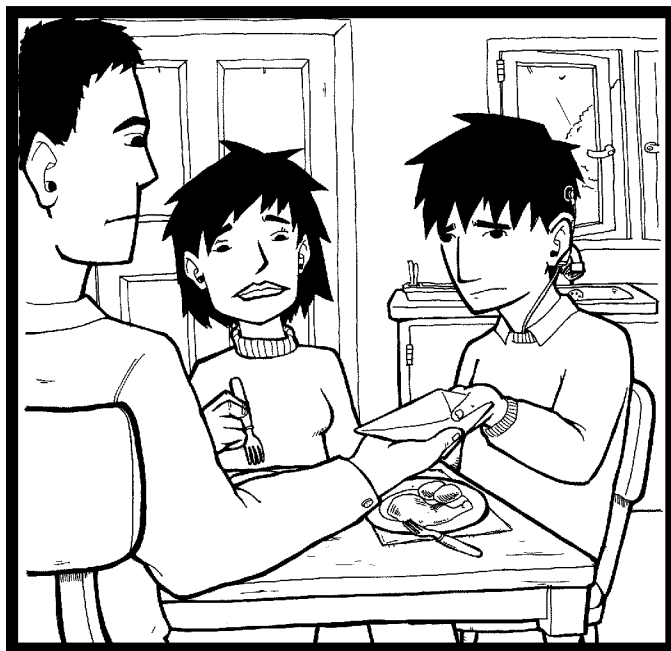


eBook/CD in British Sign Language/English



# The Aftermath

Written/Signed  
by Steve Gibson

DeafEducate

**The Aftermath**  
eBook/CD in British Sign Language/English

Published in 2007 by  
DeafEducate

Text Copyright © 2007 Steve Gibson

Illustration Copyright © 2007 Tom Heather

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

Email: [info@deafeducate.co.uk](mailto:info@deafeducate.co.uk)

ISBN: 1-905272-10-3

# The Aftermath

Steve Gibson

DeafEducate

Peter Slater had been deaf from birth. He had a cochlear implant in his head and through it he was able to hear sounds more clearly and precisely than through any normal hearing aids.

Peter had been in a spot of trouble early on and he was worried about the letter he had from Mr Seal, the Head of Wickwood Secondary School. He had to deliver the letter to his parents.

He had been involved in a fight with Joe after hearing him say to someone that Peter's hearing was "wonky." Peter felt he could hear very well with his cochlear implant but what made it worse was the fact that Joe was a friend of his. He had never lost his temper before.

Mr Den Broughton, the PE teacher stopped the fight and had ordered them both to go to Mr Seal's office.

Mr Seal warned Peter and Joe about their behaviour and told them he was going to talk to their parents.

Outside the office, Peter and Joe shook hands.

Thirty minutes later, Peter was given a letter.

When Peter arrived home, he rushed upstairs to his bedroom before Mum had a chance to see him.

He collapsed onto his bed, thinking back to what had

happened in the changing room where he attacked Joe. He had not meant all that. He just snapped when he felt things got too much for him.

Peter pulled the envelope up in front of his face and saw the handwriting - "Mr and Mrs Slater." He sighed as he knew that Mum would be distraught. Dad would be okay but not Mum.



Mum had always been the mainstay in his upbringing. She arranged and sorted everything. Dad just tagged along.

But Yvonne, his 22 year old sister, had been his big support. She told him how it had been when he was little.

Thinking back, he remembered Yvonne telling him:

"Mum was so upset when she first heard you were deaf.

She could not believe it and even went to see another doctor for a second opinion."

"Dad tried his best to comfort Mum, saying you were a normal bonny baby and all that. But Mum wasn't having any of that. She said you would not be able to hear and talk."

"But to me, you were a beautiful baby brother. I adored you more each day."

"When you were two and I was nine, Mum said you would be taken to hospital to have your ear fixed."

"I didn't really understand what Mum meant by that. Your ears were okay and you were just growing normally. You made noises like any other baby."

"Then one day, you came home. Part of your head was swathed with bandages. You looked awful. I shouted to Mum, 'What have they done to Peter?'"

