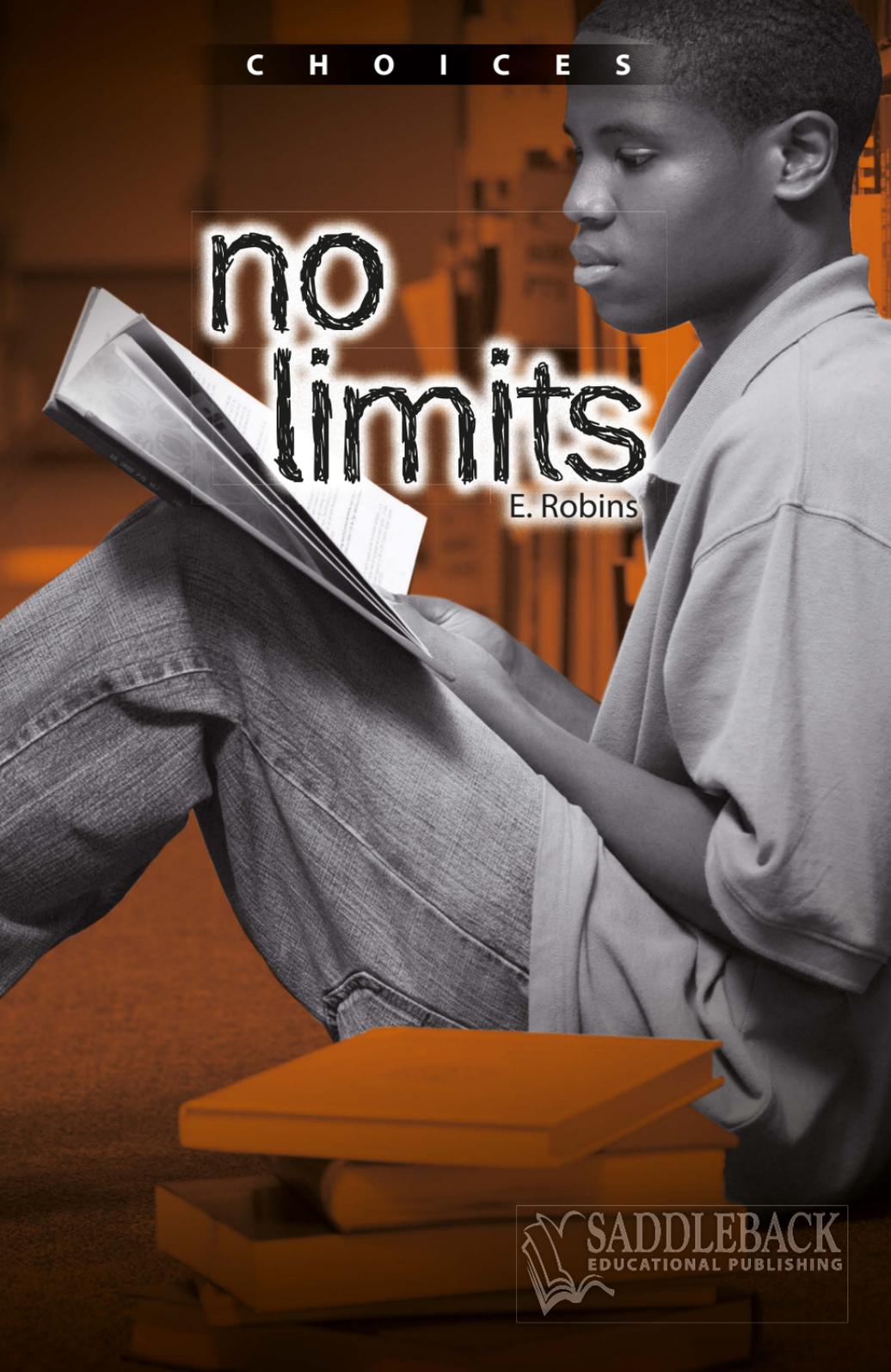


C H O I C E S

no limits

E. Robins



 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING

chapter

1

Gray was at his locker. He was looking for his science book. But he couldn't find it.

His science class was next. And he knew what the class work would be. So he had to find his book. Or else he would get a bad grade on his class work.

Jared walked up to Gray. Jared was Gray's best friend. And he was in Gray's science class.

Jared said, "What are you looking for,

dude? Hurry up and find it. We gotta get to class.”

“I know. But I can’t find my science book. And I have to find it,” Gray said.

Jared said, “Don’t worry about it. We sit in the back row. Just get out another book. And pretend it’s your science book. And hope Mr. Neels doesn’t catch on.”

Mr. Neels was their science teacher.

Gray said, “I can’t. You know what Mr. Neels said we would do in class today.”

“I forgot. What did he say?” Jared asked.

Jared didn’t worry about his grades. So Jared didn’t always listen in class. But he still got good grades on his report card. Gray didn’t know how Jared was able to do that.

