

The Life of Lilly

Sienna Frewen-Lord

It is the year 2030 in Townsville, North Queensland. I open my eyes for the first time in my life and cry of uncertainty as I observe the world. I feel a connection to my Mother's scent which smells of a new flower blossoming from a small green bud. I soon learn that the world is a very busy place with lots of sights, smells and things to touch. Three months later, my father lifts me up and puts me in my car seat.

I wonder where we're going? I think to myself. I suddenly become so excited for a new opportunity to learn! The car stops moving and my parents take me out of my car seat. As we inch closer and closer, I observe the tall white building. As my parents slowly open the door, I see a lady that looks like a doctor. I suddenly become really frightened. I can feel my legs shaking in fear. I grip onto my father's shirt so tight that my fingers start aching and I feel a tear slowly running down my cheek. I sit on my mother's lap feeling more frightened as the doctor's hand comes closer towards me holding something that looks like a headband. She puts it on my head and presses a button and a screen pops up. I look at my parent's faces and see that their smiles turn into frowns. The doctor grabs some green goopy stuff and slowly squeezes it into my ears. We wait a while for it to dry.



We leave the audiologist. As I sit in my car seat I start to wonder what that goopy green stuff was and what the doctor was actually doing.

One week later I find myself back inside the tall white building. This time the lady isn't holding that goopy stuff, she's holding something else that I've never seen before. She brings them closer to me. I lean closer towards my father but he holds me still. She puts them inside my ears. Suddenly everything seemed a tiny bit louder but a lot more fuzzy. I can hear people's voices a little bit, but it's very hard to understand them.



Three months later, my parents notice that I don't smile very often, so they research about other deaf and hard of hearing people. They then realise that some of them use Auslan to communicate. They then search up Auslan Zoom sessions. It is my first lesson and I'm a little bit nervous.



After 30 long Auslan lessons I suddenly find my true passion and language.

Five years later, in 2035, I stare out my bedroom window and watch all my neighbours dancing in their backyards listening to the very popular rock band called 'The Big Rock'. My Mum told me that their music is very loud.

My mum comes into my room . "Why is everyone dancing so much?" I ask. "A new song from the band 'The Big Rock' has come out!" She signs back to me and walks out. Everyone turns the volume up high to listen to the good parts. So much technology is being used all at once. The volumes turn higher and higher. Everyone tries turning down their volume but it doesn't work, the music just keeps getting louder and louder. The music has been automatically turned up to maximum volume. Suddenly, there is a big, loud, bang noise. All the lights turn out and everything goes pitch black! Luckily though, it is now night time so no one will need light at the moment. The night is still, dark, and silent.... It is a long night!

I wake up in the morning and the power is back on and everyone is still listening to 'The Big Rock'. 2 days later, I wake up at 3:00am, and I look out my window. I am shocked to see a whole heap of people rushing out of their houses. I am very confused.

I carefully walk into my parent's room. *Argh! My Parents are still asleep!* I think as I walk back to my bed and fall asleep quickly. I wake up again at 7:00am. The lights are on so I know my parents are awake. "Why is everyone running away?" I ask in confusion.



"You know how everyone loved listening to that loud music?"

"Yes." I replied.

"Well..." Mum continues, "from listening to that music people are starting to lose their hearing because it's so loud."

"So where are they going now?" I questioned her.

"Some people made it to the audiologist where they can get hearing devices but not everyone could make it there. The rest of the people were rushing to Deaf Services to learn Auslan."

I smile from ear-to-ear.

The next day my parents have a surprise for me. "I'm pregnant" announces my Mum. I become so excited!

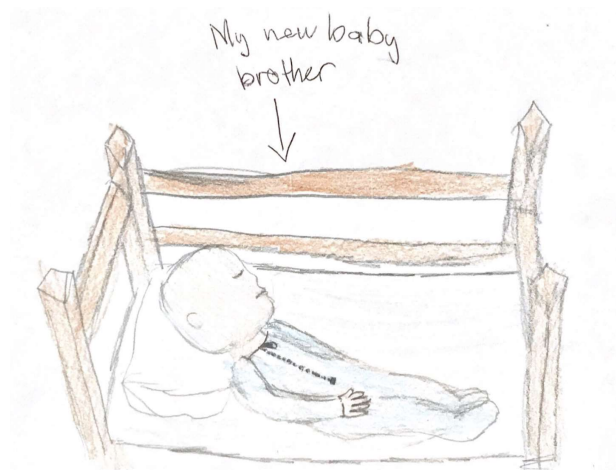
It is now the year 2036, and the town turns itself into an accessible, visual town!



It has people using full Auslan, so there are no barriers between communication. The town has changed the mainstream schools to deaf schools and the school bell even has a flashing light! I have a lot more friends now that I can communicate better with others. Everyone now understands what it's like to have hearing loss.

I love my town 10 times better than I used to. We have a connection, a community, a society.

I will continue my normal routine...



...until a new journey begins.