

## The Pill

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Ever since Ronan was born, he had been deathly afraid of well, mostly everything. He got frightened even when the toaster was done and made a 'ding!' sound! Ronan also wasn't popular at school, because of his shy and introverted personality. He was good at nothing either: sports didn't suit him with his weak physique, and his brains weren't very good and he barely scraped through school actually. Whenever he talked to people, he stuttered a little and made things very awkward for the person he was talking to. At the age of thirty, he had a lousy job, lived with his parents and was single. In a way, he was kind of what we call 'a loser' in society. Never would he have thought that things could change in just a blink of an eye.

Ronan usually took some vitamin pills everyday just before setting off for work. The bottle lay on a shelf next to the front door, and on this particular day only one lone pill was left inside. 'Mom, we're out of vitamins! Get some if you can! Bye, love you!' shouted Ronan as he grabbed the last pill, opened the door and left the house. Walking along the concrete pavement, he popped the pill into his mouth then swallowed it. After a few seconds, Ronan felt an abrupt change inside of him. Strangely enough, he felt stronger, more powerful, as if he was ready to take on any challenge that was thrown at him. He thought that this was all very unusual, and was very unaccustomed to these kinds of feelings, but he shook it off and continued his journey to work. Although his office was only a couple of blocks away, he liked to use more time than was needed to stroll casually there. On his

way to work, he always walked past the library. His mind wandering and he unconsciously arrived at the entrance. Upon looking up at the sign and realizing that this wasn't his office, he groaned, 'Why didn't I focus on where I was going? Now I'm going to be late for work!', for he had walked very slowly today and had used up most of his time.

As soon as Ronan turned around to hurry back to the office, the cry of a woman came out of the blue from the park next to the library. Ronan stopped in his tracks. He contemplated on going to help but he had never been that kind of person, so he decided to pretend nothing had happened and walk away. Just when he took another step, a surge of bravery came out of nowhere, and Ronan rushed over to where he heard the sound. He hid behind a wall, listening to the voices, and their conversation made him uneasy. 'Please don't do this, I beg you, just let go of my child and take me!' a woman's voice said. 'I don't want you to hurt her, so I will kill her myself. This is the only way.' A man's voice talked calmly. 'But you don't even know us! We're not whoever you think we are, I think you've mistaken us for someone else! Let go of my daughter, PLEASE!' The man was unrelenting, 'Impossible! I would recognize you two anywhere! You're just trying to trick me! Well, I'm not going to fall for it!' 'No, please!' 'You're not going to hoodwink me this time Amelia, no, not this time.' 'My name's not Amelia, I'm Sally and that girl you're holding is my daughter Jess. We not who you think we are!' The atmosphere grew tenser with each word. Ronan peeped at

the situation, the man was holding the girl at gunpoint, threatening to shoot her, but he was obviously a delusional psycho, and the mother was desperately worried about her daughter. Ronan overheard the man saying, 'That's it! Stop messing with my brain! I'm going to shoot her NOW!'

At that split second, Ronan made a decision that surprised even himself. He quickly rolled out in front of the psycho, hit the hand holding the gun with one swift motion, and as the gun clattered on the floor, Ronan grabbed hold of the girl's shoulders and flung her away from danger in the direction of her mother. He then punched the psycho in the stomach who was too shocked to react. The psycho grunted in pain, swayed and fell to the ground. The police arrived just in time to arrest the psycho and help the mother and daughter.

The mother, hugging her daughter close, went over to Ronan and said to him, 'Thank you so much for saving my daughter, we couldn't thank you enough! God knows only how many people could have had the courage to do what you did! Thank you so so much! Me and my family will be forever grateful for your act of kindness and bravery. And I don't even know your name! You are Mr.?' 'Pierce, Ronan Pierce.' Ronan smiled humbly and nodded. 'If you'll excuse me, I'd like to go home and rest after all this excitement this morning.' He gestured at the crime scene. 'Oh of course I understand. We feel the same way. Well, if you ever need anything, call me, here's my number.' The mother handed him a card, which Ronan put in his pocket without looking. 'I'll make sure I do.' He bid farewell and started his journey home, having decided to take a leave from work.

The next day, he got up feeling like his normal self again. He was that same old weak, shy, and awkward Ronan again. He thought to himself: was it all a dream? He heard his mother call him, so he went to the living room. 'Son, you didn't tell me what happened yesterday! It's just so unlike you to do something like this, how...!' 'Mmmm?' Ronan replied, still in a sleepy daze. 'Yesterday the mayor's wife and daughter were enjoying a pleasant picnic at The Central Park when out of nowhere a man grabbed the mayor's daughter and held her at gunpoint. Luckily a passer-by named Mr. Ronan Pierce was brave enough to

save both the mother and daughter from a tragedy and is now a hero.' It was on the news! Ronan rubbed his eyes to make sure that it was real. He ran to his room and took a look at the card he dumped on his desk last night, and it really was the mayor's card!

