

PROLOGUE:

It began in 1939 as a European conflict between Germany and an Anglo-French coalition, but eventually included most of the nations of the world. It ended in 1945 as the most destructive war in human history, leaving a new world order dominated by the U.S. and the USSR. Over 20 million people lost their lives in WWII. The soldiers who survived often suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Thus begins the story of Adam Zapple.

Michele was headed home after a hard days work. She had a car and usually drove home. However yesterday her car was hit and was in the repair shop so she was forced to use the subway. When she walked down the stairs she was hit by a foul stench. The smell was a mixture of alcohol, garbage, and rat droppings as well as some people who didn't bathe. She wanted to get out of there as quickly as possible but was forced to stay when her train was delayed. There was only one vacant seat, and it was next to a raggedy old man. Michele didn't care she was tired and just wanted to sit down. When she sat down next to the old man she felt a strange connection to him, like she had known him from somewhere.

HERE BEGINS THE TALE: Michele is sitting next to Adam Zapple on the bench waiting for the D-train to arrive. For some strange reason she feels a strong connection to Adam.

She is curious and eventually says, "Hey mister how did you come to live in the subway."

"My name is Adam Zapple, and it is a long story." Replies Adam.

"Well the D-train isn't scheduled to arrive for another thirty minutes and I would really like to hear your story Mr. Zapple."

Mr. Zapple pulled out a box and handed it to Michele. She opened the box and saw a purple heart. The Purple Heart was awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services was wounded or killed.

Adam then says, " Thirty seven years ago me and my beautiful wife, Sarah got married and had our first child. At that time I was in the military and left for about seven months to go and fight in WWII. I will never be able to forget what happened during that war, bodies dismembered from exploding bombs, gunfire going off left and right, and my best friend being killed as he tried to help me. I was rescued and treated for a gunshot in my knee. I was unable to fight after that injury and was sent back to the United States. As I stepped out of the airplane I saw my wife crying with tears of joy and holding our daughter. She ran over to me and gave me a big hug. My wife and I both thought that we could finally settle down and take care of baby. Almost every night Sarah was awoken by my screams. After returning from the war I was

never my self every time I closed my eyes I saw bloody images of the war. Sarah told me it would be easier if talked about what happened but I was just too stubborn. She tried her hardest to help me but I kept turning her away. Instead I turned to alcohol in order to ease the pain. At that time it seemed to be the right answer to all my problems.”

Adam stopped talking as he heard, “ Last call for the D-train.”

Adam then turned to Michele and said, “ Well you better be going or you will miss your train.”

Michele was so captured by Mr. Zapple’s story that he replied, “Its ok, I will take the next train. Please finish your story.”

“Are you sure” replied Adam, “The next D-train doesn’t arrive for another hour.”

“Yes I’m sure.”

“Very well. So instead of turning to my friends and family for support I turned to alcohol. At that time it seemed like talking about the war only made the images more horrific and drinking seemed to make them go away. My wife and son also suffered as a result of the war. Our relationship began to deteriorate just like my liver. I spent all day drinking and lost my job. I stopped helping Sarah take care of our daughter. She threatened to divorce me if I didn’t get help but I didn’t care. Then one day when I came home from the bar I saw some papers on the table, they were divorce papers. Sarah took the baby and

left, the paper stated that there was a court hearing for next month in order to determine who gets custody. I still kept drinking and one the day of the hearing came I was passed out on the table and missed the trial. Sarah was awarded full custody and to this I don't know where she went. I was evicted from my apartment because I had no money to pay the rent, all my money was spent on beer. So here I am. If I could just see my beautiful wife and child one last time so I could apologize for my actions."

Adam looks over at Michele and sees that she is in tears. "Why are you crying?"

"Was your daughters name Michele?" she asked.

"Yes, how did you know?"

"Because I am your daughter," replied Michele sobbingly.

She then took her father to her apartment and gave him some clean clothes and food. Adam Zapple got his wish and was able to apologize to Sarah and Michele for his actions. Mr. and Mrs. Zapple got back together and lived out the rest of their days in peace and happiness.

6-1 TRab
March 13, 2006

English 11:3
Subway Tale
Page 5

6-1 TRab
March 13, 2006

English 11:3
Subway Tale
Page 6