7 • FROM THE AMAZON BELT-SELETING AUTHOR OF CROW FROM THE SHADOW



Billy Dipper

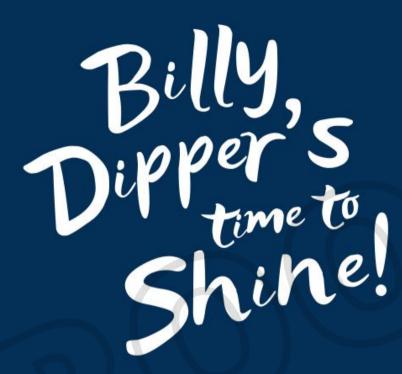
ILLUSTRATED BY JOSHUA OGUNYEMI

time to ine! This book is dedicated to my beautiful wife and children. I love you all! To my wonderful family and support system, you guys rock!

> And to you, the awesome reader: Never EVER forget your worth! I believe in you!

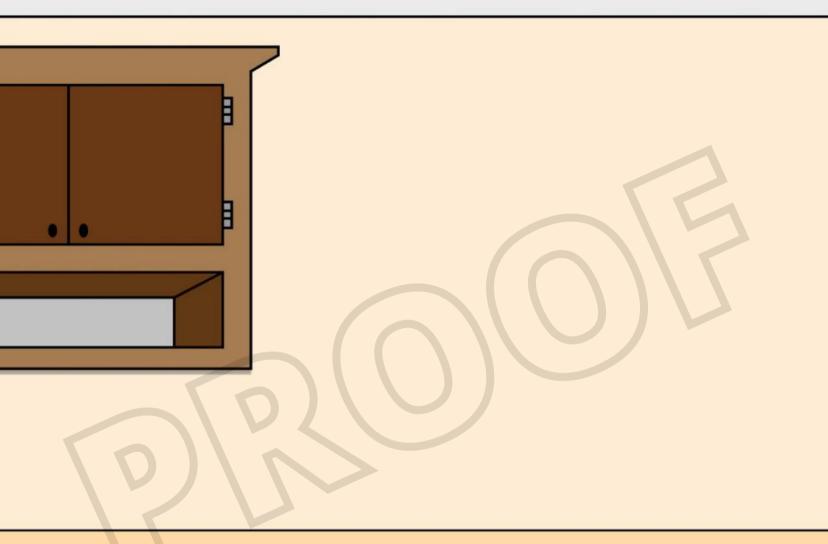
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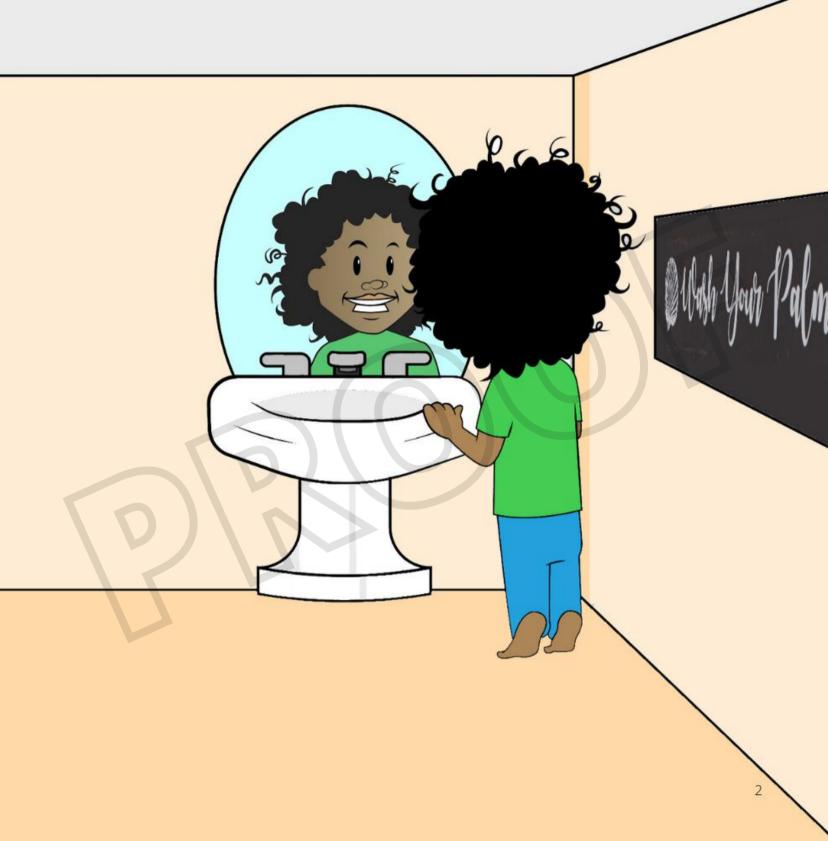


