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☆☆☆☆☆ “National Treasure meets Risen!”

## **81 Minute Books Presents**

### *David's Sling*

#### *Preview*

### **Written by Ron Knight**

*Based on true events...*

#### **Part 1**

#### *David*

The sling in David's hand spun quickly in a large loop. Most who used a sling would launch the stone after one rotation, but David learned to make several rotations to gain speed and power.

Dirt underneath the sling shook with each rotation and created a sound of thunder.

Behind David the army of King Saul. In front of David the Philistines. At the head of the Philistine army stood Goliath.

David and Goliath's eyes locked for a moment. Both armies silent. A crow could be heard in the distance.

A bead of sweat drizzled down David's face. Six more rotations and the stone launched from his sling, exploding into Goliath's skull just above the nose.

The giant of a man fell hard to the ground.

#### *Nolan*

The congregation laughed as Nolan stood behind the lectern and explained his plan to help the church. They didn't mean to be rude or unkind. Perhaps they thought it was a joke set up by Nolan's father, the paster of the church and known for his banter.

Nolan Parks just graduated college with a major in archaeology. His father founded Fresh Start Church twenty years ago. The church yet to exceed one hundred members.

Ironically if anyone needed a fresh start, it's Nolan's father.

Nolan concocted a secret plan to boost membership for Fresh Start and become a church his father had always dreamed with thousands of members. The plan formulated in Sunday School, when Nolan was in sixth grade.

He had a fascination with the story of David and Goliath, specifically the *sling* David used to win a significant battle over the giant. Nolan studied everything he could about the David and Goliath story. When Nolan graduated high school, he went on to study archaeology in college.

To complete his plan, it was time for Nolan to search for David's sling and bring it back to his father's church. The sling would be put on display so that people from all over the world could visit Fresh Start and view the most talked about weapon in history.

All he needed was the money.

After the service was over, his father patted Nolan on the shoulder and said, "You've always had a wild imagination. Still, I know how important this is to you."

It's nice to be comforted by your father, but the problem still remained; Nolan needed the funds for his journey.

Nolan's girlfriend, Abby, approached him after the congregation had cleared. "Ouch...that didn't go so well."

Abby and Nolan dated since high school. They went to the same college where she majored in geography. She didn't really believe David's sling was buried somewhere in the desert of Israel; however, she was looking forward to the adventurous journey.

Nolan's best friend Jeph (Pronounced "Jeff") walked through the door. Jeph was born into a wealthy family, but still had yet to find any career path. His only friends had been Nolan and Abby. He dropped out of college after the first semester and life began passing him by.

Nolan smiled at Jeph. "Please tell me you're here to give me the money we need for this journey."

Jeph didn't return a smile. "I thought about it when the congregation laughed at you. That didn't sit well with me. On the other hand, I don't understand how giving you money to travel across the world will help. Do you really believe David's sling is somewhere out there?"

Nolan narrowed his eyes. "I do."

Jeph: "Let's say by some miracle you find it. What next?"

Nolan: "I'll bring it back here to the church and put it on display for the entire world to see. My father will then pastor one of the most visited churches--"

Jeph put his hand up. "But why would people want to see a sling? I still don't get it."

Nolan stepped forward, speaking in a determined voice. "The Lord blessed David's battle over Goliath, which led to David becoming King of Israel. The sling David used became a legend and the most historic weapon of all time."

Abby: "It's also an iconic symbol for every person who faces an impossible challenge to overcome. David's victory over Goliath was the first upset story in history."

Jeph: "I guess there's one question I'm avoiding..."

Nolan: "How will you make money off your investment?"

Jeph: "Yes. If I give you the money to hunt for David's sling, what will I see from it? How much will the sling be worth?"

Nolan: "The sling will be worth millions once we prove its authenticity."

Jeph: "How will you prove it?"

Abby: "When we find the sling, the location will provide significant clues to match the period of time. From there we'll take the sling to trained scientists at the university to do further testing."

Jeph: "What experience do you have in finding rare objects?"

Nolan: "I've studied ancient societies such as the Mayans, Egyptians, and Greeks. I was on a dig in Israel just before I graduated and met other students from all over the world and-."

Jeph: "Did you find anything?"

Nolan: "We found a large ceramic vessel from around eight thousand years ago."

Jeph: "Okay, so before the Israel dig, what experience did you have?"

Nolan sighed. "Well, our class explored the remains of a Tabasco hot sauce factory in Louisiana."

Jeph rolled his eyes and turned to Abby. "What about you?"

Abby: "I've done studies on a wide variety of deserts, the causes of racially segregated housing, the paths of tornados, and the way international trade agreements distress businesses in a small town."

Jeph chuckled, "Um...okay." He scratched his head. "I'm sorry. Even if David's sling is worth millions of dollars, this would be a huge risk of money. I enjoy not having a job and want to keep it that way."

Jeph turned and walked back the way he came.

Abby looked at Nolan. "Strike two. What now?"

Nolan locked his eyes on her. "We sell everything...God will take care of the rest."

### *David*

Jesse from Bethlehem had eight sons. Three of his eldest sons followed King Saul to war. David the youngest, was assigned to tend his father's sheep in Bethlehem.

Jesse received some disturbing news. Every morning for the last forty days a Philistine, a giant of a man, came forward to face King Saul and the Israelites, tempting anyone to fight him or the Philistine army.

This of course brought Jesse great concern for his sons. He approached David in the field. "David, take this bushel of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp."

"Yes, father." David quickly loaded the items on his cart.

Jesse: "Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. Make sure your brothers are safe."

David: "Where is the battle?"

Jesse: "The Valley of Elah."

After David loaded the items on the cart, he hugged his father then assigned two younger boys to take care of the flock of sheep while he's away.

Young David pulled the donkey, which pulled the cart, heading to the battlefield.

*To be continued...*

*You have completed 9 minutes of this book.*

**This 81 Minute Book is available in the Safe Room at the Middle Room Haunted Store.**

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