

ROBERT



By King Keigan



Write a Book in a Day



**THE KIDS'
CANCER
PROJECT**

Science. Solutions. Survival.

PARAMETERS FORM

TEAM DETAILS

STATE: NSW

DIVISION: Middle School

SCHOOL/GROUP: Tumut High School (TUMUT)

TEAM NAME: King Keigan

TEAM ID: 258

PARAMETERS AND RANDOM WORDS

Parameters

Primary character 1 Carpenter

Primary character 2 Tennis coach

Non-human character Robot

Setting Caravan park

Issue Caught in the rain

Random words

Tiptoe

Fresh

Community

Delight

Bruised

INSTRUCTIONS

- Start at 8am
- Write an original story:
 - based on all **five parameters** (above)
 - including all **five random words** (above), and in bold type
 - with some identifiable **Australian content** (in theme or setting or characters, etc)
 - keeping within the allowed word count (remember every word on every page counts)!
 - include this parameters form in your book **immediately after the front cover**
- Remember: **Every** word on **every page** counts. This includes your front cover, back cover, blurb, acknowledgements and copyright form.
- **Be sure to give yourself enough time to submit your book and complete the following checklist before 9pm.**

Log on to the Team Coordinator Portal to:

- ☐ Check the spelling of your team name and team members' names (how these are spelt on submission will be how they are displayed on certificates)
- ☐ Complete the Declaration
- ☐ Submit your finished book in **both** PDF and plain text format by 9pm

Group Members:

Riley Chapman- Illustrator

Riley Piper - Author

Thomas Haley- Author, editor

Jamison Healy - Author, editor

Hayley Wolfe- Author, editor

Derrick Wright- Author

Wyatt Lowther- Illustrator

Keigan Sutton- Author



Copyright

Published by King Keigan, Tumut High School , 2/20 Bogong Pl, Tumut NSW 2720.

Derrick Wright, Riley Piper, Hayley Wolfe, Riley Chapman, Wyatt Lowther, Thomas Haley, Jamison Healy, Keigan Sutton

Copyright © 2022,Tumut High School.

All rights reserved. This book is copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission. Enquiries should be made to the publisher.

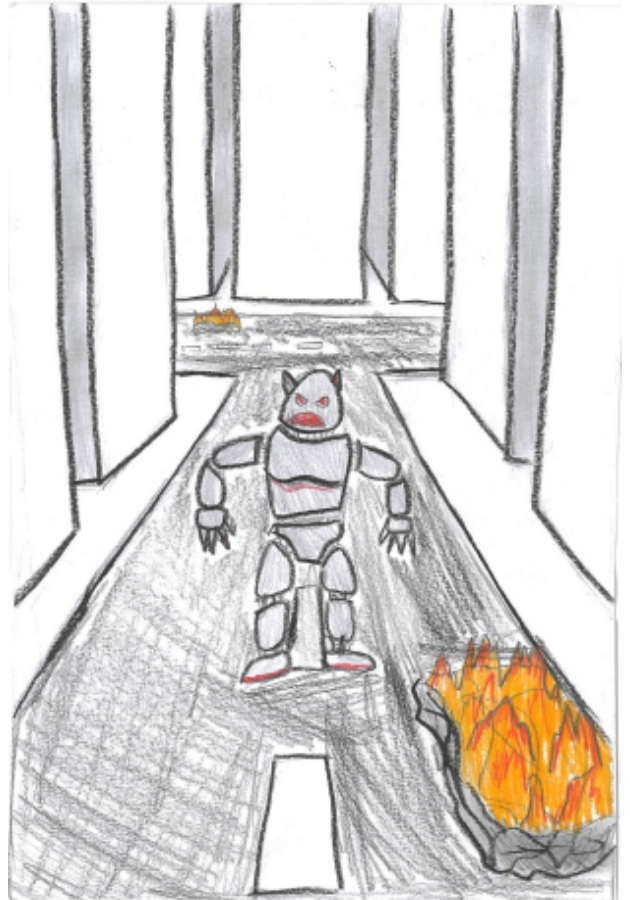
Firstly, we would like to send a message to everyone struggling out there. You're doing well, be brave, and inspire others. Enjoy the book!

