

## Plot

*Chapter 1***NOBODY EATS BREAKFAST**

It is the last Friday in October and everybody in Appleton is enthusiastic for the Big Game - the derby of an American football game between the Ferocious Ferrets of Fillmore High School and the Chargers of Merrimac High School. Newton Newman (Newt) is preparing breakfast for his family when he comes across an article of his brother in the Sports section of the local daily. Chris Newman (Chris) is a local football star, playing for the Ferocious Ferrets, made an electrifying appearance in his debut game two years ago.

Newt is excited to show the article to both his parents but to no avail as his Dad is held down when the phone rings and Mom has to answer a neighbour's phone call. Newt is disappointed that his parents do not touch the breakfast he has prepared for them. To make him feel useful, Newt decides to go upstairs to wake Chris up. Irritated by Newt's 'trumpet', Chris throws him a pillow which ended up on the floor instead.

*Chapter 2***HALLOWEEN PLANS ARE MADE - SORT OF**

All is as usual at Appleton Elementary, and Newt occasionally tries to be friendly and greets his classmates, but he is ignored. Instead, they just stare back fiercely and ignore him. Newt finds himself a corner at the far end of the schoolyard to settle down. He starts illustrating his imagination on one of his Secret Superhero Sketchbooks.

Newt's best friends, Cecil and JJ, have the greatest appreciation and admiration of Newt's creativity. In fact, they are the only ones to whom Newt shows his sketches. Cecil alerts Newt and JJ of the coming Halloween. However, all three of them are bored with the same old costumes they have been wearing every year. Cecil then suggests that each of them come out with an extraordinary outfit. They must each come up with a costume that matches their "inner other."

*Chapter 3***I SEARCH FOR SOMEBODY I AM NOT**

During social studies class, Newt is still searching for an idea for his Halloween costume. He imagines himself as Zeus, the God of Lightning according to the Greek myth but he soon realises that he does not fit in the descriptions shown by Mrs. Young, his subject teacher. Not giving up, he asks Mrs. Young what the American pioneers wore when they built the country and he is ridiculed by his classmates for asking such a question. Nevertheless, his teacher responds to his question and the answer given by Mrs. Young is more than enough for him to rule out the possibility of having such costume for Halloween.

The school ends early in conjunction with the Big Game Pep Parade on the street for the students and locals. Newt is very ecstatic to attend his brother's last game of the season. Unlike the rest, Cecil and JJ are more inclined to figure out their Halloween costumes. Newt is then back in dilemma and he contemplates while thinking what he should wear for Halloween that is coming very soon. Newt falls asleep while figuring out the design of his costume. He wakes up suddenly after he has a terrible dream. It is time for the Big Game and his parents are getting ready for it. With a heavy heart, Newt puts aside his coming Halloween celebration and shifts his focus on the Big Game.

### *Chapter 4*

#### **FOOTBALL IS PLAYED AND MISTAKES ARE MADE**

Newt stops thinking about Halloween when he begins to recall the moment where his brother, Chris, mentions Reggie Ratner, an opponent from Merrimac High who has always been holding grudges against Chris. To make it worse, the crowd play sentiment on both Chris and Reggie during the Big Game. Newt, who is now away from the bleachers, is shown his way out when he fails to present his seat ticket to the person in charge.

When the final quarter starts, both teams are level. It is so unfortunate for Newt who is forced to watch the game from outside the wire fence surrounding Fillmore Field. He can see that the Home team, especially his brother, is playing their hearts out until the game reaches its last 45 seconds. The Away team is leading by two points at that time. The Big Game is getting more intense during the last seven seconds. The Ferrets do not give up and show very high determination. Chris manages to get a last-minute touchdown. There are mixed feelings on the ground as the opponents bow down to their defeat and the home crowd is jubilant with the winning streak.

### *Chapter 5*

#### **THE BAD DREAMS BEGIN**

Chris is unconscious as a result of the winning touchdown. The whole ground is in complete silence when Chris is being attended to and brought to the hospital. Chris' test results show that he is not suffering from any broken parts. However, he is still in coma. Back in his room, Newt cannot forget what happened during the winning touchdown as he describes it as a thunderous crash. He tries to revert his concentration to his Halloween costume but the Big Game incident keeps rewinding in his mind.

