

# Prologue

Okay, let me just say that I never intended for this to happen. I can't help being a type-A personality. Always have been. It must be genetic; I mean, each member of my family is the same way. It's not that we're workaholics or anything. It's just that we all tend to be overachievers. When we decide to do something, we usually put blood, sweat, and tears into it. Which, taken literally, is kind of gross, but who doesn't love a good idiom? So, of course, when I decided to go back to school, I did it with complete heart and soul. I never thought I would be heading back into Education. I gave it up my freshman year of college in favor of more lucrative pursuits, such as English and Theatre. Or, as I like to call them, lying and bullshit. Then again, many people have made lots of money doing both of those things, so it wasn't a complete bonehead move on my part.

I did the whole "actor" thing. I moved to New York City seven years ago to pursue a career in theatre. I can't say I was ever the most consummate of actors, but then again, this little story might prove to the contrary. After about five years of steadily pursuing theatre, I became disenchanted with the theatrical world. It has its place and I love the artistic side of it, but the business end just goes over my head. Determined to find passion in my career, I decided to go back to school for a degree in Education.

The whole Deaf part came out of nowhere, actually. I was talking with a friend of mine about getting older. We're all getting older, aren't we? Conversations like that always lead to measuring oneself against time. You know, kind of a, "What have I accomplished so far and what do I want to accomplish before a certain age?" thing. Personally, I blame it on the movie *THE BUCKET LIST*. That kind of thing had us all reevaluating our lives. Dangerous, really.

Anyway, the conversation led to what we want to accomplish and, on a whim, I said, "I want to learn sign language." I don't know what it is about signing, but I've always found it a beautiful language. So my friend suggests, "Why don't you go back to school for Deaf Education? That way, you can get your degree in Education, you'll learn sign language, and you'll be more marketable than others because you'll have a specialty." I looked into programs, and before I knew it, I was in graduate school.

