



The Family That's Sick Together Sticks Together



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Chapter One

The First Achoo!

"Achoo!"

"Emmet, are you sick?" asked Mom with concern.

"No, Mom, I think it's dusty in here."

"It is not dusty, I just vacuumed!"

She walked behind Emmet, who was planted on the couch. He was engrossed in a video game.

She patted his head.

"Your hair is damp! I reminded you not to come home from swim practice with wet hair, because it can make you susceptible to a cold!"

"I don't want to use a blow dryer in the locker room," Emmet complained. "I'd look — achoo! — ridiculous."

"Emmet, you're already sick. Get to bed this instant!" Mom demanded.

While Mom was preparing chicken soup, Dad and Sophia arrived home.

"Dad, the new Grand Prix game is here. Bet you can't beat me," challenged Sophia.

"You forget who taught you how to play this game in the first place," Dad chuckled.

On her way to bring Emmet a bowl of soup, Mom poked her head in the living room.

"Honey, you aren't using those video controls, are you? I haven't disinfected them yet!"

"Disinfected?" asked Dad.

"Emmet has a terrible cold, and he was just playing with them."

"Achoo!" sneezed Sophia.



Chapter Two

The Infection Connection

“Oh, rats! Sophia, get into bed, immediately!” exclaimed Mom.

“Mom, I’m fine,” assured Sophia. “It’s just dusty in here.”

“IT IS NOT DUSTY!” exclaimed Mom. “I just dusted this afternoon!”

Dad pressed his palm to Sophia’s forehead.

“You have a fever, off to bed!”

“Honey, the children didn’t get a chance to do their chores, so would you mind?” Mom pleaded with puppy dog eyes.

“Sure sweetheart, I’ll get to them soon,” he assured his wife.

Instead, Dad resumed playing the video game.

“As soon as I beat Sophia’s best score,” he mumbled with a smile.

Twenty minutes later, Dad congratulated himself.

“I have the highest score in the house!”

He rose to do the chores, but an intense wave of nausea overtook him, and he staggered to the bathroom.

Mom walked in and noticed his green complexion.

“Not you, too?!” she exclaimed. “Off to bed!”

After Mom administered medicine to the family, she collapsed on the couch, because her body was giving in to the illness that had infected the whole household. She heroically managed to care for everyone, dragging herself from her sickbed every day to take care of her family.



Chapter Three

Emmet Saves the Day!

After the fifth day, Emmet awoke completely energized. However, when he entered the kitchen, he practically fainted from the vision of dirty dishes towering in the sink. Cleverly, he moved them to the backyard, where he power-washed them with a hose.

Afterward, Emmet brought Mom a bowl of soup, assuring her that everything was just fine now that he had recovered.

When he exited his parent's room, he didn't hear his mother's weak admonition.

"Emmet, don't go near the video game, because it's still contaminated!" she said, straining.

With his chores complete, Emmet resumed playing video games.

"How did Dad achieve best score?" he wondered aloud. "I'll show him! Achoo!"

"Hey Mom," he shouted with a grin, "why is it constantly dusty in here?"