The next day, Newt answers various callers who are trying to get some news about his brother. Cecil and JJ drop by at Newt's house to give a few things to cheer him up. The local community keeps talking about the touchdown incident and starts calling it as the Big Tackle. Cecil also tells Newt that some of the Ferrets are planning on getting revenge on Reggie, the Chargers' defensive back who is accused of causing Chris to become unconscious.

As Newt recalls the Big Tackle, JJ tries to divert his attention by asking about their Halloween plan. Newt is speechless and makes up excuses to avoid talking about the plan. Both Cecil and JJ are not convinced, and they decide to meet the next day at 6:00 p.m. for Halloween.

## *Chapter 6*

### **I GET A TERRIBLE IDEA**

Newt is frantically searching for ideas as he is running out of time to come up with his Halloween costume and he falls asleep soon after. By noon, he is still clueless about his costume and then decides not to celebrate Halloween. He falls asleep while sketching his latest fantasy superhero character. When he wakes up, Mom is already home. He peeps at Mom who is holding Chris' sweatshirt and Newt asks if there is anything he can do to cheer her up. However, Mom says there is nothing Newt can do for the moment. Taken aback by her words, he decides to prove that he is useful in such stressful situation.

Just before he could cheer Mom up by wearing his brother's football jersey, she has already left home for the hospital. In the meantime, Cecil and JJ arrive at Newt's doorstep. He clumsily opens the door only to find that he is in awe of his two friends. Cecil disguises himself as the famous musician named Mozart while JJ is dressed up as 'Splendida' who is a fictional character from her favourite book. The big and important question pops out at last, "What is Newton Newman going to be for Halloween?"

## *Chapter 7*

### **I HIDE - AND FIND MYSELF**

Newt is out of words when he is asked to explain about his outfit as he is wearing his brother's pieces of clothing. JJ asks Newt if there is something wrong with Chris. Newt replies that Chris is doing fine. Newt does not want to let his best friends down, so he insists that both Cecil and JJ should continue celebrating Halloween without him. Newt finally confesses that he still cannot figure out what kind of costume he should be wearing for Halloween that year.

After a long silence, Cecil and JJ decide to transform Newt's outfit on the spot. Both of them alter the pieces of clothing that Newt is wearing. Eventually, they manage to come out with an outstanding Halloween costume for Newt. They reach the ultimate transformation when JJ cuts two small holes on the sweatband that Newt is wearing on his forehead and changes it into a mask. Newt himself feels rejuvenated after looking at himself in the mirror. Newt, Cecil and JJ then feel very excited as they manage to celebrate Halloween together again for that year.

## *Chapter 8*

### **I RAISE MY VOICE**

When they arrive at the first house for trick-or-treat, a lady and her husband living there are overjoyed when they see Newt, Cecil and JJ. The lady could perfectly guess the Halloween costumes worn by Cecil and JJ. The couple then turns their attention to Newt who is still searching for an identity of his own as he has not named his alter ego yet. The husband notices C.N. on the middle of Newt's forehead and he asks them about the initials. Surprised by the question, Newt is tongue-tied at first, but both Cecil and JJ are quick enough to throw some hints soon after seeing Newt's reaction to the man's question. Finally, Newt manages to overcome his own fear and he reveals himself as Captain Nobody (C. N.).

## *Chapter 9*

### **I PRACTISE MY NEW NAME**

After they leave the first stop, Cecil and JJ really like the idea of 'Captain Nobody'. JJ gets a bit emotional as she sees that Newt seems to have forgotten about his brother's critical condition at the hospital. Newt becomes enthusiastic to be Captain Nobody. This time around, it is Newt who breaks the awkward moment and urges his two best friends to focus on celebrating Halloween.

