

CHOICES

DON'T

GET

CAUGHT

ELEANOR

ROBINS

Chapter 1

The Unmasked Question

It was Friday night. Dawn was at a football game. She was with her boyfriend Max. Dawn went steady with him.

The game had just ended. Their team had won—just—by two points. Dawn and Max started to walk to Max’s car.

Max said, “That was a great game. But for a while I wasn’t sure we would win.”

Dawn said, “I thought we might not win, either. I wish we could score more than two touchdowns in a game.”

“Yeah. So do I,” Max said.

The team had played five games. And they had scored only one or two touchdowns in each game.

“At least we have a good kicker,” Dawn said.

“You are right about that. He is one good kicker,” Max said.

So far their kicker was having a good season. He had kicked every extra point. And he had kicked two field goals.

“We were lucky that the other team didn’t have a good kicker, too. Or this game would have ended in a tie,” Max said.

“I know,” Dawn said. A tie wasn’t any fun. But it was better than losing.

Dawn said, “Maybe we will score more points in our next game.”

“We can hope so. But I don’t think our team is that good,” Max said.

Dawn didn’t want to believe it. But she thought Max was right. Their team wasn’t that good. Dawn and Max didn’t talk for a few minutes.

Then Dawn said, “I wish we had a game next weekend.”

“I care a lot about my grandparents. I told you that before. I like to visit them. They are a lot of fun to be with,” Max said.

“I know you told me that before, Max. And I believe you care a lot about them,” Dawn said.

But was that the only reason he went to visit them so much? Dawn didn't think it was. She thought there must be some other reason.

Was it because he was dating a girl who lived there? Did he think he could date a girl there? That she wouldn't find out?

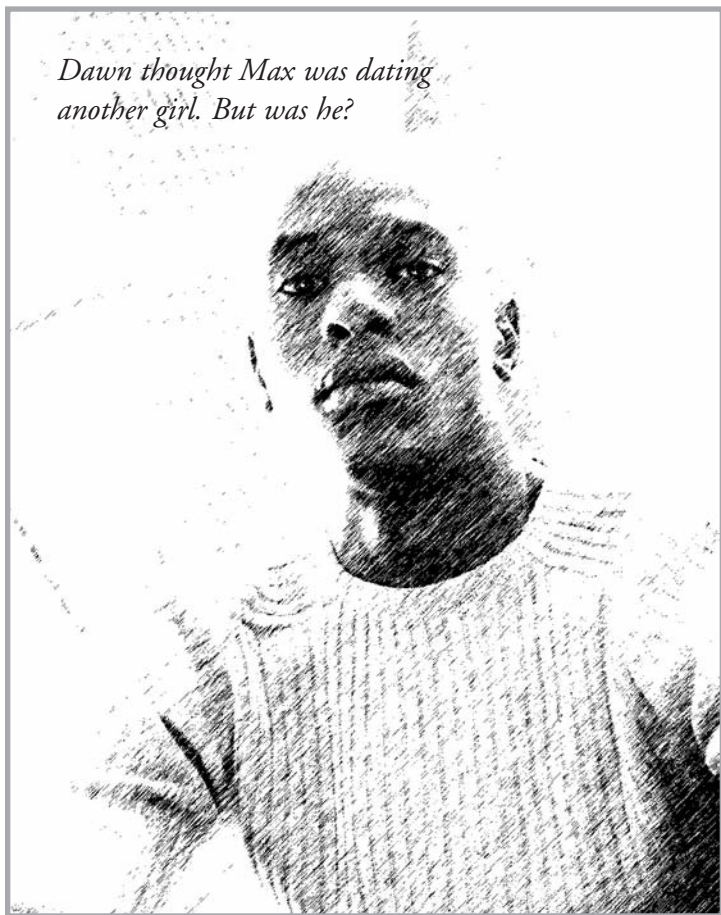
Dawn thought Max could be trusted. But she wasn't sure he could be. They started to walk again.

Max said, “You know I will miss you next weekend. And I will wish I was with you.”

Then why was he going to see his grandparents? Dawn wanted to ask him. But she didn't. She still thought it was because he was dating a girl there.

