

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

CHAIN STORY

SPRING TERM 2016

The sound of breaking glass stopped her in her tracks. As Lucy spun round to the direction of the sound, she only had thoughts in her head about her mum; she needed to do this to help her mum ... she was the only parent she had – she couldn't lose her ... not now ... not ever!

"Ouch!" screamed Reanne whilst picking some glass out of her bleeding finger.

"We can't stop, not now ..."

Lucy showed no interest in Reanne's injury, or the broken picture frame that lay on the floor in pieces: all Lucy could think about was finding the money ... and quickly! So she sprinted upstairs to see if there was anything up there.

The plan was meant to be simple: they went to Lucy's dad's house, found as much money as possible and then leave, no-one would ever know. Turns out reality is different to what they thought – now Reanne had broken a stupid picture, and they were all likely to get caught.

"Have you found any more money? We've not got nearly enough to help pay for my mum's diabetic medicine" Lucy asked Reanne, who was still tearful from her accident.

"Thanks for wondering about me!" Reanne said sarcastically, as she grabbed the nearest t-shirt to act as a plaster. Oblivious to what her best friend had just said, Lucy kept looking. Reanne had no watch on to tell the time; she asked "When does your Da –"

"Don't call him that, he's anything but my ... DAD!" quickly replied Lucy. "It's almost 3:30, he comes back from work around now. We need to get out of here!"

The two of them burst down the stairs but Lucy tripped over the broken picture frame. As she was on the floor, she got a glance at what photo was actually in the frame ... it was her as a baby. "Does dad really care?" she thought ...

Just as the thought crossed Lucy's mind, the sound of keys stopped the two girls dead in their tracks.

They could do nothing but watch as Lucy's father, Jeffrey Star, opened the door and was shocked to see the two intruders.

Letting out a sharp scream, Jeffrey ran towards the two and whacked them with his man-bag.

'D-dad!' Lucy growled, causing Jeffrey to pause and examine the two mischievous girls.

'Lucy?' He asked softly, but his face showed great anger and hatred.

'What are you doing here? You BROKE in?!' Jeffrey exclaimed, tossing his man-bag aside. When the two girls failed to respond he let out a disappointed sigh and asked 'Who is this?' referring to Reanne.

'This is Reanne. We...we need money.'

'Oh, so your mother raised a thief?'

'No – I need money to help pay for her diabetic pills.'

'So now, all of a sudden, you need me?'

'Yes...Dad.'

'Don't say that unless you mean it.'

'Well it's hard to see you as a father when you do nothing to help my dying mother. Just because you don't want her, doesn't mean that I don't need her!'

There were tears in Lucy's eyes now, but Jeffrey didn't flinch. Reanne stood silently, watching the drama unfold.

'I have some spare cash. Follow me.' Jeffree cooed. Lucy perked up. So he did care? He held the door open for the two young girls to enter, but it led into the basement. Lucy didn't hesitate – this was her father. Reanne followed, but Jeffree didn't.

He shut the door behind them and turned the key in the lock. They were trapped...

Terror filled their senses as darkness enclosed itself around the two girls. The sound of a machine churning broke the deafening silence. Lucy started to reach out and feel for a light switch, but as she did so something grabbed her ankle, she let out a blood-curdling scream. Her limp body fell to the floor. Black. The sweet smell of chocolate filled her nostrils as her senses came swimming back to her. She found herself on the floor, the hazy silhouettes of what looked like five year olds crowding around her. Suddenly her memories came back to her. Her dad. Her mum, is she ok? What is her dad doing? Where am I? Where is she? Is she ok? What time is it?

'Lucy, Lucy?' Reanne's voice suddenly broke through the confusion. Lucy sat up and stared at her friend.

'What happened?' Lucy whispered. Her voice was weak and frightened.

'You passed out, it must have been the terror of being locked in here' said Reanne with concern in her voice. The girls looked around. The room was dark but in the shadows, they could see what the whirring machine was. It was churning out fake bank notes. Lucy's Dad had secrets to hide and this was it. Lucy realised why her dad never wanted her around. She would get in the way of his illegal activity.

The girls explored in the gloom looking for a way to escape. A small window, covered in filthy cobwebs was barely visible. This was their way out. The girls gently pushed open the window and climbed out. Silently stepping on to the grass outside, they then ran as fast as they could away from the house.

'What now?' asked Lucy desperately. 'My Mum still needs help'.

'This has gone too far, I'm scared' shuddered Reanne. 'We have to go to the Police. They can deal with your Dad and get your Mum the help that she needs'.

The girls stumbled exhaustedly to the police station where they hurriedly explained the whole story. They had done all that they could. It was up to the police now.