On that Halloween night, people show great interest in the three friends and the attention that they receive from the locals in the neighbourhood has been joyful especially for Newt. He feels more confident being Captain Nobody rather than being the usual, ordinary Newton Newman. Cecil and JJ are aware of Newt's change of attitude when they are counting the trick-or-treat collection under the street lights.

When Newt arrives home, his mother, however, has already gone to bed. Newt feels a little bit disappointed as he is unable to show his mother his Halloween costume as Captain Nobody. Just before he falls asleep, Newt reassures himself by saying that he is not supposed to be anybody because he is Captain Nobody.

## *Chapter 10*

### **I MAKE A WILD WARDROBE CHOICE**

Newt, who has always been optimistic about his brother all this while, cannot stop ruling out the worst outcome of Chris' condition and he feels uneasy about it. Later, he quickly realises that he needs to get ready for school. He tries to look for his school outfit but when he fails to find an appropriate one, he decides to go to school in Captain Nobody's costume. There are mixed reactions from his classmates; while some are making fun of Newt wearing his Halloween outfit, Cecil and JJ show support for his wild wardrobe choice. Mrs. Young successfully manages the situation in class from going haywire as all eyes are set on Captain Nobody and there are even some students who start mocking him.

In the Principal's office, a discussion is going on between Principal Toomey and Mrs. Young while Captain Nobody is waiting outside. On a serious note, Mrs. Young reports to Principal Toomey that Newt is having a hard time coping with his brother's condition. He also insists to be called Captain Nobody. A more heated discussion goes on when the school counsellor and nurse join in too. The Principal finally tells Newt that Captain Nobody is welcomed in the school.

During lunch break, Cecil and JJ insist on becoming the sidekicks to Captain Nobody. They tell Newt to continue to be Captain Nobody as the three friends have been noticed and have received attention ever since.

## *Chapter 11*

### **CAPTAIN NOBODY FACES A FEAR**

Newt runs home after he realises that his parents still do not know about the existence of Captain Nobody and he does not want to get weird reactions from them. As he is running, Cecil summons for Captain Nobody but Newt thinks that Cecil is joking so he ignores the call. Although he feels reluctant, he then decides to respond to the call. Then, he meets Cecil at the corner of Wareen and Kander streets. Cecil leads the way, together with a wagon, passing by Dumpsters and garbage cans until they stop at one point.

There is a big bass drum on one of the Dumpsters that catches Cecil's attention. Cecil is feeling hopeful that Captain Nobody will lend a hand to get the bass drum down from the top of the Dumpster as Cecil feels very determined to own it. Anyhow, Newt is afraid of height, so he suggests that Cecil climb the Dumpster. Cecil makes it clear that the job is meant for the fearless Captain Nobody and Newt later changes his mind.

Captain Nobody climbs on and carefully eases it down into Cecil's waiting hands. As Captain Nobody is about to get down, he screams his lungs out when a hand comes out from the pile of cardboard boxes and grabs him by his ankle.

## *Chapter 12*

### **CAPTAIN NOBODY FIRST COMES TO THE RESCUE**

Cecil is shocked with the incident and he shouts at the old man who is holding Captain Nobody's ankle. The old man quickly releases his hand. Captain Nobody recognises the old man as Mr. Clay, a locksmith whose services Newt's mother had used before. Cecil is still sceptical about Mr. Clay and he tries to warn Captain Nobody that the old man could be dangerous to them. Nonetheless, Captain Nobody claims that the old man is not harmful. Mr. Clay is suffering from Alzheimer's and he has dropped his plastic medicine bottle into Captain Nobody's hand, which immediately explains the old man's situation.

After introducing himself as Captain Nobody, Newt and Cecil walk Mr. Clay home. Captain Nobody knows where the old man lives as he always parks his cherry red van in front of his house. Mrs. Clay feels so relieved when she sees her husband standing at the front door of their house. Mr. Clay then explains that he has been rescued by Captain Nobody.

### *Chapter 13*

#### **DAD MEETS CAPTAIN NOBODY**

Newt heads home and gets excited when he sees his father's car in the driveway. In the kitchen, Dad meets Captain Nobody for the very first time. A moment after that, Dad apologises to Newt for neglecting him. Dad tells Newt that people from the school think that Captain Nobody appears in school because of his despair and sorrow as a result of the Big Tackle.

