

DRAMA TRAUMA

BOOK 1
DRAMA HIGH

Jasmrithi Avula



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TIA

THE MAIN CHARACTER




BASIC INFO

AGE: 14

GRADE: 9th

FROM: Texas, USA

HEIGHT: 5'6"
(a little taller than Zoe)

ROLE: Zoe's best friend

ABOUT TIA

Tia is one of Zoe's new best friends in Texas (part of a close friend group of three). She's tall, fun, and full of good energy.

She's the super-encouraging type — but in a funny, dramatic, slightly sneaky way, always hyping you up and exaggerating everything to get you to do stuff.

PERSONALITY

- ♥ Encouraging
- ♥ Confident
- ♥ Funny
- ♥ Dramatic
- ♥ A little sneaky
- ♥ Loyal

LIKES

- ♥ Hying up her friends
- ♥ Sports & games
- ♥ Dares & challenges
- ♥ Sweet & spicy snacks
- ♥ Road trips & adventures
- ♥ Music & dance

DISLIKES

- ♥ Being told no
- ♥ Boring days
- ♥ Slow walkers
- ♥ People who kill the vibe
- ♥ Messy rooms
- ♥ Drama that's not fun

EXPRESSIONS







HAPPY
THOUGHTFUL
CONFIDENT
SURPRISED
LAUGHING

HAIRSTYLE REFERENCE



OUTFITS







CASUAL (AT HOME)
SCHOOL DAY
SHOPPING / ERRANDS
DINNER OUT
FAMILY TIME

COLOR PALETTE

FUN FACTS

- ☆ She can hype up a turtle and make it feel like a cheetah.
- ☆ Loves sports — especially basketball and volleyball.
- ☆ She has the loudest laugh in the group (but it's iconic).
- ☆ Secretly keeps a journal to plan the best pranks.
- ☆ Will do anything for her friends.

New city. ✓
New school. ✓
New friends. ✓
New drama. ✓
Prina it on!

Some call it drama.
We call it life.

By
Jasmrithi Avula



IVY

THE MAIN CHARACTER



Texas, USA



BASIC INFO

AGE: 14

GRADE: 9th

FROM: Texas, USA

HEIGHT: 5'4"
(same height as Zoe)

ROLE: Zoe's best friend

ABOUT IVY

Ivy is one of Zoe's new best friends in Texas (part of a close friend group of three). She's calm, quiet, and elegant in a simple, down-to-earth way. She likes to keep things plain and neat, and she's the steady, grounded one in the group.

PERSONALITY

- ♥ Calm
- ♥ Elegant
- ♥ Smart
- ♥ Plain/simple style
- ♥ Grounded
- ♥ Kind

LIKES

- ♥ Reading
- ♥ Journaling
- ♥ Neat spaces
- ♥ Quiet days
- ♥ Stationery & planners
- ♥ Tea & cozy vibes

DISLIKES

- ♥ Loud chaos
- ♥ Messes
- ♥ Too much drama
- ♥ Overcrowded places
- ♥ Being rushed
- ♥ People who don't listen

EXPRESSIONS ♥

HAIRSTYLE REFERENCE ♥











OUTFITS ♥

COLOR PALETTE ♥







FUN FACTS ♥

- ☆ She has a perfectly organized notebook for everything.
- ☆ She memorizes little details about the people she cares about.
- ☆ She can spend hours in a bookstore and be completely happy.
- ☆ She's low-key amazing at giving the best advice.
- ☆ She loves cute stationery more than anything!

New city ✓
New school. ✓
New friends. ✓
New drama. ✓
Prina it on!

Some call it drama. ☆
We call it life. ☆

By
Jasmrithi Avula







MADISON

THE MAIN CHARACTER



Texas, USA



BASIC INFO

AGE: 14

GRADE: 9th

FROM: Texas, USA

HEIGHT: 5'7"
(tall and confident)

ROLE: The mean girl /
Zoe's enemy

ABOUT MADISON

Madison is the most popular — and meanest — girl in school. She always wants to be the center of attention and acts like she's the boss of everyone.

She has a group of minions who follow her everywhere, and she looks down on people she doesn't think are cool. She's Zoe's rival.

PERSONALITY

- ♥ Bossy
- ♥ Dramatic
- ♥ Confident
- ♥ Attention-seeking
- ♥ Sassy
- ♥ The queen bee

LIKES

- ♥ Being the center of attention
- ♥ Designer & expensive things
- ♥ Her minions
- ♥ Being in charge
- ♥ Mirrors & selfies

DISLIKES

- ♥ Being ignored
- ♥ Anyone more popular than her
- ♥ Zoe
- ♥ Being told no

EXPRESSIONS ♥







SMUG
SIDE-EYE
ARROGANT
DISGUSTED
LAUGHING

HAIRSTYLE REFERENCE ♥



OUTFITS ♥







CASUAL
(AT HOME)
SCHOOL DAY
SHOPPING /
ERRANDS
DINNER OUT
FAMILY TIME

COLOR PALETTE ♥

FUN FACTS ♥

- ☆ She always sits in the front row.
- ☆ She has a signature look — flawless.
- ☆ She has a group chat for her minions.
- ☆ She knows everyone's secrets.
- ☆ She believes the world revolves around her.

New city ✓
New school. ✓
New rules. ✓
Same queen. ✓
Bow down. ♥

★ They call it drama. ★
★ I call it my world. ★
★ Get used to it. ★

By Jasmrithi Avula

Family first.
Home is
where our
heart is. ♥

Collect
moments,
not
things ♥

Violet

(MOM)

♥ ZOE'S MOM ♥

Texas, USA

PASSPORT
TO
LOVE & HOME

BASIC INFO

AGE: 39

ROLE: Zoe's mom

OCCUPATION: Interior Designer

STYLE: Elegant, simple, and timeless

ABOUT VIOLET

Violet is a loving, graceful, and incredibly supportive mom. She is wise and patient, and always puts her family first. She has a beautiful way of making everyone around her feel calm and loved.

She is elegant in everything she does — from her home to her style — and she creates a warm, peaceful, happy life for her family.

PERSONALITY

- ♥ Loving
- ♥ Supportive
- ♥ Wise
- ♥ Patient
- ♥ Warm
- ♥ Gentle
- ♥ Calm
- ♥ Graceful

LIKES

- ♥ Family time
- ♥ Decorating
- ♥ Reading
- ♥ Coffee
- ♥ Fresh flowers
- ♥ Interior design
- ♥ Soft music
- ♥ Cozy evenings
- ♥ Quiet moments

DISLIKES

- ♥ Rudeness
- ♥ Negativity
- ♥ Dishonesty
- ♥ Arguments
- ♥ Messy spaces
- ♥ Stressful chaos

EXPRESSIONS ♥

HAPPY PROUD CONCERNED THOUGHTFUL LAUGHING

HAIRSTYLE REFERENCE ♥

CASUAL (AT HOME) ♥ HALF-UP HALF-DOWN ELEGANT LOW BUN HIGH BUN SIDE PONYTAIL

OUTFITS ♥

CASUAL (AT HOME) ♥ HALF-UP HALF-DOWN ELEGANT LOW BUN HIGH BUN SIDE PONYTAIL

COLOR PALETTE ♥

FUN FACTS ♥

- ☆ She names all her plants and talks to them daily.
- ☆ She believes every home should feel like a hug.
- ☆ She makes the best coffee at home.
- ☆ She can turn any room into a peaceful oasis.

New city
New school
New friends
New memories
Welcome home! ♥

WORK
(DESIGN STUDIO)

DAMIER TIME

Home is where love grows. ♥

By **Jasmrithi Avula**



The newest love of the family.

Tiny hands. Big heart. Big trouble.

Lucas

(BABY BROTHER)

♥ ZOE'S BABY BROTHER ♥

Texas, USA

BABY BOOK - FULL OF BIG MOMENTS

BASIC INFO

AGE: Baby (about 1 year old)

ROLE: Zoe's baby brother

PERSONALITY: adorable, funny, acts like he knows what's happening

ABOUT LUCAS

Zoe always wanted a sibling, and finally got Lucas in the middle of the story.

He's the most adorable, funny baby who seems to understand everything going on around him.

Zoe loves him more than anything.

PERSONALITY

- Adorable
- Funny
- Curious
- Cheeky
- Sweet
- Cuddly
- Smart-for-a-baby

LIKES

- Zoe
- Cuddles
- Naps
- Peekaboo
- His stroller
- Giggling
- Soft blankets

DISLIKES

- Being woken up
- Madison (he once peed on her!)
- Loud noises
- Bedtime

BABY EXPRESSIONS

GIGGLING

SLEEPY

CURIOUS

SURPRISED

BABY POSES

SITTING UP

CRAWLING

BEING HELD

IN HIS STROLLER

COLOR PALETTE

FUN FACTS

- He acts like he knows exactly what's happening.
- He once peed on Madison and it was iconic.
- He has the dreamiest mint green eyes.
- Zoe is his favorite person in the whole world.

BABY OUTFITS

COZY (AT HOME)

NAP TIME (PJS)

GOING OUT (OVERALLS + HAT)

PLAYTIME

TEXAS BABY (SPECIAL OUTFIT)

Newest family member ✓

Brings endless laughter ✓

Melts everyone's heart ✓

Little troublemaker ✓

100% loved by all ✓

The tiny boss of the family.

By Jasmrithi Avula







Alenta

14 YEARS OLD

♥ ZOE'S BEST FRIEND ♥

♥ 14 YEARS OLD

- ♥ Sweet & playful
- ♥ Zoe's best friend
- ♥ Loves fashion
- ♥ Adores Paris
- ♥ Kind, cheerful & full of energy



Paris is always a good idea ♥

Alinta

17 YEARS OLD

♥ OLIVIA'S BEST FRIEND ♥
♥ ALENTA'S OLDER SISTER ♥

♥ 17 YEARS OLD

- ♥ A little more mature
- ♥ Chic & confident
- ♥ Olivia's best friend
- ♥ Alenta's older sister
- ♥ Loyal, stylish & always supportive



Good friends, great style, forever ♥





CHAPTER 1

A sneak peek into a drama
queen's life



*There are so many beautiful countries in the world, so many magical cities,
and of course, so many wonderful girls.*

*But today's story begins in Europe,
in the charming country of France, inside the world-famous city of Paris.
And the beautiful girl we're talking about is none other than Zoe Swindle.*



Zoe is an honest, kind-hearted, sweet fourteen-year-old girl. She has clear blue eyes, soft pale-pink lips, and she always wears two neat ponytails. She's short, but just the perfect height for her age. Wherever she goes, she tries to bring a positive vibe to everyone around her. But deep inside, Zoe sometimes struggles with self-confidence — the kind a mature fourteen-year-old is expected to have.