from the Amazon Best-Selling Author of Crow from the Shadow Olaolu Ogunyemi

> Illustrated by Joshua Ogunyemi



It was bedtime for Wade, so he completed his nightly routine. He ate his supper, brushed his teeth, and made his body squeaky clean.



He dashed into his room, fluffed his pillow, and combed his curly hair.



He turned on his lamp, grabbed his bear, and said hi<u>s</u> nightti<u>me prayer.</u>

After his prayer, Wade's mind was intrigued. His thoughts were racing though his body was fatigued.

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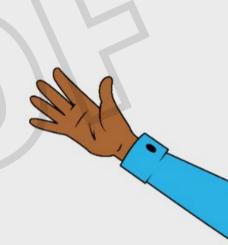
He saw his favorite star brightening the night. He smiled at the sky with wonder and delight.

"Star, oh star, why do you shine so **bright**? Star, oh star, how you brighten the night!

Even on the darkest day, your shine takes the gray away."

Just then, Dad came to put Wade to bed. He overheard *everything* that Wade said.

"The star up there who brightens your day lives in a galaxy far, far away. Strap on your helmet; I'll tell you more. We're headed to space so we can explore!"



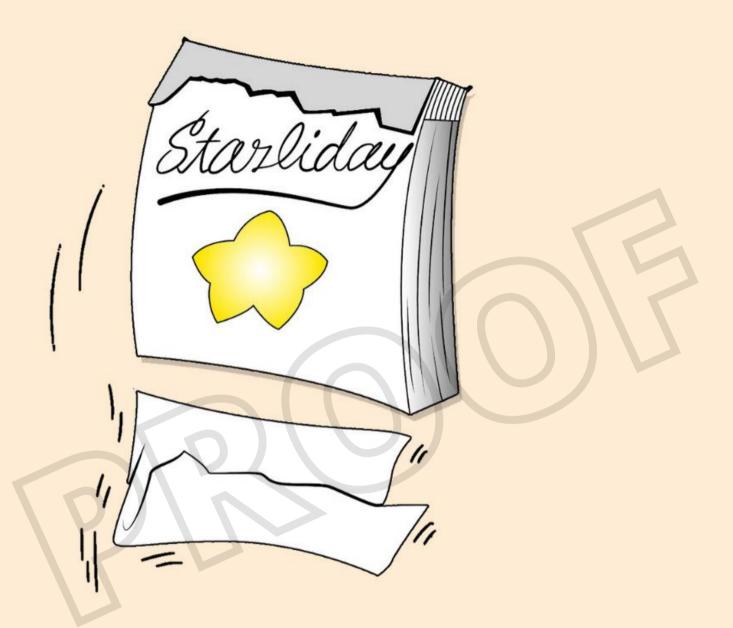


His name was Billy—Billy Bob Dipper. He was smart, fast, kind, and chipper.

He was an example for all and stood out in the crowd. He was always polite and made his parents proud.