Newt then tries to explain to Dad that being Captain Nobody has boosted his confidence. Dad is relieved after listening to the explanation. Dad even takes a photo of Captain Nobody and sends it to Mom.

Suddenly, the walkie-talkie squeals in the middle of their conversation and Cecil is making contact to ask a silly favour from Captain Nobody. In disbelief, Newt starts to make a weird sound through the walkie-talkie as if the device is running out of battery. As Newt is about to sleep, Dad tells him that Mom is having a good laugh about Captain Nobody. She even starts showing the image sent by Dad to everybody in the hospital. Dad explains the current condition of Chris as well as all the hospital procedures that they need to follow. He assures Newt that he will be the first one to visit Chris if his situation improves.

### *Chapter 14*

#### **CERTAIN THREATS ARE MADE**

The next morning, no one is making fun of Newt anymore. Even Mrs. Young addresses him accordingly. Later, Cecil explains to JJ how to operate her walkie-talkie and they, including Newt, decide to attempt their new mode of alternative communication. However, as Newt is about to respond on the walkie-talkie, a football hits the back of his head. It comes from the students in the seventh grade and a boy named Ricky Ratner approaches Newt in a non-friendly manner. Ricky is the cousin of Reggie, from the Chargers of Merrimac High School.

Ricky confronts Newt and urges him to make everyone know that Reggie is not the culprit of the Big Tackle. Therefore, he is not the reason for the critical condition suffered by Chris. Things are about to get uglier as all the fourth graders suddenly stand up for Newt, Cecil and JJ during the heated conversation between Newt and Ricky. The confrontation ends with a threat from Ricky for Newt and the crowd later disperses. Nevertheless, Cecil makes a point that the vibes coming from Captain Nobody make everyone in the fourth grade be more courageous.

After what has happened, Newt must carefully sneak out from school. He is shocked now when JJ calls for Captain Nobody's help on the walkie-talkie. Captain Nobody dashes to the *Sullivan's Jewelry Store* right after the conversation ends with JJ screaming at the other end of the line.

## *Chapter 15*

### **BAD SPELLING LEADS TO SOMETHING WORSE**

Captain Nobody is almost out of breath when he arrives at the curb in front of the *Sullivan's Jewelry Store*. It turns out that the only problem JJ is facing at present is because she is annoyed with the spelling and grammar mistakes on the cardboard signs in the jewellery store. She has tried to inform the Sullivans, but she is ignored. She believes Captain Nobody can help her out.

He steps into the store as he feels obliged to carry out the duty as a responsible superhero. He can see Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan with their only customer. Captain Nobody wants to leave the store because he does not want to interrupt their business. However, the couple insists that they will hear anything from him. He becomes so astonished when he stares at the customer's sweatshirt as the customer is holding a gun in his pocket. The presence of this customer is indeed the real problem at that jewellery store instead of the spelling and grammar mistakes on the cardboard signs.

The situation becomes more chaotic when Mr. Sullivan manages to sound the alarm in the store. Before the robber flees the scene, he threatens Captain Nobody not to lodge any report to the authority or something bad will happen to Captain Nobody.

After being warned, Captain Nobody leaves the store immediately. JJ convinces him to lodge a report to the police. However, both of them run away after Captain Nobody explained about the threat he received from the robber.

## *Chapter 16*

### **I DON'T APPEAR ON THE FIVE O'CLOCK NEWS**

Newt reaches home late after the robbery at *Sullivan's Jewelry Store*. Although terrified with the incident, he can feel that something is not going well after hearing Mom's response. Their conversation is halted as the phone rings for Mom. Newt snacks and watches television.

The news on television is reporting about the robbery at the jewellery store where Captain Nobody was called for help. However, he is quite annoyed as the news report describes Captain Nobody as 'the little guy', 'a *midget*' and even as 'a *leprechaun*'. JJ phones Newt to talk about the news report and Newt reminds her not to spread even a word about the incident to anyone else.