Whenever her family planned a trip, Zoe always refused to join. She would say she wanted to stay with her friends, or make up some excuse to stay home. But the truth was different. Zoe was scared. She didn't know what the outside world was like... and she was terrified of being judged by it.

Zoe wasn't an only child.

She had a big sister named Olivia and an older brother named Andre.

Her parents, Violet and Gourd, loved their children deeply. And Zoe? She had one little wish — she always wanted a baby sister. But her parents would laugh and say, "Not yet... we're not ready for another child."

And so begins our story — a sneak peek into the dramatic, funny, emotional, and unforgettable life of Zoe, a girl who has no idea how much her world is about to change.

A very peaceful and calm life will turn into a rollercoaster of love, besties, new beginnings, gossip, and way too much drama!

CHAPTER 2

Hello, trouble

Zoe pressed her forehead against the airplane window, watching as the glowing Paris lights slowly disappeared through the clouds. Her heart felt heavy. Paris had been her whole world, and now... she was leaving it behind.

Her parents had decided it was the right time to move to Houston, Texas.

But Zoe?

She was terrified. Horrified. Heartbroken.

When she first heard the news, she had locked herself in her room for hours. She didn't talk to anyone. She just hugged her old teddy, Meera, the one she got when she was eight. It was a present from her late grandmother who told her

"Life is not about whether someone else thinks badly of you
It is about the memories you build and the memories you WILL build.
You will be scared and no one ever said being brave is easy but you
know what, it is possible."

Holding Meera made her feel brave. It reminded her that maybe... just maybe... it was time to stop being scared of the outside world. As she thought about her granny she couldn't help but shed happy proud sad tears.



When Zoe and her family finally reached Houston, everything felt strange and unfamiliar. Their new house was already booked, and boxes filled every room.

Starting a new school in a new country felt like the scariest thing in the universe. Leaving her old friends behind hurt more than she imagined.

Paris had always been warm, soft, golden, and full of sunshine. Texas felt like someone had turned the heat and noise all the way up.

*"A new start," her mother said cheerfully.
Zoe smiled back, but inside her stomach twisted with fear.
The next morning, on her first day of school, Zoe walked in
nervously, whispering English sentences to herself, practicing so
she wouldn't sound silly.
Before she could panic, two girls waved at her.
One was tall with a high ponytail — Tia.
The other had bright blue glasses and loose hair — Ivy.*



"Come sit with us!" Ivy said, patting the seat beside her.

Maybe... moving wasn't such a terrible idea after all, Zoe thought. Maybe things would be okay. But that hope lasted only until she walked into her classroom.

Standing in the centre, like she owned the room, was Madison Blake — the most popular girl in school... and the meanest.

"Oh look," Madison said loudly. "The new French girl. Cute accent."

It wasn't a compliment. Zoe felt a shiver run up her spine. She didn't like Madison at all — and she could already sense that Madison didn't like her either. Trouble had officially arrived.



CHAPTER 3

Lunch drama

Zoe survived three classes, two crowded hallways, and one extremely embarrassing moment when she accidentally opened the wrong locker. By lunchtime, she was exhausted, tired and felt a little and she felt a little anxiety well up inside her.

She scanned the cafeteria but she could not
very corner of the lunch hall.

Relief washed over Zoe. She hurried to sit next to them. But before she could even take a bite, the entire cafeteria suddenly went silent.

Madison Blake had entered.

Her squad followed behind her like perfectly trained minions.

Madison didn't even need to look around—she spotted Zoe instantly.

"Oh wow, the little Paris weirdo," Madison said loudly, pretending to be impressed.

Zoe hesitated.

"Bonjour," she said softly.

"Yeah, no one really understands that," Madison rolled her eyes.

"If you're sitting at our table, you better behave like us." "Our table?" Zoe repeated, confused.

"Madison thinks she owns the entire left side of the lunch hall,"

Tia whispered. "Don't ask why."

"Last time we checked," Ivy said boldly, "your name
wasn't written on the table."

"And don't you dare bully our friend," Tia added, crossing
her arms.

Madison ignored them—like she always did.

"Just stay out of my way,"

she warned Zoe,

"or you'll regret it."

Zoe wasn't the type to start fights,

but something inside her flickered.

She hated the way Madison talked to her — like she
didn't belong.

Suddenly,

Zoe wasn't hungry anymore.

She stood up quietly,

ready to leave. Ivy and Tia exchanged worried looks.

Ivy rushed after her,

but she'd tied her shoelaces too loosely. She slipped—
straight into Zoe.

Zoe stumbled, and the plate she was holding flew out of her hands.

SPLAT!

The entire lunchroom gasped.

The food landed right on Madison Blake's perfectly styled hair.

Madison let out a dramatic scream.

"How dare you!" she shrieked, grabbing a tomato and throwing it at Zoe.

"DUCK!!" Tia shouted.

"Duck?!" Zoe yelled back, confused. "Why would I—"

Then she saw it.

A bright red tomato shooting toward her like a missile.

She ducked just in time.

The tomato flew past her and hit the football team captain, Corey, right in the face.

That was it.

Chaos exploded.

Mashed potatoes flew. Juice spilled. People screamed.

Within seconds, the entire cafeteria became a full-on
food fight battlefield.

Then—

HOOOOONK!

The principal blew a huge horn, and the whole room
froze.

"You two!" she shouted, pointing straight at Zoe and
Madison. "Principal's office. NOW!"

In the Principal's Office

As they sat down, Madison smirked.

"You're so expelled," she whispered.

Zoe gulped. But then the principal spoke.

"Madison Blake, this is the eighth time in a row a food
fight has started because of you."

"Eighth?!" Zoe gasped.

"That is NOT because of me!" Madison exclaimed.

"So it's not my fault?" Zoe asked.

"Correct," the principal said calmly. "Many students have
complained that Madison provokes them until something
happens."



"Really?" Zoe said, trying not to smile.

"Yes. Really," the principal said firmly.

"Madison, you're getting detention for a week."

"A whole WEEK?!" Madison shrieked.

"Be happy I didn't make it two or three," the principal replied.

"And Zoe," she continued kindly, "you can go back to class. If you ever have a problem with Madison again, inform me immediately."

Zoe tried not to laugh.

Tried.

She walked out with Ivy and Tia, all three of them giggling and whispering as they headed back to class.

CHAPTER 2

Rumours in the Hallway

The minute Zoe stepped into school the next morning, the atmosphere felt different.

The hallway, usually filled with laughter and noise, suddenly went quiet — strangely quiet.

Dozens of heads turned.

Dozens of eyes stared.

Dozens of whispers spread like wildfire.

Zoe clutched the straps of her backpack, confused.

"Why is everyone looking at me?"



Ivy and Tia hurried toward her, both looking worried.
"Zoe... don't feel sad but..." Ivy paused, chewing on her lip.
"Why would I feel sad?" Zoe asked, trying to laugh it off.

Before Ivy could answer, a girl nearby pointed straight at Zoe and yelled loud enough for everyone to hear:
"OMG! Isn't that the girl who attacked Madison?!"
The whispers instantly grew louder.

"Attacked Madison? Why would I attack Madison!" Zoe burst out.

A huge crowd had gathered at the end of the hallway.
When Zoe reached the front, she froze.

Madison Blake lay dramatically on the floor like she was starring in a sad movie.

Fake tears.

Fake sobs.

Mascara running down her cheeks.

Her squad surrounded her, acting like they were attending a funeral.



"Oh... so brave of you to show up, Zoe!" Madison sniffled.

"Why wouldn't I show up?" Zoe replied.

"You attacked me yesterday!"

"I didn't attack you!"

"The food slipped out of my ha—"

"AND I GOT HURT!" Madison interrupted.

She held up her arm, showing a tiny scratch.

that looked like it has been drawn by a pink pen.

"Awww!" gasped the crowd.

"I di—"

"No! I can't bear this anymore!" Madison wailed dramatically.

People immediately turned toward Zoe with blaming eyes.

By the time the day finally ended, Zoe felt exhausted.

As she packed her books into her bag, she noticed a folded note stuck to her locker.

She looked around. No one was there.

Slowly, she opened it.

Inside were the words:

"Meet me behind the gym hall."

"It's only going to get worse from now."



A chill rushed through her.

Someone knew something.

Someone wanted to talk.

But who?

And why?

Zoe swallowed hard.

For the first time since the food fight, she
felt that something much bigger was about to
happen.

CHAPTER 5

Mystery discovery

"Are you sure about this?" Ivy asked.

"No..." said Zoe softly.

All three of them were very scared.

"If Madison jumps out, I'm running," said Tia.

Ivy elbowed her. "We are here to protect Zoe."

"I mean... we can protect her while running,"

Tia replied.

Ivy rolled her eyes.

Behind them stood a thin boy with silky hair,

green eyes, and headphones around his neck.

Zoe looked at him strangely. He didn't seem

like the type of boy who would leave a

mysterious note.

"Runnnnn!" screamed Tia.

Zoe narrowed her eyes at her,

*and Tia quickly zipped her
mouth.*

*"You're the one who left me
the note?" Zoe asked, looking
at the boy.*



"Yes. My name is Liam."

Zoe recognised him. He was one of the popular boys in school—quiet and mysterious, which somehow made him even more popular.

Zoe didn't understand why he would leave a note for her.

"You might be wondering why I left the note," Liam said.

"Did you just read my mind?" Zoe asked. Liam laughed nervously. He blushed—and Zoe blushed too.

"This is way better than any love story I've seen," Tia whispered.

Zoe shushed her.

"I saw what happened during lunch," Liam continued. "I knew it was an accident. I have a video as proof."

Zoe was shocked.

"Are you sure?" Ivy asked.

Liam showed them the video on his phone.



"This is perfect proof!" said Tia. "We can expose Madison! She will be expelled!"

She even did an evil laugh.

Ivy, Zoe, and Liam stared at her.

"Did you go crazy?" Ivy asked.

"Did you lose your mind?" Zoe added.

"Did you see my cap yesterday?" Liam suddenly asked.

"Seriously?" Ivy and Zoe said together.

"What? I couldn't find my cap from yesterday," Liam shrugged.

Tia narrowed her eyes suspiciously.

"Anyway, let's show the video to the principal," she said. "We should also put it on the big screen so everyone can see the truth!"

"And then everyone will turn against Madison," Zoe added.

"I'm not so sure about this," Ivy said.