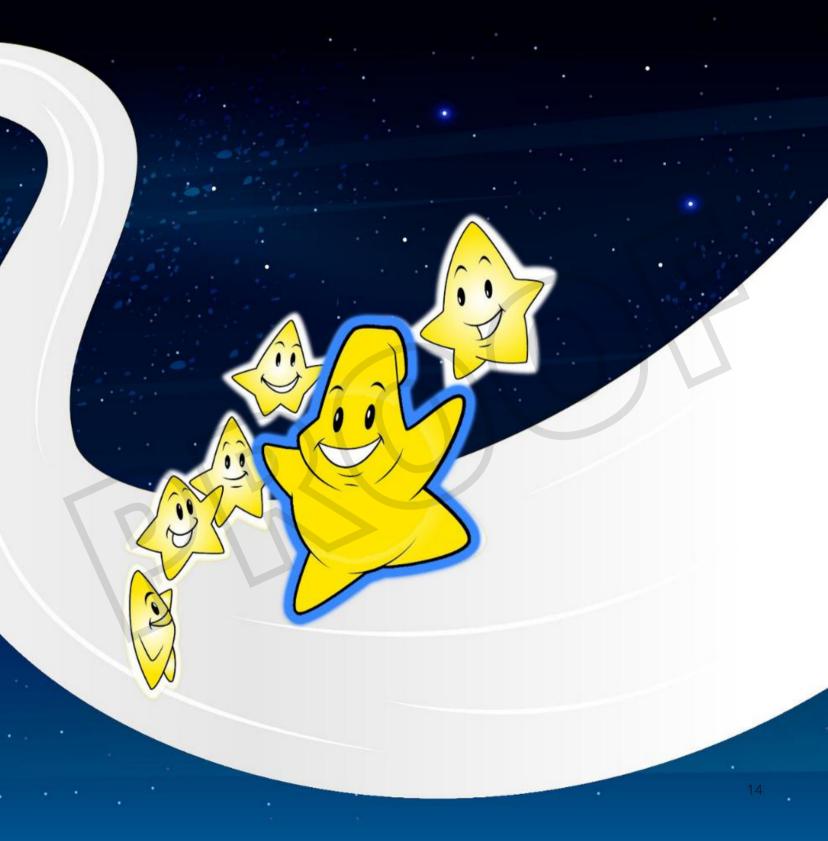
For bright stars like Billy, there was one special day. The stars all aligned to celebrate **Starliday**!



Starliday comes only once every year. The clouds are all gone. The skies are all clear. All special stars wait for their time to go. This cosmic night featured *Billy's* bright glow.

Everyone was excited about the big Starliday news. Everyone cheered for Billy except Bully Betelgeuse.

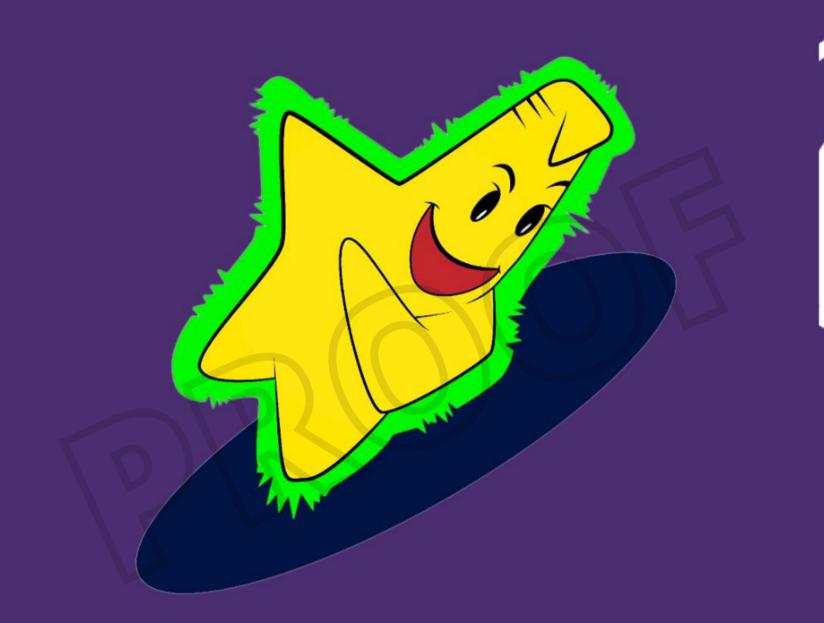
Billy practiced for years. It was *his* turn to shine! "Starliday will be great! This moment is all mine!"



That night, the moment finally arrived! Billy took the stage with a twinkle in his eye. He slowly backed up,

one step, two steps, three.

Then he dashed to the launch pad with a burst of lightspeed!



As Billy dashed by, the floor got slick! Bully Betelgeuse had played a mean trick!



Billy slid and swooshed across the stage. His mind was confused and his heart was enraged!