That night, Newt is having dinner with Mom and it seems that they both have their own secrets. They do not wish to reveal or share with one another. Before he goes to bed, Newt reflects on all the bad and good happenings that Captain Nobody has been through. His brother appears in his dream again and this time he addresses Newt as 'Captain' and Newt feels very proud for being acknowledged by his brother.

The next morning, Newt comes to a huge relief after he receives the first news of the day that the robber at *Sullivan's Jewelry Store* has been arrested. However, the second news is not that promising. Newt finds a crumpled paper in the trash bin. He is now aware that if Chris remains unconscious after six days, he would be in more serious trouble and Newt also knows that his parents are heavily distracted by the news. Newt is determined to make the situation better for his family.

## *Chapter 17*

### **I CHEAT DEATH**

Darryl and Colby from Fillmore High School are on special tours to Appleton Elementary to show support to Chris Newman who is still in critical condition at the hospital. They bring along the team ambassador, Ferocious the Ferret. A lucky student will get the chance to bring the ferret home for one day. The lucky student turns out to be Newt. Despite that, Newt is not happy to babysit the animal as he has planned to visit his brother after school.

As Newt, Cecil and JJ walk home, Ricky Ratner and his six other friends block their way. This time, Ricky is angrier than the previous confrontation at school as Reggie, his cousin, is still being hassled by Chris' friends. As Ricky notices the ferret, he signals his friends to scramble the animal's cage until suddenly, the cage door opens. Ferocious the Ferret jumps out from the cage and gets away.

Captain Nobody, Cecil and JJ chase the ferret until they reach the highway. Captain Nobody comes to the rescue again as he dodges the incoming traffic just to get Ferocious the Ferret back. Captain Nobody waves frantically as he is overwhelmed with the dangerous situation at the highway, hoping that the vehicles would stop. As soon as the traffic stops, a small passenger aeroplane performs an emergency landing on the highway. At that moment, Ferocious the Ferret sits on the ankle of Captain Nobody.

## *Chapter 18*

### **I LEARN AN UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH**

After Ferocious the Ferret is captured, Captain Nobody, Cecil and JJ leave the highway immediately as they need to gather their things they have left by the roadside. At Newt's house, the news about the landing of the aeroplane on the highway becomes a sensation. All the people interviewed in the news give their thoughts about the incident. They also mention what Captain Nobody did to stop the busy traffic. The report concludes that it is yet to be decided whether Captain Nobody is a good or an evil character.

Cecil and JJ insist that they should return to the highway and explain about the whole situation that happened there. On the other hand, Newt feels that he should revert himself to the usual, ordinary kid named Newton Newman after what he went through. By the time Cecil and JJ leave his house, it is already late for Newt to visit his brother at the hospital. Around dinner time, Dad calls to inform that he is going to stay over at the hospital with Mom. Newt tells Dad that his days as Captain Nobody is over.

That night, he dreams of the incident on the highway and all of a sudden, he recalls the Big Tackle. At the end of the dream, Newt learns that it was Darryl Peeps who had clashed his helmet against Chris.

## *Chapter 19*

### **REGGIE RATNER DECIDES TO END IT ALL**

Newt starts off his day the next morning by having breakfast with Mom. He mentions that he knows that his brother must wake up from his coma in 6 days or else it may lead to a more serious condition. He also announces that he is going to visit his brother later that day at the hospital. Newt stuffs the Captain Nobody's outfit into his backpack, even though he has pledged that he is not going to wear the costume again. He heads for school. Newt realises that he feels lonely and unnoticed when he returns to school as Newton Newman.

On his way to lunch, Newt notices a lot of teachers rushing into the faculty lounge and gathering around the television. The television broadcasts a report about Reggie Ratner. Reggie wants to jump off the Appleton water tower after feeling depressed as he is so affected by the Big Tackle. Newt is now in dilemma as he claims to be the only one who knows the truth about the Big Tackle.

