

PRESENTING

ISSUE

4

# OUT OF SIGHT



STUDIO  
apa



Theirworld



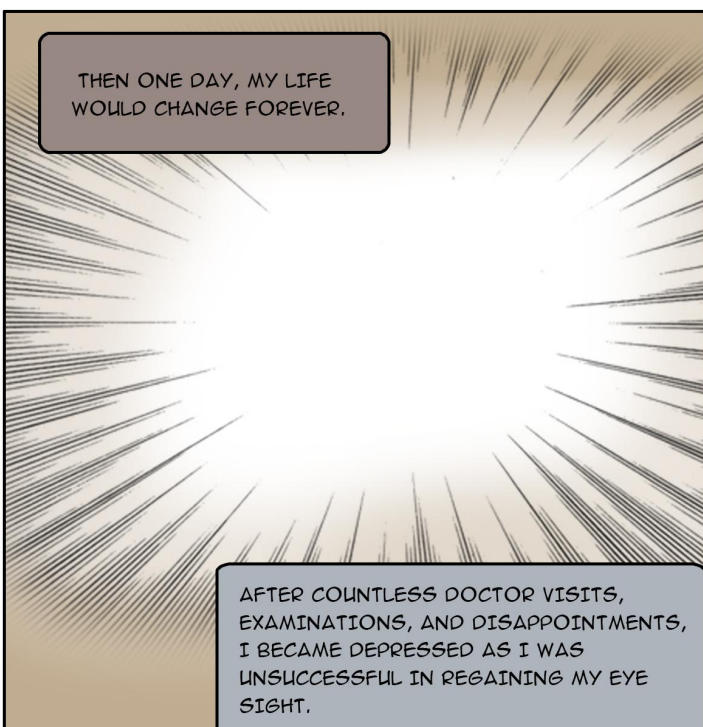
I CAN RECALL MY CHILDHOOD DAYS QUITE CLEARLY. I REMEMBER GOING SWIMMING, PLAYING CRICKET, AND PLAYING COWBOY. I WOULD RUN AROUND MAKING MISCHIEF WITH MY FRIENDS.



I GREW UP IN GUYANA WITH A FAMILY THAT HAD VERY LITTLE WHEN IT CAME TO FINANCIAL ASSETS. MY MOTHER WAS WARM, KIND, AND WELCOMING. I RECALL MY MOM FETCHING ME AROUND ON HER BACK AND PLAYING WITH ME IN HER SPARE TIME. SHE WAS ALSO A STRICT DISCIPLINARIAN. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IN A LARGE PART INSPIRED ME TO BECOME WHO I AM TODAY.



EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY, I WANTED TO BECOME A PILOT. CONSTANTLY SEEING PLANES FLYING BY OVERHEAD, I WANTED TO SOMEDAY BE THE ONE FLYING ONE OF THOSE PLANES. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE COOLEST THING EVER.



THEN ONE DAY, MY LIFE WOULD CHANGE FOREVER.

AFTER COUNTLESS DOCTOR VISITS, EXAMINATIONS, AND DISAPPOINTMENTS, I BECAME DEPRESSED AS I WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN REGAINING MY EYE SIGHT.



IT WAS APRIL 2011. I WAS 14. I WENT TO BED LIKE ANY NORMAL NIGHT, AND WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING COMPLETELY BLIND. IT WAS THE WORST FEAR COME TO LIFE. I WAS DEVASTATED!

I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT MY NEW REALITY AND DECIDED THAT BEING BLIND WOULD NOT STOP ME FROM ACHIEVING MY GOALS AND BECOMING SUCCESSFUL IN LIFE.



IN GUYANA, IT IS NOT EASY GROWING UP WITH A DISABILITY. THERE ARE SO MANY CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE. WE ARE SELDOM TREATED AS EQUALS, AND MOST PEOPLE HAVE A VERY LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF OUR DISABILITY AND OUR RIGHTS.



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES THAT I HAVE HAD SO FAR IS OBTAINING A PROPER EDUCATION. I HAVE FACED INTENSE DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF MY DISABILITY.

FORTUNATELY, A FRIEND DIRECTED ME TO THE GUYANA SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND, WHERE I LEARNED HOW TO IMPROVE MY MOBILITY AND OTHER SKILLS. THIS LIFTED MY SPIRITS TREMENDOUSLY.



EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE TEACHERS THERE DID NOT SUPPORT US PROPERLY, I WAS DETERMINED TO DO WELL AND WORKED HARD TO PURSUE AN EDUCATION TO THE FULLEST.

I LOVED SPORTS AND WANTED TO STAY AS ACTIVE AS POSSIBLE. AS TIME PROGRESSED, I WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE BLIND CRICKET TEAM. WITH THE DRIVE TO SUCCEED AND THE DESIRE TO PROVE EVERYONE WRONG WHO DARED TO SAY I WOULD FAIL, I BECAME A VITAL CONTRIBUTOR TO MY TEAM.



I WAS SELECTED TO REPRESENT MY COUNTRY AT THE BLIND CRICKET TOURNAMENT THAT WAS HELD IN ST. LUCIA. TO THIS DAY, I CONSIDER IT A HUGE HONOR AND ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF MY LIFE.



I AM VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT GIVING ALL THE CHILDREN AND MY PEERS IN GUYANA A CHANCE TO HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT.