

# **My Champion**

**Grade: 9**  
**Nonfiction**

I remember the day I first laid eyes on him. He was heavy and smelled kinda funky. I just couldn't believe that despite all my prayers and hopes for a sister I ended up getting a brother. At five years old I was the youngest of three girls and desperately wanted a little sister, however I learned that day that one doesn't always get what one wants. He squirmed in my arms as if sensing my displeasure. He was kinda cute though, had the chubbiest cheeks I had seen. I smiled at him, then leaned down and kissed his soft head. He's nuzzled closer to me. His face pinched together and he then began to cry. My mother came over and took him from my arms. **Idon'tlikeyoueither.** I said to him through my thoughts. Cradling his neck my mom laid him down gently, she began to unwrap him from his dozens of blankets.

"Celeste hand me those wipes" she said pointing at a teal container sitting on a dresser. I obliged immediately. Taking them off the shelf and handing them to her. My mom looked really tired, her brown hair pulled back in a loose messy ponytail. I looked just like her brown hair, same nose and chin. I had chubby cheeks too, the only thing slightly different was the dash of green in my brown eyes, that's from my dad. My dad was out in the hall getting something from the nurses. Mom smiled down at my brother and began to change his diaper. Jealousy consumed me, I glared at them. **She's only allowed to smile like that at me, I'm her little girl.** I walked over to stand beside the bed.

"What did you decide on naming him again...?" I said in frustration.

"Alan Jordan Keelin but we will call him A.J." I really wanted his first name to be Mason at first but now looking down I could see that he looked more like an A.J. My mom went on and on about how he was named after my great grandmothers favorite brother, who had died in World War Two, he had received a Purple Heart. My mother lifted his bum in the air then went to place a diaper under him, then he began to wet himself. Urine landed on his face and he began to cry at the shock of it all. My mother and I laughed and she cleaned him up. After my Dad held him for a while they placed him in my arms once more while they began to fill out paperwork. I tilted my head to look at him and....oh.. I couldn't believe it, he smiled at me, a small one nothing big but I still saw it. **Maybe you won't be so bad after all.** It had only taken an hour or so, before he had won me over, it was then that I vowed not to let anything bad happen to him. **He's my little brother.**

Nine years came and went in no time, I watched as that little baby I had once held in my arms grew into a young boy. Also somewhere along the way my mother had my littlest brother Ashton. My sisters have both moved out now leaving me the oldest at 14 year old. A.J was becoming his own person now finding his own interests. It made me long for the days when he use to follow me around and mimicking me, even if I hated it while growing up. Ashton however was now doing the same thing to A.J. Now

we bicker and fight all the time about senseless stuff but that's just how we are. However we both shared this love of basketball.

I see so much potential in him that sometimes I'm a bit hard on him but it's only because I want him to be the best person he could be. This year was his second year of Jr. Jazz and he was flourishing, I knew he could achieve greatness in all aspects not just sports. His team had worked their way up and were now all set to compete in "The Championship". We were talking one night about The Championship and he fidgeted nervously. "What if we don't win?"

"Then you'll win next year, but you're going to win." A.J had to guard the toughest person on the opposing team. "Did you know that I wanted you to be a girl?"

"Yes you tell me that all the time and about how I peed on myself." he said annoyance lacing his tone. I giggled. I looked him straight in the eye.

"I wouldn't trade you for anything in the world now," I paused "A.J all anyone can ask of you is to give it your all, do you know why it is that I never ask that of you?"

"No"

"It's because I already know that you will give it your all, I admire that about you and we all know who you get that from." I joked lightening up the mood "win or lose tomorrow, you will always be my champion." he hugged me and I returned it. I looked into his bright blue eyes, they were just like my great grandmothers, I placed my hand on his head. He's growing up so fast and soon he will be taller than me.

"Celeste you're so short." he says with a smile. He always teased me about as if he were already taller than me, which he isn't. His head now comes to my shoulder. "Soon I'll be taller than you by a foot." he says as if reading my mind.

"Well just remember no matter how tall you get, I will always be able to kick your butt." I say and begin to tickle his sides.

"Hey." I said just before I turn to leave the room. "I love you, and I know you will do great tomorrow."

"I love you too and thanks." He says with a smile on his face. **I really do need to say that to him more often.**

My Butt hurts from sitting on the bleachers for so long. Its fourth quarter with two minutes lefts, we are all tied up. I bowed my head and said a silent prayer for them. The next few minutes crawled by Brandon, our point-guard, made a lay-up putting us ahead by two. There was still time so one more possession, with 20 seconds on the clock. The opposing team hurried and inbound the ball, passing it to their point guard. He called a play and a boy began to run for A.J. "SCREEN!" A.J's coach screamed. A.J. denied the screen, however the man he was guarding managed to accept the pass. A.J. put his hand straight up trying to block the shot. His man shot.....then missed. The Final Buzzer sounded. A.J. threw a fist-bump to the air came over and hugged us, drenching

us in his sweat. Looking at him I saw how bright his future was, I was just so happy I would get to be a part of it. To be a sibling is a tricky job, you critique them on every little thing because you want to show them that, no matter how much you accomplish you can always better yourself. Sometimes I need to learn to just sit back and relish in the moment. That's exactly what I did then and I promised myself that I would always let my brothers know that they are "My Champions."