



# ABLE

By Jade Burrell

**With thanks to Houston Vandergriff and his family  
for helping inspire me to create this book.**

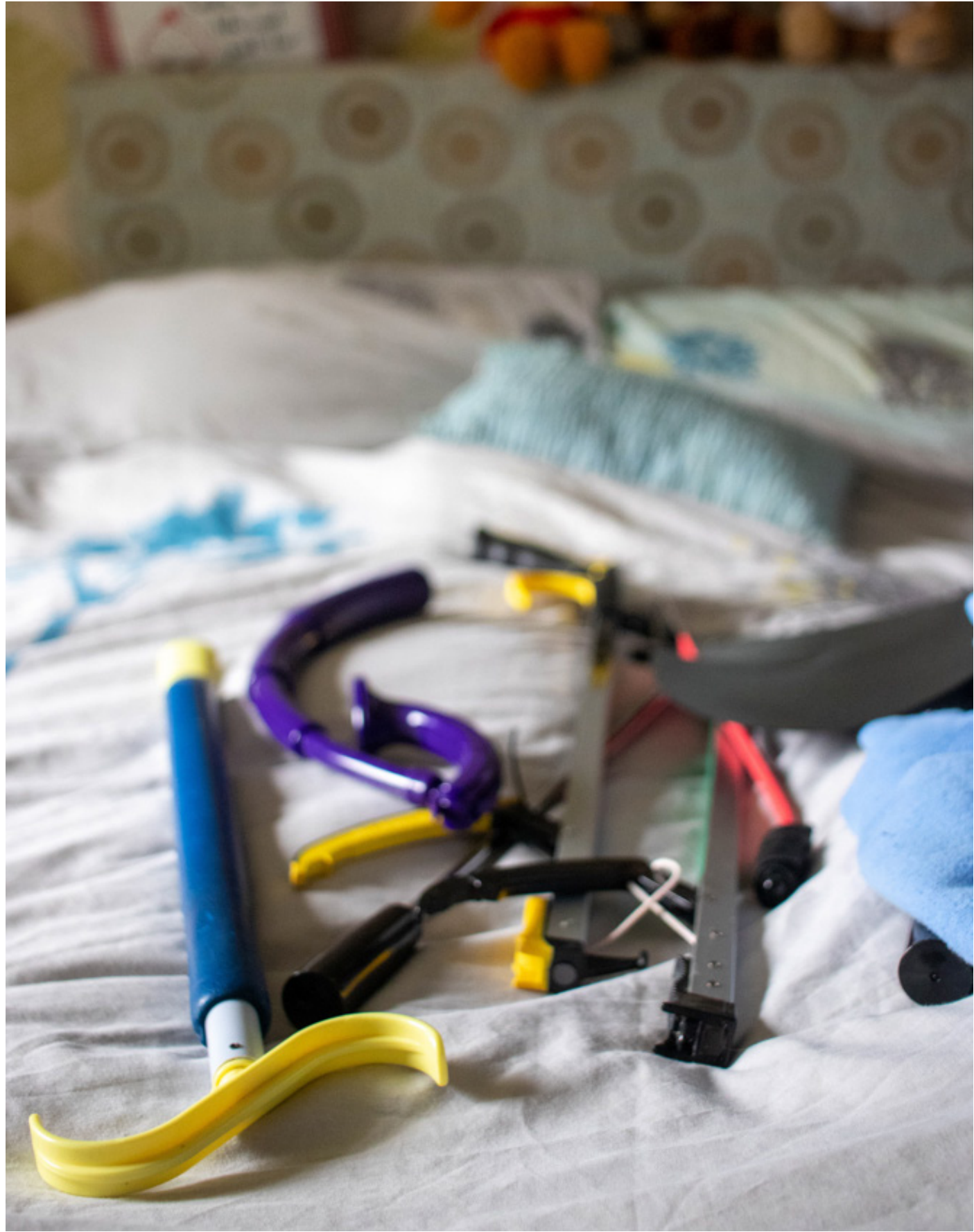
# Marie Clarke

Marie Clarke, who has had cerebral palsy since birth, uses both a wheelchair to get around and a rollator in her home. She drives using hand controls instead of her feet, and her car has a roof top box for her manual wheelchair to be stored. Marie was also diagnosed with osteoarthritis in her lower back and spine a few years ago but had been unable to see her physical therapist during the pandemic.

