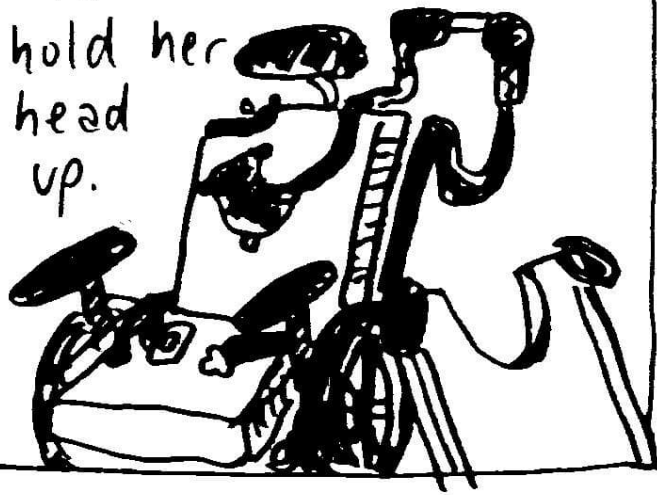


# Chapter 30

# The Communication Device



Imagine a child, locked in silence, strapped into a wheel chair because she can't walk or even hold her head up.



NOW, IMAGINE it's



She's never said "Hi" or "I love you." And she never will. Her brain injury prevents her.



One day you visit her at school, she clicks a button and says:



Hello, Savannah.



It's the most amazing word you've ever heard.



After the visit, I  
couldn't help  
but smile  
all the  
way back  
to my  
car.



Suddenly, I couldn't  
hold it together any  
longer.



NON-VERBAL  
MY  
ASS!



I wept tears of joy.  
I'd always  
known she  
was  
in there



Much later, when Nurse  
BM learned about the  
communication device,  
she got self-righteous.  
Why don't you use it  
at home?



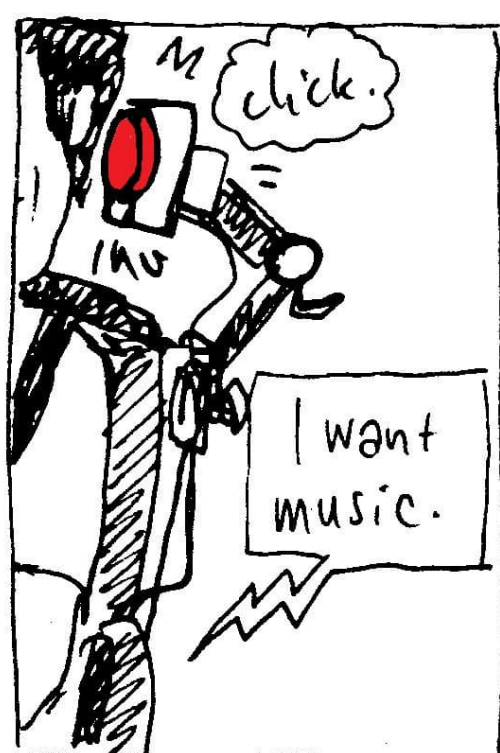
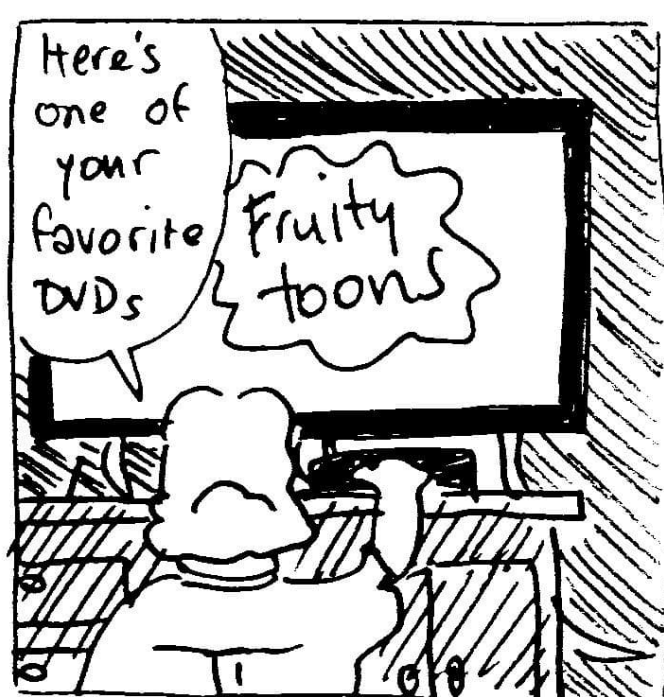
We have,  
we  
choose  
to give  
her a  
break at  
home.

