

## Chapter 18 - Saving Nora Full Story Book Free by Josh Williams

Just as Cherry was about to speak, Justin frowned and asked, "What kind of special methods?"

The tutor sighed and replied, "Pete was born autistic. He doesn't like to talk nor does he know how to communicate with others. If this goes on, it'll impede his development. I think you can consider either sending him to medical specialists for treatment or to a school for children with special needs."

Her eyes shone after she spoke.

Once Pete was sent to a school for children with special needs, he would be diagnosed as being mentally handicapped. With that, they would be able to ruin his future!

Cherry was confused.

That teacher was horrible!

She looked at Justin. Should Daddy agree, she would stop seeing him as her father and would get Mommy to save Pete from their clutches.

Hmph.

Justin's expression instantly darkened. He retorted fiercely, "Pete is fine. He doesn't need to attend a school for children with special needs! If you can't teach him, then I'll find someone else! Lawrence!"

"Yes, sir?"

Justin ordered, "Settle her wages immediately. She doesn't need to come in anymore tomorrow!"

The tutor was shocked by his sudden wrath. Justin was usually very polite to them, which made her forget how domineering a man Justin really was.

She had made a mistake.

She shouldn't have said something like that. She should have taken it slow.

Seeing that she was out of a job, in order to complete her mission, the tutor put on a sincere and earnest expression and said,

“I am the top domestic tutor in the States, Mr. Hunt. My advice is undoubtedly in your son’s best interests. Since you refuse to listen to the truth, then take it as if I didn’t say anything. I enjoyed myself very much during my time with Pete. Goodbye.”

Her speech was very in line with what an exemplary teacher would say.

Justin’s anger faded a little and he said, “Give her an extra half a year’s wages.”

The tutor was ecstatic. Half a year’s wages were a lot of money! Together with what that person had given her...

Cherry, who was listening to them intently, was very satisfied.

Daddy hadn’t given up on Pete. He was indeed protective of him. However, he had been deceived by that teacher!

As she watched the wicked teacher walk happily toward the door, Cherry’s big grape-like eyes swiveled a little and she asked, “Daddy, am I a little bastard without a mother?”

Justin was taken aback. He looked down suddenly to see his son looking up at him trustingly. His young, childish voice made what he said next sound particularly heartbreaking: “Am I really very stupid and dull? Did Mommy lower the quality of Daddy’s genes?”

Justin was stunned. His son rarely spoke this much.

However, the content was especially shocking to him. He restrained his overwhelming fury and asked gently, “Who told you these things, Pete?”

Cherry stretched out her arm and pointed her chubby little finger at the door. “She did!”

At the door, the tutor's legs went limp the instant she felt Justin's murderous aura and anger. She said fearfully, "Stop spouting nonsense, Pete—"

Cherry hid behind Justin and hugged his leg. She stuck out her tongue at the tutor and said, "Please don't hit me again. I'm sorry!"

The tutor was taken aback.

Was this really that little dimwit who didn't talk?!

At the sight of how fearful his son looked, Justin didn't give the tutor a chance to explain anymore. He ordered, "Bring her out, Lawrence!"

"Yes, sir."

Lawrence grabbed the tutor and pushed her out.

Justin rubbed Cherry on her head comfortingly and said, "Can you play by yourself for a while, Pete?"

The upcoming scene was too bloody and unsuitable for children.

Although Cherry wanted to be with her father, he needed to deal with the vicious teacher now. It was just like how Mommy would also blindfold her and tell her to count sheep whenever she fought others when they were abroad.

She nodded. "Okay, Daddy!"

Justin only left the room after seeing Cherry pick up a toy without any significant fluctuations in his emotions.

Lawrence was a very efficient man. By then, he had already interrogated the truth out of the tutor. With his head down, he said, "... It's your uncle and his family that bribed them. They wanted to make Pete into a stubborn and problematic child so that their own children can take over the corporation. The two tutors were sent by the old madam, so were negligent and overlooked it."

The old madam doted on Pete the most. Who would have imagined that the tutors she sent harbored ill intentions?

