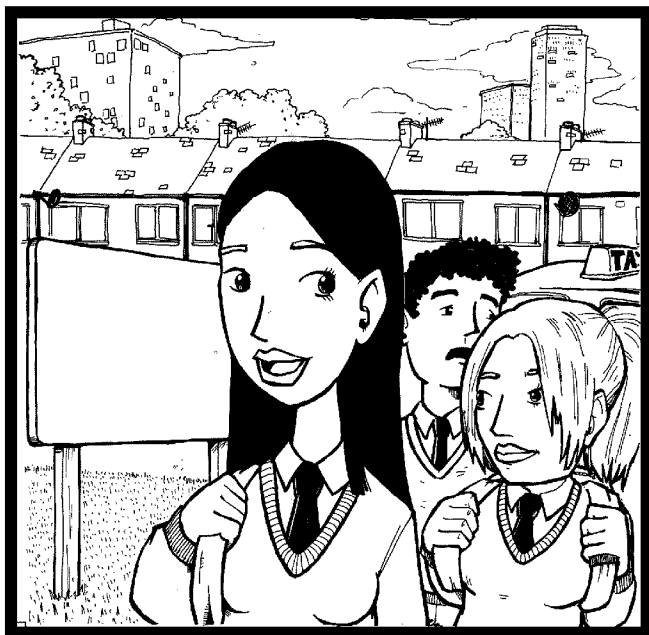


eBook/CD in British Sign Language/English



# Kerry's World

Written/Signed  
by Steve Gibson

DeafEducate

**Kerry's World**  
eBook/CD in British Sign Language/English

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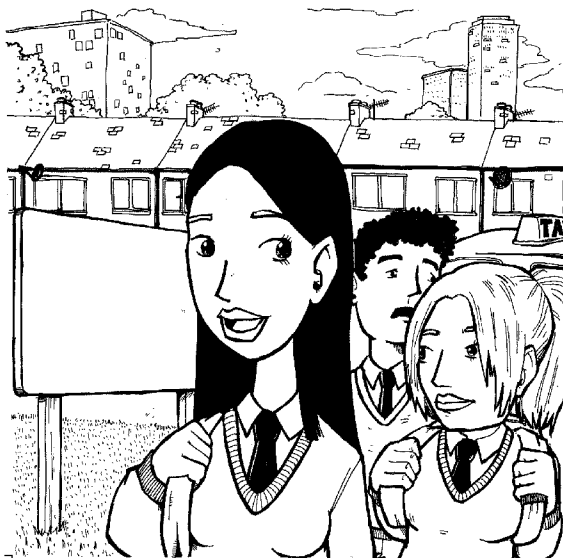
DeafEducate

Kerry Button was nearly sixteen when it all happened. Her world was not as she pictured it to be.

Here was how her world was then.

Kerry was deaf. She was pretty with long raven hair. Her name sign was hand moving from head to shoulder to signify 'long hair'. Her eyes were blue and she was slim.

She attended Haslebury School and Blackneed School. Why two schools you might wonder?



Well, Blackneed School was a 'special needs' school where 'special provision' was provided for deaf children. Kerry went there for her English and mathematics classes.

She took the rest of the National Curriculum at Haslebury School. Classes in history, geography, science and so on.

Haslebury School was where Kerry was at this very moment. Earlier that morning, she travelled from Blackneed School to Haslebury School by taxi with Sarah and Daniel, both deaf.

They all were due for history class next. On the way to class they were signing away. They all made rapid hand movements and gestures. They made facial expressions. They also mouthed English words. All these things are features of British Sign Language.

Daniel signed, "Are your parents coming for the review meeting tomorrow?"

Kerry responded, "Yes. Dad was annoyed because he had to take the afternoon off work meaning he loses money. Mum was adamant that he should come."

Sarah signed, "Oh dear! Well, your future is important. My dad is coming. Well it's easier for him because he is out of work."

They arrived at class and there were girls and boys scattered around the room sitting on desks. There were three desks at the front that were left empty on purpose.

They made their way to the desks and Sarah turned to the other two and signed, "Oh, no! Look!" Kerry looked ahead and saw Jessica, the Communication Support Worker.

Jessica heard them coming and turned to greet them. Signs of "Good morning" were exchanged.

Presently, Mrs White, the history teacher came in. She looked round and began, "Morning class. Shall we carry on from last week with the American Indians? I gave out the handouts. Please get them out."

Noticing the deaf pupils, she beamed and approached them. She said, "All right?" to Kerry, Sarah and Daniel separately. They all nodded and Mrs White looked up to the rest of the class before turning away to the whiteboard.