"Come on, Ivy. Don't you want Zoe to have a peaceful school year?" Liam asked.

"I guess so," Ivy replied.

"Great! Then let's do it!" Tia said.

"Sure," Zoe agreed.

"Not yet," Liam said. "We should do it tomorrow. Everyone has already left school. If we wait, more people can see it."

Everyone agreed and went home, ready for the next day.

The Next Morning

They all came to school excited.

"I made up a name for our plan," said Tia. "Revenge Devenge!"

"I never agreed to any revenge," Zoe said.

"Zoe is right," Liam added. "This isn't revenge. We just need to show the truth."

"Fine," Tia said. "But still... the truth must come out."

"Guys... where is Ivy?" Zoe asked.

They spotted Ivy walking toward them, looking very tired, still in her pajamas, with coffee spilled on her shirt.

"What happened?" all three asked at once.

"Ohhh... I had a cold," Ivy sniffed.

"Aww, poor thing," said Tia.

"You should go home and rest," Zoe said kindly.

"Are you sure?" Ivy asked.

"It's fine," Liam said. "We'll handle everything."

"Okay... just tell me what happens," Ivy said.

"Of course!" Tia replied.

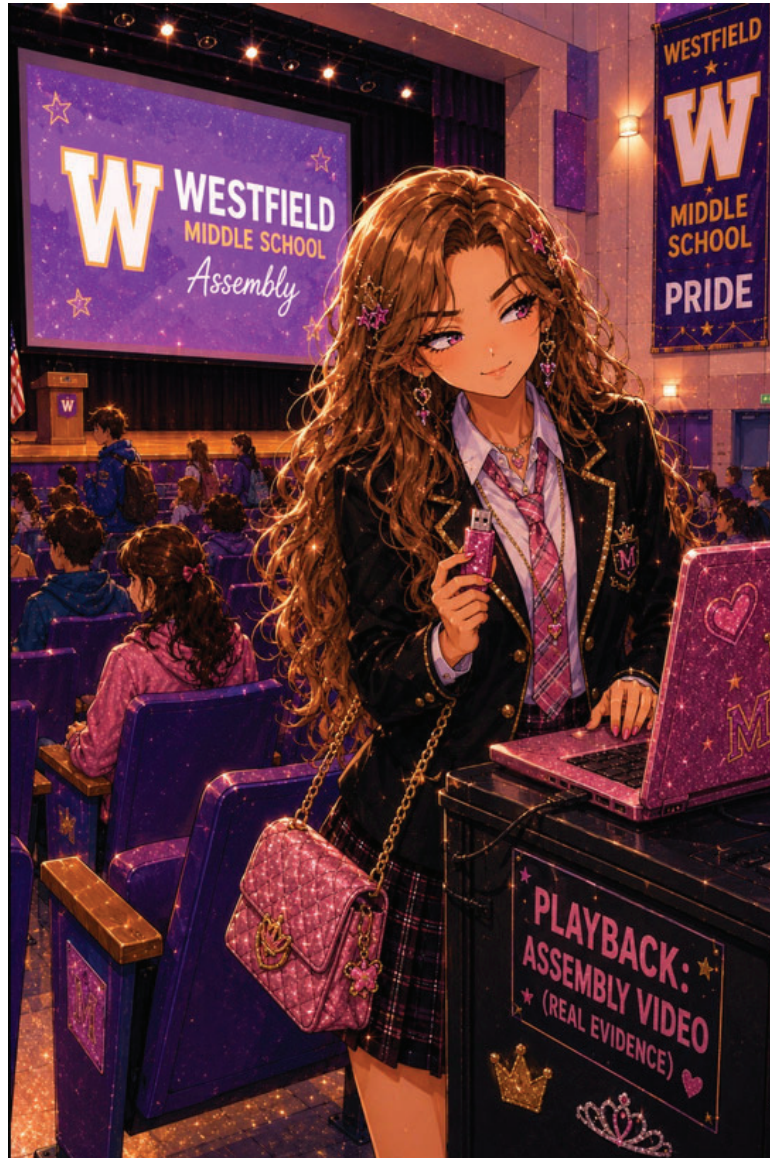
Ivy went back home.

Surprisingly, the big screen was already set up.

Liam immediately understood. "This is Madison's next plan," he said. "She's trying to ruin Zoe's reputation again."

Zoe noticed Madison sneaking toward the cable to connect to

the big screen on the assembly stage in the morning



"So did we," Tia whispered.

They followed her quietly and overheard Madison talking to her friends. She was planning to show a fake AI video of Zoe.

Liam quickly walked on to the stage as Zoe followed

They were worried

But they had some hope

With each other

They were blushing as Liam connected his phone.



Liam connected his phone to the assembly screen.

The entire school saw the real video.

Cause all of them were already seated for the assembly

Madison froze in shock.

She was exposed there right on that stage

Everyone turned against her.
Zoe felt a little bad for Madison—even after everything she
had done.

Madison quickly tried to lie.
"Oh! I didn't know it was an accident! I'm so sorry for blaming
you! Thank you, Liam, for showing the truth," she said.
But no one believed her.

Everything slowly returned to normal.

The Next Day

Ivy came back feeling better.
They told her everything that had happened.
Ivy laughed so much she couldn't stop.
And the four of them went back to their usual life—giggling,
whispering, joking, and being together like always.
But now, they were stronger than before.

CHAPTER 6

Spotlight shadows

As the drama club gathered on the stage for rehearsal, everyone waited quietly while the drama teacher held the cast list. Zoe crossed her fingers, her heart beating faster with every second. Maybe this was her chance. The room seemed to go silent as the teacher smiled and announced, "Madison, you'll be playing the lead role." Cheers filled the stage. Then the teacher looked down at the list again. "Zoe... your role will be Tree #2." Zoe forced a smile, but inside, her excitement quietly slipped away.



"A tree? After all that acting? This is illegal!"

Tia frowned. "You were perfect, Zoe. This makes no sense."

Zoe didn't say anything.

Liam saw her and wanted to hug her but was hesitant.

So he stood next to her so he wouldn't invade her space.

She felt her throat tighten, like words were stuck somewhere
she couldn't reach.

She turned away quickly, pretending to adjust her bag.

"I just... need some air," she said softly.

Then Madison quickly pointed out, "You better practice to be a
better tree!"

She laughed.

And then everyone started laughing.

Zoe turned away before anyone could see her face.

She ran outside and sat down on a bench, her shoulders
shaking as hot tears rolled down her cheeks.

She felt devastated

As the day went on, Zoe was quiet and dull.

Liam noticed, he wanted to talk about but he thought it just
make her more sad.

At science class, the teacher paired up Liam and Zoe for a science test.

So Liam suggested they meet up at the library after recess. Zoe just shrugged and left, Liam felt so upset thinking she was sad.

After recess, Zoe was waiting at the library. Liam was looking for her all around the library, but he did not find her.

He was sure that she said yes

He just felt disappointed thinking that shrug was a no
So he went away, thinking she was not going to come, while
Zoe was sitting at the other end of the library.

She thought he was mad at her or disgusted that she did not
make the lead role

She thought he was just polite all this while
Zoe waited and waited, and then eventually she went away
too!!

Then the next day, when Zoe came, Liam was not at school.
Not the next day, or the day after.

Zoe was afraid, but she remembered that when he gave her
the note, it had his phone number on the back of it.
So she did the bravest thing... she texted him, even though
she was afraid to call him.

"Hi... uh... is everything fine?" she texted him.

And then the bell rang—rrrr ringggggg!

Suddenly, Ivy pulled her. "Hey! Where are you? I have been
looking for you! It's time for biology," Tia added.

"You guys go, I will just catch up with you," Zoe said.

She quickly rushed to the restroom.

And then, there, she called him.

It went to voicemail, so she just said, "Hey, you didn't come to
school.

I just wanted to check on you. Is everything okay?"

Suddenly, a reply came:

"Yeah, everything is okay. My grandma fell sick, so I went to visit her."

Zoe sighed in relief.

Later that day, Ivy suggested, "Should all the girls go to the ice cream shop this evening?"

And Tia cheered, "Yeah! We should! That will totally cheer Zoe up!"

Zoe said, "Umm... actually, no..."

"Come on, Zoe," Tia pleaded.

"Yeah, it's been a while since we all hung out," Ivy added.

"I don't know... fine," said Zoe reluctantly.

But they had a fun evening with the ice cream outing and movie outing, and they even snuck into a closed theme park.

A few days later...

Liam finally showed up to school.

And Madison went up to him, saying, "Ohh, here you are..."

Liamiiiiii!"

Like she was sooo worried about him, when the other days she
didn't even care about him.

And suddenly, she acted so caring and bothered.

"Quit your act," said Tia.

"So finally", Zoe said, "We have some time right now... we
should finish the project."

Liam was glad and he nodded

And they finally finished the project.

The next day at school, they were presenting the project, and
everyone loved it—except Madison, who was insanely jealous.

And like always, everyone cheered for Zoe.

CHAPTER 7

The new girl

Whispers filled the hallway.

Zoe didn't understand what was happening.

Debbie pulled her aside. "Hey girl, did you hear the news?"

"No, I didn't," Zoe said.

Just then, Tia walked in. "Remember the time you got the role of a tree?" she said.

"Yeah... I'm still thinking about that," Zoe replied. "I'm even thinking about quitting the play. Being a tree is too humiliating."

"You shouldn't, girl," Tia said.

"Why not?" Zoe asked.

"Because—" Tia started.

"Because—" Ivy interrupted. "You should probably stay in it... because you are the lead role."

"What do you mean I'm the lead role?" Zoe exclaimed.

Tia leaned in. "The news we're talking about... remember Madison getting the lead role?"

Zoe nodded.

"It's actually fake," Tia said. "Madison bribed the drama teacher to give you the tree role and make herself the lead. Her acting is horrible—no one would believe she could actually get the lead."

"And come on," Ivy added. "You're like an acting queen. You totally deserve it."

"Yeah," Tia said. "You do."

Zoe's eyes widened. "Oh really? That's amazing! I'm definitely not going to drop out of the play now!"

Later that day, during free time, Zoe was too happy to even listen to Tia's long story about her trip with her uncle—which she didn't like—and how her mom tried to make it up by taking her to the movies.

After class, the teacher introduced the new girl, Emma, to everybody.

She looked like she came straight from a fashion show... She had green eyes, golden-bright hair, and the cutest outfit ever.



It looked like she was going to become popular in no time.

Zoe loved her personality. Emma was so talkative, so encouraging, and so sweet.