Justin clenched his fists and asked, "What did they do to Pete?"

At the mention, Lawrence's head lowered even further. He answered, "They punished him by making him stand, hitting his palms, and reprimanding him. Also, they didn't teach him seriously. They didn't dare to do any kind of physical abuse worse than that; because they were also afraid that someone would discover what was going on."

Justin looked at the trembling woman kneeling on the ground and kicked her in the chest. The blow caused her to immediately cough up blood.

His dark and overcast countenance made him look as if a demon. He ordered, "Throw her out."

Lawrence's heart trembled upon sensing Justin's fury.

However, even he himself was furious, let alone Justin who had always loved and doted on Pete. It was just that his way of expressing it wasn't quite right.

Justin returned to the room. When he saw Cherry's tiny little form sitting on the sofa and playing with the toy car, his heart tightened with guilt.

Pete had been with him since he was an infant. He had personally nursed him and changed his diapers, but even until he was one and a half years old, he didn't speak at all. When they saw a doctor, he was told that Pete had slight congenital autism.

Grandma said that it was because the boy didn't have a mother and thus, had no sense of security. They mustn't have him, a grown man, taking care of him anymore, so she had arranged for babysitters, family doctors, and tutors for him.

As Pete slowly grew up and became able to have short conversations with people, it convinced him that Grandma was right.

Pete was a stubborn boy and always went against him. He often made him so angry that he almost wanted to give him a good thrashing. Despite that, he continued to think that this was a phase that all normal children went through.

That was, until that incident last week...

It was all his fault.

Justin walked over slowly. He sat beside Cherry, softened his voice, and said, "Daddy is sorry, Pete."

Cherry stretched out her little arms and hugged her handsome father. "Everything will be fine as long as you can acknowledge your mistakes and turn over a new leaf, Daddy!"

Justin sighed. Then, he said seriously, "We won't engage any more tutors. I'll personally teach you in the future."

The happy Cherry was instantly petrified. What??

She hated having to do homework the most! Help, Pete!

Downstairs.

When Nora returned to the room, she found her daughter sitting on the sofa and looking at her obediently instead of playing games like she usually did.

She walked over and kissed Pete on the forehead. "You're so well-behaved today, baby."

The soft lips pressed against his forehead, causing Pete to freeze. Yet at the same time, a sense of anticipation also arose in him.

Mommy's so soft and gentle.

He looked at Mommy longingly and subconsciously stood up and followed after her. As he did, he suddenly found his mother stopping and looking at him with a half-amused smile. "Are you intending to take a bath together with Mommy, Cherry?"

Only then did Pete realize with a start that he had followed her into the bathroom in the master bedroom!

He was about to retreat, but Nora stooped over and picked him up. She said, "Forget it, let's bathe you first."

Alarm bells rang in Pete's head.

Wouldn't his identity as a boy be revealed if she were to bathe him?

Pete blushed. “No, no, it’s fine, Mommy.”

Nora chuckled softly and said, “Cherry’s a big girl now.”

Pete ran away in a hurry after Nora let go of him.

He stood outside the door to the bedroom and listened to the movements inside. The sound of running water, the sound of someone in the bath, and the sound of Mommy walking around in slippers after she was done bathing.

After confirming that Mommy was dressed, he opened the door and saw her lying on the bed. With her eyes closed, she said, “Mommy has a very important operation in two days, Cherry. I need a crazy amount of sleep for the next few days, so I’ll go to bed first, alright?”

“... Okay, Mommy.”

His sister had told him before that Mommy had poor health and that her hobby was sleeping. She was usually either asleep or dealing with troublesome issues so that she could sleep.

Therefore, he mustn’t disturb Mommy.

Two minutes later, when he heard steady breathing coming from where the bed was, Pete tiptoed over to his mother. His tiny little form climbed onto the bed. Then, he found a spot in Nora’s arms and curled up there. Before he knew it, he had fallen into deep sleep while listening to her heartbeat.

How wonderful.

He also had a mother now.

As a result, he didn’t see the SOS messages from Cherry on the cell phone in his pocket:

“Help, Pete!”

