

## Orphan to Prodigy

On September 14, 1987 a little girl was born, Ophelia Williams. She was born to a sixteen-year-old girl, Rose Williams. Ophelia was the result of a gruesome raping. Her mother couldn't stand the sight of her because it reminded her of the worst experience she had ever gone through. Eventually after some intense thinking Rose decided to give Ophelia up for adoption at only 6 months old. She figured that she would be sent to a good home with nice people because she was a young child and most adoptive parents tend to choose young babies over older kids.

In 1995 Ophelia was 8 years old and was unfortunately still in the foster care system but her case hadn't been looked at nor was she sent to a foster home in three years. The adoption system had a rule that if a kid was not interviewed by adoptive parents for more than three years they would be sent to an orphanage. The orphanage had an agreement with the adoption center to accept such kids. Ophelia was excited but really nervous to be introduced to all these new potential friends. Ophelia was always a really curious child.

When the car arrived at the orphanage Ophelia couldn't stop admiring it. She loved its big white pillars in front and the golden-brown window trim. She got out of the car and grabbed her trash bag full of things and headed up the stairs. The nice lady opened the door for her and helped her with her bags and said a few nice words to the driver. But the inside did not match what was on the outside. It had nasty dirty floors that

looked like they could give you the worst splinters and old moldy paintings on the walls with very inappropriate subjects.

As soon as the door closed behind Ophelia her life as she knew it had taken a turn for the worse. The “nice” lady that opened the door and spoke to the driver turned into the most rude and aggressive person she had ever met. She was screaming all the rules at her. Ophelia asked her what her name while she was yelling. “Alexandra but it’s Mrs. Alexandra to you” she yelled which made Ophelia start crying. The crying only made it worse for Ophelia because the woman started to yell even louder, which eventually led to Alexandra yanking Ophelia by her hair and taking her to the room for the girls. She told her to pick a bed and unpack her stuff.

Ophelia had never been treated this way before and by the way things were going, it wasn’t getting better anytime soon. A few months to a year passed by and Ophelia learned to deal with all the screaming and rudeness. The orphanage sent her to a public school which she enjoyed very much. School got to the point where it was the highlight of her life, she started to really excel in school. Ophelia had a favorite teacher, Mrs. Hannah. Mrs. Hannah let her students call her by her first name because her last name was too hard to spell. Mrs. Hannah stuck with Ophelia through the hardest times in her life.

In 2003 Ophelia was 16 and was kicked out of the orphanage. Luckily Mrs. Hannah had helped Ophelia get a job at the local market making minimum wage, which wasn’t a lot but it was to Ophelia. She had been working since she was 14 so she had

some money and was able to buy a used car and start living out of it. Her life was definitely different that was for sure but she didn't let that stop her. Mrs. Hannah helped her sneak in every morning before school so she could take a shower in the girls' locker room. Mrs. Hannah also let her use her washer and dryer to keep her clothes clean. Ophelia had nothing to think about except for school, so she did and she started getting really good and was able to test through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade letting her jump from 10<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade in one year.

Soon Ophelia was winning academic awards and getting offers from colleges with full scholarships. On her graduation day when she walked on the stage she didn't have a whole section cheering for her like the other kids, she had one person, Mrs. Hannah, who had been there with her through it all. Mrs. Hannah helped get her into her dream college with a scholarship so she didn't have to pay for any of it. She ended up going to Johns Hopkins University and living on campus. Through her years there she still had Mrs. Hannah right there by her side. Ophelia graduated and got into Johns Hopkins Medical School.

When Ophelia graduated she pushed herself really hard to get an internship and eventually succeeded. She got a Johns Hopkins Internship and she took that all the way to becoming an attending General surgeon. She was now known as Dr. Ophelia Williams. When she got her plaque, she kept it in her locker at all times to remember how much of a prodigy she was. She got published multiple times for her outstanding research and made all of her fellow coworkers very jealous. She went on to be a very successful

surgeon who helped as many people as she possibly could. She had finally grown up to be the person she always wished to be.