It felt like Zoe and Emma were twins.

Zoe and Emma became friends in no time—along with Tia and Ivy.

At lunch, Madison walked up to Emma, introducing herself. "Heeeeeeyyy! My name is Madison. So... do you want to hang out with us for lunch?" she said, trying to make Emma one of her minions.

"Hey... um, Madison! I would love to hang out with you, but I'm already sitting with Zoe and the girls," Emma said politely.



Madison froze for a second.

She quickly covered it with a big, fake smile.

"Whoa... it looks like you have a lot of experience with mean girls," Tia whispered.

All four girls burst out laughing.

Later that day, something felt... different.

Emma wasn't laughing as much.

She was quieter.

Zoe noticed it.

But she ignored it.

Zoe felt something was off... but she didn't want to overthink it.

Earlier

Madison caught Emma alone.

"Hey," Madison said sweetly. "You deserve better friends."

Emma looked confused. "What do you mean?"

"You could be popular with me," Madison continued. "or you could be treated as trash like the garbage you hangout with,"

"You don't have to stay with them."

Emma hesitated.

She knew Zoe was kind.

But something about Madison's words... pulled her in.

The next day at school, Zoe waved at Emma.

Emma didn't wave back.

Instead...

She walked past Zoe...

And stood next to Madison.

"Wait... what is she doing?" Tia whispered.

Zoe frowned and walked up to her.

"Emma... what's going on?"

Emma looked uncomfortable.



"I think... I should hang out with Madison's group now."

Madison smirked.

Emma didn't look at Zoe.

Zoe felt something inside her sink.

Not anger.

Not even tears.

Just... hurt.

Tia stepped forward. "Are you serious right now?!"

Ivy looked confused.

"Emma... why?"

It wasn't Madison this time...

It was someone Zoe trusted.

Madison flipped her hair and smiled.

"Some people just know where they belong."

Emma stood next to her...

Quietly.

*Then suddenly the next day, Emma started to talk... but not
the way she used to.*

She wasn't kind anymore.

She was... mean.



"Oh wow, Zoe," Emma said, crossing her arms. "Still thinking you deserve the lead role?"

Zoe froze.

Tia stepped forward. "Excuse me?! What is your problem?"

Emma rolled her eyes. "Relax, Tia. I'm just being honest."

Madison smiled, clearly enjoying every second of it.

This was her moment.

She felt like it was finally her time to shine—her evilness showing through her smile.

Emma stood beside Madison now.

She was acting strange—funny, but in a mean way.

Talkative, but in a way that made people laugh at others instead of with them.

And somehow...

People liked it.

Students started gathering around her. Laughing. Listening.

Emma became popular almost instantly.

Zoe couldn't understand it.

This wasn't the Emma she met.

This wasn't the Emma who was sweet and kind.

This Emma was different.

And the worst part...

She was on Madison's side.

But what Madison didn't know...

Was that this was all part of a plan.

A plan Emma had made.

Because Emma couldn't stand watching a sweet, kind girl like

Zoe—and innocent people—get humiliated, bullied, and

treated badly by Madison.

She had seen it.

She had understood everything.

And she decided to do something about it.

So she acted.

She acted like she was falling right into Madison's trap...

becoming her friend, her "minion," her supporter.

But inside, Emma knew exactly what she was doing.

Every fake laugh...

Every mean comment...

Every moment standing beside Madison...

It was all part of something bigger.
Something Madison would never expect.
Emma glanced at Zoe for just a second...
And quickly looked away.
Guilt flashed in her eyes—but determination replaced it just
as fast.
Because this wasn't betrayal.
This was strategy.
And very soon...
Everything was going to change.

CHAPTER 8

The double game

Emma smiled...

But this time, her smile meant something very different.
She stood beside Madison, laughing at her jokes, nodding at
everything she said.

Madison felt powerful again.

Finally.

Everything was going her way.

Zoe had lost her role...

Her friends were confused...

And now, even Emma was on her side.

Or at least... that's what Madison thought.

"Emma, you're honestly so much better than them," Madison
said, flipping her hair.

Emma smiled. "I know."

Inside, she felt a small pinch of guilt.

But she ignored it.

She had a plan.

And plans needed patience.

Later that day, during drama club rehearsal, Madison stood
proudly on stage.

"Alright everyone, let's start from Scene One!" the teacher
said.

Zoe stood at the back, holding her script quietly.

A tree.

Still a tree.

Tia whispered, "This is so unfair."

Ivy nodded. "Something has to change."

Zoe didn't say anything.

But her eyes said everything.

Emma watched from the side.

She saw Zoe.

Quiet. Hurt. Trying to stay strong.

For a second... Emma almost stepped forward.

Almost.

But then she stopped herself.

Not yet.

"Madison, more expression!" the teacher called out.

Madison tried.

But it wasn't working.

Her acting felt forced.

Unnatural.

Even the class noticed.

A few students whispered.

Emma noticed too.

And that's when she knew...

The plan was working.

After rehearsal, Madison pulled Emma aside.

"You see that?" she said. "I totally nailed it."

Emma nodded slowly.

"Yeah... totally," she said.

But her eyes said something else.

Later, Emma walked past Zoe.

For a moment...

She slowed down.

Zoe looked up.

Their eyes met.

Just for a second.

Emma quickly looked away and kept walking.

Zoe felt that same strange feeling again.

Something wasn't right.

That evening, Emma sat alone in her room.

She looked at her phone.

At a note she had written:

"Step 1: Gain Madison's trust ✓

Step 2: Watch closely

Step 3: Expose the truth"

Emma took a deep breath.

"This has to work," she whispered.

The next day...

Everything seemed normal.

Too normal.

Madison was laughing louder than ever.

Emma stood beside her.
And Zoe watched from a distance.
Unaware...
That the game had already begun.

CHAPTER 9

The truth comes out

Everything felt normal.

Too normal.

Madison laughed loudly in the hallway, surrounded by students.

Emma stood beside her, smiling, talking, acting like everything was perfect.

And Zoe watched from a distance.

Something still didn't feel right.

"Okay, this is getting weird," Tia said. "Emma is acting completely different."

Ivy nodded. "Yeah... but I feel like something is going on."

Zoe stayed quiet.

"I don't know," she said softly. "I just... don't understand why she would do this."

Later that day, during drama club rehearsal, the teacher clapped loudly.

"Everyone! We are going to do a full performance practice today," she announced.

Madison stepped forward confidently.
"This is going to be easy," she whispered to Emma.
Emma just smiled.
The scene began.
Madison started acting.
But once again...
Something felt off.
Her expressions didn't match.
Her voice didn't carry emotion.
She forgot a line.
Then another.
Students started whispering.
The teacher frowned.
"Madison... stop," she said.
Madison froze.
"This is not working," the teacher continued. "You're not
connecting with the character."
Madison's face turned red.
"—I can try again," she said quickly.

From the side, Emma watched everything.

Carefully.

Calmly.

Exactly as planned.

Suddenly, Emma stepped forward.

"Miss, can I say something?" she asked.

The room went quiet.

Madison turned, surprised.

"Go ahead," the teacher said.

Emma took a deep breath.

"I think... the roles were not given fairly," she said.

The room filled with whispers.

Madison's eyes widened.

"What are you talking about?" she snapped.

Emma looked straight ahead.

"Zoe deserved the lead role," she said clearly.

Silence.

Zoe's heart started beating fast.

"Emma...?" she whispered.

Emma continued.

"I've been watching everything," she said. "And I also heard something..."

Madison took a step back.

"Stop," she said quickly.

But Emma didn't.

"I heard that the role was changed unfairly," Emma said.

The teacher's expression became serious.

"Is this true?" she asked.

Madison panicked.

"No! She's lying!" she shouted.

But her voice shook.

I couldn't bear seeing innocent girls like Zoe get bullied by

Madison

Emma turned to Zoe.

Her eyes softened.

"I'm sorry," she said quietly. "I had to pretend... to get the truth."

Zoe stood there, shocked.

Everything started making sense.

Tia gasped. "Wait... this was all a plan?!"

Ivy smiled slightly. "I knew something was off."

The teacher crossed her arms.

"Madison, we will look into this immediately," she said firmly.

Madison had no words.

Zoe looked at Emma.

"You... didn't betray us?" she asked softly.

Emma shook her head.

"Never."

For the first time in days...

Zoe smiled.

And across the room...

Madison realized something.
She hadn't been winning the game.
She had been losing it all along
 The rehearsal begins
"Places everyone!" the teacher called out.
The lights turned on.
The stage came alive.

Madison stepped forward.
She started her lines.
Confident.
Loud.
Perfect... on the outside.

But something was wrong.
Again.

Her voice didn't feel real.
Her emotions didn't connect.
It was like she was acting...
Instead of feeling.

Whispers started.
Students looked at each other.
Even the teacher frowned.

Backstage, Tia crossed her arms.
"She's forcing it," she whispered.
Ivy nodded. "Yeah... it doesn't feel natural."
Zoe watched silently.
Her eyes focused.
Her mind calm.

Then...
The teacher raised her hand.
"Stop."

Silence.

"Madison," she said, "this isn't working."
Madison froze.
"What?" she snapped. "I did everything right."

The teacher shook her head.
"No. You said the lines right. But you didn't feel them."

The room went quiet.

Emma stepped forward.
"Miss..." she said gently, "can Zoe try?"

Everyone turned.

Madison's eyes widened.
"What?!" she said sharply.

Emma looked calm.
"Just once," she said. "Let's see."

The teacher hesitated...
Then nodded.
"Alright. Zoe, come."

Zoe stepped onto the stage.

Slowly.

Quietly.

Everything felt still.

She looked at the script...

Then lowered it.

And started.

Her voice was soft.

Real.

Full of emotion.

She didn't act.

She became the character.

The room went silent.

No whispers.

No movement.

Just Zoe.



When she finished...

There was a pause.

Then—

Applause

Loud.

Real.

Tia jumped. "THAT'S MY BESTIE!"

Ivy smiled proudly.

Even the teacher looked impressed.

"That," she said, "is what acting looks like."

Madison stood frozen.

Emma watched everything.

Calm.

Satisfied.

The teacher turned.

"I think it's clear," she said.

"The lead role... belongs to Zoe."

The room filled with murmurs.



Zoe stood there. Still processing. "Thank you Emma", Zoe said as the four girls did a group hug.

"My pleasure, Madison deserved it anyway", Emma assured Zoe

CHAPTER 10

New beginnings

Zoe sat in the hospital waiting room, her hands clasped tightly together.

Her heart was racing. She didn't know what was happening, and the silence around her made everything feel even more intense.



