

eBook/CD in British Sign Language/English



That Moment

Written/Signed

by Steve Gibson

DeafEducate

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That Moment

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Peter Slater was 15 years old when it happened. His world turned upside down.

Here was how it all started.

He was tall for his age, about 5ft 11. He was dark haired and good looking.

Peter attended Wickwood Secondary School. He had been there for 4 years. Today he met up with his friends before school started. As usual he went to school by bus.

The boys were all talking about the football match the previous night. One boy was trying to show the others how Wayne Rooney scored his goal. He even copied the footballer's trademark goal celebrations - head thrust up, arms spread like wings and wheeling round.

Peter looked round for his best friend, Terry, who hadn't arrived yet. He wondered why. He returned to the boys' conversation.

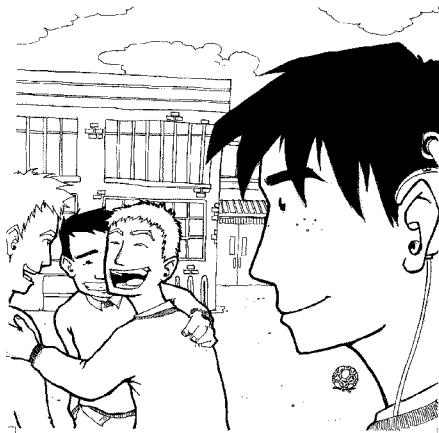
"Fat chance they will catch up this Saturday, you see ..."

"Wanna bet, eh? A pound?"

"Gerr off. No good betting him - he never shells out. He's tight as a gnat's ass."

Roars of laughter rippled round the boys. Shoulders were slapped.

The bell rang. All chit chat stopped and everyone made their way to class. Peter looked round for Terry but there was no sign of him.



If you happened to be on the same playground as Peter, you would not know or notice anything different about him at all.

But if you looked closer and concentrated hard, you would find something not quite right.

You would realise Peter did not always join in the conversation. You would see him darting his eyes round the many faces. You would notice him laugh a little later than the others. You would spot him always standing just outside the group.

Why, you might wonder? And if you really concentrated a bit harder, you might be able to see a weird apparatus between his left ear and his hair. Something called "a Cochlear Implant."

And then you would know he was deaf!

Cochlear Implants are special hearing aids that help people with hearing problems to hear better. Such implants are said to be lots better than the traditional "behind the ear" hearing aids.

Peter made his way to the Science block where his first class was due. He walked with Joe and Raj.

He asked, "Hey, do you know where Terry is?"

They shook their heads. Raj turned to Peter and said, "Are we all set for this Saturday?" He clenched his fist and rocked it rhythmically, chanting, "Wickwood ... Wickwood ..., Wickwood!"



Peter hesitated to begin with and then realised Raj was talking about the football match against Haslebury School. He nodded, "Yep, Wickwood ... Wickwood!" joining the chant.

"Hiyi you wimps!" shrilled Terry as he rushed and jumped on Joe's shoulders as if to head an imaginary football.

Peter's spirits rose as he saw Terry. He asked, "Why are you late, Terry?"

Terry turned to Peter, ensuring that he could see him fully, and said, "Late? Yes, a girl! The most cool girl! Tell you more at breakkies."

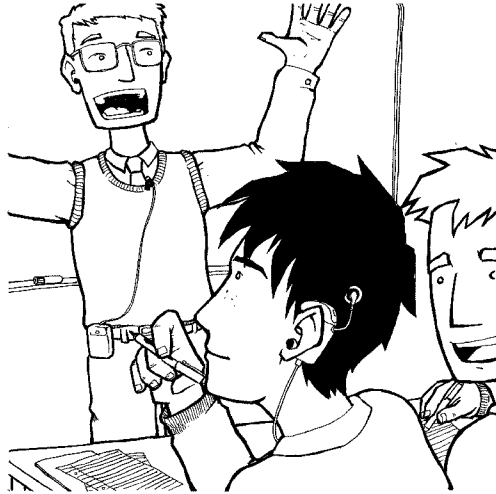
They all walked into the class and as usual Peter made his way to the front and sat at a particular desk. He dumped his bag on the side. He opened the lid and took out leads and stuff. He fixed and adjusted the radio aid onto his hearing aid. Terry sat by him.

Mr Green, the science teacher, arrived. He roared at the top of his voice, "Girls and boys, please take out the exam paper I handed out last week."

Peter quickly adjusted the volume of the radio aid and all was well.

Mr Green went on to talk about how the questions on the exam paper could be answered.

Peter did not always find him easy to follow because he had a strong Welsh accent. And he had a habit of speaking fast. Fortunately at times, Terry was able to help out.



Terry could tell by listening to Mr Green when Peter was struggling. He knew that as time went by, Mr Green became more tired and so his Welsh accent became stronger. Once that happened, he would turn to Peter and mouth what was being said when needed.