Ronan froze in disbelief. His mother yelled again, 'Ronan! A bunch of people are at the door asking for interviews and stuff!' He rushed to the door and looked outside, 'RONAN! RONAN! How do you feel about saving the mayor's wife and daughter?' 'Were you aware of their identities before you saved them?' Ronan slammed the door close. It was like a zoo out there. 'What in the world came over me yesterday?' he thought to himself. 'Oh why did I have to go and do this stupid thing? Now look what I've done! I bet it was that pill I took. I felt funny afterwards, ugh, factory malfunction probably.' He wasn't in the mood for questions, so Ronan shot to his room and stayed there, coming out solely for meals and bathroom breaks.

On Monday though, he had to go back to work. Fortunately, the reporters had all left after two fruitless days. Ronan was able to walk to work in peace. The moment he stepped into the office, everyone cheered, 'Hip hip hooray! Hip hip hooray!' People were patting him on the back, saying stuff like 'Good for you' or 'Never knew that you had it in you' Ronan didn't have to do anything at work either because people kept offering to do his work for him and before he could say no, they directly ignored his reply and just went ahead and did it. Feeling knackered when his day at the office ended, dealing with multitudes of questions and heapfuls of praise, Ronan headed back home wearily.

Another morning, and this time his mother called him, anxious and worried. 'Ronan, come here! Something bad has happened!' Ronan reluctantly crawled out of bed and into the living room. 'Ronan Pierce, coward or hero? That is the question. A video was uploaded on the Internet from an anonymous source showing Pierce walking away from the scene of a harassment. The whole city is abuzz: did Pierce save the mayor's wife and daughter just for the sake of fame and fortune, and why did he just walk away this time?' Ronan was extremely confused. He hadn't been to the supermarket lately, but the man in the video did

look a lot like him. 'What on earth?' He checked his phone, and there were a thousand messages, a couple of videos and a lot of missed calls probably all from the people who hated him right now. He went onto his social media, and wave after wave of negative comments swept through all of them, all angry and aimed at Ronan. His confidence levels promptly fell through the roof and splattered on the ground. He locked himself inside his room afterwards and didn't even go to work.

Ronan decided to let off some steam by wandering around the streets, and started to regret his decision. People were all throwing hateful glances at him, which ruined Ronan's mood, and he couldn't take it anymore. Just as he turned back to return to the house, a shadow appeared in front of him. He had a tall, muscular figure, and was wearing a black hoodie with a hat that covered his face. Ronan stood there, waiting for the guy to move since he was blocking his way. The person slowly took his hat off, and it revealed a face with a scar running across his face. Ronan recognized him. 'Josh? What... Why... How...' Ronan was at a loss for words. 'So you still remember me huh? 'Josh looked at him angrily, 'You still remember this then?' He gestured at his scar, 'This, this was entirely your fault, and now you're going to pay. It's already started, and everything is in place. Revenge shall be mine!' Ronan stared in disbelief, 'So this, the pill, it was all...you?' 'Who else could it be?' and with that, Josh walked away with an evil grin on his face. Ronan couldn't believe what he just heard, or saw for the matter of fact. Josh and Ronan were best friends in middle school, but one day while they were doing an experiment in a Science class, things went wrong and they set the laboratory on fire. Ronan escaped unscathed, but Josh got seriously burnt. He blamed it all on Ronan and was mad that only he got hurt in the accident. Josh's parents were forced to send him to a special school for kids who had psychological problems since he went a little crazy afterwards, and Ronan never saw him again, until that very moment.

It explained all the unusual things that had happened to Ronan recently, but he was afraid what other things Josh had got in store for him. He simply knew Josh too well: he was always a science genius and he was always very good at thinking of plans and carrying them out. Deep in thought, he again didn't pay attention to where

he was going, and mindlessly ended up in front of the mayor's office. 'What am I doing here?' he said to himself.

At that exact moment, the mayor walked out. 'Hey! You're the man who saved the two most important people in my life, right? Mr. Pierce? I couldn't have thanked you more for saving my little girl and my wife. Thank you so so so so much!' As the mayor thanked him, Ronan noticed a laser point on the mayor's chest, right in the position of his heart! Oh dear! Someone was trying to assassinate the mayor! Ronan realized that it was probably Josh behind that gun, and he was going to frame it on Ronan somehow. He had to do something, and quick. On the spur of the moment, he tackled the mayor down to the ground and a gunshot was heard clearly. Thankfully, that was all Ronan had to do because the police arrived moments later alerted by the alarm button the mayor pressed on his phone.

Through CCTV footage, the police located Josh and arrested him for attempted murder, and he confessed to setting Ronan up and pretending to be Ronan, also to breaking multiple laws during the making of the pill which had illegal drugs inside. Ronan was of course checked at the hospital for any possible side effects of the pill but nothing was out of the ordinary. He was applauded for saving the mayor, but he still stayed true to his awkward self. And despite that he became a close friend of the mayor's family, Ronan lived a pretty peaceful life which he was very pleased with.