Just a few days ago, everything had been completely normal.

Zoe had been sitting in the library when her phone buzzed.

It was a message from her mom.

"Zoe... I'm pregnant."

Zoe stared at the screen in shock.

This can't be real, she thought.

Her parents had always said they weren't ready for another baby. So how could this suddenly be happening?

Without wasting a second, Zoe rushed home.

"Guys, don't prank me!" she said the moment she walked in.

"I know this is a joke. You've pranked me before!"

"Why would we prank you?" Olivia said, raising an eyebrow.

I mean... I'm your older sister, and now you're going to be

"an older sister too," Olivia added proudly.

"Oh really? Really?" Andre jumped in dramatically. "And by the way, I'm Olivia's twin brother."



Olivia turned to him. "Bro... why are you interrupting me?"
Andre shrugged. "Well, everyone was talking, so I thought I'd
join."

Olivia rolled her eyes.

Meanwhile, Zoe stood there, frozen.

Her hands began to shake.

Her heart skipped a beat.

She was... going to be a big sister.

"I was.....3 months ago"

Violet said

"Why did you not tell me"

Zoe said in disappointment.

"we found out just now"

Suddenly,

all the confusion turned into excitement.

Zoe ran forward and hugged her mom tightly.

"I'm going to be a big sister!" she said, almost jumping.

She couldn't wait to tell her friends.

Later that week, Zoe was relaxing and reading her favorite book when her dad walked in.

"Hey Zoe," he said gently. "Would you like a baby sister or a baby brother?"

Zoe blinked in surprise.

At first, she wanted a baby sister—she had always dreamed of it.

But then she thought again.

We already have so many girls at home... maybe a boy would be fun.

"I want a baby brother," she said finally.

Her dad smiled, noticing how thoughtfully she had answered.



A few months later, the news came.

They were having a baby boy.

Zoe jumped around in excitement.

Olivia laughed. "Kids... when will you grow up?"

"I'm not a kid!" Zoe protested. "I'm a teen. And I'm going to be an older sister!"

"Oh please,"

Olivia laughed.

"I'm 17. I'm way older than you."

"You're only three years older!"

Zoe argued.

"What's the difference?"

Andre smirked.

"You better watch what you say. Zoe's smarter than you, Olivia."

Olivia immediately chased him around the house, and everyone burst out laughing.

The next day at school,
Zoe couldn't hold the news in.
She ran to find her friends—Tia, Ivy, Emma, and Liam.
"I have something to tell you!"
she said excitedly.
When she told them,
they all cheered.
"Oh my gosh!"
Tia said. "Give me your baby brother—I'm taking him on a
roller coaster!"
"What?!"
Zoe laughed.
"He's not even born yet!"
Everyone burst out laughing,
and Tia turned red like a tomato.
(like always)
To celebrate,
Zoe bought everyone ice cream.

Soon after, Zoe's family decided to throw a party.

Zoe invited Ivy, Tia, Emma, and Liam.

At first, Emma couldn't come—but since her mom and Zoe's mom had suddenly become close friends, Emma ended up coming too.

The party was fun...

Until an unexpected guest showed up.

Madison.

Everyone knew she wasn't invited.

But she walked in like she belonged there—smiling sweetly, pretending nothing was wrong.

Liam stepped forward. "Why are you here? You weren't invited. That's rude."

Madison smirked and pulled out an invitation card.

Everyone froze.

Zoe's eyes widened.

She never gave Madison an invitation.

Then she realised,

Madison had stolen it from her locker.

"Madison," Zoe said firmly, "you're not supposed to be here.
Please leave."

Olivia immediately stood beside Zoe.
Andre tried to make a joke, but Olivia stepped on his foot,
making him stay quiet.

Madison stood there, embarrassed and humiliated.

She had a plan...
But she didn't act on it.
Not yet. She turned and left.
A few months later,
the baby was born.

He was tiny, chubby, and absolutely adorable.
He had the most beautiful mint-green eyes and soft golden-
brown hair.

Even though Zoe had blue eyes and Olivia and Andre had
brown eyes, the baby had green eyes—just like their great-
great-great-great-grandfather (or at least, that's the fun
family myth they believed).

They named him Lucas.



Zoe laughed. "That's such a Texas name!"
She joked that they should have picked a French name too—
but she loved it anyway.

Zoe loved Lucas more than anything.

one evening
Zoe took baby Lucas who was a tiny bit older now out in a
stroller with her friends.
Everything felt peaceful.
But someone was watching.
Madison.

While Zoe wasn't looking, Madison quietly took Lucas out of
the stroller.

"I'll just borrow him for a second," she whispered. "Just to
scare Zoe."

But the moment she held him...

She got distracted.

"Aww... he's so cute..."

Lucas stared at her with his big green eyes...

Almost like he knew what was happening.

Then—

Something unexpected happened.

Madison froze.

"Wait... what—?!"

Lucas had peed on her.



"EWWW!" she shrieked.

Panicking, she quickly put Lucas back in the stroller and ran
away.

Everyone turned to look at her.

From far away...

It looked like she had... peed her pants.

Ivy noticed first and called everyone over.

Zoe and her friends burst out laughing.

it looks like baby lucas forgot to wear a diaper

"We should've gotten some more diapers!"

Zoe laughed

"OR EVEN BETTER,"

Tia said

"A CAMERA!"

It was the funniest moment ever.

All thanks to Lucas.

Lucas wasn't just a baby.

He was a new beginning in Zoe's life.

And she loved him more than anything.

CHAPTER 11

Big sister duties

Zoe stared at Lucas.

Lucas stared back.

Blink.

Blink.

"Okay..." Zoe said slowly. "So this is my responsibility now?"

Lucas blinked again.

*It was Zoe's first official day as a big sister in charge.
Her mom had just said, "Zoe, can you watch Lucas for a little
while?"*

And now...

Zoe was panicking inside.

"Don't worry," Olivia said, leaning against the wall. "It's easy."

"Yeah," Andre added. "All you have to do is not drop him."

Zoe turned sharply. "NOT DROP HIM?!"

Andre grinned. "Relax. I'm kidding."

Olivia smacked him. "You're not helping."

Zoe carefully picked Lucas up.

Very carefully.
Like he was made of glass.
"Hi..." she whispered. "I'm your sister. Please don't cry."

Lucas smiled.
A tiny, adorable smile.
Zoe gasped. "OH MY GOSH HE SMILED AT ME."
Five seconds later—
Lucas started crying.
LOUDLY.

"WHAT DID I DO?!" Zoe panicked.
Olivia sighed. "Did you check if he's hungry?"
Zoe froze.
"...How do I check that?"
Andre burst out laughing.

A few minutes later...
Zoe was trying to feed Lucas.
"Okay... open your mouth... please?" she said.
Lucas just stared at her.

Then—

SPIAT 🦠

Lucas started spitting the food

It went everywhere.

On Zoe.

On Lucas.

On the floor.



Zoe blinked slowly.
"I think... I did something wrong."

From the corner, Olivia was laughing.
Andre was literally on the floor.

"YOU GUYS ARE SUPPOSED TO HELP ME!" Zoe shouted.

After cleaning up, Zoe tried something else.
"Okay," she said confidently. "Babies like music, right?"
She played a song and gently rocked Lucas.

Left.

Right.

Left.

Right.

Lucas stopped crying.
Zoe froze.
"It worked," she whispered.

Lucas smiled again.
Zoe smiled back.
"This is easy," she said proudly.

Suddenly—
Lucas sneezed.
Right.
On.
Her.
Face.

Zoe stood there, frozen.
Andre burst out laughing.
Olivia turned away, trying not to laugh.
"...I take it back," Zoe said slowly.

Later that afternoon...
Zoe decided to take Lucas on a "peaceful walk."
Big mistake.

At first, everything was calm.

The sun was shining.

The breeze was soft.

Zoe pushed the stroller proudly.

"I've got this," she said.

Then—

Lucas threw his toy out of the stroller.

"Okay... that's fine," Zoe said, picking it up.

Two seconds later—

He threw it again.

*"Lucas," Zoe said seriously, "we need to talk about this
behavior."*

A lady walking by laughed.

Zoe sighed. "This is going to be a long day."

A few steps later—

Lucas started crying again.

Louder than before.

"Okay, okay, okay—what do you want?!" Zoe panicked.

She tried everything.

Rocking.

Talking.

Singing.

Nothing worked.

People started looking.

Zoe took a deep breath.

"Think, Zoe. Think."

Then she remembered something.

"Peek-a-boo?" she said nervously.

She covered her face...

Then uncovered it.

"Peek-a—"

Lucas giggled.

Zoe froze.

"...Did I just win?"

She tried again. "Peek-a-boo!"



Lucas laughed louder.

Zoe smiled.

"Okay... I'm learning."

By the time Zoe got home...

She looked exhausted.

Hair messy.

Shirt stained.

Energy = zero.

She dropped onto the couch.

"I am never having kids," she said dramatically.

Lucas giggled.

Zoe looked at him.

Really looked at him.

He was tiny.

Cute.

Completely chaotic.

But also...

Kind of amazing.

Zoe smiled softly.
"Okay... maybe just one kid," she said.

Lucas reached out and grabbed her finger.

Zoe froze.

Then smiled even more.

"Alright," she whispered.

"I guess I'm officially your big sister now."

From across the room, Olivia smiled. Andre nodded.

But just then—

Zoe's phone buzzed.

She picked it up. A message.

Unknown number. She opened it.

"Enjoy your happy moments while they last."

Zoe's smile slowly faded.

From across the street...

Someone stood watching the house.

Madison. She smirked.

CHAPTER 12

Paris adventures

The family had some big news.
Not just "let's go out" kind of news.
Not even "let's hang out" news.
This was bigger.
They were going out of the country.
To France.

Lucas's first trip outside the city...
Was to Paris.

Zoe couldn't believe it.
She was excited about three things.
First, she was excited to tell her friends.
Second, she was excited that Lucas's very first trip was to
Paris.
And third...
The flight food.

"Okay, I know that sounds weird," Zoe laughed, "but I love
airplane food!"

When Zoe told her friends, they were all excited.

"That's so cool!" Ivy said.

"You better come back," Tia added dramatically.

"And don't just stay there forever and forget us!" she teased.

They all burst out laughing.

But then Emma spoke.

"Can I see Lucas one last time?" she asked softly. "You're going for four weeks. I'm going to miss his cute face."

Zoe smiled.

"Of course. Come over later. We're leaving tomorrow."

That evening, the girls came over.

