

My Hidden Treasure Chest



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THE SECRETS OF AN ANGEL

Wings of Strength

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Introduction

Have you ever imagined what secrets might lie inside a hidden treasure chest—one not filled with gold, but with possibilities?

This story follows Valor and Alex, two adventurous siblings spending their summer vacation in the beach town of Ship Bottom, New Jersey. Their parents give them each a treasure chest to fill with memories and reminders as they uncover a path to strength, courage, imagination, and the people they are meant to become.

As a parent, teacher, or caregiver reading this story to children, you might recall moments from your own childhood that shaped who you are today. Feel free to share those experiences with the children as you read along.

Every child possesses unique talents, learning styles, and interests—each forming a part of their hidden treasure chest. Embracing one's uniqueness is essential—understanding strengths, weaknesses, dreams, and fears. Instead of avoiding challenges, children should learn to face obstacles with courage and resilience.

Encourage children to explore new activities and develop a willingness to step outside their comfort zones. Demonstrate adaptability in your own life, showing children that change is normal and can lead to growth.

Awareness makes life easier. As children grow into the people they are meant to be, their internal strength will increase. Over time, they will navigate challenges more effectively, making life feel simpler with experience.

Just past the entrance to the beach, nestled on a sand dune, with tall beach grass around it—sits a green wooden bench—a cherished spot, where countless memories are made. The ocean stretches out in the distance with waves gently rolling in—creating a soothing sound.



A Summer Adventure Begins

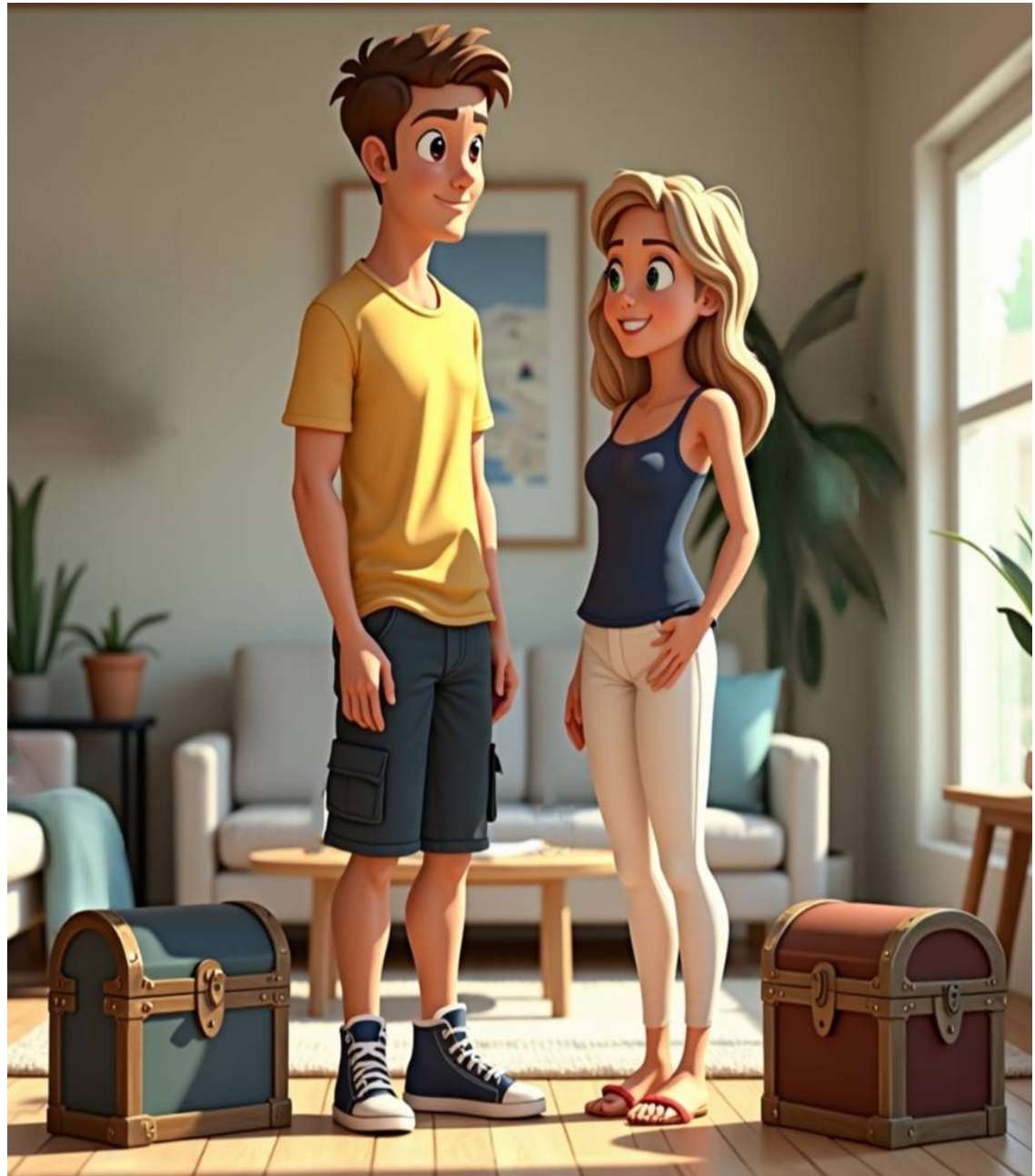
With the school year behind them, Valor and Alex eagerly head to their favorite beach town—Ship Bottom, New Jersey. They can't wait to reunite with childhood friends, Karen and Dontay, and enjoy their favorite traditions—visiting the lighthouse, flying kites, collecting seashells, and enjoying sweet treats from the local ice cream shop.



