

THE ADVENTURES OF
PROTON BOY
AND HIS DOG EINSTEIN
“WHEN IT ALL STARTED”

by Tanya Sadagopan

**PROLOGUE ...ALSO KNOWN AS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE
ADVENTURES OF PROTON BOY AND HIS DOG EINSTEIN BEGAN!**

(This story is intended to be a large picture book for ages 5-7 years old.)

(Illustration notes: Nandini swinging on a swing and Nishu riding a red bike fast.)

There once was a boy named Nishu (*nee-shoo*) who had a little sister named Nandini (*nun-dee-nee*). Nishu was older and quicker being all of 7 years old and Nandini was younger and wiser being 5 and $\frac{3}{4}$ years old.

One day when they least expected it their mom and appa (which means ‘dad’) sat them down and told them they were going on an adventure to Bloomington, Indiana.

(Illustration notes: Mom on a chair, Appa standing by. Nishu on the floor with lego’s nearby, Nandini sitting on mom’s lap.)

“Why are we going to Bloomington?”

“Your appa needs to have a special kind of treatment called ‘Proton Beam Radiation Therapy’ to kill the tumor in his head. This therapy is going to take a long time, more than three months so we will have to move there. Since Appa will begin his treatments at the end of summer, you will begin school in Bloomington. As soon as he is done we will come back home.” Their mom seemed serious.

(Illustration notes: Appa on the floor tickling Nishu. Nandini is holding a black and white cat in her arms. There is a black and white dog barking at Nishu and Appa on the floor.)

“But what about our new dog Skamper?” exclaimed Nishu.

“What about our new kitty Jarrett?” cried Nandini.

Their mom smiled, “The animal shelter has found us a nice family to take care of Jarrett while we are gone.”

Their appa chimed in, “And the good news is that Skamper can come with us to Bloomington, but he can’t live with us in the condo.”

Nishu seemed worried, “But where is he going to stay?”

“I found a great place right down the road from our condo—a doggie daycare and boarding house called ‘Canine Companions’. Skamper will get to play on a doggie play ground every day,” assured their mom.

Appa tickled Nishu, “Hey buddy, we can visit Skamper and take him on walks during the day and he can sleep at the boarding house at night. It will be a new adventure for us all while I get the treatment I need.”

(Illustration notes: Car trunk so full books and toys spilling out, appa trying to close trunk. Back car-door open, back pack on floor board unzipped. Skamper sitting on the middle seat smiling.)

They loaded up the car with all of their most favorite toys, mom’s favorite pots, and appa’s favorite movies and books. The car was packed to the brim and Skamper was happy sitting in the middle of the back seat. Nandini and Nishu each had their backpacks filled with toys and games, books and snacks for the four-hour journey to Bloomington.

(Illustration notes: Inside a small bedroom a box lies next to a twin bed, in it is Jarrett a black and white cat looking out of the box. A new girl ‘Anna’ is sitting on her bed next to Jarrett. Opposite page, Nandini and Nishu looking into a box filled with grey, black, and white baby kittens sleeping and snuggled up together.)

On the way out of town, the children went with their parents to drop off Jarrett with the nicest family ever. “Jarrett is going to live in this bedroom right next to my bed,” said Anna. In the living room, Anna’s family had the tiniest kittens the children had ever seen. “We are taking care of the kittens until they are old enough to be taken to the animal shelter and adopted.”

“They are so small.” Nishu whispered.

“They are so cute!” Nandini added.

Anna let Nishu and Nandini feed the kittens with a bottle. Then, Nishu and Nandini kissed Jarrett “good-bye” and the whole family was off on their adventure to Bloomington.

(Illustration notes: On one page appa is in his treatment mask and chair. On the opposite page the kids are in cool playroom with a large lego table and tv on the wall. There is a library of kids books on the shelves. Nandini is reading, Nishu is playing with legos.)

On the first day, the whole family went to the Proton Beam Center and the doctor gave them a tour of the building. It was cool and a little scary too. The doctor showed them the giant accelerator behind the exam rooms and told them Einstein helped to invent protons. That same day appa got fitted with a mask that made him look like Spiderman. Nishu loved it, Nandini was afraid of it.

Everyday Nishu and Nandini would walk into the center with their parents and go into the special play area for kids. It was a fun place. Then a woman in a white coat would come out and call appa's name. He would put down his book and leave the waiting room. Appa would go through the big blue doors down the long hallway to a special treatment room. He had to sit very still in a chair made just for him and when everything was just right, the doctors turned on the Proton Beam.

(Illustration notes: Nishu and Nandini playing in swimming pool, beach ball flying through the air. Sun is bright.)

It was a very hot summer and the kids had a lot of fun swimming every afternoon in the condo pool. Each morning the whole family got up, ate breakfast and jumped in the car to go to the treatment center. One day they met a little girl and little boy at the center who were getting the same special treatment that their appa was getting. That is when the whole family decided to make up a story about their adventures—that's when they invented, ***THE ADVENTURES OF PROTON BOY AND HIS DOG EINSTEIN.***

(Illustration notes: Introduce Proton Boy, with cape and backpack, proton beam ray gun in his hands. A glowing orange beam shoots out of the gun. Einstein the dog looks just like Skamper only with his own small front pack and a small cape matching Proton Boy. Einstein is howling)

Nishu and Nandini imagined that Proton Boy could fly and carried around a special ray gun in his backpack that was loaded with proton beams. The dog Einstein had special hearing—he could hear when a family was in distress. “Ahhooooo, ahhooooo,” yelped Einstein, “Another family needs our help Proton Boy!” Then at the speed of light, Proton Boy and his dog Einstein would fly into to the exam rooms of moms and dads and kids right when they heard the scary words... “You have a tumor.”

“Never fear, I am **PROTON BOY AND THIS IS MY DOG EINSTEIN!** We are here to save you!” Proton Boy removed his backpack and pulled out a ray gun. “This is no ordinary ray gun, this is a **PROTON BEAM** ray gun that can kill tumors.”

All the kids and moms and dads were no longer afraid. **PROTON BOY** told them all about how special the proton beam was.

“This beam is so powerful it can kill even the most pesky of tumors, even ones called ‘Chordoma’. The beam is so accurate it knows right where to go and stops right where I want it to! And why wouldn’t it be? Einstein invented the technology!”

(Illustration notes: Exam room with mom and dad smiling and two kids laughing, one little girl is on the exam table.)

The kids would all laugh, “Your **DOG EINSTEIN** invented it!?”

“No silly, the **REAL EINSTEIN, THE MOST FAMOUSEST SCIENTIST** helped to invent proton beams. Nobody knew back then that they could be used to heal people with tumors. But now we do!” Proton Boy put his hands on his hips smiling widely and his proton beam gun glowed bright orange. Einstein howled with delight, “Ahhooooo, ahooooo!”

(Illustration notes: Many kids of various ethnic origins holding up signs “Thanks Proton Boy” and Proton Boy and Einstein about to fly off the page to save others.)

Nishu and Nandini imagined all the children of the world who had tumors yelling at the top of their lungs, “Yea for **PROTON BOY AND HIS DOG EINSTEIN!! HIP HIP HORAY!**”

You can find Proton Boy and his dog Einstein at work in cities all around the world.

(Illustration notes: Include a global map with pins and city names of where the proton beam centers are located.)

LET THE ADVENTURES BEGIN!

(In an appendix list resources for patients with the rare condition of Chordoma—treatment centers for example. Including references to the Chordoma Foundation, America Brain Tumor Association, and American Cancer Society etc. List resources for families who are dealing with rare cancers...)