“Let’s exchange our positions again, Pete!”

“Sob, I don’t love Daddy anymore!”

Downstairs.

Cherry took advantage of the opportunity while Justin was pouring a glass of water to send another text message to her brother on her cell phone. When she saw that he still wasn't replying, she could only give up and start tackling her assignments.

She bit her pen and stared at the textbook, her face all wrinkled as she frowned.

She, who had grown up abroad, was still at the literacy development stage. She couldn't understand the questions on the papers at all!

Justin sat next to her when he returned.

It had been half a year since he last tutored his son. As such, he didn't know how far their current progress was. He pointed at the simplest question and asked, "Do you know how to solve this?"

Cherry's big eyes were completely blank.

Justin fell silent for a moment. Then, he flipped back to syllabus from half a year ago. "What about this?"

Cherry shook her head hard.

"..."

Justin stared at her. He wanted to ask Pete why he couldn't solve the question now when he could do it half a year ago. Also, was he really shaking his head when he hadn't even read the question?

Cherry wordlessly suggested, "Why don't we learn about history instead, Daddy? I'm very knowledgeable in that."

"... Alright."

Justin flipped open the textbook. "Who's the first president of the United States?"

Cherry's eyes lit up. She raised her hand and said, "I know this!"

Justin breathed a sigh of relief. His son had fallen behind in his mathematics, but it would also do if he was doing well in his history classes.

As soon as the thought formed, he heard her yell, “Tom Cruise!”

“... It’s George Washington!”

Cherry blinked. “Oh right, I must have remembered it wrongly. Next question please, Daddy.”

“Which American politician was assassinated in 1963?”

“Leonardo DiCaprio!” Cherry immediately answered.

“...”

Justin took a deep breath and told himself not to get mad. His son had just started talking a little more. He mustn’t lose his temper. He decided to try again. “Who invented the light bulb?”

Full of confidence, Cherry answered, “Keanu Reeves!”

As Justin looked at his son’s usually stern countenance that seemed more alive and animated today, he couldn’t help yelling, “Peter Hunt!”

Cherry looked up, her expression as though she was eagerly seeking praise. “Aren’t I great, Daddy? There’s still a lot more that I know!”

Justin was perplexed.

But when he saw how his son looked, he immediately reined his temper in.

The tutors were the ones who had taught him all these, so what was he losing his temper at the kid for? He would just ‘reward’ those two tutors even handsomely!

Justin said glumly, “Let’s continue tomorrow.”

“Okay, Daddy!”



Cherry heaved a huge sigh of relief. Seeing Lawrence poking his head into the room every now and then because he probably had something to talk to her father about, she carefully climbed down from the chair and said, "I'm going off to play now!"

"..."

Justin rubbed his temples as he watched her run off.

Lawrence entered the room. With a complicated look, he said, "Pete seems to be doing worse than how the tutor had put it. If this goes on, he'll probably fall to the last place in the year-end assessment, right? Do you want to quickly contact a few other tutors? There's still time until the end of the year..."

The Hunts held assessments for the children at the end of each year.

Pete always took top place in the past. That was how he became known among outsiders for having a high IQ.

Yet his grades had deteriorated so badly in just half a year.

No wonder it was said that even though children had good memory, they were also prone to forgetting. Once they stopped learning, their grades would suffer immediately.

Flames of fury flared in Justin's eyes. He closed his eyes and pondered for a long time before he finally sighed and said, "Forget it. Let's not force him to do it anymore."

It was exactly because he had placed too much emphasis on education in the past that he always fell out with his son.

But when he saw how he smiled and how he cried and kicked up a fuss, it was then that he realized that his son's mental health was more important than anything else.

Even if his son were to really forget everything that he had learned and take the last place in examinations every time, he could just live from day to day in the future. He would pave the way for his son's future.

Justin, who had always been bold and resolute when facing the unscrupulous commercial world, hesitated for a moment. Then, he asked, "Do you find Pete very different today?"

The abuse had been ongoing for a very long time, but his son had never once mentioned anything.

