James Krafft

Dr. Griffin

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Moment of Greatness

James Krafft beat the odds! He thought that he would never reach his goal in life. He has traveled to Europe. He used to dream as a little boy that he would be on the plane across the sea, and moving across the clouds. James has always been inspired to go to the countries of his ancestors which include Germany, Italy and Russia. However, it wouldn’t be an accomplishment if he didn’t travel all of Europe. He knew that going to other countries on his own would be a challenge. He was willing to take anyone with him; however he did not want anyone to ruin his dream trip. James went around asking all of his friends, even his mother. Eventually his childhood best friend Natalia Chavez relieved his anxiety about the trip because Natalia said that she would go with him. “I know that going to Europe would be a fun experience,” Natalia has said with a huge smile.

After high school, He started to take language courses in college, which included Spanish, Italian, Russian and German. Learning other languages is hard because since he speaks English. People say that English is the hardest language, because there are many rules to speaking English. He told Natalia, “You don’t have to learn all of the languages you can teach me Spanish along the way and I can teach you the others.” It took a couple months to learn the basics of the languages; He would just need to visit the countries to test them out. After learning many other languages, James would have to raise money to reach his moment of greatness. In the economic times of this country, it was hard to get a job. He has said in the past “It was hard to get a job, but I did whatever job I had to do to raise money for my trips.” He worked in everywhere he could find, even at a fast food place. Eventually he found a well paying job that wasn’t a dingy fast food place.

The next thing that James would have to do is mark the places that Natalia and he wanted to go to. Natalia wanted to go to Spain, Portugal, Italy and Germany. Meanwhile, James wanted to visit all of the ones in Western Europe, and a couple in Eastern Europe. They made a list of the countries that they wanted to visit. Typically each country would take at least a week to a month. This trip would take a long time, but it will be worth it. First they marked down the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal. After spending time there, they would make their way into the rest of Western and Eastern Europe. ‘

It was the first day of their trip; they arrived at LaGuardia, in Queens, New York. They looked at the airport, the sky was bright blue and sunny and the air was light and free. It was a perfect day to soar through the sky to our destination. On the plane our stewardess handed us many different kinds of snacks, including salty pretzels that made the lips dry, the baked pita bread crackers and a drink of our choice. Instead of eating, they mostly slept throughout the flight. As their plane was on their descent down to Ireland, they watched in awe while their plane landed.

When they landed, the first thing they wanted to do was to go and check out the land, and of course try out the alcohol. Let’s face it, people only go there to drink and look at the land. They didn’t stay much time there the next place on the map was England. Natalia and James took a boat, actually more like a ferry to England. They boarded at Dublin, Ireland and sailed into Falmouth, England. When they got there they got onto a red tour bus, to drive from Falmouth to London. Natalia was really excited to see the red telephone booths, and James was excited to see the British soldiers with their fuzzy black hats. When they went to England they saw many things, including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, and the red trolley cars. James and Natalia also visited the country side of Scotland. Natalia felt that she could relax in the beautiful sweet smelling grasses of Scotland. “This is so beautiful, thank you for taking me along”, Natalia said as she hugged James. They went onto their next boat in anticipation for their next destination.

The next countries that they visited were Spain, Portugal, and France. Barcelona was very beautiful, and the architecture was outstanding compared to the other countries they visited. Natalia wanted to visit Madrid to do some shopping. “These clothes are so expensive, but it is okay because I’m shopping in Madrid!” Natalia said with much excitement and a bit of humor. At this point, they realized that they were running out of money and that they had to see the rest of the things that they wanted to see before their money ran out. “I thought I saved more money to go to Europe, but I guess things are just more expensive here,” said James with much disappointment and shame. Of course there had to be a twist to this happy and exciting story. James realized that not everything in life is going to be perfect, and he has to deal with problems as they come along.

The time came to the crunch of their trip, they were going to spend the remainder of their trip in Germany, Italy and Russia. In the sudden change of plans, they rushed on a flight to Italy. On the plane, James had feelings that his dream was crushed, but Natalia gave him words of wisdom that picked him back up to speed. No one ever found out what she had said to him though. They were descending into Florence, Italy. They wanted to visit the famous landmarks such as Piazza Della Sign, which is the center square for history. They also went to see the Il Duomo which is the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore. The smell of the city in Florence fresh, it felt as if they were in a different world. The next place they visited was Venice to see the gondolas and the canals. They even got to go on a ride, which they were sung to in beautiful music and enjoyed the beautiful sites of the city. It was definitely a Kodak moment. The next monuments to visit were the Tower of Pisa, and the big buildings in Rome. Lastly, Natalia and James visited James’ grandmother’s hometown of Polignano a Mare, Italy. They even got to visit his grandmother’s old family farm where they grew up.

They really enjoyed the amazing food and the great culture, and they are reluctant to leave. It saddens them that they have to pick up as fast as they got there. However, they were filled with excitement to visit their next destination, which was Berlin, Germany. No one really knew why Natalia was fascinated with Germany so much. “I knew that Natalia really loved the Germany chocolate cake,” Natalia always ate one piece with the loudest moans of delight. That’s the first place that they went to, a German bakery. After that, Natalia didn’t care about what they did for the rest of the time there. James really wanted to see the museums. They found The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, which James was interested in because he always intrigued with the holocaust. They saw memorabilia of WW2, and many other authentic things, which included a train car that held the Jewish people when they were headed to the concentration camps, and some clothing. Going there made Natalia and James sad, to cheer up they went to another German Bakery to cheer up. There last days to stay in Germany were ending. They wanted to go on one last adventure in Germany. They decided to take a tour of the country, to drive through all of the cities and see all of the land. The land there was very green and crisp. The scenery was as if you were in a movie, it was a perfect view of Germany.

The last place that they went to was Russia. James has always dreamed about going there. Russia is huge and there are many cities, but James only wanted to go to Moscow. He always wanted to see the huge church of St Basil's Cathedral. The Cathedral is the heart of the Russian Orthodox Church. “Wow, that Cathedral is really a work of fine art,” he said in a very artistic tone of voice. They did not realize that they ran out of money so quickly. Just as fast as they got off their plane in Moscow, they had to pick right back up and head home. Tears ran down James face when he realized that his time being in Europe was over. “It was a long, fun trip. I am so glad to be home though, there’s nothing like being at home,” said James once he settled on the couch at home. His dream trip has thought him many things. He learned to always follow your dreams and to always bring more money than you need.

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