

Matt's Amazing Week: Children Book by Martin Lundqvist

Introduction

This story is about Matt. His full name is Matthew, but his friends and family call him Matt. Matt is 6 years old. He lives in Sydney. Like all kids, Matt has a biological mother and a biological father. Matt is fortunate as he also has both his parents still around to bring him up. They both love him very much in their own way.

Sunday Morning

Matt woke up. The sun was shining, and it was a happy day. Matt was a good boy last night and went to bed early. Matt's parents wanted him to sleep early. Sometimes he didn't want to sleep early, but he felt better the day after when he did.

Matt's mother, Eleanor walked into his room.

Eleanor:

- Rise and shine, sunshine.
- It is Sunday, and time to go to church.

Matt:

- But I don't want to go to church. I want to stay in my room and play with Michael.

Eleanor:

- Don't be silly. Michael isn't real, and he can wait until we come back.
- So, so, my dear. Let me help you get ready. We must go to church to save your eternal soul.

Eleanor helped Matt to get dressed. Then they walk to the church.

Matt sat in the back of the church sulking, while his mummy was singing and listening to the priest.

Matt felt his mum was unfair. Why did he have to go to the boring church to listen to a dull old man talking about her imaginary friends Jesus and God? When Matt talks about Michael, no one seems to care. And Jesus is as real or unreal as Michael is.

After a long time, the church was finally over, and Matt could go home and eat before his favourite activity. Playing soccer!

Sunday Afternoon

Matt was playing soccer with his team. Suddenly the ball dropped in front of his feet, and he kicked it as hard as he could. Goal! Matt's first goal ever! Unfortunately, he soon realised his mistake, he scored an own-goal.

Matt was sad and subbed off. He felt silly and was crying. Matt's father Markus comforted him.

Markus:

- At least it was an excellent shot. Next time you score in the right goal.

Matt:

- But the kids will tease me at soccer practice on Tuesday.

Markus:

- Yes but that is part of life. Winners don't let teasing ruin their mood. Instead, it makes them stronger and better the next game!

Matt

- You are right, dad.
- Can I have a Coca-Cola now?

Markus:

- No, but you can have this fruit and veggie smoothie. It aids your recovery so you will become a better player over time.

Matt drank the yummy smoothie, and then his father drove him home.

Sunday Evening

Matt was watching a documentary about space with his dad. It had a difficult language, but Matt liked looking at the colourful planets.

Matt:

- How much is a billion?

Markus:

- It is a thousand million. A million is a thousand thousands.

Matt:

- So it is a lot?

Markus:

- Yes
- Why do you ask, buddy?

Matt:

- Because mum's imaginary friend said, Earth was 6000 years old and flat. The TV says it is 4 billion years and round.

Markus:

- Have you ever seen mummy's imaginary friend?

Matt:

- Don't be silly, dad. You can't see other people's imaginary friends. That's why they are called imaginary friends.
- Why don't you get an imaginary friend like mum and me?

Markus:

- Because I can't create my own imaginary friend, because then people will say I am strange.
- To just follow your mum and be friends with Jesus would be boring.

Matt:

- Yes, dad. Find your own pretend friend dad. People teasing you will only make you stronger.

Monday Morning

Matt woke up with butterflies in his stomach. Today was his first day in the new school. Mummy dressed him up with itchy clothes. She told him he will need to wear these clothes for the next 12 years to fit it in. Matt didn't like the clothes. He loved his superhero costumes. His mum said he couldn't wear superhero

costumes for school. Matt was not happy about this.

Matt went into the classroom. The teacher started the day by telling everyone to talk to Jesus who was also the teacher's imaginary friend. Matt was not happy. He wished his dad had picked the school. Then Matt would not need to talk to mummy's imaginary friend!

Monday Afternoon

Matt was having lunch in school. A kid walked up and teased him for his haircut. Matt was annoyed. He didn't know the other boy, and yet the boy was bugging him for no reason. Matt remembered what his dad said. Matt avoided confrontation with the bully.

Monday Evening

Matt was angry with the bully. He kicked and punched the boxing bag that was in the garage. His dad walked into the garage

Markus:

- Are you mad today, Matt?

Matt:

- Yes, a bully teased me for my haircut today in school.

Markus:

- That's not good. Do you like your haircut?

Matt:

- Yes.

Markus:

- Very well. As long as you are happy don't worry about the bully. You can't please a bully anyway, so just do what makes you happy.

Matt:

- Yes, dad. Thank you.

Markus:

- Now have a shower and come in to eat. Your mum has made a chicken and avocado salad.

Matt:

- Sounds tasty. Thanks, dad, now I am happier.

Tuesday Morning:

Matt woke up a bit grumpy. He hit the boxing bag too hard last night. His sore hands made it hard to sleep. His mum talked to him.

Eleanor:

- Look at your hands, Matt. Don't hit the boxing bag. Just pray to Jesus and everything will be alright.

Matt:

- I don't like talking to your imaginary friend! Why don't you ever speak to Michael, my pretend friend?

His mum said nothing, but she gave his father a disapproving look. They were probably going to fight later. Matt felt sorry and wanted to make things right.

Matt:

- Sorry, mum. Let's say grace again so Jesus will help us.

They did, and then mum took Matt to school.

Tuesday Afternoon

Matt was having lunch again. He was annoyed at his mum for packing unhealthy food for him. He wanted to be a good soccer player. So he needed to eat good food. The bully approached him again.

Bully:

- Oh, look who it is. Mr Mop Head!

Matt:

- I don't care for your fashion advice.
Just leave!

Bully

- Or else what?

Matt:

- Leave, or you'll get the fist.

The bully pushed Matt off his chair, and Matt fell to the ground. Matt quickly got up and punched the bully's nose. The bully got a nosebleed and ran away crying.

