

## Chapter From Max's Perspective

Max hated it when his dad shouted.

Especially when all the noise was directed at him.

He *knew* that telling his parents that Grace was pregnant wasn't going to go over well, but he had had a sliver of hope that they could have some forgiveness. Nope. Once he had told them about Grace's pregnancy his mom closed her eyes and shook her head, and his dad got up and started pacing.

"I mean I can't believe she would do this to you," Max's dad said in a very frustrated tone.

"She didn't do anything to me, Dad," Max exclaimed, "It's both of our faults that she's pregnant!"

"No Max, she's pregnant, you're walking out of this untouched! You're still going to UCLA." Max's dad was shouting now.

"Honey-" Max's mom tried to calm his dad down.

"What do you mean *untouched*?!?" Max said.

"You're breaking up with Grace."

"WHAT?!" Max shouted.

"You are breaking up with Grace!" Max's dad was very angry now, "I can't have her staining your future!"

Max couldn't believe it. They had been together for almost a year, and now his *dad* was ending it.

"Wow," Max shook his head, "whatever," and walked out of the room.

Max couldn't believe that this was happening. Grace was having a baby, he was being forced to break up with her. He felt conflicted about what to do. He didn't want to have a kid so young, or do *any* of that business. But he didn't want to be the guy that left the pregnant girl. He wasn't that guy. Right?

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Max wasn't *trying* to get into another relationship so soon after he told his parents about Grace's baby. But it just happened. Stephanie was a cheerleader for Max's football team, and he talked to her once in a while. Nothing too special, but he guessed he had caught her attention. The football team and some of the cheerleaders were going out one night to celebrate a win, and Max and Stephanie talked the whole time. After the party he and Stephanie became a couple. He wasn't thinking about Grace, well maybe a little bit, but he thought this was best for him, and it was what his dad wanted him to do.

Stephanie asked him to the homecoming dance. He'd planned to go with Grace for so long that it was weird to think about going with anyone else. When he had planned with Grace they talked about his rented tux, and her beautiful dress. They thought about going with friends and all the goofy photos they'd take. He'd done the math for Grace's baby, and had realized that the baby would be born just around the time of homecoming. He hadn't seen Grace since both of their families had talked about the pregnancy, and he had broken up with her. It was a few days after he had told his parents about the baby, they wanted to talk about "options," although his dad wasn't giving him many. His dad had basically blamed Grace for everything and he just stood there like an idiot. He didn't want Grace to find out about Stephanie yet, he wanted to tell her in a less intense moment. But his dad, after fuming around Grace's living room, had spilled the news. Grace had looked at him in horror, he felt terrible. He couldn't even look at her! He

was afraid his dad would get even more upset if he said anything to Grace, so he just let it all happen.

He thought that he would probably be the last person Grace would want to see, so when homecoming came he put on his rented tux, and went to pick up Stephanie. He had a great time, he danced, his team was there, and he got crowned homecoming king. But he couldn't help feeling like something was missing. He felt bad for not being there for Grace, for leaving her and moving on. But it was what his dad thought was best. And Max usually couldn't get around what his dad thought. But this was also his fault, and he felt terrible. But as much as it hurt him, he didn't want to be stained by it. He hated that he was using his dad's words, but maybe he was right.

. . .

Max did *not* know Grace was coming back to school. Of course he had thought that it was a possibility, since the baby had to have been born by now, but he hadn't really thought about it. So when Grace walked into U.S. history third period he almost screamed. Grace looked at him for a few painful years (seconds, same thing), and then turned to go to her seat. He could hear Adam, his friend from football, snickering behind him. Max didn't like when his friends made fun of Grace or called her names. He wasn't with her anymore, and he was pretty sure she hated him, but she didn't deserve to be bullied. But his dad must have gotten to him because all he could say was, "c'mon man." He could tell Grace was angry, her face was flushed like it always got when she was upset. But he didn't know what to say, if there *was* anything to say. So, he *really* almost screamed when her fist came flying at Adam. Adam was being an idiot and poking at Grace about the baby. In his opinion, Adam got what he deserved. He was terrified when he pulled Grace off of Adam. Was he going to be next? But, thankfully, no, she turned and

ran out of the classroom. Max questioned if he should go after her and try to talk to her. But he decided, again, that he was the last person she would want to talk to. Ever.

### **Explanation**

For my scene I decided to write a chapter from Max's perspective. I added multiple things that actually happened in the book like homecoming, the talk with parents, and Max's new girlfriend Stephanie to reflect the real scenes from FFTT. Max is a terrible person, in FFTT he breaks up with Grace, and goes to homecoming when she's giving birth! But I thought it could be interesting if I added some depth to his character. I wanted to create sympathy for his character by showing how controlling his dad was over his life. This was a little difficult because while I was adding sympathy, Max is still a bad person, so I didn't want to make him *too* innocent.

In my chapter Max misses Grace and feels bad for what he did, but he also doesn't want to wrong his dad or get involved. I think it's terrible that he doesn't want to get involved with the pregnancy and just leaves Grace. His excuse is that she wouldn't want to talk to him. As much as I don't like his character, it was interesting to think about what he saw and was thinking through each moment.