I think you should use it,

It's not that simple.  
She's still learning. As  
part of the training  
you MUST honor every  
request.

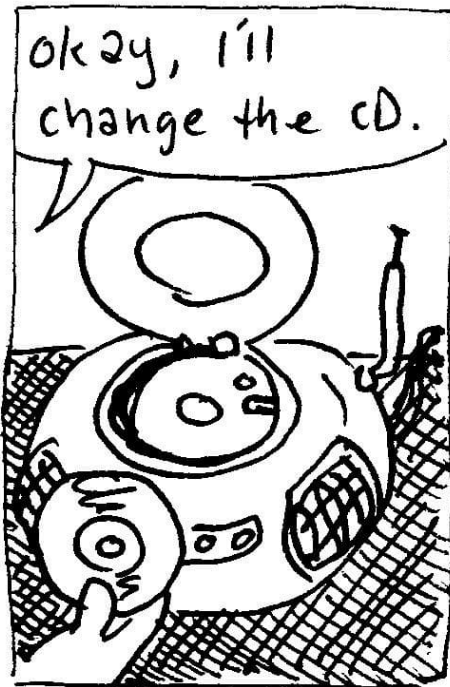
That doesn't sound  
bad.

she has a  
wicked  
sense of  
humor.





click

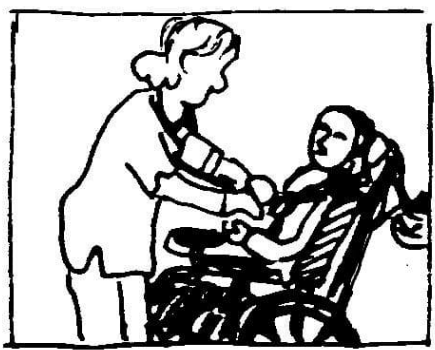


Some  
thing  
else

Click



I want  
to watch  
TV.





Savannah healed enough to start back to school after missing nearly the whole year.



she came home crying every day.

Why are you so upset, Ya-ya?



she was still crying when I got home from work.



We tried changing positions, changing TV shows, pain medication. Nothing helped.

Savannah, what are you trying to tell me? I want to understand.



One day, Nurse BM was out sick and I had to meet Savannah's bus.



We laughed and watched TV all evening.

giggle  
giggle

I love this show, too.



Next day...



and the next...



I think something is seriously wrong with her.



There's something seriously wrong with you...

maybe.

I was about to make a doctor's appointment for the crying when Nurse BM called in sick again.



Hey Savannah, it's just you and me today.

Savannah didn't cry. In fact, we had a great evening.



Later that night.

Have you noticed that Savannah doesn't cry when I meet the bus?



I think we have to consider that Savannah may be trying to tell us something loud and clear.





she's trying to tell us that she doesn't want Nurse B.M.

Oh my God, you're right.



It all makes sense.

Doesn't it?

If Savannah's done - I'm done.

Me, too.



It'll be hard to go without a nurse until we find a new one.

We'll have to take on the hardship - if it makes Savannah happy...



... that's all that matters.

I'll call the agency tomorrow.



Once again, it was just us. It's never a good time for change



But it's always the right time to do the right thing.