



Joseph: *(very angrily, yelling)* Ben! Get that damned picture away from me!

5

*(Ben stops and looks scared. His grandfather never yells at him. He drops his picture on the ground.)*

Joseph: Oh...Ben I'm sorry... *(He reaches out to Ben but he steps back in fear)*

*(Bens eyes start to fill with tears as he turns and runs out stage left)*

*(Joseph watches as Ben exits. He slowly picks up the picture and looks at it more closely.)*

*Lights fade to black.*

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Nick (stepfather): Ben?

*(He walks slowly over to him and kneels beside him.)*

Nick: Ben? *(He reaches to touch Bens shoulder)*

Ben: Go away!

4

Nick: Whats the matter, Ben?

*(Ben continues to sob into his knees.)*

*(Nick sits down next to Ben and pulls him gently into a hug. Ben doesn't resist and continues crying.)*

Nick: Come on Ben, its alright. Do you want to tell me what the matter is?

Ben: Granddad...yelled at me. *(sniffs)*

Nick: What happened?

Ben: I was showing him my picture and-

Nick: What picture?

Ben: I drew one about the war at school today...

Nick: Oh. I see.

Ben: Granddad never yells at me... *(starts crying again)*

Nick: *(hugs him again)* Your granddad is just going through a tough time at the moment. But he isn't mad at you, I promise. He could never be mad at you.

Ben: Why is he going through a tough time?

Nick: *(uncertainly)* You're learning about the war and the ANZAC's at school aren't you?

Ben: Yes.

Nick: And you know that granddad was a soldier in the second world war?

Ben: Yeah... *(sniffing)*

Nick: War is a terrible thing to experience. The soldiers that go are very, very brave. They have to do things that many men would be very frightened to do. It is not just a matter of holding a gun. It is so much more than that.

6

Ben: That's ok granddad.

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Joseph: Give us a hug, theres a good lad. *(They hug.)*

*(Silence.)*

Ben: Granddad...

Joseph: Yes?

Ben: Will you take me to the dawn parade?

*(Joseph thinks about this. After a moment he smiles.)*

Joseph: No Ben...will you take me?

Ben: Granddad! *(giggles)*

Joseph: Alright, we'll take each other, how does that sound?

Ben: Good *(smiles.)*

*(Lights fade to black.)*

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Alison: Are you alright Ben?

Ben: Yes. I miss granddad.

Alison: We all do. But he would be so proud of you for marching in the parade. I know it.

7

Ben: Ok *(he smiles.)*

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