PROLOGUE

Carl and Tessa are a married couple that live together in a small caravan just on the outskirts of Margaret river WA. Carl is a carpenter and Tessa is a tennis coach. Both are absolutely terrible at their job! They once were great workers, making enough money to get by in their day by day life. Until the incident occurred... Tessa and Carl absolutely despise robots, especially Tessa. About 5 years ago Carl was working for his carpenter company, when a robot went completely wild! The robot was running around attacking complete strangers on the street and unfortunately one of those was Carl! Carl was **bruised** and sent to the hospital, the injuries were so bad, especially his left eye... He lost his eye that day and lost a LOT of money due to the attack.

Not long after there was yet again another robot attack, this time finding Tessa while she was coaching her tennis. Like the other robot, it completely attacked Tessa! breaking her leg into thousands of pieces! Tessa was sent to hospital where she was told it was cheaper to get rid of her leg, and so she did! After that she had to pay for a peg leg which was also enough to put her and Carl in debt...

A few years later they're still living in the caravan and barely making it through each day with their money. They still work at their jobs, just not as well as they used to...



Chapter 1



The storm raged on. Thunder truck nearby but the caravan did not stir. A clunk sounded on the front porch as if something heavy and metallic had collapsed, worn out by the storm. Still nothing stirred, and the storm raged on...

Carl rolled out of bed, his alarm beeping madly. He must have overslept. He tossed on some clothes and put the kettle on, coffee was a must. As he walked out the door he noticed something, something that made him jump for joy, something that made him run back inside to wake Tessa.

"Tessa!" Carl yelled, "Tessa, there's a robot on our doorstep!"

"Whaaat?" She groaned back.

"Tessa! Get out of bed, this is our chance!" He was almost jumping up and down with excitement, "You know how expensive these are!"

Tessa had woken up now, "I know how expensive they are when they start destroying our **community**."

"Tessa, I know how you feel about robots, I understand why you feel that way but this is our chance! How often does a robot show up on someone's front door?" He exclaimed.

"I'm not doing this, I hate robots."

"Look, how about we fix it up and if you want, we can sell it! You know how much money we could get out of it Tess? C'mon!"

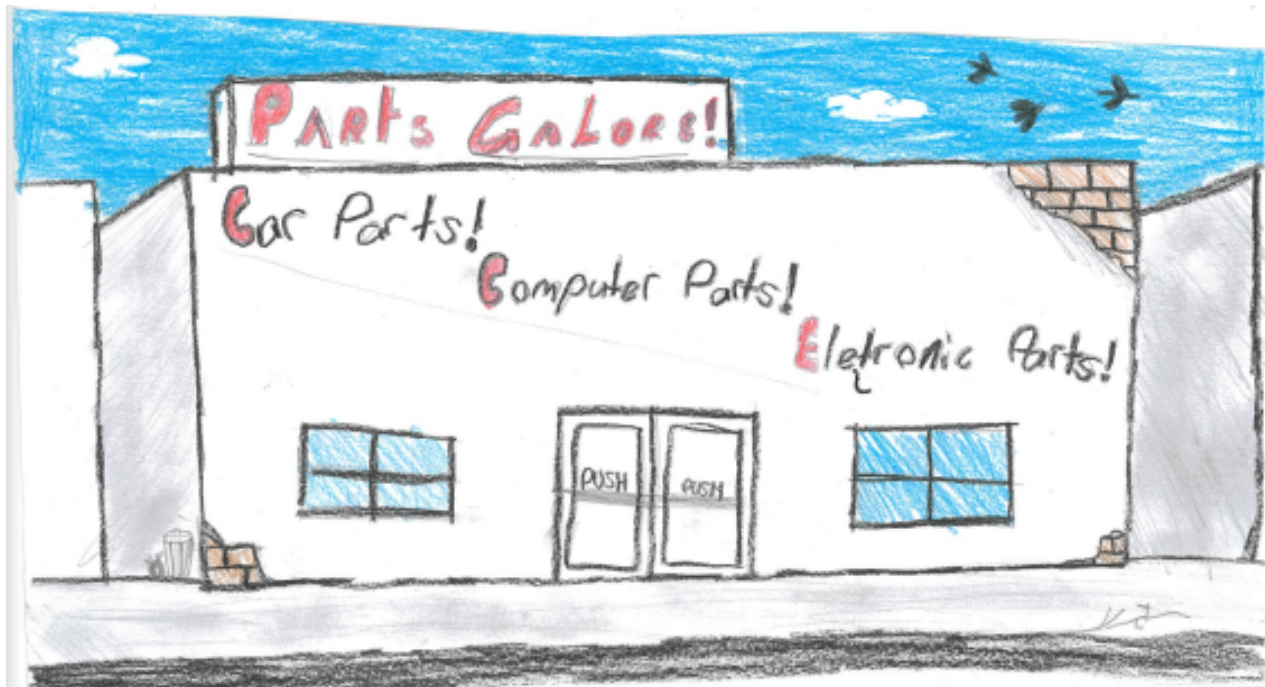
"Alright." She collapsed back onto the bed. "Alright." She said again.