As they arrive at the beach house, Dad grins, “We have a surprise for both of you.”

“A surprise?” Valor asks, eyes wide with curiosity.

“Your mom and I got each of you a treasure chest for your bedrooms,” Dad explains. “You can fill them with special memories from this vacation and reminders of your experiences.”





"But what kinds of things can we put in them?" Valor wonders.

"Great question," Dad replies. "Here are some ideas:

- ◆ A note about a new activity you tried and what you learned.
- ◆ A photograph capturing a special moment.
- ◆ Something creative you made, like a drawing or a seashell craft.
- ◆ A memory of teaching a friend something new or learning from a friend.
- ◆ A challenge you overcame or a fear you faced."

Mom adds, "Remember when Alex was afraid of the seesaw? Now he plays on it all the time!"

Reminders of those moments of bravery could go in your treasure chest."



Hoppy Toad Hunting



After dinner, the sun sets, casting a golden-orange glow over the backyard. The air is warm, but the coolness begins to settle in as the last rays of daylight fades from the sky. The streetlights haven't come on yet, signaling just enough time for one last adventure before bedtime.

Valor and Alex usually see toads outside during the in-between time—not quite day, not quite night—when lights start to glow in nearby windows.

“Hey Alex,” says Valor, “Do you want to go outside and play Hoppy Toad Hunting in the backyard?”

“What is Hoppy Toad Hunting? I never did that before,” says Alex.

“Mom calls it ‘Hoppy Toad Hunting,’ but really, it’s just catching toads,” Valor laughs.

“I guess I can try. Do they feel funny in your hands?” says Alex.



“They may feel a little funny and their skin is a bit bumpy when you touch them,” says Valor. “I don’t mind touching them, but you can wear gloves.”

Valor explains to Alex that he must slowly approach the toad so as not to scare it and then cup his hands to scoop it up, being careful not to squeeze its body.

Valor steps carefully through the grass, her eyes scanning for movement. She knows from experience that toads like to hide near damp spots.

She moves slowly, crouching down near the garden hose where she’s spotted a toad before.

Her face lights up as she spots one—a small green toad sitting perfectly still near the back steps.

She extends her hands, moving with patience and care. “Alex, I found one!” she whispers. “Remember to move slowly so you don’t scare it.”



What You Just Read Is Only the Beginning...

Inside every child is a spark of courage, strength, and confidence waiting to grow.

The stories in this series are created to help children discover the powerful qualities already living inside them – even during moments of fear, uncertainty, sadness, or change.

In [I Am Brave Like an Eagle](#), children learn that bravery is not about never being afraid – it is about finding the courage to keep going.

In [My Hidden Treasure Chest](#), they discover that true strength can come from kindness, resilience, love, and the treasures hidden within their hearts.

And in [I Found My Inner Voice in Outer Space](#), they begin to understand that their voice matters and that confidence grows when they learn to trust who they are.

Every child's journey is different. Every child grows in their own time. But each step forward matters.

May these stories remind children that they are capable, valued, and never alone as they continue discovering the amazing person they are becoming.

Keep reading. Keep growing. Keep believing in yourself.

[Purchase the Full Book](#)

YOUR Journey. Your Growth. Your Power

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