“Mr. Neels said he would give us ten questions to answer today. We have to look the answers up in our science books.

Then write them down. And then turn them in when class is over,” Gray said.

Jared said, “Oh, yeah. I guess you do need your book. Hurry and find it. We need to get to class.”

Gray looked in his locker again. But he didn’t find his science book.

Gray closed his locker. And he looked at Jared. Then he said, “No, luck. My book isn’t in there. I must have left it at home.”

“Too bad,” Jared said.

Gray said, “I’ll be in big trouble. I might be able to answer two or three questions without my book. But I can’t get a passing grade without it.”

“Don’t worry about your grade. You can use my book,” Jared said.

Jared started to give his book to Gray. But Gray didn’t take it.

Gray said, “I can’t take your book. You need your book to do the class work.”

“Yeah, I know. But that’s what best friends do. They help each other. So take my book,” Jared said.

“You’re a great friend to say I can use your book. But I can’t do it. You need your book. Or you’ll get a bad grade,” Gray said.

“Don’t worry about it, Gray. Trust me. I can get one bad grade. And it won’t hurt my semester grade,” Jared said.

“Are you sure it won’t?” Gray asked.

“Yeah, I’m sure. So here, take my book,” Jared said.

Jared handed his science book to Gray. And Gray took it. Gray felt lucky to have a best friend like Jared.

chapter

2

It was the next day. Gray was walking down the hall. He was on his way to science.

Jared walked out of a classroom a few doors down from Gray. He had a piece of paper in his hand.

Jared stopped. And he looked down the hall. He saw Gray. And he waited for Gray.

Gray walked up to him.

Jared had a frown on his face. And he waved the piece of paper at Gray. Then

he said, "I got a detention slip. And now I have to stay after school tomorrow. That's sure a way to mess up a person's day."

"Why did you get one? What did you do?" Gray asked.

"I didn't do anything," Jared said.

Gray found that hard to believe. "You must have done something, dude. What was it?" he asked.

"It wasn't a big deal. I wanted to throw away some paper. So I went to the trash can at the wrong time. And Mrs. Darnell gave me detention," Jared said.

Mrs. Darnell was Jared's math teacher.

Jared said, "Can you believe it? Who would have thought Mrs. Darnell would give me detention for that?"

"I would have thought she would," Gray said.

"Yeah, I guess you would've. But you aren't me," Jared said.

A girl walked by. She smiled at Gray and Jared. And Gray smiled back at her. Her name was Gia. Gray wanted to date her.

Jared said, "Hi, Gia. Looking good."

Gia kept walking down the hall. And she didn't say anything to the two boys.

"Are you dating Gia now?" Gray asked. He hoped Jared wasn't.

"No. Why?" Jared said.

"No reason," Gray said. But there was a reason. He wanted to date Gia. And he hoped Jared didn't want to date her too.

The warning bell rang.

Gray said, "We've been talking too long. Come on. We've gotta get to class."

The two boys hurried down the hall.

They got to their classroom. They walked quickly to the back of the room. And they sat down.

Then the bell rang to start class.

Mr. Neels looked at the two boys. Then he looked at his watch.

Gray knew what that meant. Mr. Neels wanted them to know he knew they were almost late.

Mr. Neels said, “You should be in class when the warning bell rings. Don’t rush in when it’s time for class to start.”

The other students looked at Gray and Jared.

Jared smiled at Mr. Neels. He said, “Sorry we were almost late. It won’t happen again.”

Gray didn’t say anything. And he quickly got out his science book.

Mr. Neels called the roll.

Then the students went over their homework. And they read part of a chapter in their science book. And they talked about what they read.

Then Mr. Neels walked over to his

desk. He got some papers off of his desk. He said, “Most of you did well on your class work yesterday. But a few of you failed. And all of you should bring your books to class every day.”

Mr. Neels looked at Jared when he said that. Then he passed out the class work papers.

Gray got a B. He looked over at Jared’s paper. Jared got an F.

The end of class bell rang.

Gray said, “I’m sorry, man. That should have been my F. You needed your book. And I should never have taken your book.”

Jared smiled at Gray. Then he said, “Don’t worry about it, Gray. A bad grade on the class work would have hurt your semester grade. But I could get a bad grade on the class work. And it won’t hurt my semester grade.”

“Are you sure about that?” Gray asked. Gray didn’t know how that could be true. So he found it hard to believe.

“Yeah, I’m sure. So don’t worry about it, Gray,” Jared said.

Jared didn’t sound worried. And he didn’t look worried.

So Gray knew Jared must believe that. So maybe Jared was right. He sure hoped Jared was.

But Gray still didn’t know how it could be true. But for the last two years, Jared always got good grades on his report cards. So maybe it was true.

no limits

E. Robins

What would you do for your best friend? Jared believes that best friends would do anything for each other. And Gray is grateful for Jared's generosity. But then Jared asks Gray to lie for him. "It's just a little lie," says Jared. Gray agrees to help out his best friend until he realizes that there are limits to friendship. 



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