

Scorched

I stared in wonder as the leaping flames consumed my entire life. Just one day, just one mistake, set my family's life on the course of unfortunate events. A house that had been built in the 19th century was burning before my eyes, all because of an obstinate woman that could not stand to be cold. Slowly the ancient chimney burned my childhood home to the ground as my four year old self stood and watched, waiting for the firemen to come and save it. They were too late to help. I could smell the stench of the scorched wood, but I was oblivious to the importance of the situation. I did not know that the insurance company would not give us our money until more than a year after the incident. I did not know that my family of five would be stuck in a small trailer for that period of time. I did not know that it was just a part of a chain of unfortunate events that would slowly but surely tear my parents apart. My sister nearly died venturing into the flaming house to retrieve her cat that was trapped upstairs. My mother would nearly die of blood loss whilst living in the trailer. My father would nearly die due to a poisonous insect bite, and would spend the next ten years of his life recovering from full-body paralysis. The disaster that would occur on a September day just the next year would make things even worse for my family, as my father would unluckily invest \$100,000 in the stock market just before the economic crisis that ensued. My family would never quite get back on its feet, but all I knew was that life was happening, and there was nothing I could do to change it. I did not even have the desire to change it. I just kept on living, happy as could be.