Yet not only had he spoken up today, but his personality seemed to also have become a lot more cheerful?

For some reason, Justin suddenly thought of what that woman had said downstairs... How did she know that the tutors were problematic?

Had Pete been keeping in contact with her all this time?

A pondering Lawrence also said, "Could Miss Smith have counseled Pete? Speaking of this, she's really not a simple woman. After all, so many women have tried to gain Pete's favor in order to get near to you, but all of them have been unsuccessful."

Lawrence couldn't even keep count of how many of Justin's suitors he had had to handle in the past anymore.

He thought for a while and asked, "Do you want to consider giving Miss Smith a chance to get near you if she really has a positive influence on Pete?"

Justin hesitated for a while before he asked, "What is she doing now?"

A hesitant look appeared on Lawrence's countenance again. "When the cleaners went to clean the room just now, they heard from the nanny that she's asleep, and she forbade them from disturbing them. Her aunt's life is still in limbo, yet she can still bring herself to sleep?"

A person who could do that was too unfeeling.

Justin's expression darkened. "Don't let her make contact with Pete so often anymore."

"Yes, sir."

Lawrence wanted to say more, but Justin suddenly noticed that the little fellow had fallen asleep on the sofa.

He gestured to Lawrence to keep quiet. Then, he walked over and picked up Cherry, intending to carry her into the bedroom.

A dazed Cherry suddenly placed her arms around his neck and said,

“Mommy, I’ve found my elder brother. He looks just like me…”

Justin paused and frowned.

Justin stared at the young child in his arms. Her murmur reached his ears. It seemed like she was calling out for her mother... The light in his eyes dimmed.

Pete rarely asked about his mother.

But as it turned out, to his son, his mother was such an important figure.

He lowered his eyes, hiding the complex emotions within. Then, he carried Cherry into the bedroom, took off her shoes, and tucked her in.

He gazed at his son’s young, sleeping visage for a long time before he quietly exited the bedroom.

The next day.

“Sorry, I fell asleep last night. Did Daddy scold you last night, Cherry?”

Cherry lay on the bed and sent her brother a voice message back. “Nope, because even though I don’t know much about mathematics, I’m awesome at history! Daddy was so moved that he canceled my homework!”

Pete believed her. He said, “Okay. Don’t forget our plans today.”

Cherry was about to reply when the door opened.

Justin pushed the door open and walked in to see his son on the bed with his butt perched high into the air while texting on his cell phone.

At the sight of him, his son turned off the cell phone screen in a slight panic. Then, with a guilty conscience, he blinked with his big cute eyes and exclaimed, “You look even more handsome today, Daddy!”

Justin couldn't help but smile when he heard the little fellow complimenting him. "...You're a handsome fellow, too."

"No, that won't do." Cherry corrected him seriously and said, "'Handsome' is used to describe boys. I'm going to be pretty when I grow up!"

Justin was perplexed.

Cherry flipped the quilt aside and climbed out of the bed nimbly. Then, she held his large hand with her own small one and asked, "Wanna have breakfast, Daddy? Cherr... Cherry Pit is really hungry!"

"..."

Justin glanced at her hesitantly again.

Grandpa was the one that had named him Peter, in hopes that he would be as resilient and down-to-earth as a rock. How did that become 'cherry pit' instead? It sounded a little sissy.

He took Cherry to the dining room.

The presidential suite was bigger than 5,000 square feet. It had four bedrooms, two studies, a living room, a lounge, a gym, a kitchen, and a dining room.

While they were eating, Justin instructed, "Get the family doctor here."

Cherry ate slow, so Justin got the nanny to look after her after he finished. Then, he entered the study with the family doctor who had hurried over.

As the doctor stood there, he saw his employer's expression changing again and again before he hesitantly asked, "Is it possible to tell a five-year-old child's sexual orientation?"

During the history quiz the day before, all the names that his son had mentioned were good-looking and attractive men.

Moreover, his son's wish to become 'pretty' and how he had called himself 'cherry pit' this morning was rather worrisome.

Was Chester being a bad influence on him?

