

C H O I C E S

don't get caught

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 **SADDLEBACK**
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chapter

1

It was Friday night. Paris was at a football game. She was with her boyfriend Max.

The game had just ended. Their team had won—just—by two points. Paris 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.”

Paris 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,” Paris said.

“You’re right about that. He’s one good kicker,” Max said.

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

“We’re 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,” Paris said. A tie wasn’t any fun. But it was better than losing.

Paris said, “Maybe we’ll score more points in our next game.”

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

Paris didn’t want to believe it. But

she thought Max was right. Their team wasn't that good. Paris and Max didn't talk for a few minutes.

Then Paris said, "I wish we had a game next weekend."

The team had a weekend off. Then they'd play their homecoming game the next week.

"I'm glad we don't have a game," Max said.

That surprised Paris. "Why?" she asked. Max liked football games as much as she did.

"I won't be here next weekend. I'm going to visit my grandparents," Max said.

"Again?" Paris asked.

She didn't mean to ask him that way. It just came out before she thought about it. And she didn't mean to ask it in that tone of voice.

Max stopped. He looked at Paris. "Does it upset you when I go to visit my grandparents?" Max asked.

"No," Paris said. That wasn't true. But Paris wouldn't tell Max that.

Paris said, "I was just surprised. You just went to see them two weekends ago."

"I care a lot about my grandparents. I told you that before. I like to visit them. They're 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," Paris said.

But was that the only reason he went to visit them so much? Paris 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?

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

Max said, "You know I'll miss you next weekend. And I'll wish I was with you."

Then why was he going to see his grandparents? Paris 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.

chapter

2

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

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

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

"Okay. I think I did all right on them," Paris 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.

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

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

"Yes. Did you?" Bree asked.

"A little. But most of the time I had to study for those two tests. And that sure wasn't fun," Paris said.

Bree said, "Too bad. I'm glad you had the tests on Monday and not me. But at least you had time to go to the game Friday night. And that was too good a game to miss."

"You're right about that," Paris said. Paris had fun at the game. But she didn't have that good of a weekend. And

it wasn't just because of the tests. It was also because Max was going to see his grandparents again.

Bree said, "We don't have a ballgame this weekend. So what will you and Max do this weekend? Or don't you know yet?"

"Nothing. That's what we'll do," Paris said.

Bree looked surprised. "Why, Paris? Did you have a fight? Why didn't you tell me?" she asked.

"We didn't have a fight. I would have told you right away if we had," Paris said.

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

"Max is going to see his grandparents again," Paris said. Paris 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,” Paris said.

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

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

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

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

Paris said, “I might be wrong. But I think Max has another girlfriend where his grandparents live. That’s why he goes to see them so much.”

“I don’t believe that. The two of you go steady,” Bree said.