said to the officers and handed them the key.

One of the officers opened the door and stepped back a bit.



“Right, you guys, come out with your hands above your head. And don’t try any tricks on us”.

When Shane and Malcolm looked through the open door and saw five police officers they realised the game was over.

In a few moments they were both handcuffed just like their friend. “We told you to hurry, didn’t we?” Shane said while he gave their friend a very nasty look.

Two of the police officers stayed behind to search the whole house very carefully. The other three officers took their prisoners with them.

And Nathan, of course, came with them too. Not as a prisoner but as a friend. The police officers were very pleased with him.

Thanks to him and his camera, which he had left at the MacDonalds restaurant, they could solve some more crimes. And thanks to the phone call they were able to capture these three criminals.

Half an hour later Nathan was greeted by his parents who had returned from their holiday resort a few hours ago. They were relieved and thankful.



Together they expressed their thanks to the Lord. He had protected Nathan during his ordeal and brought him safely home.

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