"Shoot! I'm gonna be late for work" Carl continued checking his watch. "Bye honey, have a good day!."

He ran outside and sprinted to the bus stop before she could reply.

Tessa got up and walked outside; if the robot was to be fixed, it would need to be taken inside and dried off. That was certain. *Oh well*, She thought. *Time to get to work*.

Chapter 2



“Carl, there's a robot in our caravan. You have to think straight here. We're not going to spend all our time and dreams on this dumb robot.” Tessa argued.

“Tessa, you have to listen to me,” Carl explained, “ We can put our time into this! How often do we get a chance to do something like this together?.”

This couple loves each other very much, but every now and then they had their days. The sun gleamed through the windows of the old lovely caravan that they have treasured for years. The two posts to the side of the caravan with the tarp strung over blocking the morning breeze.

“I don't want to take any chances with this Carl, please! I don't want you to give your hopes up and be all upset when this doesn't work.” Tessa cried.

She really didn't want to risk having a robot around the caravan anymore since last time Carl had overspent.

“I promise if this doesn't work I'll never waste our time on something like this again! Please Tessa let me do this!”

“Fine. But when it doesn't work, don't complain to me about it.”

Carl had his heart set on this, he knew it would work out. He had an idea. It was a good idea. A really good idea in fact that he knew exactly what was going to happen and when it was going to happen. It would all work out fine. Tessa would see that this isn't just a waste of time.

The next day Carl had set up his workspace under the tarp out the back. It was a few benches on three of the walls and a cupboard with all the tools he had collected over the years on the

other. Tessa has agreed as long as she doesn't have anything to do with it. Carl had it all planned out. Every night and every day after he came home from work. He worked so hard on the project. He walked into the CBD of Margaret River every single day to buy parts from a family run business by the name of 'PARTS GALORE'. It smelled like **fresh** machinery, and in one corner was a pile of tins filled with car grease and engine oil. The first main task was to fix the frame which wouldn't be too difficult. All he had to do was get the parts and weld it over the cables and programming. It had been over a week since he started fixing the Robot. A rattle from around the other side of the caravan startled him. It prompted Carl to stealthily walk around the back to see what it was. The neighbour's cat. Of course it was. Behind him there was a creaking.

"I.. AM.... ROBERT!!!" A fairly loud robot-like voice yelled.

"Robert.... ROBERT!" Carl yelled in excitement,

"TESSA! TESSA COME LOOK"

Tessa ran out of the caravan to the sound of Carl's yells,

"WHAT?! ARE YOU OKAY?!" Tessa cried running to Carl.