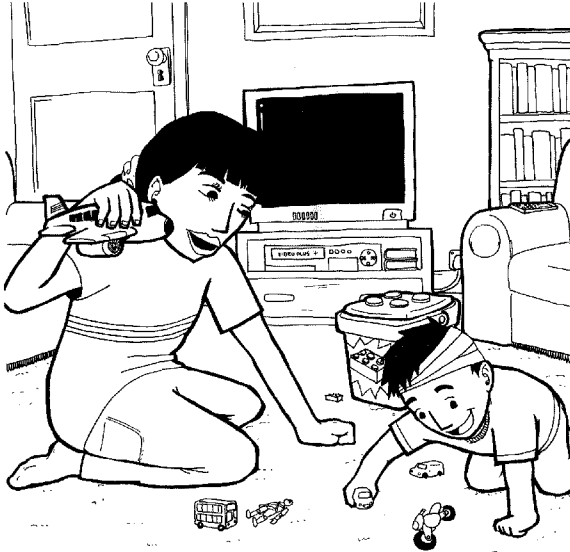
"Mum said that you had a new ear - a cochlear implant - and that soon you would be able to hear. At first, I was thrilled."

"Your bandages came off. Your ear looked no different but there was a nasty scar above it. Mum said that was where the cochlear implant was but it wasn't switched on yet."

"Mum and Dad, but mainly Mum, were so anxious about the 'switching on' day. Then I realised that your ear was not

working until the cochlear implant was switched on."

"Then the day came when the cochlear implant was switched on. You came home with this 'thingy' between your ear and the scar."



"I could not understand how the thingy could stay on the scar until I tried for myself when Mum wasn't around. I tried to meddle with it. Once it came off due to my meddling - I was in a panic because I needed to put it back on."

"To my surprise, I managed to put it back rather easily. Looking closely, I realised the thingy got stuck to the scar with a magnetic attachment."

"I was horrified because I knew my science fairly well. I knew that you had some sort of metal thing behind the scar."

Peter's thoughts were disturbed by a shout from the kitchen - "Tea's ready, Peter, come down!"

He folded the envelope and put it in his back pocket. He entered the dining room and Mum and Dad were there. Not Yvonne, she had moved away. He missed her.

Peter pecked Mum on the cheek, saying, "Hello." Mum responded likewise. Dad looked up from his armchair and greeted Peter, "Had a good day?"

Peter just nodded and they all sat down for tea. He was quiet which was unusual. Mum noticed and asked him about his day at school.

Peter felt it was time for the letter so he took it from his back pocket. He handed the letter to Dad with a solemn expression.

Dad took the letter, straightening it out. Seeing the "Mr & Mrs. Slater" on it, he knew something was amiss.

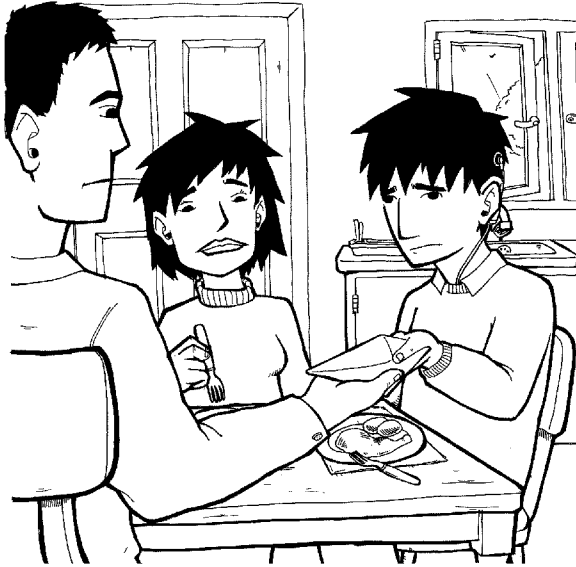
Mum blurted out, "Oh, Peter! You are having problems at school! What can it be?"

She turned to Dad and demanded, "Let me have it and we'll see what's inside."

Dad reminded her, "Margaret, Peter gave the letter to me and so I shall open it first." He opened it and took the letter out.

Peter had been dreading that moment and feared his parents' reaction. He scrutinized Dad's eyes as he read the letter's contents.

