

14th August, 2004

MY LITTLE HEROES

DEAR DIARY, I'm a very proud mother today. My children did the most fabulous thing yesterday and I'm still walking on air.

Daniel and Dean were going to their grandparents to help clear their back garden. My mum and dad get the boys to come down on Fridays to do various chores. On their way there, they noticed a little boy walking along the street, but they noticed that the boy was tiny; far too small for a child to be unaccompanied by an adult. Also, this little boy was topless, wearing just shorts. They knew something was wrong when they also noticed that the boy was shoe-less, he had nothing on his tiny little feet.

My children were afraid to approach the little boy because at age 11 and 12, they were not sure what the adult world would make of this threesome; visually, they couldn't look more un-related, but it worried my sons that this little boy was all alone. Then something sudden happened where they had no choice but to take charge of the situation. The little boy dashed between two parked cars and ran out into the road. Daniel grabbed him back and shouted "oh my God, what are you doing"? The boy replied that he was looking for his auntie Jane. Daniel asked him why he was out all alone. The little boy said that his Auntie Jane had gone to the shop but she was taking too long. The boy then elaborated by telling my children that his Auntie Jane had gone to the Chinese takeaway. He let himself out to go and find her but didn't know where to go. He didn't know how to get to the Chinese takeaway and he didn't know his way back home.

My children decided to take the little boy to my parents' house which was two roads away from where the little boy was found. My children were very nervous because they needed to hold his hand just in case he wanted to dash between two cars again but they were very aware that this boy's aunt might see them with her nephew and cause a scene. Anyway, they managed to get to my parents and the little boy was very compliant. I can't imagine what he made of all this, barefoot with two unfamiliar boys and then entering a house with unfamiliar adults. My mum opened the front door and was obviously shocked to see her grandsons and a strange little boy standing there. They quickly explained what happened and my mum called the police.

The AUGUST MAYFIELD Diaries

My mum gave the little boy a cup of tea and some biscuits and he fell asleep on the sofa. The police arrived within half an hour with the little boy's Aunt, her boyfriend and a little girl; I think the little girl was his cousin. It turned out that the little boy was being looked after by his aunt who left him while she went to pick up their dinner. He was only three, his name was Jason. Apparently, the family arrived home, the door was unlocked and he wasn't there.

I don't know how a boy so small managed to reach the lock on the front door and I don't know why they just didn't take him to the shops with them, but it all worked out well for little Jason in the end.

I now regret not phoning our local Guardian and getting the story in the newspaper because it's nice to hear good news about young boys doing good deeds. I said to my mum, why didn't you make the police give the boys a medal. My mum said they were happy with a large Domino's pizza and half a glass of Babycham each to celebrate their quick thinking and bravery!

August Mayfield