

Term 2 Yr 9/10 Author Workshop 2023

Winning Submission by Charlie Cincotta

prologue

As I stare at the ceiling of my tiny room thoughts racing through my head I wonder if I can ever go back in time and change the past if I can find out why he does this to me how can I shelter her from this? Or if we can at least escape this horrific place...

Chapter one

Naturally I'm a good student and don't let my home life disrupt my school life but today was different... my half sister was coming over to live with us and I've been thinking all day how I can shelter her from my toxic and abusive household without her noticing I can't risk it for her. But today my best friend Alex noticed something was off about me that day, me normally being the happy bright therapist friend "what's up jack you don't seem like yourself today" "oh I just haven't eaten today yet" me knowing damn well that I don't eat much anyway I cringed at what I said, the door to the classroom opens as the teacher walks in I flinch as hard as ever luckily my friend Alex didn't see after our music lesson and I have all my stuff I walk home and take a deep breath before I go through the door...

Chapter two

I walk through the door and immediately clouded with the smell of beer and cigarettes my birth dad being addicted since a young age this was no ordinary surprise he yells at me obviously very drunk "where have you been young lady" as he belches very loudly and hobbles around "dad I'm so sorry I've been at school I needed to do an extra job really quick" he punches me in the face and I collapse to the ground "that'll teach you, you little brat!" he yells I slowly rise after he's gone and walk to my room knowing I don't have time to prepare for my half-sister I need to setup a bed and drawers for her and pick her up from the airport so I drop my bag and books and neatly setup a futon and mattress and get my warmest blankets and pillows for her.

I finish setting her area up and make the room smell nice and have my phone and earplugs in my pocket so she doesn't hear my dads yelling I'm ready just in time to pick her up.

Chapter three

I see on the board that her flight will be late arriving so I stop by the food court to pick up some snacks for her to eat when she gets off I'm waiting by the baggage area and as I finally see her little round face with a big smile I give her the biggest hug as she says "I'm so excited to live with you jack I wonder what our room looks like" I sigh and smile "yeah you're going to love it but promise me one thing girly, you need to stay in our room with me unless you're going out ok? I'll bring food up and we'll watch a movie!" "awesome jack that sounds so fun!" we arrive at my house but just as we go in I hand her the headphones and play one of her favourite songs as we walk in I make sure we don't make a sound. And her face lights up as amber says "oh my god!! This is our room? Wow this is the literal chilliest bedroom ever!! It's so mellow!!!" "I know right? Set your stuff up over there that's your space okay? And just ask me if you need anything okay and when I go to work you're coming with me" "okay jack" "hey amber, you get to pick what movie we watch I'll go fetch our dinner!"

Chapter four

I wake up the next day and softly whisper “amber get up it’s time for you first day of school!” “come on get ready I’ll bring up breakfast ok?” “okay thanks jack one sec” I creep down stairs so I don’t wake my father and I get some up and goes and protein bars for amber and I to eat, I accidentally step on a loud creak on a floor board my father squirms and luckily he falls back asleep and as I see amber in her uniform I’m so proud of her “come on let’s go we can stop in at Maccas on the way, let’s go!” “yessss!!! Jack you’re the best seriously, ok I’m ready to go” we walk out the door and stop at Maccas “two milkshakes please” we grab ‘n’ go and stop out the front of the school “deep breaths amber ok and after school meet me in the office good luck!”

“okay thanks jack bye!!!” I walk into class with a mask on and I ask Alex’s sister if she had any makeup to cover the bruising luckily for me she did and we still had a few minutes before class so we hurried in and out of the bathroom and no one noticed class starts and the next two classes pass quickly and now it’s break time I go to check in on amber “hey amber how has it been are you okay oh are you hungry? Come on let’s get some food” “hey jack!! My first classes were amazing!! And yes, do they sell sushi here?” I giggle “of course they sell sushi here come on let’s go get some!!” we sit and eat lunch and amber talks about how good her day has been I listen and am very happy about that our last class passes and I meet amber at the office “here amber put these headphones in you can listen to music everyday after school when we go home” “yes thanks jack!!” she puts my headphones in and skips in front of me up the side walk and I wonder how this will end we get home and put our pyjamas on “what movie tonight amber?” “ooh how about legally blonde!” “sure, amber that sounds great! I’m just going to get dinner okay? Get set up and cosy!!!” “okay jack best day ever!” I tip toe down stairs as to not make a sound amber is listening to music so she can’t hear down here, my dad emerges around a corner and I bump in to him “o-oh sorry dad I I’m so sorry it won’t happen again” my dad looks down at me smoking a cigarette. “you little brat who let you into this world to disrespect me? Tell me WHO???” You idiot!!!!” he pushes me to the ground hard, I land on my side “aaaa!” “don’t do it again you little demon!!!” I get up once he’s left and make sure I don’t have any broken bones I took a first aid class years ago just in case that happens. Ok I don’t good, I get some chips and some ready-made pasta Alex’s sister made for me I go back upstairs and act like nothing ever happened “hey amber!! Movie marathon tonight!!” “oh my god yes come on let’s do this jack” we sit down and have a good end to the night but I wake up in the middle of the night to some loud banging I look over but ambers bed is empty my heart stops I race downstairs to see her in front of my dad “who are you, you little turd? Oh, you must be (burps loudly) amber well” he drunkenly gets closer to her “let me give you a taste of how we do things around here” as he balls up his fist ready until... “STOP!!!” I yell knowing I’m going to be abused more than ever I look over and smile with tears in my eyes at amber than she finally catches on about everything why I make her wear headphones and listen to loud music why she has to be with me twenty-four seven she just stands there appalled as my father raises his hand and fist I brace myself but just before he strikes amber pushed me out of the way and she got hurt instead of me “looks like everything’s in order here then” my dad says drunkenly I can’t believe she took that fall for me “AMBER!! Are you okay why did you do that come on get up I need to check your bones and muscles” no I-it’s okay jack” I stand up slowly and stare at my father “how could you be so heartless” I whisper “what did you say you rotten worm?” “I said HOW CAN YOU BE SO HEARTLESS YOU MONSTER!!!!!!” I yell right in front of his face “you monster I hate you and you know what both of us are moving out and you can’t do anything about it you little shit!!!!” then amber stands up I knew she was strong I love her and now we must protect each other she says with confidence “uncle Burt how about you shut up for once you can march to jail at this point! So, don’t bother you’ll be personally escorted don’t worry authorities are on their way and oh-ho they won’t be long!!!” we block the doors and as he tries to fight his way out

but we won't let this happen "nuh uh you're staying right here" says amber "and oh look! The police are right outside" I say, "POLICE OPEN UP!!" "BURT VEKO, WE KNOW YOUR IN THERE YOUR UNDER ARREST FOR ABUSE AND DRUGS!!" "and trust us you'll be away for a long time!!" amber and I say together the police take him away and place a restraining order against him and the family "don't worry he can't reach you now" says the police officer "thankyou officer" "come on amber let's pack up Alex is picking us up soon!" "we'll be safe there I promise!" "thankyou for everything jack! You're so strong to be going through this and act like everything's fine" we finish packing up and as Alex opens the door and I flinch... HARD! "woah! it's okay jack it's okay trust me you'll never see him again okay you're safe now it's okay" I run into his arms with tears "hey woah ok it's okay jack sssssshhh it's okay sssssshhh you're okay he's locked up forever everything's gonna be fine come on let's go" we pack our stuff into alex's car and drive to Alex's as we speed off I sigh I have nothing to worry about anymore and as we turn the corner a huge weight lifts off my shoulders me and amber join hands we're safe now

The end