Mum prompted him, "What is it? Tell me."



Dad's eyes widened and he smiled, shaking his head. Peter was confused. He thought it was serious.

Dad broke the silence, "Oh! Mr Seal wants to see us about a fight Peter had been involved in, Margaret. It's not that serious."

Mum quickly looked at Peter, "You've been in a fight! Oh, Peter! Are you okay?"

"Mum, I am okay. Just a little scratch on my arm."

Dad gave the letter to Mum. She read the contents with a worried look. Dad winked at Peter to reassure him.

He said, "Boys get into all sorts of scrapes all the time. Well I should know. I was in a few when I was young!"

Mum rebuked him, "Well, it's no laughing matter. People can get hurt in fights. And Peter could have been hurt very badly. Thank goodness, he is not hurt, well, apart from that nick on his arm."

Mum turned on her chair so that she was facing Peter. She asked, "Peter, if you feel up to it, can you tell us what happened?"

Peter sighed, "Yes, Mum. It was this afternoon after the football practice. I was in the changing room getting changed."

"All was well until I put the cochlear implant on and I heard Joe saying to someone that my hearing was 'wonky'."

"I just snapped and found myself wrestling with Joe on the floor. Mr Brought ..."

Mum interrupted, "But why did you have to.."

Dad held her arm, "Please do not interrupt. Peter has not finished." Mum stopped.

Peter continued, "Mr Broughton stopped us and parted us.

He told us to go to Mr Seal's office. There we were told off and he said he would want to see our parents."

"That's it. And you have the letter. One thing I want to say to you both. I am sorry for what I have done. I didn't mean to lose my temper."

"I have also apologised to Joe and we are friends again."

Mum started, "But why did you have to fight? You have never done this before? Losing your temper over a trivial thing."

Peter said, "Yes. I know what you mean. I cannot explain."

He continued, "Okay, it's just that I have just started to feel different from the others. Usually I'm not too bothered what people say when I am with them at break times."

"And if someone tells a joke and everyone laughs, I make sure I laugh along even though I don't fully hear the joke."

"Then just last week, I wasn't concentrating ...."

Mum interrupted with, "No, concentrating with the stress on the third syllable. Try it ag..."

Dad stopped her, "This is not the time or the place, Margaret." He frowned at her and turned back to Peter.

Grateful for his Dad's thoughtfulness, Peter continued, "I wasn't concentrating properly and I left my laughter a bit late. There were a number of them looking at me with knowing and contemptible looks."

"Then, I suddenly realised that they knew of my false laughter all along and I felt so stupid." Peter stopped and stared emptily between Mum and Dad.

The atmosphere at the table was strained. Mum and Dad glanced at each other helplessly.



Mum began, "Peter darling, you mustn't let things like that get you down." She reached over to take Peter's arm. Abruptly, Peter stood up and screamed, "No. You don't understand. I am different. I am not normal." He walked out.

Mum rose to follow him but Dad stopped her by saying, "Margaret, just leave him alone and give him time. It has been hard for him, you know."

She collapsed back in her chair, took out a tissue and wiped the tears from her eyes. They both heard Peter going into his bedroom.

Mum looked up and said, "Poor Peter. What can we do? He is so normal to us. His speech is so good and he has his cochlear. And, Keith, I am so sorry about that 'concentrating' pronunciation. That was crass of me."

Later on in the evening, Peter's Mum went out for her weekly evening class in floristry. Dad went upstairs and knocked on Peter's bedroom door. He waited for a response but heard nothing.

He was anxious and tried again. Again no response. With anxiety rising, he opened the door slightly and was relieved to see Peter playing Sim City 2 on the computer. He noticed the attachments on Peter's ears.

He flicked the light switch by the door. Peter swivelled round and smiled at Dad.

Dad asked, "Can I come in?" Peter nodded.

