

## Unite

*Achooo!* It all started with a simple sneeze. Pei-ya grabbed onto the door handle like a monkey on a bar and carefully slid onto the metal counter. He sat there for what seemed like an eternity but was only a few hours. A seemingly large human being, Mr. Accardi, touched Pei-ya with his hand. Then, he lifted his hand to his face, and that began the journey of Pei-ya the Germ.

Pei-ya made its way up the nose of the human-- a long spiraling tunnel. *Human noses are so disgusting with all of their slime and other particles.* Then he carefully slid down the throat like a firefighter down a pole into Mr. Accardi's lungs. There had been minimal research conducted on Pei-ya's species thus far, but he was determined to make a name for himself.

Mr. Accardi went to a large family gathering that same day to celebrate a cousin's birthday. He hugged and greeted many people. *Humans like to hug. Germs like it when humans hug.* Pei-ya lay inside of him excited that he could jump around from human to human like a flea from dog to dog.

After a few days, Mr. Accardi started to feel nauseous with a high fever. He lost his sense of taste and smell. Pei-ya, of course, like any normal virus continued to multiply with glee in Mr. Accardi's blood. Pei-ya called an assembly of all germs and they began forming an evil plan to wipe out the human race. "Guys, we MUST outnumber his white blood cells. If we can multiply and become many, Mr. Accardi will get very sick and sneeze most of us out. Then, we can get on with our plan... Remember: Always avoid hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes."

"Yeah! Let's get 'em! If we can wipe out the human race, then we will be the dominating organism on the planet Earth!" *Humans are very peculiar creatures. They help us ,germs, grow even though they know we are the enemy coming for them,* he thought to himself hoping this would be the victory he longed for after centuries of new plans.