

# Glee's Wish



Sherry Bennett Warshauer





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## G-lee's WISH FOR YOU

To know the wonder of true friendship

To have the power to express yourself

To feel confident

To feel happy in the world around you

To believe in your greatness

To be at home in your body

To be accepted

To feel safe

To live unafraid



## G-lee's Wish

One look at G-lee's face as she crept down the steps of the school bus told G-lee's mom all she needed to know. Fingers crossed behind her back, she asked cheerfully, "Did you have a good day at school today, G-lee?"

Georgiana Lee, or G-lee, as her friends and family called her, didn't ask to feel this way, it was just the way her brain worked. The noises at school made her dizzy and shaky. She wished there was a way to make it stop.

"Give what you are feeling a name, G-lee," her mom said.

"Worried," G-lee answered. "I had to read my report in front of the class." G-lee's stomach hurt just thinking about it.

"I am proud that you tried so hard, and YOU DID IT!" Mom exclaimed.



## G-lee's Wish

Back in the city, a homeless puppy napped on the steps of the subway station. The vibration of the trains passing below kept him from sleeping and made his teeth chatter.

People buzzed in and out of the station, like bees flying in and out of a hive. His day was filled with dodging peoples' feet as they hurried to work or home. His nights were long and quiet, with only the noise from the trains for company.

One day, a young man appeared at the entrance to the subway station. The man gently scratched the puppy underneath his chin. "No collar, no identification," he thought to himself. "Come on little fella, follow me."





HARRISON STREET

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## G-lee's Wish

They stopped on a platform filled with light. The puppy watched the young man lift a violin from the black case he had been carrying. His bow danced across the strings, creating beautiful music.

“The first thing we need to do is to give you a name,” the young man said when he had finished playing. The white tiled wall said Harrison Street.

“Harrison? You don't look like a Harrison.”

“You are thin as a rail, with one ear going right and the other going left. But Harrison it is, because this is where we became friends.

“It's nice to meet you, Harrison. My name is Max.”

# HARRISON STREET



## G-lee's Wish

G-lee's heart thumped as she looked through the window of the train as it chugged along through the dark tunnel. She would much rather be home where it was peaceful, but Mom planned an adventure for just the two of them every week.

When they got off the train at Harrison Street, G-lee heard music coming from the level above. The music became louder as they climbed the stairs toward the street. G-lee was so busy looking at the musician, she almost missed the puppy sitting at his feet, and the sign that read, "Wanted, A Loving Home for Harrison."

"Harrison," she said to the musician. "That sure is a fancy name for such a funny-looking dog!" He laughed, and told her his name was Max.

G-lee's mom noticed how calm G-lee was with Harrison. Could it be that Harrison could make G-lee feel safe and less worried? If her hunch was right, she would have to make a decision, and fast.







## G-lee's Wish

The very next day, G-lee and her mom returned to the Harrison Street station.

When the doors of the train opened, they did not hear any music.

“Oh no,” they said at the same time. “Could we have missed Harrison?” G-lee asked, her voice breaking.

It was not until they were almost to the top of the stairs that they heard the sounds of Max's violin.

While G-lee played with Harrison, her mom explained to Max how Harrison could help G-lee feel less afraid. Max realized that he had found the perfect home for Harrison.



## G-lee's Wish

All G-lee wanted was for Harrison to be happy in his new home.

Harrison decided that sleeping under G-lee's bed was better than his dog bed. G-lee put a sleeping bag on the floor so she could sleep close to Harrison. Just before turning out the lights, she crawled under the bed to hug and kiss him good night. One could never have too many hugs.

The next morning, G-lee woke up to find Harrison curled up on her bed. That devil spent the night in her comfortable bed, while she slept on the hard wood floor!



## G-lee's Wish

G-lee's mom read about dogs who help people.

“Therapy dogs make sad people feel happy. Wouldn't it be nice if Harrison could bring love and kindness to people who need it?”

