

Princess Catherine's Brave Little Heart



by David Seow





In memory of
Dr Adrian Saurajen, a good doctor, a good man, and a good friend,
and
I-Lin Dieu Bartlett, who battled cancer with grace, courage, and faith..

Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

With Gratitude

To Mum, my brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, Marylene Fajardo, and the Saurajens for their help and support over the years.

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And to my dog Kobe, for always being by my side, with love on his 10th birthday.

And finally, thanks to Hidayah Amin for her support for my earlier books.

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Bonnie  Books



Adrian was like most children everywhere. He did not like going to school. He did not like doing his homework. But he did like playing soldier games with his best friends.



He loved going to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United play in the Premier League.



But more than anything, he loved going for long walks and picnics on Primrose Hill with his very best friend, Kobe the Cavapoo.



But one day, everything changed. He was tired all the time. Something didn't feel right. Then the doctor said that Adrian had something called cancer. He had to be careful, and he couldn't do all the things he loved anymore.



He had to go to the hospital for treatment and there were many, many visits. Adrian didn't like the injections or the tubes. And the medicine made him feel so sick. But he tried to be brave for mummy and daddy.



One day, Adrian sat sadly in his hospital bed. He wiped away a tear and wished his cancer would go away.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

“May I come in?” someone asked.

“Yes,” sighed Adrian, thinking it was a nurse with more yucky medicine.

But his eyes lit up when he saw who it was...



Princess Catherine!



The Princess smiled and walked over to his bedside.

“May I sit down?” she asked.

Adrian nodded and scooted over as much as he could.

“And who’s this?” she asked, looking down at the reddish-brown bundle.

“That’s Kobe,” Adrian said. “Mummy got special permission to bring him.”

The Princess scratched Kobe behind the ears, and he happily licked her hand.

“I would have brushed my hair if I had known you were coming,” Adrian said.

“But I don’t have any anymore. It all fell out.”



The Princess looked at him very seriously.

“With or without hair, you’re very handsome.”

Adrian giggled.

The Princess said gently, “Your mummy and daddy told me you were feeling very down. I felt down when I was going through cancer, too.”

Adrian looked up at her.

“You had cancer? But you’re a princess. You’ve got guards and soldiers to look after you.”

“Cancer can happen to anyone—even princesses and kings and queens. Cancer is like a bully. It tries to hurt anyone it can.” The Princess leaned in and whispered, “The soldiers do a very good job. But when I had cancer, I had to become a soldier, too.”