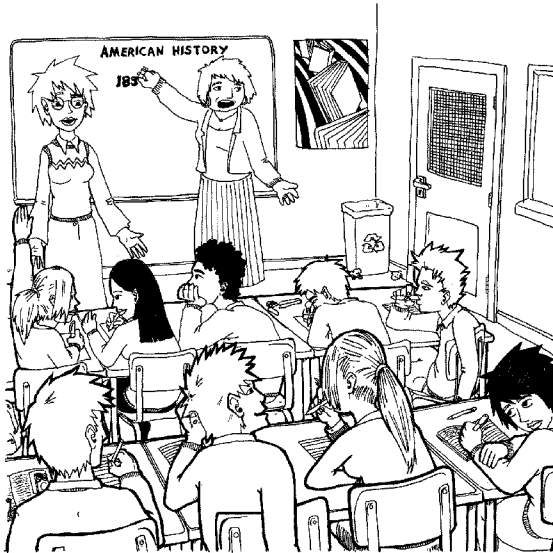
Seeing Mrs White's back, Daniel turned to Kerry and Sarah and mimicked Mrs White's "All right?" with grotesque facial expression and exaggerated mouthing of "All right?"

Kerry and Sarah giggled but Jessica spotted him. She chided him and signed, "That's not very nice."

Daniel fastsigned, "Oh bugger her! I am not a little boy. Patronising indeed." He finished with rapid hand signs

stroking his head, down the side of his face and ending on his shoulder.

Jessica couldn't understand and asked, "What did you say?" Daniel signed back, "Nothing." She could not pursue it further as Mrs White had started talking.



Mrs White said, "It was in the middle of the 19th century when the white men made inroads into the American Indians' territories and today we will explore their reactions."

Jessica translated hesitatingly.

Sarah's hand shot up. Mrs White faltered and stopped. She asked, "Yes?" Sarah signed, "Why roads into American Indians' territories for?" Jessica voiced over.

Mrs White was confused, "Roads? No, not at that time, they did not have a road system like we have now." Jessica translated.

Sarah persisted and signed, "You did say roads." Jessica voiced over and realised her mistranslation. She signed, "Sorry my mistake." She walked up and explained to Mrs White. She whispered, "I used the wrong sign for 'inroads.' My apologies."

It took about 5 minutes before the class really started.

At break time, the three deaf children sat at a table by the drinks machine chatting away in British Sign Language.

A boy tapped Kerry's shoulder and she turned round and was pleased to see John. She stood up.

Using her voice, Kerry greeted him, "Hello. Nice see you." She used simple gestures.

John smiled, "Kerry, it's good to see you. Someone told me about the rumpus with Mrs White."

Kerry furrowed her brows, "Sorry, say again?"

John repeated, "It's good to see you." Kerry nodded.

John continued, "Someone told me about the rumpus ..."

Kerry nodded until the word "rumpus" came up. She grabbed John's arm, saying, "Rabbit, what?" with two fingers together shooting up by sides of her head.

John shook his head, saying, "Not rabbit but rumpus." He was not getting anywhere.

He tried, "Problem."

Kerry's face lightened and giggled. Both her hands held John's arm and squeezed it. He had found it so touching. She withdrew one hand and gave a flick.

Kerry said, "Oh, yes." She was going to explain but she thought she'd better not as it was too complicated. She didn't feel confident enough to communicate fully with John. Only time and getting to know each other would improve communication.

So Kerry settled with, "Just Daniel being silly." She pointed at Daniel and circled her finger on her temple.

John persisted, "Yes but what did Daniel do then?"

Kerry would not budge, "Just being silly, that's all."

He felt frustrated but smiled anyway, letting it drop. He said, "You know, the footy .. sorry . the football match on

Saturday. I play for school team. Please you come and I take you out to cafe," gesturing drinking coffee.



Kerry nodded as she lipread every word and understood each. Her eyes smiled as she realised he was actually asking her for a date. Her heart fluttered.

"Yes! But I ask Mum first but I know it will be OK!" answered Kerry.

John grinned and said, "Good and I see you at Cleveland Park. The match will finish at 3.30. So you know what time best. OK?" He went away but not without a second glance at Kerry.

Kerry sat down and Sarah touched her repeatedly on the

shoulder. She remarked to Sarah, "What?"

Sarah prompted, "So you actually going to see him?" Kerry nodded.

Daniel asked, "What for? He's hearing and he can't sign."

Kerry signed, "Doesn't matter. I can lipread him and he will learn to sign. I will teach him, so no problem. And I tell you what, how many deaf boys my age, eh and how many hearing boys my age, eh? That will shut you up."

The last class of the day was the dreaded PSE class - PSE stood for Personal & Social Education. Kerry had found it dreary with the teacher forever going on about improving your own personal and social skills.

Mr Turnbull was the teacher and he began by summarising last week's talk given by an ex-pupil.

Gregory Sloan, the ex-pupil, gave a talk about his work as a financial adviser at a merchant bank in London. He told them how he had achieved his present position and what education he had that helped him in his career.

Mr Turnbull asked for comments from the pupils. One boy put his hand up.

Mr Turnbull raised his eyebrows and nodded. The boy's name was Ahmed and he said, "I have found his talk inspiring - well, you know, he used to come from this school and look at him now."

"I was most interested in what he had to say about qualifications not being everything. He said that personal qualities and skills are just as important as qualifications."

Mr Turnbull agreed, "Yes, Ahmed, you have hit the nail on the head. Personal skills are important and personal inspirations are also important. Anything you dream about. Is there anyone with plans for the future that you might like to share with the others?"