Tuesday Evening

Matt had soccer practice with his team. This time he was not confused, and he scored three goals. When Matt came home, he had a shower. Then he went to

bed looking at the posters of soccer stars hoping to one day be good like them!

Wednesday Morning

Matt was back in school. After recess, a classmate, James, came up to him.

James:

- I am James.
- I am happy that you put the bully in place. He has been mean to me as well. Do you want to be my friend?

Matt:

- That depends. Do you like to play soccer?

James:

- Yes!

Matt:

- Great. Then we can have a kick around after school.

Matt felt happy. He had only been to this school for two days, and he had already found a friend!

Wednesday Afternoon

Matt was in the principal's office with his mum. She was upset and disappointed with him. Although several witnesses state that the Bully started the fight, Matt was also punished. The headmaster thought that Matt should have talked with management instead of using violence. Matt was punished with detention and five meetings with the school chaplain for his violent behaviour.

Wednesday Evening

Matt was annoyed. His mother had forced him to talk to her imaginary friend for a long time because he was naughty. Matt wanted a sibling. Then his sibling can speak with Jesus, so Matt doesn't have to. He went to his dad to talk.

Matt:

- Dad, how are babies made?

Markus:

- I am not sure you are old enough for this discussion.

Matt:

- But it has nothing to do with God, right?

Markus:

- Well, animals have babies. As far as I know, they don't talk to God. Having offspring is biology. When human become adults, they play adult games, and sometimes a baby is a result.

Matt:

- Okay. Can I have a baby sibling, so I don't have to talk to Jesus anymore?

Markus:

- Maybe. But you have to realise. If we have another baby, your mum has to stay home to take care of the baby. Then we make less money, so we can no longer pay for your soccer and other hobbies.

Matt:

- Oh.

- Then, I don't want a sibling anymore, I love soccer.

Markus:

- Okay mate, see you later.

Thursday Morning

Matt woke up early, and he heard strange noises from his parents' bedroom. He thought of going back to sleep, but instead, his curiosity took him to their bedroom.

His parents were gone and the family cat, Eden lay alone on the bed. Suddenly they jumped out from the curtains dressed as Batman and Robin. "*Happy Name Day!*", they shouted happily and to celebrate the occasion they had made him a yummy fruit salad for breakfast.

Thursday Afternoon

Matt was having lunch at the school canteen again. The bully walked up to him, this time he seemed a bit more anxious.

Bully:

- I am sorry I was mean to you.

Matt:

- Okay.

Bully:

- Would you mind being friends? I am Simon.

Matt:

- I am Matt. Do you like soccer?

Simon:

- Yes, I love it.

Matt:

- Good, bring your friends, and we'll play soccer after school.

Thursday Evening:

Matt was lying in bed. He was sore from playing soccer for hours. Matt had forgotten to stretch his muscles after playing. Now he remembered why he should stretch and eat healthy every time he played.

It had been great fun playing with his new friends. Now that he had friends to play with, he could play more often. Maybe one day he would be as good as Messi!

Friday Morning

Matt's class was going to the science museum this morning. He saw a stuffed ape, and the guide said that humans evolved from apes. Matt found this interesting. His Mum's imaginary friend had claimed that The Father created humans 6,000 years ago out of thin air. That Jesus guy was apparently telling his mum a lot of silly stuff!

Friday Afternoon

Matt came home straight after school to help his mum with chores. He would have preferred to stay with his friends playing soccer, but he also wanted to help his mum. His mum had spent a lot of time and money on him, and he wanted to repay her.

His mum offered him candy as thanks, but Matt turned it down. He wanted to be better at sports, not unhealthy.

Together they cooked yummy and healthy whole grain pasta with chicken and cottage cheese sauce, to prepare him for his weekend games.

Friday Evening

Matt was sad when he heard that his paternal grandmother had fallen ill. They would need to visit her tomorrow when the hospital is open for visitors. Matt felt worried, and together with his parents, he spoke to his mum's imaginary friend Jesus. As usual, Jesus didn't answer.

Saturday Morning

Matt and his family visited his sick grandmother in the hospital. She looked

very ill and frail. Matt was sad to see her this way. Only six months ago she had been full of life before the skin cancer struck her. Matt loved his grandma, but not as much as he loved his mum and dad.

Matt spoke to his grandma:

Matt:

- Grandma, what is happening to you?

Grandma:

- I am dying.

Matt:

- Will you go to heaven?

Grandma:

- I don't know. I think I will just fade and my life will be like it was before I was born.

Matt:

- Okay.
- Why do people die grandma?

Grandma:

- Because the old has to die to make space for young to live. If no-one died there would not be enough food, and we would all be hungry.

Matt:

- Okay. I hope mum is right and you'll go to heaven. I'll miss you.

Grandma:

- I will miss you too Matt.

After that Matt's mum took him home so he wouldn't need to see his grandma die.

Saturday Afternoon

Matt convinced his mum that he wanted to play the game later the same day. He did well and scored a hat-trick, but he was still sad because of his grandma.

Matt saw his mum cry after the game.

Eleanor:

- Your grandma is dead.

Matt:

- But she will be in heaven now?

Eleanor:

- Yes.

Matt:

- Now I know why you have Jesus as your friend. To comfort you when you are sad.

They went home together and cried.

Saturday Evening

Matt was patting the family cat, Eden. Eden was usually not a friendly cat, but today he seemed to love Matt. Did the cat understand and wanted to comfort him? Anyways it was good that the cat was with him. Matt's mum's sister who was looking after him knocked on the door and asked if he wanted to eat something. Matt declined. Tonight he would mourn his grandma, and tomorrow he would try to resume his life!

The End