Marie is proud to be living independently in a ground-floor flat - something she never thought possible when she was younger - and is an active member of the Bedworth Disabled Swimming Club.













# Neil Denyer

Neil Denyer is the Nuneaton Salvation Army officer. This involves delivering food to those in need, collecting donations, setting up the church hall for weekly events, and more. Neil says due to having osteoarthritis, a lot of these tasks become nearly impossible. An important part of his week is leading the Sunday morning worship. Standing for an hour or more is massively painful for Neil and leaves him debilitated for at least the rest of the day.

Neil's main hobby is photography, which is also affected by his disability. He has recently changed his Nikon D500 DSLR to a lightweight Canon R6 mirrorless camera due to the weight being too much for his shoulders.













# Delta Dobson

University student, Delta has been struggling with mental health issues, such as dissociation, depression, and PTSD. They also suffer with chronic pain, something that has been ignored by doctors for years, shrugged off as growing pains. Mixed in with chronic fatigue from Covid, there are days where Delta physically can not get out of bed.

Luckily, Delta's university lecturers are understanding of their problems and do their best to accomodate.

Delta is proud to have moved to Leicester to pursue their studies as well as getting to the bottom of their medical issues.













# Henry Ford

Henry Ford, aged 12, is neurodivergent. He has autism, sensory processing disorder, global development delay, anxiety, and mental health issues.

Henry loves Lego - though mostly the mini figures - and Five Nights at Freddy's. He's more than happy to spend an hour or two showing off his favourite Lego mini figures from Etsy and the ones that he put together himself.

He is proud of his 'FNAF' artwork, and of being a big brother to his two younger siblings.













# Glenn Gallocker

A few years ago, Glenn Gallocker had his right eye removed and fit with a prosthetic. For a long time, Glenn had only had 30% vision in his right eye and had cataracts at a young age. Eventually Glenn began to get intense visual migraines, which he compared to an acid trip.

Doctors did everything they could to try to save the eye, with Glenn saying the worst experience he's ever had was having a needle in his eye - and would rather be on fire for a second time than do that again. He decided to remove the eye.

Being used to minimal vision on the right side already, Glenn admits his biggest issue is his vanity.













# Parimala Ramu

Parimala, a De Montfort University graduate, was born with limb deformities. She was the disability representative at her university and is completely confident in her abilities as a person and potential employee. However, a lot of employers struggle to see past her disability, making it difficult to find work.

Parimala gets around her home by walking on her knees. Whilst out, she has a manual wheelchair. She can not afford an electric wheelchair or disability-friendly car equipment. Moving to Leicester from India to study, Parimala makes her family proud and has been able to help other students with disabilities get the most out of their university experiences.













# Chloe Spellman

In 2017, Chloe was attacked by another student, rendering her unconscious. It took a week for the memory of the event to come to her. Chloe would then experience episodes of blacking out.

After a visit to the hospital, Chloe discovered she had a bleed on the brain. She had a lumbar puncture, which allowed doctors to diagnose her with Idiopathic Intracranial Hypertension.