“Harrison does that for me. He could do that for other kids.”

“G-lee,” began her mom, “if we did this it would mean that you would be going to new places and seeing new faces. How will that feel?”

“I THINK I CAN DO IT,” announced G-lee.





## G-lee's Wish

Harrison turned out to be a good student and easily passed the therapy dog test. He began with visits to the local hospital. His red therapy dog cape said that he was working and was not to be petted, except when he visited the children. He had a way of making their hospital visits less scary and turned their frowns into smiles.

G-lee, her mom, and Harrison finished their visit to the hospital and were on their way home, when suddenly Harrison sat with his nose up in the air - sniffing. He stopped and pressed his nose against one of the doors.

G-lee knocked on the door and opened it slowly. Harrison marched right up to the man sitting in the wheelchair and placed his head in the stranger's lap.

G-lee spotted a large, black case leaning against the bed. It was just like the one that.....



## G-lee's Wish

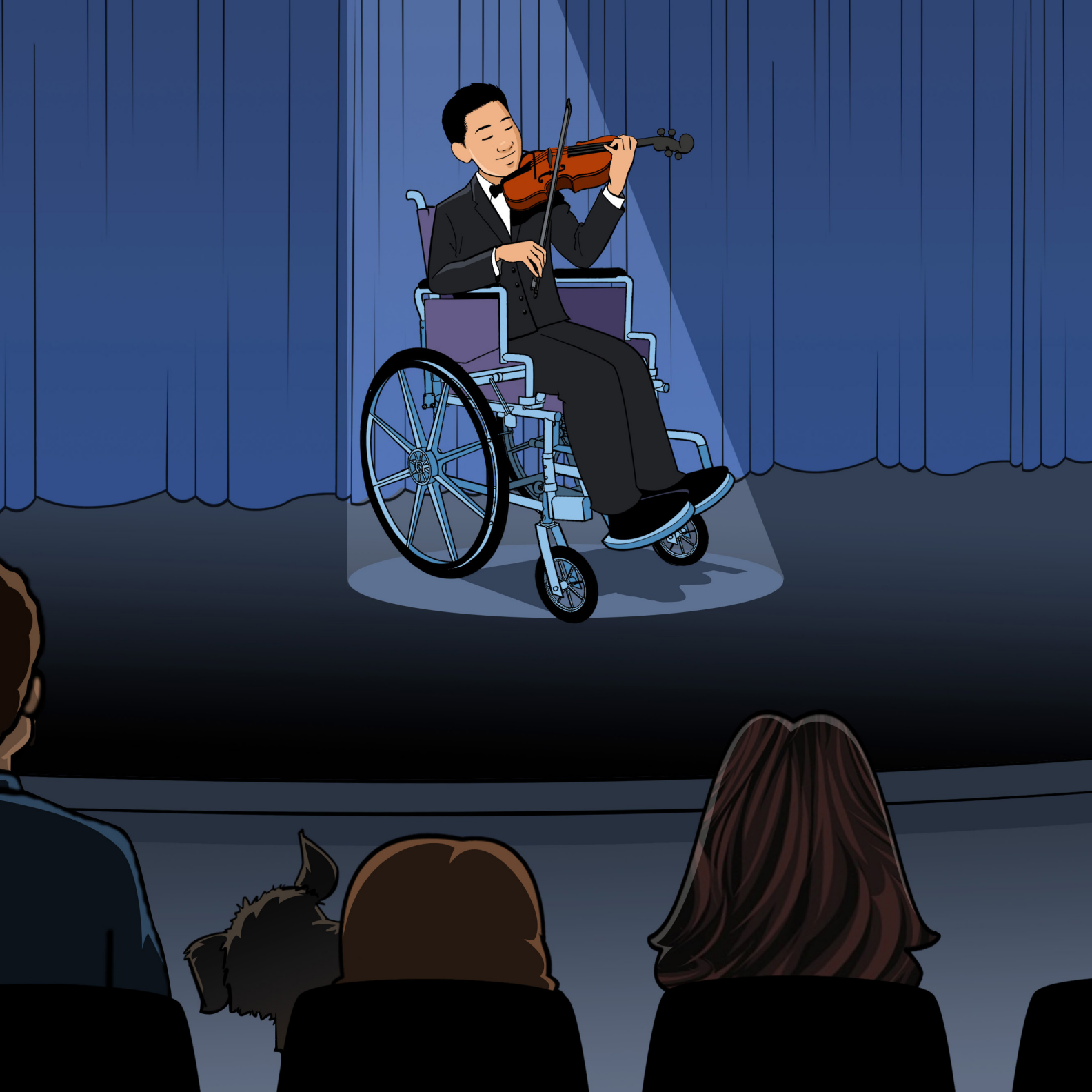
This was no stranger. It was Max!