They all gathered around Lucas.

Tia made funny faces.

Ivy gently held his tiny hand.

Emma quietly smiled at him.

After a while, they said goodbye.

"Have fun," Emma said.

"I will," Zoe replied.

Later, Zoe told Liam.

Liam smiled, but something felt off.

He wasn't worried about Zoe.

He was worried about Lucas.

Lucas always liked Liam.

He laughed whenever Liam was around.

Liam couldn't shake the feeling.

The mysterious person...

It had something to do with Lucas.

He knew it.

But he didn't say anything.

The next day, Zoe and her family went to the airport.

Zoe was excited.

And nervous.

Lucas had no idea what was happening.
For him, it was just another outing.

It was his first proper car ride.
And then...
His first flight.

When the plane started moving—
Lucas started crying.

"It's okay," Zoe's mom said gently. "Lucas, look outside."

Lucas slowly stopped crying.

He looked out the window.
In his dreamy green eyes...
You could see the reflection of Texas below.

His expression changed.
From fear...



To wonder.

He smiled.

Zoe couldn't handle his cuteness.

"You cute, adorable little thing," she laughed, picking him up.

Her mom smiled, watching her.

She loved how Zoe took care of Lucas.

Later...

They landed in France.

But not exactly in Paris.

So they had to take another flight.

This time, Lucas didn't sleep.

He had already slept too much.

Olivia sat next to Lucas, reading her favorite magazine.

Lucas kept snatching it.

She kept pulling it back, not realizing it was him at first.

Finally, she said, "Hey, give it back—"

Then she saw his face.

"Oh... it's you," she whispered.



She decided to act.

"Oh no, I can't reach it," she pretended.

Lucas watched her carefully.
Then he lifted his hand up to give it back.

Their mom smiled.
"That's so cute."

Olivia pretended to cry. "Waa... waa..."
Lucas must have felt bad, because he stretched his hand out
with the magazine.

Olivia laughed. "No, no, I was just kidding. You can have it."

Lucas didn't understand.
So he just dropped it.
Andre laughed. "He must've gotten annoyed with your voice."
Olivia punched him.
He punched her back.
Their mom gave them a look.
They both went silent.

After a few minutes...
They finally landed in Paris.

Zoe had the most marvelous time in Paris.
She met her best friend, Alenta, and Olivia's best friend,
Alinta.

Alinta and Alenta were sisters.

They came to pick them up with their parents.
The moment they met—
Everything became exciting.

Zoe had just stepped into her room when she told her mom
that she was going out with Alenta.
"But you just came to the room—,"
"Thanks mom."

Zoe and Alenta went shopping like crazy.
While Olivia and Alinta went on walks and casual shopping.
But all four of them went to theme parks together.
They loved roller coasters.

Alinta and Alenta were the nicest sisters.

They fought sometimes—

But not like Olivia and Andre.

they wanted have the time of their lives.

One evening, Zoe and Alenta took Lucas to the mall.

They put him in the stroller and looked at a beautiful dress.

"It's so pretty!"

"But too expensive..."



Suddenly—

Lucas tried to crawl out of the stroller.

An old woman gasped.

"Oh my! What is this cute little thing doing here? Where is his mother? Is she irresponsible?"

Zoe was surprised

"Another baby?!"

She was just about to introduce Lucas and tell her that there was another cute baby, but then she took another glance.

Lucas wasn't in the stroller anymore.

Then she looked again.

Wait...

That was Lucas, crawling, the bits knew he didn't really know how to crawl

She quickly grabbed him.

"Oh no, he's not a little baby... I mean he is... but he's... um... older... he just looks small..." she said awkwardly.

The old woman looked confused.
"I... kind of believe you," she said and walked away.

Lucas suddenly said, "Goo-goo!"
The old woman sighed. "Oh my gosh... I better go."

Alenta laughed.
"Your brother really knows what he's doing. He's trying to
make you tired!"

Zoe smiled.
She loved Alenta.

Zoe teased, "Why don't you come to Texas sometime?"

Alenta froze.
"Wait... what do you mean? Isn't this your hometown? Are
you staying there forever?"

Zoe quickly said, "No, no! I just want you to meet my friends."

Alenta smiled. "Okay, let's go for ice cream."

At the ice cream shop...
The ice cream man had just handed Zoe the ice cream.

Lucas tried to grab the ice cream.

"Bonjour!" the man said.
"What is this little one doing?"

Zoe panicked. "No, no! He might catch a cold!"



The man smiled. "Let him enjoy. Kids should have fun."

Zoe grabbed Lucas. "Thank you, bye!"

"Ma'am!" the man called. Zoe turned. "Yes?"

"You didn't pay."

Zoe turned red.
She quickly gave him some money.
"Keep the change!"

"Ma'am... this isn't enough."

Zoe checked her pockets.
Nothing.

Alenta stepped in and paid the rest.

"You didn't have to," Zoe said.

Alenta smiled. "That's what friends are for."

"Unless you wanna end up, probably doing work and think of
the rest, I'm fine with anything!"

The girls giggled
They had an amazing time.

At the airport, it was time to leave.

"Maybe you can come to Texas sometime," Zoe said.

"Of course," Alenta replied.

They hugged tightly.

Olivia and Alinta did their handshake and hugged too.

Their parents thanked Alenta and her family.

They boarded the plane.

The flight was quiet.

No one talked.

Lucas tried to cheer them up.

"Goo-goo!"

Their mom smiled.

Lucas stopped, noticing the silence.

Then he looked out the window.

Back home...

Everything felt normal again.

The mysterious person stopped texting.

Zoe video-called Alenta and introduced her to her friends.

Later that evening...

Lucas said his first word.

They were all sitting together.

Drinking hot cocoa.

Lucas suddenly said—

"B-b..bonj...our."

Everyone froze.



"How did he learn that?" their mom asked.

Zoe laughed.

"Well, his name may be Texan... but at least his first word is French. Now we're even."

Everyone laughed.

But then—

Zoe's phone buzzed.

A message.

"You are lucky this time. I couldn't do anything. But watch yourself."

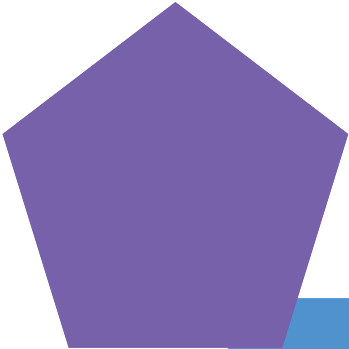
Zoe's smile faded.

The mysterious note...

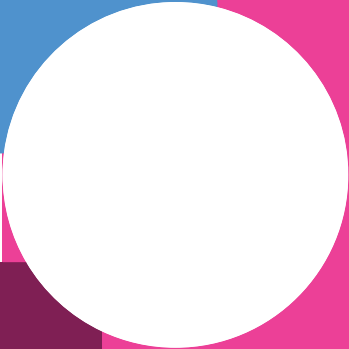
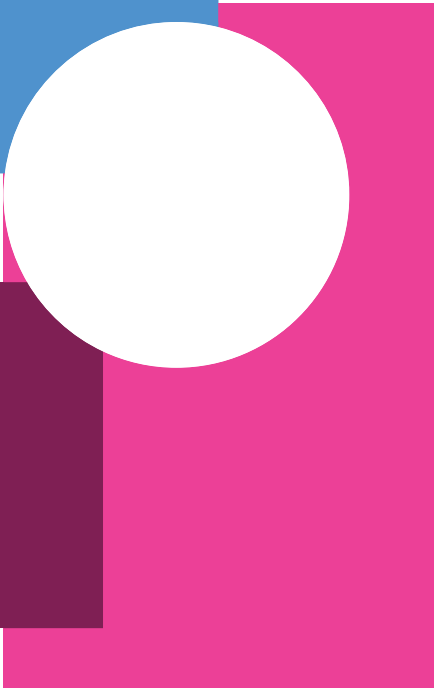
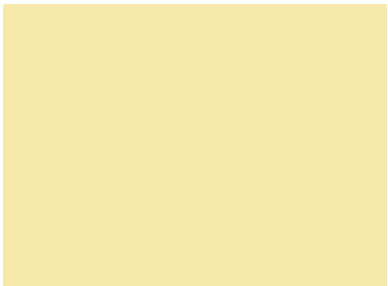
Was back.



CHAPTER 13



prom night



Prom Night

The school hall was filled with students.

Everyone was staring. At Zoe.

She walked to the assembly for one last goodbye speech by
her teacher.

Proud. Happy. Glamorous.

Everyone cheered for her as she walked side by side with
Liam

Her friends were right there behind her, having her back like
they did from the start.



Her eyes filled with sparkles.

A few days earlier...

The school had announced something shocking.

Prom.

Everyone was surprised.

It had been years since the last prom.

Ever since the ultimate disaster...

No one really talked about it.

But still—

Everyone was excited.

The school buzzed with energy.

"Hey, do you want to go to prom together?"

"Who are you going with?"

"Did you get a date yet?"

Questions were everywhere.

Zoe, Emma, Tia, and Ivy didn't have dates.

So they made a plan.

"We'll go together," Tia said.

"Girls' night," Ivy agreed.

Zoe smiled.

"Perfect."

But things didn't stay that way.

One day, a cute boy walked up to Emma.

"Hey... you're the new girl, right?"

Emma nodded. "Yeah."

He smiled. "Do you maybe want to go to prom with me?"

Emma hesitated.

"There are already so many boys waiting," Tia whispered jokingly.

Emma shook her head lightly. "No... I'm going with my friends."

But suddenly—

Tia stepped in.

"No, no, we don't mind. She's free," she said with a grin.



Emma turned to her.
She noticed Tia's smirk.
Something about it made her pause.

"Um... sure," Emma said slowly. "I'll come."

Just like that...
The plan changed.

Now it was just Zoe, Tia, and Ivy going together.

Zoe felt something shift.
She had actually wanted to go with Liam.
But at the same time...
She didn't want to leave her best friends.

So she made a choice.
"Maybe it's better this way," she told herself.
"I'll go with my friends."

But deep inside...
She wasn't completely sure.

One evening after school...
Zoe was packing up to leave.
Suddenly, Liam walked over.

"Hey, Zoe... do you want to work on the project our teacher gave us?" he asked. "She said we can pick partners... unless you already have one."

Zoe quickly shook her head.
"No, no, I don't have a partner. I was actually planning to do it alone. Ivy and Tia are already together, and Emma wanted to work alone. The teacher said only two people per group, so yeah... I was just going to do it myself. But it's totally fine —we can work together," she explained.

