

Goodie
by AJ Pope

Daddy is a goodie. When we play Superheroes, he wears my Batman cape and chases me because I'm the baddie. He picks me up and tickles me and I laugh, even though baddies aren't supposed to laugh. I can't help it.

He's the best goodie because he can run super-duper fast. My friend Jasper's daddy is always sleeping on the couch because he drinks lots of beer. My Daddy has lots of energy to chase me and Jasper.

Sometimes Daddy falls over because being a goodie takes a lot of hard work. When Daddy gets tired, like Jasper's daddy, we watch TV. Our favourite show is Batman and Robin. I don't watch the baby channel anymore because I'm not a baby.

When I was a baby, I was in my mummy's tummy. Then, when I got born, she ran away. Daddy said that my mummy loved me but having a baby is super-duper hard. Sometimes Daddy cries because he misses Mummy a lot. I asked him where she went, but he doesn't know. When I am older, I will go and find her.

I'm not allowed to go in Daddy's room. I don't need to, because all my toys are in my room, but one time I lost my Darth Vader and I went looking in Daddy's room and he got very

angry. He was sitting on the bed and he had something funny in his arm. He made me cry but he said sorry.

Sometimes, Daddy lets me stay home from school. One time at school, I learned a new word called *jealous*. My friends get *jealous* because me and Daddy go and get ice cream and go to the movies - even when it's not school holidays.

One time, at Jasper's house, I got *jealous*. I got *jealous* because his house didn't have lots of mess. In my house, you have to jump like a kangaroo to walk around because there is stuff all over the floor. But Jasper's house is really empty. He didn't have a lot of toys, but we made soldiers with some cans we found in the garage.

My soldier was the baddie and Jasper's soldier was the goodie. He was chasing my soldier when we heard a big noise. I heard Daddy shouting at Jasper's daddy. He said Jasper's daddy had to give him a lot of money because he gave him some "good stuff". He saw me, and he picked me up and carried me home and I forgot to bring my Darth Vader home from Jasper's house. He made me cry and he *didn't* say sorry.

We haven't played superheroes for a long time, because Daddy is always sleepy now. He always falls asleep when we are watching Batman, and I have to go up the stairs by myself and it's scary because it's dark. One time, I woke up in the morning and Daddy was still sleeping on the couch. I tried to wake him up because I was hungry, but he didn't wake up. I poked my fingers in his eyes but he didn't wake up. I started crying, which was silly because I'm a big boy. He didn't wake up.

Daddy told me that if a goodie doesn't wake up you have to touch *zero zero zero* on the phone. I touched *zero zero zero* and told the man on the phone that Daddy was sleeping for a long time.

A goodie lady called Sarah came in an ambulance and asked me what happened to Daddy. A man from the ambulance was putting scary things in Daddy's nose, and funny things in his arm, and I started to cry, so Sarah gave me a Batman sticker. I told her I'm not a *goodie*, I'm a *baddie*, and she gave me a Joker sticker instead.

I forgot what happened in the ambulance, because I was crying a lot. A scary lady at the hospital said that I have to go to someone's house. I asked if I could go to Jasper's house, and she said *no*.

I went to Phil and Linda's house instead. They were old, but they were nice, and they didn't have Star Wars toys, but they had a big giant teddy bear. There was another girl at their house called Jessica, and she asked if this was my first time being a foster kid and I said my name is Charlie not Foster. I asked Phil and Linda if Daddy would be better soon, and they said they didn't know—but they could take me to the hospital again tomorrow to see him.

Daddy was still sleeping at the hospital. He had funny things everywhere. Funny things in his nose, funny things in his mouth, funny computers with funny numbers next to his bed. I wanted to touch the funny computers, but Phil and Linda said, “No.”

I touched Daddy's hand. It was really cold.

A baddie doctor came in and talked with Phil and Linda. I knew he was a baddie because he was talking in the grown-up language and pretending I wasn't there, just because I'm a little kid. I'm not a *little* kid, just a *kid*. I listened to what he said while I held Daddy's hand.

He kept saying a big word called “*overdose*”. I knew he thought I didn't know what it meant, but I *did*. My neighbour called Rory did an overdose, because this big boy called Tyson told me that he did. Tyson has a scooter and one time he let me put his cigarette in my mouth. Rory died, but he was a *baddie*, because one time I saw him smacking his girlfriend. My daddy won't die because he is a *goodie*.

When we went home in Phil and Linda's car, I asked them if Daddy did an overdose. Linda looked really funny and then Phil said, “Yes.” Then he said we are going back to my real house to get my toys, so I can stay at their house for some more days. I asked them if I could have an ice cream and Linda said, “Yes.”

I got my school uniform, too, and the next day I went to school and Phil and Linda gave me a super-duper big lunch with four sandwiches. Jasper had a yummy chocolate yoghurt and I said I would give him a sandwich if he gave me it. He said, “No.”

I hit him and I hit him and I hit him again and again until he had blood because he made me so angry and he didn't say sorry. My teacher came and shouted at me and took me to the big office. She said she was very sad, because I was always good. I said I'm not a goodie, I'm a *baddie*.

The lady in the office tried to call Daddy, but he didn't answer, because probably he was still sleeping at the hospital. I said she had to call Phil and Linda, and she didn't know who that was, but I think someone at the hospital helped her because Phil came to pick me up from the big office.

He asked me why I hit Jasper and I said I don't know. He asked me if I'm sad because my Daddy is sick, and I said he's not sick, he's just sleeping. He is a *goodie* and he won't die like Rory.

Phil stopped driving the car and turned off the music. He said that my daddy is going to sleep for a long long time and I can't talk to him again. But he said I could go and see him, and say goodbye. I said how can I say goodbye if I can't talk to him. He said maybe he can still hear me. I said okay.

We went to Daddy's room in the hospital and Phil said he was going to get a coffee. It was really quiet in the room by myself, because Daddy wasn't making any noise. No one told me what to say, so I gave Daddy a cuddle and said "bye-bye". I was glad Jessica wasn't there because she's a big girl and I don't like it when big girls see me cry.

When we got home, I had ice-cream for afternoon tea and Phil said I can watch Ninja Turtles on their super-duper big TV. When I went to sleep I cried because I didn't want Daddy to be dead like Rory and Linda gave me a big cuddle.

When I went back to school I said sorry to Jasper and he said it's okay. He shared his chocolate yoghurt with me because he said he's sorry that my daddy died.

Phil and me play Superheroes after school. But this time I am the *goodie* and Phil is the *baddie*. I put on my Batman cape and I tickle him and he laughs, even though *baddies* aren't supposed to laugh.

My daddy was a *goodie*. And I am a *goodie*, too.