When the family doctor saw how serious he was, he replied solemnly, "One's sexual orientation is generally already decided at birth. But if you have concerns about this, I can prepare a test for Pete."

"...Okay, get the test ready."

After giving the doctor instructions, Justin exited the study. The moment he returned to the dining room, he saw Chester and his son's arms slung across each other's backs while they spoke with each other in low voices. His face immediately sank.

"Why didn't you log on to the game last night—"

Chester was stuffing bread into his mouth and speaking with a muffled voice when he suddenly felt a chilly aura coming toward him.

He turned his head slowly to see the tyrant standing behind him. The look in his eyes was as if he wanted to kill him.

Chester was so frightened that he jumped up from the chair. "A-are you okay, Justin?"

Justin retracted his scrutinizing gaze and walked in between Chester and Cherry. He said, "No one's living next door. You can move in there instead."

Chester was confused.

Why was he sensing acute disdain from the tyrant?

When Cherry was full, she walked over and put her arms around Justin's leg. Then, she looked up and asked adorably, "Can you accompany me to the movies today, Daddy?"

Just as Justin was about to refuse, his son wheedled, "C'mon, Daddy! Pretty please?"

That tone...!

Justin bent over and picked Cherry up. "Don't plead with others so lightly, Pete."

Cherry's big round eyes blinked. "Will you go, then?"

"... Alright."

In order to make it up to his son, he had already postponed all his work and meetings today. Since he wanted to go to the movies, he would accompany him.

The two picked an afternoon screening for a cartoon film. Before leaving, Cherry secretly sent a message to Pete: "All set, Pete! What about you?"

Pete replied very quickly: "We've already set off."

How could Nora possibly reject the request? She was always sleeping, so she was already spending less time with her child than other mothers. Thus, as long as the request wasn't too much, she agreed to every one of Cherry's requests.

As she had to perform surgery the next day, she had slept all the way until 2 pm. Then, she took Pete to the movie theater while yawning.

At the entrance of the movie theater, the corners of her lips spasmed a little as she looked at Pete. "It's just a movie, Cherry. Is this really necessary?"

Pete had a mask on. "...It's to prevent being infected by contagious diseases."

Nora held her forehead with her hand. "And the shades?"

Pete pushed them up a little and replied reticently, "It looks good."

"...If you say so."

After Nora bought some popcorn and cola, she took his hand and led him into the movie theater. After taking their assigned seats, Pete took out his cell phone and sent a text message to his sister: "Are you here yet?"

Cherry was currently following Justin into the movie theater sulkily.

She wanted popcorn, but her father had adamantly refused to buy her some, saying that it was unhealthy. He was horrible!

Justin intensely disliked large movie theaters like this. Not only were there a lot of people, but the air was also very dirty. But because his son wanted the experience, it wasn't quite appropriate for him to book the whole theater, either.

He entered the cinema sullenly with Cherry in his arms. When he reached the seats assigned to them based on the tickets that his son had bought online, he immediately spotted the woman already seated there.

The theater was very dark, but she was so fair that it dazzled one's eyes.

Her eyes were lidded and she seemed very sleepy. Her arms were comfortably crossed and she was currently asleep.

Justin's expression darkened.

He had been wondering why his son suddenly wanted to come to the movies and even bought tickets. So, in the end, it was all still that woman's scheme.

He wanted to turn around and leave, but when he thought of his son's mental health, he suppressed his impatience and placed Cherry between the two of them in the end.

He would never give her a chance to get close to him again.

The two cuties, who both had masks on, exchanged a look with each other. How were Daddy and Mommy going to fall in love with each other if they didn't sit together?!

The movie started at this point.

The theme song of Frozen started to play. With just a glance, the movie instantly grabbed Cherry's attention and she started to watch it with her eyes widened.

Half an hour later, Cherry suddenly smelled popcorn. Engrossed in the cartoon, she subconsciously nudged Nora and said,

"Popcorn, Mommy!"

Nora, who was dozing off, let out a dazed "Okay". Then, she picked up a piece of popcorn, took off Cherry's mask, and stuffed it into her mouth.

Pete was astounded.