"I DID IT TESS! I DID IT, COME LOOK!"

"What did you do Carl? Are you oka-" before Tessa could continue she locked eyes with the robot.

"Oh my gosh, Carl...you did it!!!"

They both stared at the Robot in shock.

Chapter 3

After weeks and weeks of hard and dedicated work and fixing everything that was wrong with Robert's malfunctions, Carl had finally finished his project. Robert was now operational but something was different about him, he was thinking for himself and his surroundings. He had his own emotions, It was outstanding, astonishing even! But this had never been seen before, and to the rest of the world this would have been a blessing but Carl and Tessa didn't know how to feel about it, was this just another problem or even a blessing in disguise. They were still so confused on how this was even possible! Of all people they ended up with a robot who has the ability to feel emotions as if it was human! It was just incredible! But this didn't stop them from wanting to sell it as soon as they got the chance to do so. It could make his price even higher, this could solve all their debt!

"I don't want it hanging around," Tessa said, "I can barely sleep with that *thing* in the house, what even is your plan with this robot Carl?."

"That *thing* has feelings you know." said Robert in his robotic voice
Carl and Tessa exchanged glances.

"Robert, could you go outside for a moment please?" asked Carl.
Robert turned around and went outside.

"I was hoping to sell him but I don't know anymore. I didn't think he'd be sentient." said Carl.

"Ya *think*?" snapped Tessa, Carl didn't respond.

"We still have to get rid of him regardless so I'll post an ad." Tessa said, lightening her tone. That was the end of that discussion. Both of them walked back into the caravan to find Robert where they left him.

"What was that about?" asked Robert

"Don't worry about it Robert, it'll be alright." replied Carl.



Chapter 4

"We need to sell it now. This Doesn't feel right, a robot shouldn't be capable of feeling." Shouted Tessa.

"Yeah I know but we have to be careful about who we sell this to, if the wrong person finds out about it..."

They both had their concerns about having a robot but they didn't have any buyers lined up to get Robert out of their hands. They locked him into their bedroom and tried to discuss what they can do about Robert. Meanwhile a mysterious fellow slowly approached their caravan.

"We have to get rid of him! Please Carl! We can't keep doing this." Begged Tessa.

"Alright, alright, I'll try to get him out as soon as Possible. I swear, but I'm not just gonna give him to just anyone."

Knock! Knock! Knock! Knock!

"I'll go get it." Responded Carl.

"It's a **delight** to see that I have found you Carl." The mysterious man said.

"Hello? Do I know you or uhh is there anything you need?" Responded Carl.

"I know that you have a robot in there, so why don't we have a talk?." Said the mysterious man.

"What do you want with us?" Asked Carl.

"I know of a place which will pay much more than your imagination tells you." Whispered the man.

"What? I don't understand what you're saying." Said Carl

"Here take this card, it will be all the information you need. Trust me Carl, I expect to hear from you soon" He said as he turned around and left.



Carl looked down at the card and it had a number on it: 0410 *** **. He thought to himself maybe he should keep this to himself but he insisted on telling Tessa what happened.

"Hey, can I talk to you for a second?" Carl said to Tessa.

"Yeah, what is it?" Tessa asked.

"There was this random guy at the door he gave me a card with a number on it, do you reckon we should call it"

"It's probably just a prank Carl, we can't waste anymore time." Tessa said.

"But what if it's not?" said Carl

"Well give it a call then" responded Tessa, "It better not be a scam."

A few hours later Carl decided to call the number.

Ring Ring Ring Ring

"Hello?" Carl said into the phone.

"Hello Carl, I'm glad you decided to call," Replied the mysterious man.

"What do I have to do?" Asked Carl, feeling a bit off.

"I have a challenge for you and your robot, complete 4 tasks and you get the money. Does that sound good for you Carl?"

"Tell me the tasks..."

"Task 1; Climb a cliff, Willyabrup cliff." said the mysterious man.