But that morning, it was not a problem and Peter was able to follow.

At break time, on their way to the canteen, Terry was telling Peter about the most gorgeous girl he met last night.

"Her name is Babs and I am seeing her this mo. She's Year 11. I don't know how I missed her all those years. Must dash."

Peter was on his own with Terry rushing off. He looked round and sighed. He felt self-conscious in the playground - all alone.

He saw the gang that he had been with earlier in the morning. He thought, "That will have to do." He ran over to join them. They barely noticed him. Peter pushed forward and two boys made room for him.

Joe was describing how he managed to download certain music from the Internet. Someone cracked a joke. Everyone burst laughing. Peter didn't bother to laugh this time as he felt fed up.

Later on during the afternoon, Mr Den Broughton, the PE teacher, boomed out, "Right everyone, pay attention. This has been a good session. Everyone is doing his bit."

He went on to detail football tactics for the forthcoming match against Haslebury School. " ... Four Four Two ... defending ... ball AND GO FOR IT. That's it. And be there for Saturday 2.30." Everyone rushed off.

Peter didn't rush off. As usual, Den came to him and ruffled his hair, "You had a good game and we are relying on you to hold the midfield." He spoke softly and steadily with gestures. He repeated what had been said earlier. Peter concentrated and nodded throughout.

Peter liked Den as he always had time for him. He was always mindful of Peter's deafness.



Den and Peter walked back to the changing room. Den asked, "How's school?"

Peter sighed and told him how the morning had been. He told him about his being left out at break time. He felt he was being too reliant on Terry.

Den said, "I know. I know. Tell you what? You should be with deaf people. I saw a match ten years ago and we played against a deaf school. We just about beat them but you should see how they work together. They didn't shout. They didn't argue with the referee. Nah, that's not the point. What hit me was how they supported, cajoled and sustained each other in their own language. British erm erm yes, British Sign Language. They were a bunch of happy boys." He nodded his head forcefully.

The words, "British Sign Language", made the hair at Peter's back rise.

Peter had a shower. He then sat down amongst the others in the changing room. "British Sign Language" kept popping up in his head.

He looked up and saw all the other boys getting changed. He reached for his hearing aid from his bag. The aid was made up of three parts, a magnetic attachment, a lead and an ear aid.

Peter picked up the magnetic attachment, rolling it with his fingers and whispering "cochlear implant".

He was always self-conscious at how people and especially girls looked at him and saw his cochlear implant sticking out of his hair behind his ear.

With hearing aids, Peter could have a choice of coloured aids so that if he chose the right colour, the aid would not stand out prominently behind his ear.



But of course there were people who might have noticed the coloured hearing aids after close scrutiny. But they didn't ask questions about the aids just because hearing aids were hearing aids! People knew about them and what they were for!

But with cochlear implants they asked awkward questions and Peter didn't want to explain, especially

that he had something inserted into his head behind his ear.

Most people seemed horrified at the idea. He got sick of seeing people take pity on him and people making sorrowful facial expressions, shaking their heads as if to say "I am so sorry that you have to have that."

He even resorted to saying that he was okay and fine and that there was absolutely nothing wrong with him but that made no difference.

Peter inserted the ear aid behind his ear.

One new player was shouting, "Peter ... Peter ... Peter." Peter did not respond. At the other side of the room, Joe glanced up and noticed Peter fiddling with the magnetic attachment. He turned to the new boy and explained, "You will have to go to him as his hearing is a bit wonky."

Peter had the magnetic attachment on when he heard these words. He flew into a rage and attacked Joe.

Taken aback, Joe defended himself. They both rolled about on the floor. The other boys made room for them.

In a blind fury, Peter continued to grapple and tried to make room to swing his fists.

Being bigger and more streetwise, Joe gradually got the better and managed to immobilise Peter by grabbing him round his arms from behind.

Outside the dressing room, Mr Broughton heard the din and rushed in. He saw the two boys fighting. He broke through the crowd of onlookers and pulled apart Peter and Joe.

Peter Slater was 15 years old when it all happened. His world turned upside down.

**The Story continues in
The Aftermath**

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



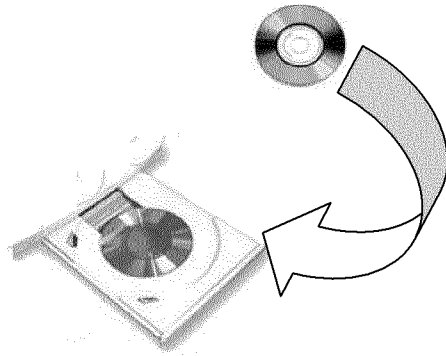
CD Drive

Then it should work.

For any other problems,

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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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