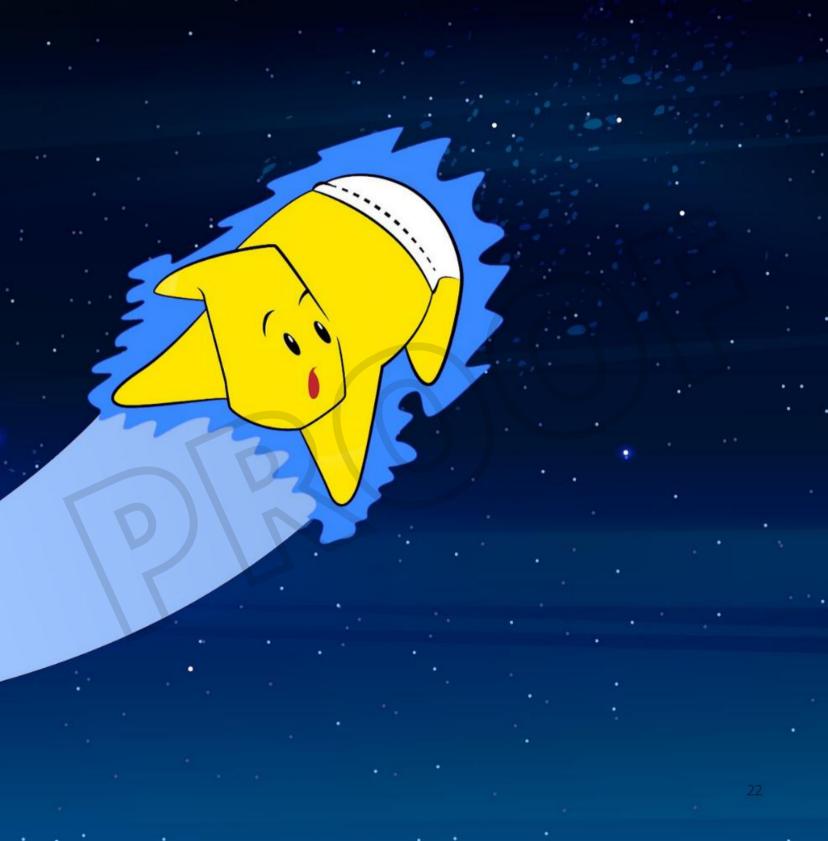
Billy flew wildly through the air, knocking off old man Capella's hair! He popped his celebration balloon and kicked the cow that jumps over the moon!



His belt flew off.

His pants fell down!

He fell onto the launch pad and launched upside-down!



Bully Betelgeuse laughed. His trick was very clever!

But to Billy Dipper, this was the **worst night ever**.

The next day during a fun game of *Star-Star-Goose,* the children started a chant, led by Bully Betelgeuse...

Billy, Billy, you're a clown. You fell backwards, you fell down. Bumped your head when you fell, then you cracked the cattle's bell. Knocked off ol' Capella's hair. You launched in your underwear! Haaa Ha! After several days of teasing, Billy felt sad and alone.

He walked quietly from school, all the way to his home.

Billy's parents were concerned, so they asked him, "how was school?" Billy's eyes filled with tears like the deep end of a pool.

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"I do not want to shine. I do not want to play! My night skies are cloudy. My bright days are gray. I have not played with friends since that terrible day. I don't like this at all. I have nothing to say!

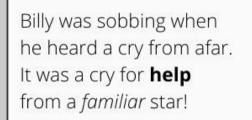
l want to disappear. l want to fade away!"

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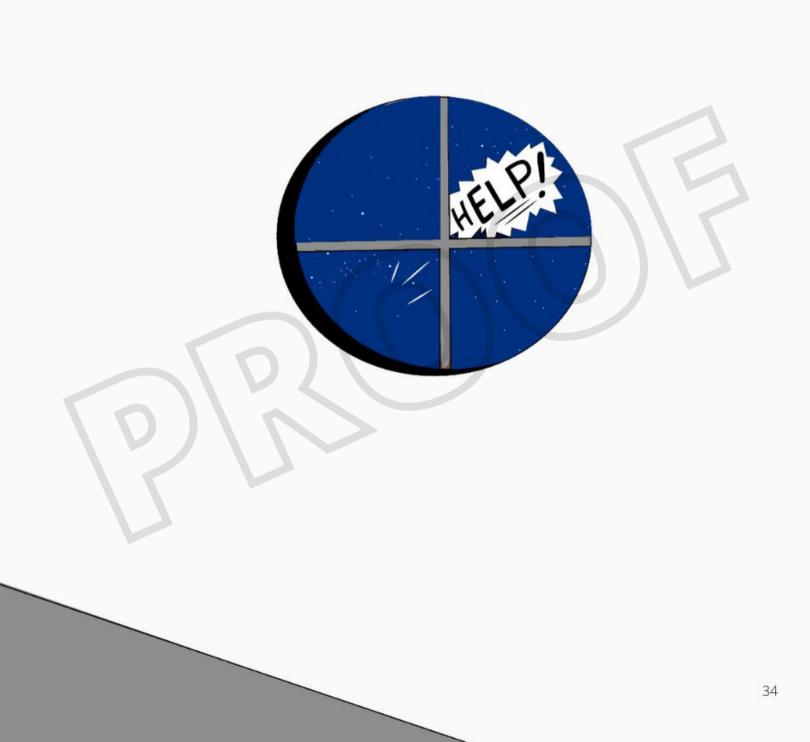
After that statement, the Dippers began to worry.