## *Chapter 20*

### **I CLIMB UP TO THE SKY**

As JJ is trying to lift Captain Nobody to get a good grip on the rung of the ladder, a policeman approaches them. Feeling dutiful and responsible as Captain Nobody's sidekick, Cecil tries to distract the officer's attention and it works. The structure of the water tower is no longer as strong as it used to be. Nevertheless, Captain Nobody manages to slither his way to Reggie Ratner.

At the top of the tower, both Reggie and Captain Nobody talk to each other about the Big Game and the Big Tackle. Eventually, Captain Nobody gets to learn that Reggie has climbed the water tower to vandalise the water tank, but Reggie's left foot is stuck. Captain Nobody helps Reggie to untie his shoelace.

Then, Captain Nobody decides to go down the ladder first, but Reggie suddenly becomes unconvinced. While Captain Nobody is counting every step down, Reggie also gets his hands on the ladder. Suddenly, one of the rungs gives way.

## *Chapter 21*

### **I FINISH FALLING**

Time is passing rapidly, and everything seems to fall into pieces. It is very fortunate for Captain Nobody as he falls onto a huge, inflated rubber mattress. While he is about to celebrate his safe touch on the ground, he sees a massive figure falling onto his landing spot and finally, Captain Nobody swoons, as the result of the impact by Reggie Ratner.

## *Chapter 22*

### **I FINALLY GET TO THE HOSPITAL**

Newt does not realise that he is in the hospital and Mom begins to explain that he has suffered a broken ankle and ribs because of the incident at the water tower. From his bed, he sees Cecil who is speaking to the media on behalf of Captain Nobody. Mom and Dad tell him that they cannot stop worrying about him as they could see the incident being broadcast live on the television earlier.

Reggie shows up at the hospital to visit Newt with a lot of media reporters waiting eagerly outside the sliding door of the recovery room. Newt's parents feel a bit bitter with the presence of Reggie, who is believed to be behind the Big Tackle. As Newt witnesses the uneasiness of his parents, he begins to explain the fact that it was Darryl instead of Reggie who knocked Chris out in the incident.

Later, Newt is transferred to another room where his brother is lying motionless. Although Newt is finally able to see Chris, he feels useless as he cannot do anything to help his brother. Newt wishes that he could tell Chris about Captain Nobody. While he is recalling the morning of the Big Game, without Newt realising it, he screams “HIT THE SHOWERS!”. Upon hearing the scream, Chris throws a pillow to his head like how he usually does to Newt at home. Chris is finally awake!

## *Chapter 23*

### **I WAKE UP IN THE NEWS**

It seems to be the greatest news to everyone at the hospital and the happiest celebration the moment Chris wakes up from his unconsciousness. At the same time, Newt is also getting attention that he has never experienced before. He wants to be the first to talk to the now conscious Chris, but the nurse has given Newt a shot earlier that makes him fall asleep.

The next morning, Newt wakes up at his own house. There are Cecil and JJ who are talking about the media coverage of the post-water tower incident. Meanwhile, Chris is attending a local television morning show. The hostess and Chris excitedly talk about what has happened. At the end of the show, Chris shocks everyone by insisting that the victory parade should be led by the real hero of the town who is Captain Nobody instead of the winner of the Big Game.

That night, Newt is still in pain, but he does not want to take the painkiller. He waits for his brother to come home. The moment Chris arrives, Newt can feel his pain subsiding.

## *Chapter 24*

### **A LITTLE OLD LADY MAKES ME LAUGH**

The victory parade is indeed memorable for the people of Appleton as for the first time ever, the Fillmore High School band is joined by Merrimac’s marching band. Darryl Peeps is somehow not being blamed for the Big Tackle and Reggie Ratner can now return to his peaceful life.

As a reward for the special contributions to the society, Newt, Cecil and JJ are presented with tokens of appreciation by the Sullivans, the pilot and the passengers of the small aeroplane, and a gift by Mr. Clay, the old locksmith.

When they reach home, the normal routines get back on track. However, it is no longer the same story for Newton Newman.

Newt is now as popular as his brother.