"That's 40 metres! That doesn't sound safe..." replied Carl

"Do as I say Carl, think about the money."

"Alright"

"Task 2; Shoot targets with a bow, and get at least 3 on the bullseye. Task 3; Drag a truck up a hill with no assistance."

"Are you serious?" Asked Carl.

"Very serious Carl, this isn't a joke. Task 4; Your final task will be to cross a tightrope across a river. You start tomorrow Carl. I'll text you the places, be ready."

Beep Beep Beep

Just like that the mysterious man hung up.

Chapter 5

It was later that night, Carl and Tessa were in a deep sleep while Robert was resting near the lounge. The late night wind was howling causing leaves of a tree to smack against the caravan. Something was off... the leaves up against the caravan sounded a bit different, like footsteps almost. The sound started getting closer and closer. This caused Robert to come out of rest mode. The sound of footsteps kept coming closer and closer until the door handle started making noise, Robert went as fast as he could to Carl and Tessa.

"wake up, wake up"

Carl groaned at the sound of Robert and rolled over, Robert then went to Tessa's side.

"Wake up, wake up"

"Mmm go away Robert" replied Tessa as she rolled over.

All of a sudden the front door opened all the way and slammed into the wall.

Carl and Tessa both jumped awake.

"Oh god what was that?!" Gaspd Carl.

"Carl, go check it out!" Whispered Tessa.

But before Carl could even get out of bed Robert speeded to the lounge area, but there was no one in sight. He started to examine the caravan. He couldn't find anyone, but the door was still wide open! In confusion Robert goes to the door and checks outside the caravan. No one. He goes outside to look around and does a little search, until he hears something inside. It's a scream! Robert zooms back inside and finds it is Tessa who is screaming!

"CARL CALL THE COPS!!" Screams Tessa.

The thieves are standing beside Tessa grabbing everything they can!

"CARL DO SOMETHING!!"

Carl jumps up unsure on what to do.

"I'LL CALL THE COPS" yelled Carl.

The thieves laugh and quickly walk into the kitchen.

"GOD WHAT DO I DO TESSA"

"CALL THE COPS CARL!"

Carl continues to threaten with calling the cops knowing he won't as they can't afford that type of service.

"TAKE THE ROBOT!!" Called Tessa.

"NO TESSA DON'T SAY THAT " Carl yelled back.

They go to take the robot they hadn't spotted earlier, as they reach out to grab him Robert sets off an alarm type noise startling the thieves. They stop reaching for him and start yelling at each other.

"C'MON LET'S GO" one of the thieves exclaimed,

"WHAT ABOUT THE ROBOT?!"

"LEAVE IT!!"

Robert continues the alarm noise and reaches his arms to grab everything the thieves have collected.

"GET OUT, GET OUT" Robert shouts.

They run out of the caravan dropping everything they have grabbed until they're out of sight.