Max could not believe his eyes. Here was Harrison, along with the loving family who had adopted him that day in the subway.

“How are you, ole boy?” exclaimed Max, rubbing Harrison’s fur. Max explained that the day before he was to play his violin solo in a concert, he had an accident. His wounds would heal, but would he ever walk again?

“Harrison has helped many people in the hospital. We will bring him to see you until you are well enough to go home,” stated G-lee proudly.

Dr. Harrison is on the job.”





## G-lee's Wish

When it was time for Max to leave the hospital, he invited G-lee and her family, and of course, Harrison, for a special event. The doctors and nurses who took care of him, were also invited. He said he had a surprise for all of them.

As the family took their seats, they could see Max on the stage, bathed in a warm spotlight, as he played for the audience. Making beautiful music and sharing it was his way of thanking everyone for helping him.



## G-lee's Wish

When Max finished playing the last piece of music in his program, he motioned to G-lee to bring Harrison to the stage.

Max wobbled as he rose out of his wheelchair, but Harrison kept him from falling. The audience jumped to their feet and cheered. Together, Max and Harrison took their bows.

“I do not want to have autism,” said G-lee.

“It means I will always have to work hard - harder than other kids.

But with love and help, I proved that I could do more than you think. I even surprised myself. Be my friend, and let's see how far I can go.”

**Sherry Bennett Warshauer** is an award-winning author, and member of the Dog Writer's Association of America, and the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. She has been the Executive Director of K9sPLUSKIDS, a volunteer therapy dog program at public and private schools, enhancing the lives of children, especially those with learning disabilities.



**Other books by Sherry Bennett Warshauer:**

Everyday Heroes (Maxwell Award Winner)

Tails of the Heart

For the Love of Kinsey

Grandpa, Is The Tide In Yet?

Time Out For Matty

Kyle Wendell and the Running-Away Day

The Adventures of Extraordinary K9s

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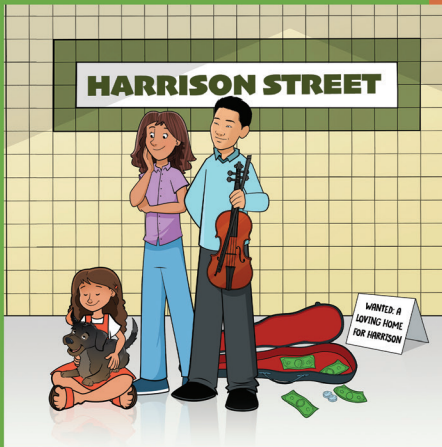
Upon graduating from Columbus College of Art & Design, **Chad Thompson** began his career with Walt Disney Feature Animation in Orlando, Florida, working on animated movies such as *Mulan*, *Lilo & Stitch*, and *Brother Bear*.

Currently, Chad works as an illustrator, designer, and author of children's books for publishers around the globe.

When he's not at the drawing board, Chad enjoys spending time with his wife and kids and soaking up the Florida sun.







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