Piano Lesson

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Chapter 1

Piano Lesson

“Piano lessons?” Jack said incredulously. His mom nodded decisively.

“Yep. It’ll broaden your horizons and make your fingers more nimble.”

“Video games make me nimble.” He did not like the word nimble. There was something sissyish about it.

“It’s not up for debate, mister. You’re going.”

Eloise Twidge sat by the window, watching as Jack begrudgingly shuffled up the sidewalk. She opened the door just before he got up the nerve to ring the doorbell.

“I appreciate your punctuality.” She said with a mischievous twinkle in her eye. “Step inside, young miss.” Jack looked at her in confusion. Did he hear correctly? Had she just called him ‘young miss’? “The piano is this way.” Jack followed, looking around the woman’s house, his sparkly pink fingernails brushing the wallpaper. “Sit on the bench, but smooth your skirt first.”

“I’m not wearing a”

“I won’t tolerate your talking back, young miss.” She demonstrated. “Like this.” Jack felt terribly foolish as he mimicked her, shaking his head to move his newly blonde pigtails behind his shoulders. “Hmm, not quite. Try this.” She

demonstrated again, smiling as Jack did not even notice his outfit changing. Jack tried again and she had to admit it was rather polished, but she shook her head. “Here, come over by the mirror.”

Jack stepped over and gasped, staring at the little girl he had become in the mirror, from the big white bows holding his pigtails in place to the pink sundress he now wore.

“What” was the only word he was able to force out in his shock.

“Did I not mention? I only take girls as my students.”