



by Louis Cox

(Captain American Mother)

It was a grey day. I was tired for lack of sleep. I also had a bit of a cold. The weather didn't help. While walking down the street I ran into a mom wearing a Captain America shield while pushing a stroller. Later on I stopped to admire a small garden patch of red and orange chilis surrounding the tree outside a home.

"Someone's taking pictures of your garden," I heard coming from the house.

"It's beautiful!" I exclaimed to no one in particular.

I snapped my decisive moment. Stood up. Turned towards the window, and saw the wide happy eyes of a blond woman from inside the basement window. Her black haired friend was leaning over, speaking through the opening.

"I love the red chilis," I said.

"I know! Aren't they great?"

"Yeah," I said with a chuckle.

As I walked away I did so with a pep in my step.

When I reached the next corner I stumbled upon another mother with a stroller and a walking toddler in tow. I was looking towards the ground. Suddenly the boy threw his hands up in the air with a sense of joy and jumped backwards ass first onto the pavement. He laughed.

I looked up from the boy to his mother. She met my eyes and smiled.

--Epilogue--

Later on when I had moved to a stoop to finish typing this story, I heard the rolling of plastic wheels on pavement approaching me from down the block. They stopped. I could feel something in my peripheral. I looked up from my phone to see a wide eyed baby boy staring at me with curiosity. His mother was on her phone. I imagined her doing the same thing I was. Or maybe she was texting her spouse. I returned to my phone intent on finishing. But deciding to take a pause, I stared back at the boy wondering what this all meant and for a moment, the world seemed to stand still with beautiful silence. I took a breath. She finished typing and began pushing the stroller again. I returned to what I was doing.