Liam smiled.
He looked happy.

They sat in the library
together.
Talking.
Laughing.
Blushing as the sweet
moment lasted what felt like
forever

Until suddenly...
It became quiet.

Awkward.

Then Liam broke the silence.
"Hey... um, Zoe... do you
maybe want to hang out at
prom? If that's okay," he said
shyly, blushing.



Zoe froze.
Her face turned red like a tomato.
Her smile faded for a second.
Then—
"Sure... yeah, that's cool," she said quickly.

Liam smiled.
"sweet."

Just then, the bell rang.
The second bell.
Time to leave.

They both stood up quickly
Liam was genuinely nice and Zoe could not say no to him
and then they said their goodbyes and left.

On her way home, Zoe kept thinking.
"What did you do, Zoe?" she whispered to herself. "You messed
things up, didn't you?"

Later that day, she called Tia and Ivy over.

She wanted to tell them everything.

When they arrived, they were excited.

"I'm so happy we're going together!" Tia said.

"Yeah, it would've been so weird if one of us went with a boy,"

Ivy added.

"I'm glad it's just the three of us."

Zoe felt her heart drop.

She stayed quiet.

"Well?" Tia asked. "What did you want to tell us?"

Zoe hesitated.

Then quickly said, "Um... about dresses. We need to go shopping, right?"

The mood changed instantly.

"Yes!" Tia shouted.

"Let's go!"

Zoe's mom gave her a budget.
"Don't get anything too expensive," she said. "You're using your
pocket money."

Zoe laughed. "Wait... you took my pocket money?"

Her mom smiled.

Later, she arrived at the mall.
Tia and Ivy were already there.

They walked into the best store ever.
It was filled with beautiful prom dresses.

As they were looking around, Tia suddenly whispered, "Hey... I
think someone weird is behind us."

They turned slightly.
Madison's friend was spying on them.



The girl quickly walked away.

They ignored it and continued.

Zoe tried a pink and blue dress.

It didn't suit her.

Tia tried it.

Ivy tried it.

Still no.

Then Zoe tried a purple dress.

Tia tried blue.

Ivy tried pink.

Something still felt off.

Then—

Zoe tried a green dress.

It was elegant.

Long.

Beautiful.

The prettiest dress they had ever seen.

Zoe's eyes lit up.

"I love this."

Even better—

It was 80% off.

And it was the last day.

She was so happy.

Tia found a cute purple dress.

Shorter, but stylish.

Ivy looked like a princess in hers.



Zoe looked like a queen.
Ivy looked like a princess.
Tia looked like a princess's daughter.

They all burst out laughing.

Later, at home...
Zoe showed her mom the dress.

Her mom smiled.
"You look so elegant," she said.
Then she showed her another dress.

It looked almost the same...
But with a French touch.
Even more beautiful.



"Mom... did you also go to prom?" Zoe asked.

Her mom smiled.

"Of course. That's where I met your dad's true colours, I
always thought he was a jerk"

Zoe laughed.

Later that evening...

They were all having ice cream.

Zoe suddenly stopped.

She stared at Lucas.

"It's been a while since he did something funny," she said
softly.

Lucas blinked.

Everyone laughed.

CHAPTER 12

The ultimate
disaster

The next few days felt strange.

Cold.

Chilly.

Exciting... but also tense.

You could feel it everywhere.

In the halls.

In the classrooms.

In the way people talked.

There were only five days left until prom.

Everyone was nervous.

Still figuring things out.

Still wondering...

Would the ultimate disaster happen again?

Zoe couldn't stop thinking.

About Liam.

About her friends.

About everything.

I don't know if they'll understand... she thought.

What if they don't?

She shook her head.

No... my friends aren't like that.

Ivy would understand.

Tia would understand.

Liam would understand.

Emma would understand... wouldn't she?

"There's still five days left," she whispered.

But she kept worrying.

Her mom tried to cheer her up.

She brought her favorite ice cream.

"Here," her mom smiled. "This will make you feel better."

Zoe shook her head.

"No... it's too cold."

Even though it wasn't.

Her dad noticed.

He tried to joke about it.

But Zoe's mom gave him a look.

He stopped.

The house felt quiet.

Strange.

Later that day...

Zoe decided.

She had to tell Liam.

She went to the bench behind the gym hall.

The place where they first met.

Liam was already there.

Waiting.

Zoe walked closer.

Her heart was racing.

Say it, she told herself.

Just say it.

But she couldn't.

She froze...

Turned around...

And ran away.

Liam waited.

He didn't see her.

At first, he thought it was a prank.

But something felt off.

He texted:

"Nice prank, Zoe."

But deep down...
He was a little worried.

Everything felt strange.

Later that day...
All five of them sat on the stairs.
Zoe, Tia, Ivy, Emma, and Liam.

They were laughing.
Talking.

Then suddenly—
Tia said, "Oh my gosh... what if the ultimate disaster happens
again?"

Ivy shook her head.
"That won't happen."

Zoe and Emma looked confused.

"What?" Zoe asked. "What is the ultimate disaster?"

Tia gasped.

"You don't know?!"

She laughed loudly.

Too loudly.

Then she turned red.

Ivy sighed.

"They're new. How would they know?"

Liam nodded.

"Technically... it's about a girl named Arka."

Zoe listened carefully.

"Arka was the most popular girl," Liam said.

"She was Madison's twin sister."

Zoe frowned.

"Twin sister? Then where is she now?"

Liam paused.

"On prom night... she was supposed to win Prom Queen."

"Madison didn't like that."

"She got angry."

"She tore Arka's dress."

"She humiliated her in front of everyone."

"That prom... was the last one."

Emma frowned.

"That's it? That's why it's called the ultimate disaster?"

Tia shook her head.

"No. That's not how I experienced it."

Liam looked confused.

"What?"

Tia leaned forward.



"It happened before the results were announced."

"Madison went backstage because she thought she would win."

"But when they announced Prom Queen..."

"It was Arka."

Madison was shocked.

Humiliated.

"So she changed the results," Tia said.

"She accused Arka of cheating."

Zoe's eyes widened.

Ivy continued.

"Arka had proof."

"Her friend recorded everything."

"She was about to show it..."

"But Madison grabbed the phone."

"And broke it."

Silence fell.

*"And then," Ivy said quietly,
"She tore her dress."*



"That dress was the most expensive one," Tia added.

Emma whispered, "That's horrible..."

"But it didn't stop there," Liam said.

"A video came out later."

"But it was fake."

"An AI video."

"It made Arka look bad."

Zoe felt a chill.

"No one believed her," Liam said.

"No one talked about it again."

"And Arka?" Zoe asked softly.

Tia sighed.

"People say she ran away."

"But the truth is worse."

"Her parents blamed her."

"They sent her away."

"To a boarding school."

"The worst one."

"In the countryside."

Zoe sat there, shocked.

Then suddenly she said—

"Oh my gosh... being Madison's twin must have been so hard."

She shook her head.
"At least she doesn't have to deal with Madison anymore."

Everyone laughed.

The mood lifted again.

But inside...
Zoe was still thinking.

She hadn't told them.

And she didn't



CHAPTER 15

Prom night chaos



It was the final night before prom.
Friday.

Prom would start on Saturday at 6:30 PM
And end at 12:30 AM.

But right now...
It was Friday.

Zoe was nervous.
She still hadn't told her friends.
She didn't know what to do.

Every second felt heavy.
Every thought felt wrong.

Maybe I should've told them earlier, she thought.
Maybe that would've been better...

But now?

It felt too late.

She was scared.

But at the same time...

Excited.

And nervous.

It was her first prom.

Well...

Not exactly.

She had experienced something like a prom before.

At least, that's what she believed.

It wasn't officially called a prom.

The school said they were too young.

But Zoe thought—

If it felt like a prom...

Then it WAS a prom.

And it had been fun.

She had met her friends.

They had laughed.

Gone for ice cream.

Had a great time.

But now...

Everything felt different.

Zoe didn't understand why she was doing this to herself.

She could've just been normal.

She could've told her friends the truth.

But now...

It was too late.

They were already excited.

Already talking about going together.

Maybe if I told them earlier...

They would've understood.

But now?
Way too late.

And Liam...

She should've told him that day.
At the bench.
When she had the chance.

But she didn't.
She was shy.

Between Liam...
And her best friends.
Tia and Ivy.

She didn't know what to do.

Saturday.
3:40 PM.

*Zoe stood in front of the mirror.
Wearing her dress.*

*Her minty green dress.
Elegant.
Mint green.
Perfect.*

*For the first time...
She styled her hair in a high bun.
It had a soft green ribbon wrapped around it.
It matched her dress perfectly.*

*She looked...
Beautiful.*

*Tia and Ivy were there.
Helping her get ready.*

*Tia looked different too.
For the first time, she wore two high ponytails.*

Both braided.

She looked cute.

Her short, stylish dress matched her perfectly.

Ivy looked like a princess.

She wore a beautiful headband.

And for once...

She didn't wear her glasses.

She wore contact lenses.



Zoe and Tia stared at her.

"You look amazing," Zoe said.

Then Ivy and Tia turned to Zoe.

*"Oh my gosh... Zoe are sure you want to come to prom," Ivy
said.*

Zoe froze.

Her heart dropped.

Then they laughed.

"You should go to a castle instead," Tia said.

"You look like a princess."

Zoe let out a breath.

It felt like a hundred-pound weight lifted off her chest.

For a moment...

Everything felt okay.

But deep inside...
Something still felt wrong.

The night was coming.

And Zoe didn't know why...
But she felt like something bad might happen.

Still...
She told herself—
Nothing bad could really happen.

It was the night.
Prom night.

Zoe was having fun.
The most fun.
Laughing.

Talking.

Smiling.

But deep inside...

She didn't know what she was doing.

Why am I like this? she thought.

Why can't I just tell my friends?

Her mom agreed to drop Zoe and her friends at the venue.

The place was glowing with lights.

Music filled the air.

It was amazing!

The place was crowded.

There was a bar for food and drinks while on the other side
were a bunch of activities like face paint and some contests

Up front was a stage where kids could host activities.

In the middle was the dance floor packed with people.

Liam was coming late.



So Zoe had some time.

She walked around with Tia and Ivy.

They laughed.

Talked.

Enjoyed everything.

*"c'mon", Tia called out as she joined the dance floor, her body
dancing to the music.*

"Whoa" exclaimed Zoe as she moved around to the music.

The music had a hint of pop and DJ beats to it!

The girls were having the time of their lives.

For a moment...

Zoe forgot about everything.

Until—

She saw Liam.