"Oh my god!" exclaimed Tessa now standing in the lounge area,

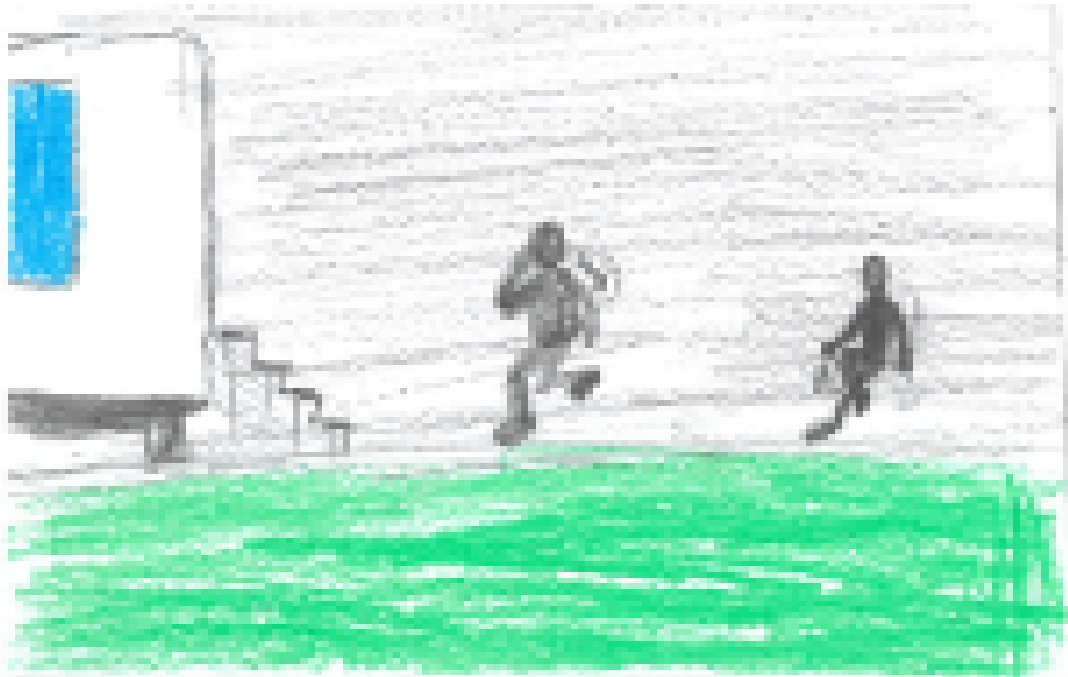
"Thank you! Thank you so so so much!"

"I can't believe this! Without you we would have nothing left! Thank you so so so much Robert"
Said Carl.

"You're welcome" Replied Robert.

"Maybe you aren't so bad to have around after all" Continued Carl, looking at Tessa to see if she agrees.

"Maybe" Disclosed Tessa.



Chapter 6

The morning after the thieves attempted a house robbery, It was time for the first challenge. The cliff loomed ahead of him.

"I'm not sure I can do this," Robert thought out loud, **"by my calculations, I have a 67.2% chance of falling due to crumbling rocks."**

"Robert, I know you're scared but this is it, this is where we need you most." Carl said in his most compassionate voice. "You can't back out now."

"I'll try, I might fail but I'll try."

"That's good enough for me." Carl hugged Robert, robots might not be able to feel but it's the thought that counts.

Robert turned and walked toward the cliff. It seemed to get bigger as he approached, it really was tall. He thought about running away, just turning and running away. Leaving this all behind. No, he had to do this, he had to win, he had to pay Carl and Tessa back for repairing him.

And so, he began the climb.

It was easy at first but slowly, the cliff got steeper and slowly, the handholds got more

sparse. Eventually he started having to jump between holds. And then, he slipped. It seemed like he fell for ages, he felt the ground rushing towards him, he felt himself hitting the ground. But he was alright. He opened his eyes, he was still clinging to the rock. He hadn't fallen, he'd just imagined it. He continued the climb, this time being more careful to test each hold before he



used it. He'd have to make sure. Finally, he pulled himself over the crest of the cliff. Then he realised, this was only the first challenge and there were 3 more to go.

Robert picked himself up and headed towards the next challenge, It was a fair walk to the destination

It was time for the Archery.

He was alright at archery but he had never been anything special. He found the destination that was already set out for him. He picked up the bow and notched an arrow to the string. He drew back the string and had a second thought about this whole challenge thing. He finally launched the arrow, straight for the target. It landed six inches below the bullseye. He had to be more accurate. On the second target he scored a bullseye, there we go. 2 more bullseyes and I'm done. On the third he completely missed.

"I am not doing very well."

"It's okay Robert! I believe in you" Replied Carl

Now he had to drag a truck. This would be easy, Carl had made him strong. He could do this. He tied the rope around his waist and began to move forward. The truck was hard to get going but once he got some momentum he began to move faster and slowly it became easier. He pushed harder and harder and eventually, he crossed the finish line. He didn't realise at the time but he had actually set a record. Ten seconds ahead of the previous best.