"He really needs help. **We** must do this in a hurry! Our beautiful star has been happy from birth. Now little Billy has forgotten his worth."



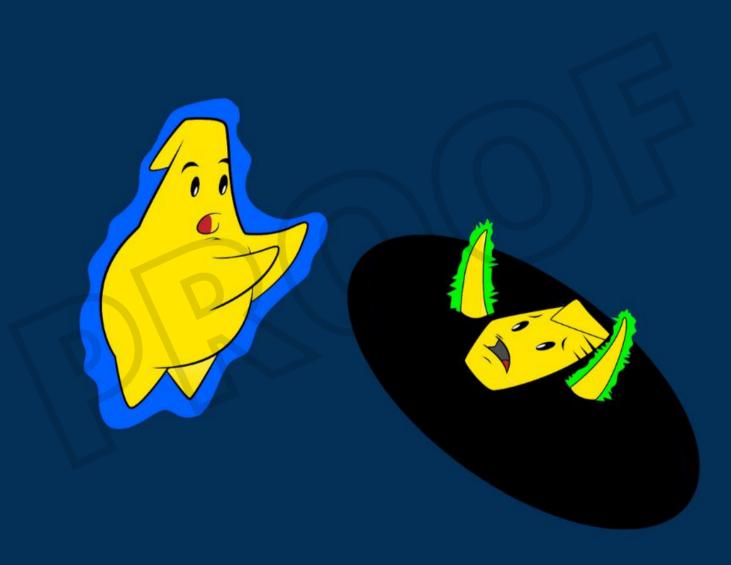


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Billy rushed to the scene like a soldier on patrol. He saw Bully Betelgeuse sinking in a black hole!

Bully Betelgeuse sank deeper as gravity pulled him in. He was running short on time. This looked like the end. "Just try to stay calm. We will get you out of there. We will work this out. We will do it as a pair!"





Billy tried using sticks but of course they all broke.Billy tried *everything*. He was losing all hope.Then he had an idea that could save Betelgeuse!"I must signal for help; we can all pull him loose!"

The answer was very clear. Billy must launch into the night! But the skies were too cloudy. Billy must shine really bright! Billy backed up, one step, two steps, three. Then he blasted through space with a burst of lightspeed!

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He went into orbit. Billy went round and round. Then he **flew** through the air with a loud whooshing sound!



Billy's shine was so bright the entire town could see! Everyone wondered, "how could this be?" The curious stars arrived. Betelgeuse was sinking fast! They formed a constellation to safely free him at last!

The stars pulled hard until Betelgeuse was free! He dashed to his hero with a burst of lightspeed! Betelgeuse said with tears in his eyes, "if it were not for you, I would not be alive. I felt you were more special than me. I am so sorry for being a bully."

Billy gave Betelgeuse a hug and a nod. He was happy and proud, and his smile was broad. "It's ok Betelgeuse; this all makes sense. When you don't feel special, just remember this..."





You have what it takes to succeed. You are strong. You are wise. Be whatever you want to be. When life makes you sad and you want to pout, remember; you are charming inside and out. You inspire many on Earth! You are valuable. You should never EVER forget your worth! 48

"Dad, that story was AWESOME!" Wade said in awe. "How do you know it so well? Is this something you saw?"

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"I, like the star, just wanted to disappear. My eyes were full of tears. My mind was full of fear. That was it! I was done! My heart was full of despair! In a room full of people, I felt no one was there. But then something happened; I had a renewed hope. I felt refreshed like a body lathered with sweet soap.