Was he? That was another question she wouldn't ask him.

Dawn thought Max was dating another girl. But was he?



Chapter 2

Dawn Confides in Bree

It was the next Monday. Dawn walked to the lunchroom. She always ate lunch with Bree. Bree was her best friend.

Dawn had to study most of the weekend. She didn't have time to talk to Bree. So Dawn really wanted to talk to her.

Bree was waiting for Dawn in the hall outside of the lunchroom. Bree asked, "How were your tests, Dawn?"

"OK. I think I did all right on them," Dawn said. Just her luck. She had two tests on the same day. Both were on Monday. And she had to study most of the weekend.

Dawn and Bree quickly got their lunch. Then they hurried over to a table and sat down.

The girls ate for a few minutes. Then Dawn asked, "Did you have fun this weekend?"

“We didn’t have a fight. I would have told you right away if we had,” Dawn said.

“So why did you say you and Max would do nothing?” Bree asked.

“Max is going to see his grandparents again,” Dawn said. Dawn knew she didn’t sound happy about it. And she wasn’t happy.

Bree said, “Max goes to see them a lot. He must care a lot about them.”

“I guess so,” Dawn said.

Bree asked, “Why? Do you think he has another reason for going to see them?”

“I don’t know,” Dawn said. Then Dawn started to eat some more of her lunch. The two girls didn’t talk for a few minutes.

Then Dawn said, “I think Max might have another girlfriend.”

“What? Why do you think that, Dawn?” Bree asked. Bree looked very surprised. She sounded very surprised, too.

Dawn said, "I might be wrong. But I think Max has another girlfriend where his grandparents live. That is why he goes to see them so much."

"I don't believe that, Dawn. The two of you go steady," Bree said.

"So? Max knows he could date another girl there. I wouldn't find out about it," Dawn said.

"I don't believe Max would do that. Max isn't that kind of boy. He wouldn't do that to you," Bree said.

"I think he would," Dawn said.

"You are wrong. I am sure of that," Bree said.

"But you can't really be sure of that. Can you?" Dawn asked.

At first Bree didn't answer. But then she said, "No. I guess I can't be sure."

Chapter 3

Trish Calls

Later that night, Dawn was in her bedroom. She was doing her homework. Dawn's cell phone rang. She quickly answered it.

A girl said, "Hi, Dawn. It's me. Trish." Trish was her cousin. Trish lived in Wayfield. Wayfield was about sixty miles from where Dawn lived.

"Hi, Trish. It's great to hear from you. What have you been doing?" Dawn said.

"Nothing much. Just the same old things. Too much homework. Too many tests. How about you?" Trish asked.

"About the same for me," Dawn said.

"I can't talk long, Dawn. So this is why I called. Saturday night Wayfield will play its Homecoming game. And I want you to come," Trish said.

“I don’t know if I can,” Dawn said. It sounded like fun. But Dawn would have to find a way to get there.

“Why? Are you still dating that boy?” Trish asked.

“His name is Max. And I am still dating him,” Dawn said.

“Do you have to date him every Saturday night?” Trish asked.

“No. I don’t have to date him every Saturday night. He won’t even be in town this weekend,” Dawn said.

“Good. Then you can come to visit me,” Trish said.

“I don’t know. I would need a way to get there,” Dawn said.

“Your parents can bring you. They can spend the weekend here with my parents. My mom said she will call your mom about it tomorrow. So will you come?” Trish asked.

“Sure. It sounds like fun,” Dawn said. Dawn knew she might as well go. Max would be out of town. And she wouldn’t have anything else to do.

Trish said, “It will be fun, Dawn. Or at least it will be if we win. And I think we will. We have a great team. But there is one more thing.”

“What?” Dawn asked.

“I have found the perfect boy for you, Dawn” Trish said.

“I go steady, Trish. You know that,” Dawn said.

“You know I don’t think you should go steady,” Trish said.

“You don’t think anyone should go steady,” Dawn said.

Trish laughed. Then she said, “You are right about that, Dawn. So what about it? Do you want to date this boy?”

“I go steady, Trish. That means I can’t date someone else,” Dawn said.