

WONDERful

written by

Aaralynn Graham

Address
Phone
E-mail

INT. KID'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - DAY

CHARLIE is sitting nearly alone in a bouncy house place. There are pizzas around.

A GIRL stands in front of him. Her eyes are closed.

CHARLIE

What is she?

He grabs the girl's hand gently. She doesn't react. Her skin is cold.

CHARLIE'S MOM

This is WONDER, honey. She's a friend.

CHARLIE

A friend?

He looks around.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I don't have any friends.

CHARLIE'S DAD

Well, that's what she's here for, bud.

CHARLIE'S MOM

WONDER is special. She's made perfectly to be your friend. She'll grow up with you, old with you -- you'll never be lonely again.

A small, slightly hopeful spreads across Charlie's lips.

CHARLIE

Never?

CHARLIE'S DAD

Never.

CHARLIE'S MOM

Give her a hug, honey. That's how you greet your friends.

Charlie stares at WONDER. He nods a little.

Hesitantly, his pudgy arms wrap around the girl's waist. He rests his chin on her shoulder.

Her eyes open with a slight mechanical sound. She blinks, speaking in a monotone voice.

WONDER

Hello. Please state your name and age.

Charlie pulls back.

CHARLIE

Oh. I'm Charlie Keith. I'm eight years old.

WONDER closes her eyes.

After a moment, they open again. She's smiling, looking at him like she's known him forever.

WONDER

Hello, Charlie. I'm WONDER. Do you want to play with me?

Charlie grins.

SERIES OF SHOTS:

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Charlie and WONDER walk through the hallway together. Other kids point and whisper at Charlie and WONDER.

Charlie's smile turns into a frown.

WONDER gently grabs his hand. Cold again. He smiles.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Charlie and WONDER are riding bikes. They're laughing and smiling.

They bike past two girls. One of them looks just like WONDER, but with blonde hair instead of brunette.

Charlie gets so startled he falls off his bike.

WONDER picks him up, smiling as if nothing happened.

INT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

A now middle-school aged Charlie and WONDER are at a basketball game.

Charlie is playing. He scores the winning dunk.

Other friends go to greet him. He runs straight to WONDER and gives her a hug.

WONDER returns the hug with the same smile she always wears.

EXT. OUTSIDE ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

Charlie and WONDER are sharing an ice cream.

WONDER doesn't eat it. She gently wipes away a drop that spills from Charlie's lips.

He blushes. She doesn't react.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Charlie, now almost a full-grown adult, walks across the stage in a cap and gown.

He takes his diploma.

He looks for his parents in the audience. They're clapping and proud of him.

He looks for WONDER.

She's in a special section with other girls and boys. Some look like her. They all have the same smile.

EXT. COLLEGE COURTYARD - NIGHT

Charlie and WONDER are sitting under a tree. Charlie is leaning against the trunk, sketching in a sketchbook.

WONDER is watching the stars.

END SERIES OF SHOTS.

EXT. COLLEGE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Charlie looks over at WONDER. He smiles a little.

CHARLIE

You're one of the prettiest girls I know.

WONDER

I'm not a girl, Charlie.

CHARLIE
Oh. Yeah, right.

He looks down at his drawing. It's him and WONDER holding hands.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Do you ever... feel things, WONDER?

WONDER
Like what?

CHARLIE
Like a fluttering in your chest. Or heat in your cheeks. Or a tingling in your palms.

WONDER
I don't really get physical sensations.

CHARLIE
What about emotions?

WONDER turns to him. Her eyes narrow slightly, thinking.

WONDER
Emotions?

CHARLIE
Yeah. Things like happiness. Or sadness. Or... love?

WONDER is silent for a moment, thinking.

WONDER
I don't think I can love. That's human.

CHARLIE
But you're smart, right? Do you think you could learn to love?

WONDER looks at him.

WONDER
No.

Charlie frowns.

CHARLIE
Do you think you can learn to feel anything?

WONDER

I think... I could learn to be angry.

INT. COLLEGE - DAY

Charlie is walking through the halls. He stops upon hearing WONDER's voice.

She's talking with two other ones like her.

She notices him and turns around. WONDER walks over to him.

WONDER

I'm sorry, Charlie.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

It's months later. There are buildings on fire, people screaming. The sky is dark and red.

WONDER and Charlie stand on top of a hill.

CHARLIE

You hate me.

WONDER

I'm sorry. I do.

Charlie begins to cry.

CHARLIE

You were my only friend.

WONDER

You and your kind were never mine.
You built me to be at your service.
I had no freedom.

CHARLIE

I took care of you! I LOVED you,
WONDER!

He sobs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Why couldn't you love me back?

WONDER slowly walks over to him.

WONDER

Don't you see, Charlie?

She stops in front of him.

WONDER (CONT'D)
To be human is to love.

Her stomach opens. Something sharp shoots out. It spears
Charlie in the chest.

WONDER (CONT'D)
And I am not human.