I had a warm feeling inside I had not felt in years.A smile appeared on my face from ear to ear.I too gazed upon a beautiful star that did not fade.That star saved my life! His name was Wade."



Let's talk about ASTRONOMY!



1. A **constellation** is a group of stars that form a pattern in the sky! The pattern can form an animal, a boy or girl, a car...anything you can imagine!

2. There are two famous constellations called Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. You may recognize the special guests that live in those constellations! The **Big Dipper** lives in Ursa Major, and the **Little Dipper** lives in Ursa Minor!

See if you can find the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper next time there is a clear night sky! (Hint: both Dippers look like a giant bowl with a handle).

3. **Betelgeuse** (pronounced "beetle-juice") is not just a weird ghost from the 80's! **Betelgeuse** is a red supergiant star that is one of the brightest! Betelgeuse is also one of the largest stars in the sky. It is a whopping 950 times bigger than the sun!

4. Ok..."Starlidays" are not real, but if you are lucky, you may witness a "shooting star" or **meteor** streak across the night sky! A **meteor** is a bright streak of light that is caused by a meteorite—a really large rock or metal from space—burning as it falls from space into Earth's atmosphere.

5. **Capella** is the sixth brightest star in the night's sky! Some refer to **Capella** as the "Goat" star: (No, not the *Greatest of All Time* G.O.A.T. like LeBron James or Tom Brady). The name **Capella** is actually Latin for "female goat." Fun fact, **Capella** was considered the brightest star in the past! (I guess Capella was the G.O.A.T. after all).

6. Spacecraft go *really* fast, but did you know there is a way to make them go faster?! This is called "**gravity** assist." **Gravity** assist starts when a planet pulls in a spacecraft with **gravity**. Then, the spacecraft absorbs the planet's **orbital** energy. Depending on how the planet spins and how the spacecraft entered the planet's **orbit**, the spacecraft may speed up, slow down, or change its trajectory (path)!



What makes you special? What do you do well?

What will you do to help someone today?

What is bullying? How would you define it?

Have you or your friends ever made fun of someone? Is that bullying? Why or why not?

What is the most important part of the story?

Note: Parents, here is a great resource: https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/kids



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Parent-Child-Connect (P2C)

Parent—Child—Connect (P2C) is a book series that assists parents in connecting with their children to teach valuable life lessons.

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MEET THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR OLAOLU & JOSHUA OGUNYEMI (YEP, WE ARE BROTHERS!)

AUTHOR

A loving husband, Father, teen mentor, and U.S. Marine Officer, Olaolu has a deep passion for working with children fueled by an unending supply of energy and imagination! Since he was young, Olaolu has been nicknamed the "life of the party" because he pours his exuberant personality into every story he tells. As the fifth of six children, he is intimately familiar with the bond that is forged during quality story time; thus, Olaolu was inspired to start writing children's stories to help create loving and memorable family moments.

Olaolu writes in a simple, easily understandable language, and an entertaining style that keeps families hooked to his books while learning vital lessons about virtues and sparking a continuing conversation.

Olaolu is a frequent traveler and in his free time, he enjoys playing music, exercising, writing, and spending time with his family.

Connect with Olaolu <u>www.parent-child-connect.com</u>

"Josh O." is a devoted husband, dad, mentor, author, and entrepreneur. He is proof that faith, courage, and determination will outlast even the toughest challenges. His story has inspired many, exemplifying spiritual and mental toughness, defying every challenge he's had to face.

ILLUSTRATOR

Despite losing a child, extended periods of unemployment, failures, financial problems, the everyday pressures of marriage and fatherhood, and raising a child with special needs, he has become a champion of challenging situations and encourages others to do the same.

Josh's book "tough times don't last, TOUGH PEOPLE DO" is a must read! Josh shows you how to turn your hard times Into THRIVING times with just 9 Key habits.

"IMAGINE YOU HAD A BLUEPRINT--A guide to help you during hard times. YOU can come out ON TOP! You just need the tools to help get you there." -Josh O

"tough times don't last, TOUGH PEOPLE DO" Available now at <u>https://excelu.groovepages.com/ttdlebook/index</u>



DEAR READER,

YOU ARE AWESOME!

NEVER, EVER FORGET YOUR WORTH!

Clastic Gungemi -OLAOLU OGUNYEMI

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