**My First Viola Concert**

I love music, and I play the viola, but I never imagined myself taking advantage of that in a concert at a public bookstore! Would you?

As we drove to Barnes & Noble for my performance, it felt like a hamster was using my stomach as a wheel. I stared out the window at the splashes of white snow and gray-brown slush and tried convincing myself that we were going to the toy store, but that didn’t work. Next, I tried to pretend that it was all a dream, and I would wake up to my dog’s barks from downstairs, but that was not a good method, either.

My intestines clenched up as we walked towards the area where I would unpack my viola. I met my friend, Jennifer, there and she found us a place to stand at the front. I came up to her as the beautiful music started.

Soon, my arm was swishing my bow along the strings. The hamster inhabiting my stomach seemed to have skittered off, and a majestic horse replaced it, washed in confidence. The songs all passed perfectly: Mozart Melody, Jingle Bells, and many more. It had turned into an instinct for me, to play music. As the beautiful tones softened and ebbed away, the thunderous sound of clapping replaced it, like a lion’s roar. The horse leapt out of my stomach, and the lion padded away from the crowd. Paw high-fived hoof, and the two flew off into the night.

At first, I was really nervous, but if you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.