

## Biography – Chris Paradise, Kasson Minnesota

Jack was a tall caring boy and had a normal life with his mom, dad, and older sister. Reading was one of his favorite things to do, he also kept a journal and had an imaginary friend named Commander IF who was a toy astronaut. He was nine years old at the time and he was an adventurous risk taker, one night he even put on his sister's leotards and a cape and pretended to fly out the window. He broke both his legs and while he was hurt his dad took a year off and taught him how to box. They also built a box for his journals so no one could read them and called it the Jack In The Box. Jack and his Dad are very close and have a great relationship.

Jack's new name is Zack Granger; he has blue eyes, but still has brown hair. Through all the change the journaling really helps him get through having to be in the Witness Protection program.

Zack's first new challenge is school. His first day he meets a girl named Catalin Critobal who he likes a lot. Later a boy named Peter Short is pushing Catalin; in Catalin's defense he punches Peter. Instead of getting in trouble he is sent to the janitor's room, where Sam works, to get his anger out on a punching bag. This is when he notices he is really mad at his dad for all he has put him through. Zack becomes good friends with Sam and Catalin. He also makes a new friend named Darrell who he hangs out with and plays video games; he isn't good at video games. Zack doesn't have a problem with school, and has many new friends.

Zack doesn't like Elko at first because it is such a small town with nothing to do in it. His new house is also very small compared to his old one; his new bedroom is about the size of his old closet. Zack's whole family is supportive of each other and helping

each other adjust to life without their dad during the whole process. After a while Zack starts to like Elko and life without his dad. His mom is opening a bookstore and his sister got the lead part in the school play; finally their lives were back to “normal”.

Zack gets two jobs from Sam a little while after he moves in. He has to clean out an old run down building full of sawdust and junk. It is very hard work for Zack because he is not very athletic; but he enjoys it because he is next to where Catalin works at her family’s hotel. They serve very good Basque food so Zack eats there and talks to Catalin when he works on the building. This leads to Catalin inviting Zack to the mountains with her and her grandpa for two days, from then on Zack wants to be a sheepherder like Catalin’s grandpa and live in the mountains. Zack’s second job is to be a stagehand with Darrell for the school play. Zack enjoys this job and spends a lot more time with Darrell and Sam and realizes what a great actor and singer his sister is. Zack enjoys both his jobs and is good at them.

One day the men who threatened them earlier in the story find them so they have to move again. Zack’s name is now Mack Green and the best part is that his dad is back with the family. He might have green eyes now or go back to brown and he might dye his hair blonde because his dad’s hair is. Mack will probably forgive his dad and become even closer to him. He will also now be more courageous and work harder. It might be a little easier for Mack to adjust to a new life because he has done it before. Mack’s new life will be better but he will still miss his friends from Elko.