My Left Hand

By Alan Trussell-Cullen
Illustrated by Lisa Coutts





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Chapter 1

Everything Was Going So Well – and Then . . .

Donna's two brothers hold their spoon in their right hand when they eat – but not Donna. When the children in Donna's class play ball games, everyone throws the ball with their right hand – but not Donna. When the children in Donna's class are writing stories, they all hold their pencils in their right hand – but not Donna.

That's because Donna is left-handed.



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Donna eats with her left hand, throws a ball with her left hand and writes with her left hand. In fact, Donna does everything with her left hand – except shake hands. That's because everyone else uses their right hand, and if she used her left, all the right-handers would get very muddled!



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When Donna was a baby, her parents hadn't noticed she was left-handed until one day her aunty came to visit.

"You know young Donna is left-handed?" she said to Donna's mum.

"Is she?" Mum said. "I guess she's just like me."

Donna's mum was left-handed too. Her dad was right-handed. Donna's two brothers took after their father, but Donna took after her mother.

"I guess that makes Donna a little bit special," Mum said to Donna's aunty.



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Donna liked being a little bit special. And she liked eating with her left hand because it felt right. She liked throwing a ball with her left hand because the ball always went where she wanted it to go. And as for writing, she was one of the best story-writers in the class. So Donna felt really good about her left hand.

Well, she felt really good about it until a month ago. That was when she fell out of a tree and broke her arm – her left arm!



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Chapter 2

The Bad News Just Gets Worse . . .

Dad had to take Donna to the doctor. She had to have her arm x-rayed and put in plaster. The doctor showed Donna the x-ray. Donna asked if she could take the x-ray home so she could take it to school and show it to all the kids in her class. She wanted to see if anyone fainted! But the doctor said they had to keep it there so they could compare it with her arm when the break had healed.



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That night, Donna had to eat her dinner with her right hand. Everything kept sliding off her fork, and when she did get something to stay on her fork, she kept missing her mouth and jabbing her cheek.



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