He was looking around.

Searching.

For her.

He was about to spot her—

But his friend stopped him and started talking.

Zoe saw her chance.

"Hey guys," she said quickly, "these fries are really hot and oily. I should go get some tissues."

"Okay, we'll come with you," Ivy said.

Zoe panicked.

"No, no! You guys go check the menu. I'll just go quickly."

They shrugged and walked away, giggling.

Zoe quickly walked toward Liam.

At first, he didn't notice her.

Then—

*"Oh! Zoe... it's you," he said. "Sorry, I didn't notice. You look...
pretty. Beautiful... amazing..."*

He paused.

Staring at her.

Zoe blushed.

*"Well... you look like you just came from an office," she
teased. "Nice suit."*

Liam looked at himself, holding his drink.

"Whoa... yeah..." he laughed awkwardly.

Silence.

Awkward.

Then—

"Do you want to dance?" he asked.

Zoe froze.

"No, no, no—yes. Yes. Sure."

They walked toward the dance floor.

Liam headed toward the edge where it was less crowded.

But Zoe quickly spotted Tia and Ivy nearby.

"No! Let's go to the other side," she said nervously. "It's...
warmer."

Liam laughed.

"You're funny."

Zoe smiled.

But inside...

She was panicking.

They danced.

Zoe kept watching the line where her friends were.



When she saw them getting closer—
"I need to go to the restroom," she said quickly. "I ate a weird
taco."

Liam laughed. "Okay, sure."

Zoe rushed to Tia and Ivy.
"Hey! Did you find tissues?"

Ivy held them up.
"They were in our hands the whole time."

Zoe froze.

Then Ivy laughed.
"We're so silly!"

They all laughed.
Zoe's laugh was... different.

Then they saw Liam.

"Hey, let's go say hi!" Tia said.

"NO!" Zoe shouted.

Too loud.

Liam heard.

He started walking toward them.

"Oh my gosh, look over there!" Zoe said quickly.

"What?" Ivy asked.

"Uh... balloon?" Zoe said.

Tia nodded. "Yeah, it looks like it's about to pop."

"Should we fix it?" Ivy asked.

"Yeah!" Tia said. "Zoe, are you coming?"

"No! I'll stay here. Go quickly!"

They laughed and ran off.

Zoe rushed back to Liam.

"I'm so sorry! I just saw my friends."

"That's okay," Liam said. "Where are they—"

"Anyway!" Zoe interrupted. "Let's dance."

And they did.

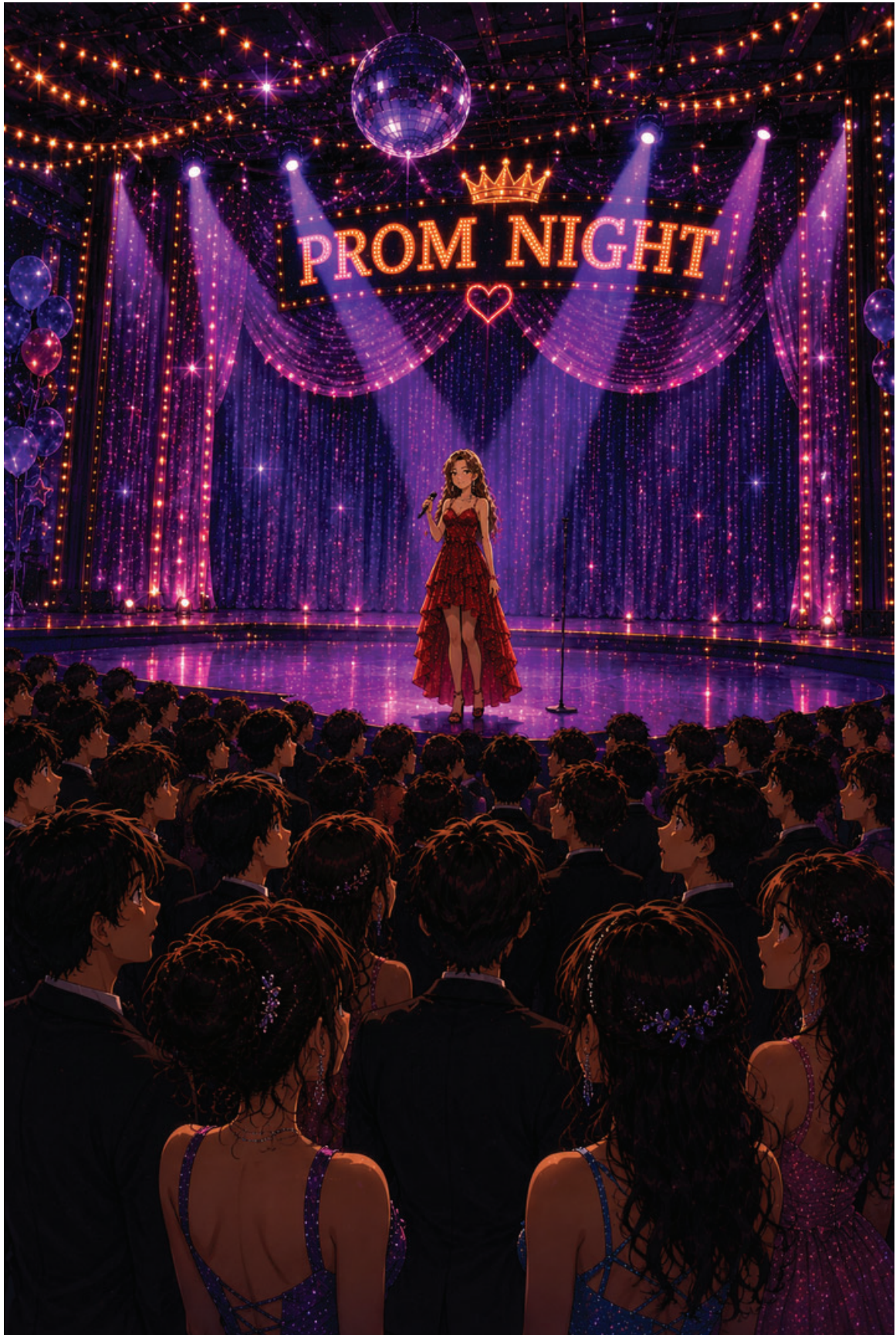
For what felt like forever.

Until—

The music stopped.

Madison walked onto the stage.

She grabbed the mic.



"Hey... Zoe. Miss Zoe," she said with a smirk.

"Can you come on stage?"

Zoe froze.

"Zoe from France... bonjour, bonjour," Madison mocked.

Zoe hesitated.

But she walked up.

Madison looked at her.

"Who did you come with?" she asked.

Zoe froze.

She couldn't answer.

Tia quickly said, "Us, of course!"

But then—

Liam spoke.

"No. She was with me."

Silence.

Tia and Ivy looked at Zoe.

"No... she kept making excuses. She was with us."

Liam's expression changed.

"Zoe... were you—"

Everything clicked.

Tia and Ivy looked hurt.

"Zoe... how could you?"

Zoe panicked.

She ran.

Behind the stage.

Tears filled her eyes.

Then—
Madison grabbed Zoe's dress.

And tore it.

The most beautiful dress.
Ruined.

Everyone gasped.

"Not again..." someone whispered.

The music stopped.

No one danced.

The room went silent.

Zoe ran outside

Some people sat.
Some people whispered.
Some felt bad for Zoe.

Outside—

Zoe sat on the bench
As the wind blew past her
And the trees whispered
Tears rolled down her face.



Then she heard footsteps.

Liam.

"What are you doing here?" Zoe asked, wiping her tears.

"I just... wanted to help. Are you okay?" he asked softly.

Zoe shook her head.

"I just wish my friends understood..."

Liam sighed.

"I'm sorry. I should've asked you before... about prom."

"No," Zoe said. "It's not your fault. It's mine. I messed everything up."

She looked down.

"Coming to Texas was a mistake."

Liam looked shocked.

"H-hey... don't say that."

He said nothing then
He gave her the warmest hug

Zoe was surprised when she found herself pushing him away
"Liam you don't have to...be polite,"
"I don't deserve your kindness,"

"Zoe Swindle, I wanna tell you that you are one of the kindest
girls I've ever known on this planet,"
That made Zoe happy, and she gave him a playful smile.

Then—
Footsteps.

Tia.
Ivy.
Zoe braced herself.

But instead—
"We're sorry," they said.

Zoe looked up.

"We should've asked you," Tia said.
"You probably wanted to go with Liam."

Zoe quickly said, "No, I don't—"

Liam blushed.

Zoe avoided looking at him.

"I'm sorry," Zoe said.

They all hugged.

Zoe turned to Liam.

"I'm sorry."

He smiled.
"It's okay. We're cool."

Then Emma stepped forward.
"If you guys are done crying..."

Zoe gave her a look.

"I have an idea," Emma said.

"What?" Zoe asked.

"Bows."

Everyone blinked.

"We fix the dress with bows. It'll look even better."

Zoe smiled.
"I love that idea."

*They grabbed glue.
Scissors.
Bows.*

They fixed the dress.

*It looked even more
beautiful.*

Zoe walked back in.

Everyone stared.



She smiled.
"Why is there no music?" she said.
"Let's dance!"

The music started again.

Everything came back to life.

Then—
The announcement.

"We have our Prom Queen... and our Prom King!"

Everyone held their breath.



*"As Emma, Tia, and ivy are gorgeous and we have another one,
Zoe... is the Prom Queen!"*

Cheers filled the room.

"And our Prom King... Liam!"

Zoe laughed.

"What a way to end the school year."

"This school is weird," she added.

"Don't worry," Tia said.

"We have summer starting tomorrow."

They all laughed.

Zoe thought back through her whole journey — from Paris to her new friends, from Madison to little Lucas, all the way to becoming Prom Queen. The fun, the adventures, the fears, and the accomplishments...every single one had been worth it.

And the end of Zoe's adventure,

At least for now...



I'm so happy, and I'm so proud.
Thank you Mom, Dad, my naughty
sweet brother and entire family for
helping me the whole way.
So here's what I want to say:
follow your dreams.
And by the way — hope you like
the book! 🙌 😁

Hi everyone! My
name is Jasmrithi
Lalitha Avula.
I'm eleven years
old, and my
passion is singing. I
also love active
sports! 🏀 😁

I started writing
this book just for
fun — something
to do to pass the
time. I was so
excited at first,
and then
something
happened I didn't
expect: I actually
started loving it.
What began as a
way to pass the
time turned into a
real book. I never
imagined that one
day I might
actually be
publishing it! ❤️