



THE NEW PAPER ON SUNDAY, SEPT 4

Dear Poh Peng...

Congratulations on finding your first job!

Dr Low Chai Ling, 36, the founder of aesthetic chain The Sloane Clinic, read the story of your amazing life in this paper last weekend.

Like many others, she was moved by your determination to succeed despite your congenital skin condition, which has been threatening your life since you were a baby, and your crippling bouts of arthritis. In fact, you were supposed to have lived two months. But it has been 20 beautiful years.

Dr Low and other readers read how you endured the pain, the cruel taunts and completed school. And how you were searching for a job for six months – to no avail.

Yesterday morning, she confirmed with you that you will soon start work as the clinic's website moderator for \$800 a month.

I remember you said you were worried that bosses would get angry if you left a trail of skin behind in the office as it flakes off. You were also concerned that your weak immune system would not be able to withstand the trips to and from work.



Dr Low will not only allow you to work from home, The Sloane Clinic will also supply some skincare products you need.

Yesterday, I had a word with your new boss.

She told me: "I am sure Poh Peng will put her computer skills to good use and I believe she will widen her social circle after she joins the workforce."

"We may even increase her duties and pay her more once she gets the hang of the job," Dr Low added.

"She is also free to take on assignments from other companies while working with us."

Like Dr Low, other readers were inspired by your never-say-die attitude and your courage and resilience in facing life. They were also touched at how your family has surrounded you with love and care.

About 10 of them wrote in to us, some offering financial support for your family, others giving job opportunities. There was even this person who hooked up with a group of dermatologists in the US and wanted to take you on a fully paid trip there to counsel and encourage patients with skin disorders in a children's camp.

I called up your father, Mr Ng Swee Siah, 51, a delivery man, who has been sheltering you all these years from the unfriendly stares of the outside world.

He told me: "You can link them up with Poh Peng this time. This is part of her growing-up process."

What wisdom from him and what maturity you have shown as you took the calls from the readers.

With all these opportunities coming your way now, you said you need to consider how to handle them while juggling your medical needs.

For example, you said you are keen to go for the US trip, but you wonder who can take care of you when you are there.

We say, no hurry, girl. Take some time to plan. The world is your oyster and the best is yet to be.

**Your friend,
Gan Ling Kai,
TNPS reporter**