

Extract from Scene 1 Tyler



Photograph by Robert Workman

ENTER TYLER. HE IS WEARING A T-SHIRT WITH 'NORMALITY IS OVERRATED' BLAZONED ACROSS IT. HE TALKS TO THE AUDIENCE

TYLER People don't believe me when I tell them who I look after. They take one look at me and they think I probably can't even look after meself. I'm 16. I'm a boy. I look a bit different. But, you know, it takes all sorts. And there's definitely all sorts in my family.

First of all, there's my Mum, she's got severe rheumatoid arthritis, she's in a wheelchair. Then there's my Dad, he's bi-polar. And then there's my big brother (HE SMILES, PROUDLY) 'Zeb the Legend,' he's got Asperger's. We call him Zeb the Legend because that's what he is. A total Legend. His powers of concentration are beyond belief. He's really into music production, you know, making beats and all that? He will sit up ALL NIGHT working on the same beats, over and over again, until they are totally perfect. He's so good he's got his own youtube channel and people from all over the world listen to his music.

Me and Zeb, we've got a kind of special connection going on. Cos ever since I was a baby, I've had the power to calm him down. He gets really anxious sometimes, but my Mum says when I was born, soon as he held me in his arms, he just went all kind of peaceful and still. He stopped fretting and he sat completely still and stared at me lying there gurgling and farting in his arms.

So I guess that's where my life as a Young Carer first started, right there when I was a baby and I calmed my brother Zeb down for the very first time.