Shelia put her hand up and went on after he nodded, "I am thinking of doing some work in medicine, not in the GP field, but doing research and scientific work in developing medicine to cure diseases. I saw a programme the other day about children in Africa needing medicine and all that."

Mr Turnbull said, "Yes, a good example, Shelia. Have you explored all the educational paths and opportunities you might need to go through to achieve your dream?"

Shelia affirmed, "Yes, it's a bit complicated and in the end, it looks like I will have to do many years of

education and training. But why not if it helps me get the job I want!"

Mr Turnbull nodded, "Yes, hopefully, Shelia is on her way to achieving her dream. Anyone else?"

Kerry sat up and thought, "A scientist?"

Alan, sitting on the same row as Kerry, said, "I would love to be a lead singer in a band." He stood up and turned round and gave an impression of Ivan Terrible of Hives. The class roared with laughter.



Mr Turnbull smiled, "You certainly gave a good impression. Well, no one is stopping you and I am not saying you can't do it but you should be aware that it is difficult to achieve your dream, Alan."

Kerry looked at Alan and thought, "Can he become the lead singer of a band?"

One boy, at the back, said, "I just would love to be an accountant, yes, and be stinking rich! I might be boring but rich!"

Kerry thought, "An accountant?"

Mr Turnbull, as always every week, turned to the three deaf people as if to encourage contributions. He eyeballed Sarah and nodded his head as a way of encouragement.

Sarah hesitated and began to sign, "Well, I am not sure. Maybe working in the supermarket, filling in shelves like my deaf friends."

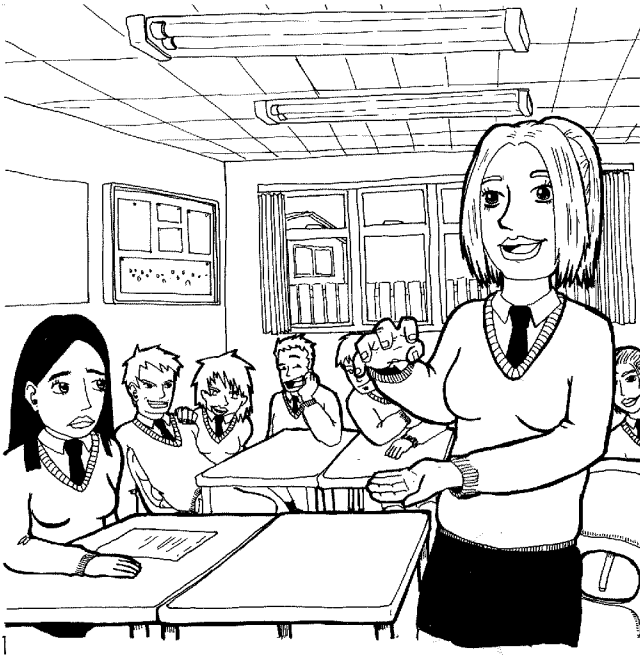
As usual, Jessica, the Communication Support Worker translated.

Sniggers came up here and there in the class. Hearing the sniggers, Mr Turnbull strove to defuse the embarrassing situation.

Taken aback, he quickly said, "That's good. And now I have a problem with the forthcoming visit to the Careers Exhibition next week at Manchester. I did not get letters of authorisation from some of your parents. I really need them by this Friday."

Kerry had been watching Sarah sign her comments to Mr Turnbull. Through her peripheral vision, she saw two or three faces giving expressions of derision.

Kerry began to feel a sense of apprehension as she was thinking the same as Sarah about working in a supermarket. She did not feel too good.



Kerry Button was nearly sixteen when it all happened. Her world was not as she pictured it to be.

Here was a very different world for Kerry.

**The Story continues in  
Kerry's Despair**

## System Specifications

Operating system:

Windows 98

Windows ME

Windows 2000

Windows XP

Windows Vista

Screen Resolution: 1024 x 768 pixels

## Troubleshooting

When the CD is loaded, it should autorun.

But if it does not autorun, then do the following:

Click

*Start*

Click

*My Computer*

Double Click



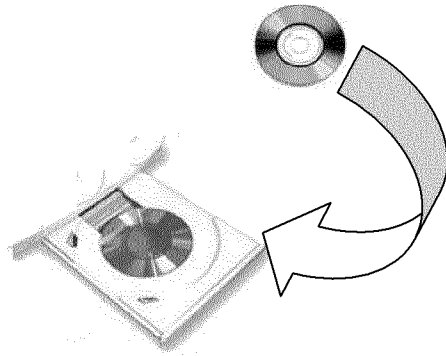
CD Drive

Then it should work.

For any other problems,

Visit [www.deafeducate.co.uk](http://www.deafeducate.co.uk)

Click Troubleshooting at bottom of page



Load the CD into the CD/DVD drive to get BSL translation.

# The Peter and Kerry Series

1. That Moment
2. Kerry's World
3. The Aftermath
4. Kerry's Despair
5. The Realisation
6. Kerry's Identity
7. The Uncertainty
8. Kerry's Pride

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