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## **HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY**



**THIS IS OUR STORY ABOUT THE 4TH OF JULY. IT IS TRUE SOME OF THE CHILDREN ON THE SPECTRUM HAVE A LOT OF TROUBLE DEALING WITH THE LOUD NOISE AND LIGHTS OF FIREWORKS. BUT THIS ALSO DEPENDS ON THE ENTIRE SITUATION.**

OUR LITTLE GUY IS ALL OF 5 YEARS OLD, THIS STORY WILL FOCUS ON HIS EXPERIENCE ON THE 4TH OF JULY AND NOT SO MUCH THE NEGATIVE STIGMA THAT FOLLOWS AUTISM. WE HAD TO LEAVE THE HOUSE RIGHT BEFORE THE FIREWORKS STARTED BECAUSE PATIENCE IS A HUGE FACTOR, LIKE MYSELF HE HAS NO PATIENCE. HE IS NON-VERBAL BUT THE EXPRESSIONS ON HIS LITTLE FACE TELLS SO MANY STORIES JUST LIKE “ A PICTURE TELLS A STORY”.

AS SOON AS THE FIREWORKS WERE UNDERWAY, A LOOK OF AMAZEMENT CAME ACROSS HIS FACE AS HE STARED INTO THE SKY THAT LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE IN JULY.

HE REACHED FOR ALL OF THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHTS HOPING HE COULD CATCH JUST ONE IN HIS TINY HAND. EVERYONE OF THEM, IN A NEW COLOR AND SHAPE HE SMILES.

HE LOOKS BACK AT ME AS TO SAY THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE AND OH SO BEAUTIFUL. MORE EXCITEMENT CAME WHEN THE FINALE STARTED, ONE RIGHT AFTER ANOTHER AND HIS SMILE GREW BIGGER. I BELIEVE HE LOVED THE LIGHTS AND THE SOUNDS BECAUSE HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AMAZED WITH THE SKY, THE STARS AND THE MOON AT NIGHT. THIS EXPERIENCE WAS A PURE ENCHANTMENT FOR HIM.

THE FIREWORKS STARTED TO SLOW DOWN AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT THE SKY HAD CLEARED AND ALL OF THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHTS WERE GONE. I HAVE TRIED TO TEACH HIM THE WORDS “ ALL GONE” IN SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. FOR EXAMPLE WHEN A MOVIE ENDS I WILL SAY ALL GONE, WHEN HIS FAVORITE FOOD HAS BEEN EATEN ALL GONE ETC.

HE JUST STOOD THERE LOOKING UPWARD, THEN TOOK MY HAND AND PUSHED IT TO THE SKY AS TO SAY TURN THEM BACK ON. HE FOUND NOTHING BUT BEAUTY IN THAT NIGHTS SKY.

FINALLY I TOOK HIS HAND TO WALK BACK TO OUR CAR AND HE LOOKED AT ME AND SAID “ ALL GONE” AND I SAID YES “ALL GONE” ON THIS 4TH OF JULY WITH HIS OWN LITTLE VOICE HE FOUND SOME INDEPENDENCE ON INDEPENDENCE DAY.