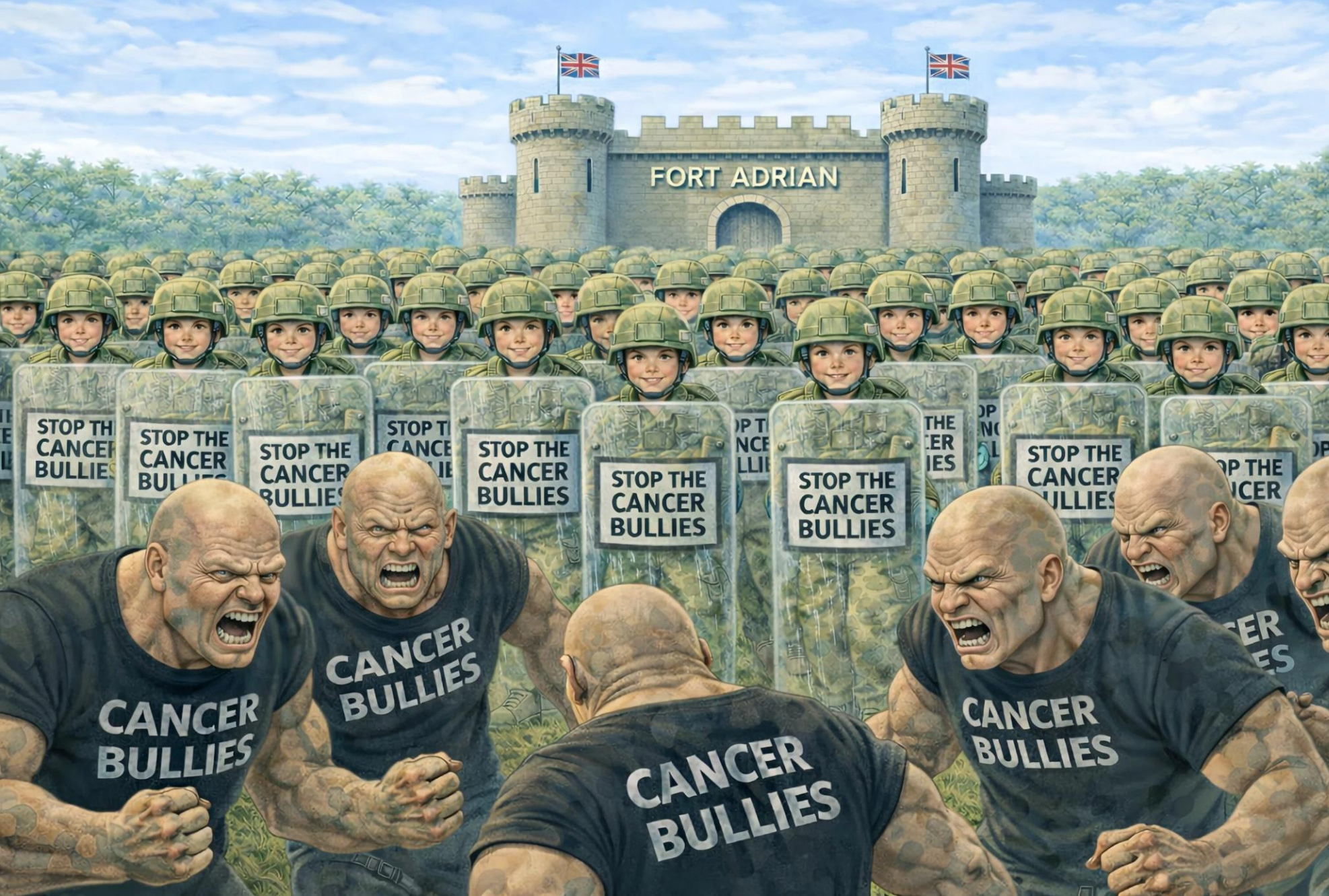


“How did you do that?”

“I had to take my orders from the doctors, who are like generals. They gave me medicine to defend myself from the cancer bullies.”

“But the medicine makes me tired, and sometimes I feel so sick and weak,” said Adrian.

“The medicine helps your body make a stand,” the Princess explained. “It won’t let the bully move forward. It pushes it back.”



“Like soldiers defending their fort?” he asked, looking up at her.

The Princess leaned in. “The most important fort of all—You! And even when you feel weak,” she said softly, “your heart stays strong.”



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“And bullies don’t like anyone strong,” said Adrian thoughtfully. “They’re scared of them. They run away from them, don’t they?”

“That’s right. And when you do feel tired, your mummies, daddies, brothers, sisters — and even pets like Kobe—help your heart stay strong. That’s how my family helped me.”



“When I’m better, will I be able to do all the things I enjoy like before?” Adrian asked.

The Princess smiled and squeezed his hand. “What did you like before?”

“Playing soldier games, going to watch football matches and going on picnics and walks with Kobe.”



“Well, I’m not in the hospital anymore,” the Princess said. “I followed all of the doctor’s orders. I took my medicine like a soldier. Now slowly, I’m able to do the things I love again.”

HIT THE ROAD CANCER



Adrian hesitated. “What if it comes back?”

“If it ever does,” the Princess said calmly, “we’ll be ready. The first time, it surprised us.

The next time, it won’t.”



“Shall we be brave together, my brave little heart?” asked the Princess.

Adrian nodded.

Kobe woofed.

Adrian smiled. “Kobe says he will be brave too.”

They all laughed.

Adrian felt his chest grow warm. His heart was beating. It was steady. It was strong.



The beginning.



Supporting Families Facing Cancer

This story was inspired by children everywhere who show courage every day. If you would like to learn more about helping children and families facing cancer, please visit the organisations below.

[East Anglia's Children's Hospices](#)

[Young Lives vs Cancer](#)

[Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity](#)

[St Jude's Children's Research Hospital](#)





A story about courage, love, and finding light —
even on the hardest days.

