



# Ethan's Broken Home

Robert Bass



Ethan stares at a framed photo of his dad, a superhero action figure beside it. Tears stream down his face as he clutches the picture tightly.



Ethan packs his belongings into boxes, the room feeling empty and unfamiliar. He pauses, holding a worn baseball glove, a memory flashing in his mind.



Ethan sits in the back of his mom's car, staring out the window as they drive away from his childhood home. The house shrinks in the distance, a symbol of everything he's lost.



Ethan watches Victor, his mom's new partner, put his arm around her. A wave of anger washes over him as he clenches his fists.



Ethan slams his backpack onto the floor of his new room, the sound echoing his frustration. He kicks a stray shoe across the room.



Ethan glares at Victor during dinner, his eyes filled with resentment. He refuses to make eye contact or engage in conversation.



Ethan finds a crumpled note on the kitchen counter, a loving message from his mom to Victor. He crushes it in his hand, his heart aching.



Ethan sits alone in his room, sketching angrily in his notebook. He draws a picture of his dad as a superhero, battling a shadowy figure representing Victor.



Ethan overhears his mom and Victor arguing in the next room, their voices raised in anger. He feels a mix of sadness and vindication.



Ethan stands at his dad's graveside, a single flower in his hand. He whispers, "I miss you, Dad," a glimmer of hope flickering in his eyes.