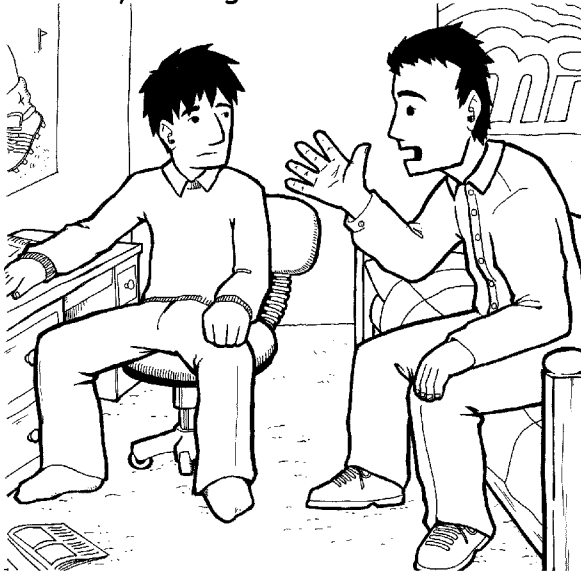
Dad made himself comfortable on the bed and began, "Don't worry about Mum, she will be all right. You know she cares for you. Too much, I think but then it's her and she

will always be like that!"

Peter answered, "I know. I feel a lot better now and I really can't believe I bashed Joe just like that. Anyway we are friends now!"

Dad grinned, "Look, Peter. I won't say that I understand the difficulties you go through because of your deafness."

"Do you remember Tate and Lyle's sugar factory, where I used to work 20 years ago?"



Peter nodded. Dad continued, "Well, I often used to visit the shop floor to inspect the machines. And I saw some deaf people there. At break times, they all gathered together to chat and we used to refer to them as the 'Deaf and Dumb Club.' Mind you, it is wrong to say that now but that's what we said then. We were just ignorant."

"Anyway, they just got drawn to each other and hands were flying round and facial expressions were used here and there. They all were good workers, mind you."

"And one day, I was standing by the Wages Office chatting to someone when I noticed a bloke from the deaf group standing by the window booth. It's where people usually go to make enquires about their wages."

"And then, out of the blue, I heard him talking loud and clear. He said, 'I haven't had my overtime pay sorted out from last week and I am annoyed!'"

"I was dumbstruck as I didn't realise that a deaf person could speak that well. When he had sorted out his problem, I stopped and had a chat with him. I was surprised that we could have a conversation. I understood him and he understood me too."

"Then, out of curiosity, I asked him why he had to mix with the other deaf workers if he could hear and talk."

Peter frowned and tried to interrupt. Dad stopped him, "Yes, I know now, but I didn't then you see. I could see he was really offended by my question and he gave me a lecture. And in a nutshell, he just felt comfortable with them and he didn't have to pretend to be hearing."

"I remember him saying 'Even now, while talking to you, I am trying very hard to understand you as my hearing is

not that good. And I am constantly trying hard to pronounce the words right. I don't feel that relaxed."

"So Peter, in some ways, I can understand the pressure you are under in trying to be 'normal' with us and with your friends. Well, almost with everyone."

"Now I just wonder, do you have any deaf friends?"

Peter frowned, "So are you trying to say that I stop trying to be 'normal' and accept being deaf? And even get myself deaf friends that wave hands like windmills."

"No way!" He turned from Dad, put on his ear attachments and concentrated on his Sim City 2 game.

**The story continues in  
The Realisation**

## 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



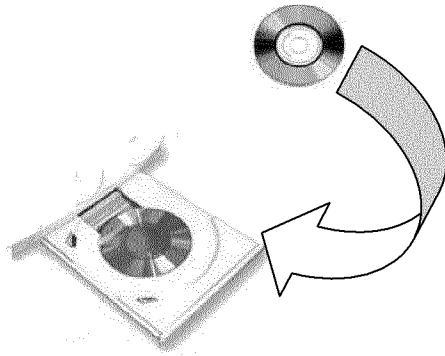
CD Drive

Then it should work.

For any other problems,

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

Click Troubleshooting at bottom of page



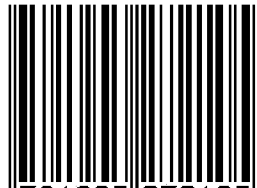
Load the CD into the CD/DVD drive to get BSL translation.

# 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

Visit

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



9 781905 272105 >