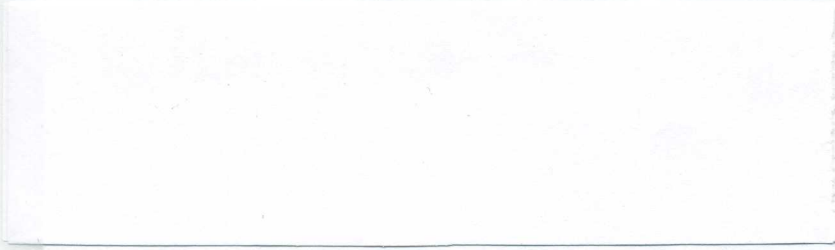


# The Road To Newnutsland



Liam Ceal loved nuts. His favorite kind were cashews, but he really enjoyed any kind of nut. It was the summer between fourth and fifth grade and Liam was having a blast. He had no intention of anything unusual happening to him. Nobody did. But something was. And nobody knew it.

It was a bright and sunny Saturday August morning and Liam was in his room thinking about when school would begin. He wanted to show the kids something unique about himself. But he had nothing. In his opinion, Liam was an ordinary kid with an ordinary life and he didn't want to show it. His mother had tried to comfort him, but it didn't work. Liam needed confidence. And soon he would get that. Liam had a big breakfast of almonds then headed out the front door. Maybe walking downtown would help him think of something to show the other kids. As Liam was walking he did not notice an open sewer. He slipped and tumbled into the sewer. Liam fell through what seemed like a tunnel. Suddenly there was a blinding flash, Liam held onto his glasses and closed his eyes. Suddenly he landed with a loud THUMP! on his bottom. Liam stood up and uncovered his eyes. He gasped.

Standing before him was what seemed like another world. Liam gasped again when he saw what this world was



made of.Nuts!The trees were made of macadamia nuts,and the clouds were almonds,and a river nearby flowed with hazelnuts and cashews.It was Liam's dream land. "Hello and welcome to Newnutsland"said a woman's voice.Liam looked around and found that the voice came from a tiny fairy floating next to him. "H-hi" Liam managed to stutter."I am the nut fairy"the fairy said. "I need your help little boy.I was once powerful and could help Newnutsland.But one day,an evil monster took my powers and locked them in a cage and I am weak now.If you defeat this beast,I shall grant your fondest wish." "I will do my best"Liam said.What else could he say? "Goodbye" the nut fairy said and disappeared. "Wait!" Liam called desperately.He had so many questions!Liam turned and started up a mountain of pecans.He figured a beast would live there.As he was climbing,Liam heard tiny squeals.He turned and found... puppies!Millions of them.Suddenly the puppies all sprouted fangs and wings.They snarled at Liam then lunged toward him.Liam screamed and ran up the mountain with the monstrous puppy beasts at his heels.Liam reached the top of the mountain and turned around to face trillions of awful puppies staring at him!Wait a minute Liam thought.Those beasts seemed like they were trying to guard something... Suddenly Liam knew who the monsters were that the Nut fairy had talked about.He wasn't afraid of the puppies anymore.He ran



toward their den and grabbed a jar that held something flashing in it. Then Liam ran through crowds of puppies with the jar. He ran back to the spot where he'd met the Nut fairy and waited. Suddenly she appeared. "Great job Liam!" she told him. The fairy opened the jar and the flashing material sucked into her arms. "I told you I would grant your wish. What is it?" "I wish to go home" Liam wished. The fairy pointed her fingers at Liam. There was a flash and Liam was in his bed at home. Liam felt different and he knew why. He had gained the confidence that he had needed. Liam grinned happily. Would he have something to tell the kids at school! Suddenly Liam noticed something on his nightstand that had not been there before. It was a medium sized silver trophy shaped like a cashew. This is what it said: To Liam for being a brave person! From the Nut fairy. Liam beamed. He felt unique.

The end