He moved on, the tightrope was next. He stared at it for a while, this was risky. A bad feeling set in Robert's robotic parts, fear.

A tightrope walk across a river, not really a robot's kind of challenge. He had to do it though, not for him but for Carl and Tessa. He had to try. He had to make Carl proud. He had to make Tessa trust him. He began to **tiptoe** along the line.

Chapter 7

Halfway across the tightrope, Robert was starting to doubt himself. He really didn't think he could do it at all. But he had to try. He was brought to Carl and Tessa for a certain reason. He had to finish what he had started and could not let anyone stop him. A nearby robot from the Margaret



River community went before him. There must be others doing this challenge with their robots. They watched as the robot fell down into the river, failing the task. But that didn't mean Robert would fall. In Fact Robert would win this challenge. He would do anything in his power to win. As the mysterious man explained to Tessa and Carl earlier that week, there would be a massive cash fund to them. His saviours had to know the real reason he was brought to them. In fact, he didn't need any fancy prize or anything like that, all he wanted was the satisfaction of Carl and Tessa's approval. All he wanted in the world was for them to have money and be happy. Robert again focused back on the current task and went ahead with it.

Foot in front of foot. Step by small step, Robert walked across the thin, frail, tightrope. It started to bounce up and down as he got further and further towards the end. He couldn't let that worry him though. The rain had started, it was windy, stormy, raining. He couldn't hold in. It was too much for poor Robert. He was caught in the rain and wouldn't make it. He was going to fall off. There was a last jolt of hope in Robert though, he remembered the people who saved him. Carl and Tessa, the most important people in the world to him. Slowly lifting himself up, Robert strained all the parts in his poor body. He had gotten himself up. At last, Robert had made it to the end. Every other robot had finished or failed but he finished in the fastest time. Surprisingly, Carl and Tessa were already at the podium, waiting for him. They must've known. They must've known. Unless it was rigged for him to win. It can't have been. Robert decided to take his mind off that for now and enjoy his win. It had all been worth it since now he had completed his goal. Carl and Tessa have won the prize of \$2 000 000 and are able to turn their lives around once and for all.

Chapter 8

“Carl, I’m so sorry about how I acted before, I really didn’t believe that it would work and that we would actually win the prize.” Tessa apologised. She really felt bad about how she acted and wanted Carl to know how proud she was of them both.

“Honestly, Tessa, I’m just glad that we stuck together and happy that it all worked out.”

Tessa and Carl planned their new life. They would buy the caravan park and help other people who were once like them. They would get along well and live great lives.

“There is one condition...” a loudspeaker sang from the other side of the room, “You need to choose, your robot or the money.

“YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME!” Carl and Tessa said consecutively. This was not good news. They would really have to choose between Robert and \$2,000,000 which would mean the whole caravan park plus more.

“I don’t want to make this decision Tessa!” Carl complained. He didn’t want to do it at all. They put so much effort into the lead up of this event. A comfortable life or Robert. A comfortable life or Robert. A hard decision was going to have to be made.

“Carl, Tessa,” Robert began, “You don’t need me, I was brought to you to get you out of this mess and honestly really wanted to help you.”

“Robert,” Carl said as he started to walk away, “Thank you.”

“For what Carl?” Robert replied.

“Everything!” Carl replied again.

And so it was, Carl and Tessa chose the money over Robert, even though they very much regretted it. They bought the caravan park off the previous owners for a reasonably low price. They did it up well and welcomed many people to the park with warm arms. They adopted two children, boys they were and named them Rob, and Bert. For obvious reasons. After everything, they had stuck together and managed to keep pushing through. After all, there's more in life than money.

Carl and tессas lives were turned upside down when a rogue robot rampage through their hometown
Their lives spiralled from then on and put them in debt, struggling to make a living until a broken robot showed up at their front door. Can it help them?

Age rating 10-14