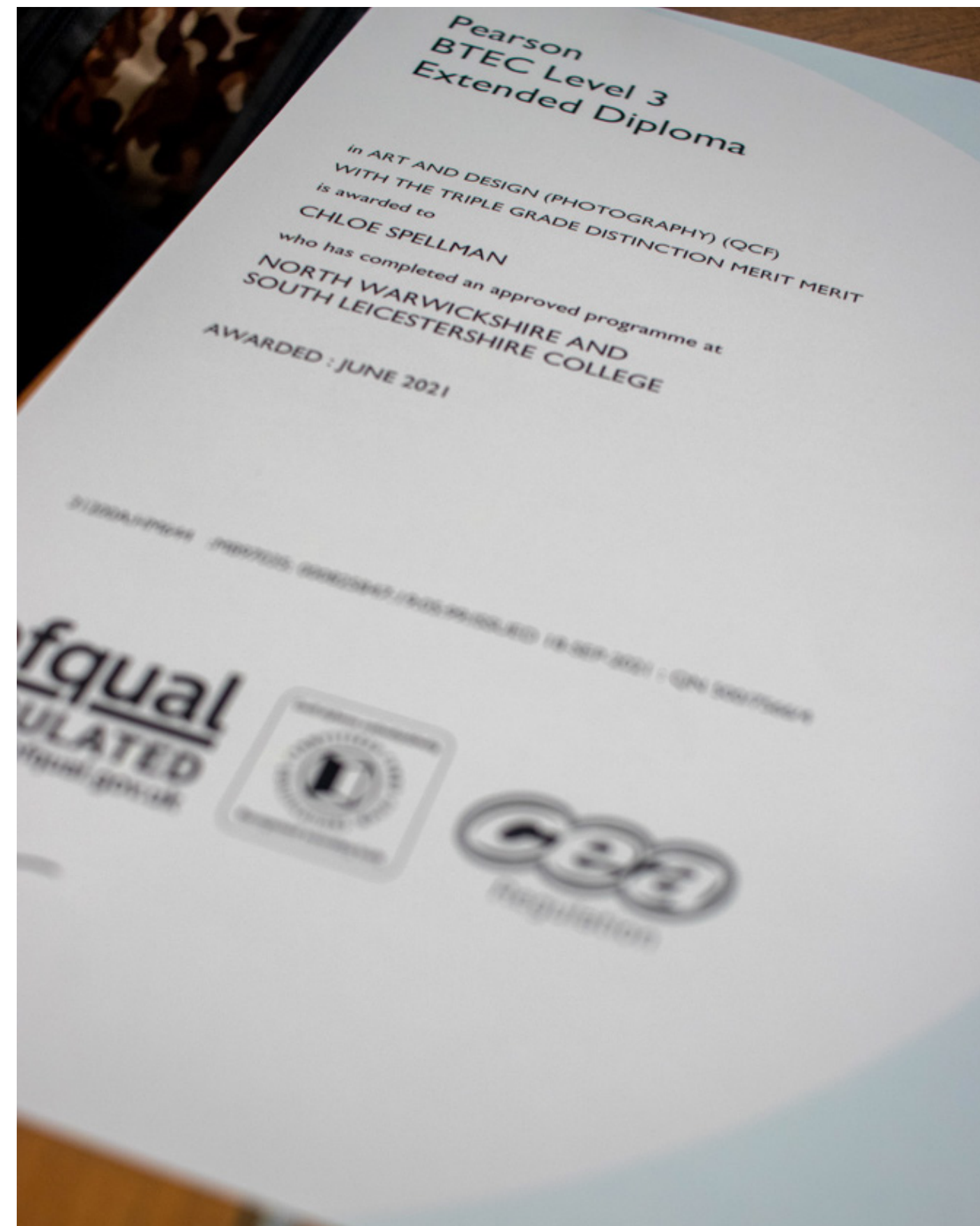
Her vision is blurred, and if her condition gets worse she could go completely blind and will need a shunt.

Chloe is not allowed to work or drive. She has the support of her family, including her twin sister, Emily.

Chloe is proud to have achieved a DMM grade at college in Photography.













# Kurt Turner

Kurt has severe dyslexia and irlens, which means he has difficulty reading. His primary school would tell his mum he was lazy and dismiss him but when Kurt was 11, his mum advocated for him to get a dyslexia test.

Now, Kurt is a warehouse operative and loves horror.

Kurt is proud to be writing his own horror book, saying he decided to do it to prove that he can in spite of his disability.













# Amy Wilkes

Amy Wilkes has dyspraxia, which is also known as developmental co-ordination disorder. She finds everyday tasks such as tying her shoe laces or buttoning up her shirt difficult.

Amy has always had a passion for crime, and is proud to be studying Criminology at university, even being taught by her favourite crime author, David Willson.









