



## No Longer Hidden

The dust, the dust! I can not take it anymore. Why do I, as innocent as I am, have to be dumped in the back of the shed? I can't believe it. I am supposed to be used by someone, that's what I do but yet no one has picked me up for at least a couple of years. I just sit, in my spot, collecting dust and all the debris around me. I should be used. I have a talent.

My fellow brothers and sisters are the same. Yet I am the only one who cares. The darkness creeps me out. As for the cobwebs, oh the cobwebs! My long neck is aching badly, slumped as I am against cold wooden planks. It's not good for my body and as for my beautiful varnish - it is chipping away! I still reminisce about all my success in the past; the sea of hands waving, joyful faces swaying and joining in for the chorus, children on shoulders and music filling the air. I can't take it, I just can't. But I have to. For the sake of my family, I must keep going. All I need is a human to walk in and use me. I know it won't be long.

Then, to my great joy, daylight approaches! A human is there. I see it! It's my chance; my time to shine. So I scuttle over a bit, trying to make myself visible. There he is, he is approaching, he is coming! Come on, closer..... YES! I am being picked up! YES! This is my time to show the human's what I have got, my unbelievable talent! One pluck, just one.

I am being taken up a flight of winding steps which is making my stomach churn. I am already nervous and now this! I need to show the humans what I can do; what I sound like when they strum me. This could reignite my promising career! I need to make a good impression on the humans. Ok, deep breath and..... STRUM!

The sound of myself in the right pair of hands triumphantly echoes through the room we are in and I feel better again, I feel alive again! I am no longer hidden, no longer voiceless. He strums me again and again. He is brilliant! We sound unbeatable, what a team we will make. A drawn out pause, a heaving chest and loud sigh and then I hear him say, 'this is it! This is my talent!'



*Competition winner!*

# Heidi Ashton

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