

Cole McNamee

### Chapter 1... Aspen

*Hi, my name is Aspen, and this is my diary. I am going to try to show myself in the best way possible. I will start with my problems and family info because that's the most interesting. I have one brother (Ben) and two parents; I enjoy school and have a few fake friends. I love my brother, but sometimes he is annoying, as most older brothers are. He is one year older than me. We used to be closer, but from the first day of high school, his friends started to get closer to him as we drifted apart, leaving me to be the cliché younger sister who is a wimp and needs her parents. That might be what people think of me at first glance, but I can assure you I am more than meets the eye. I have this one crush at school. His name is Zach, but I don't think I will date him because he doesn't like me. I am also just too nervous about doing anything. The biggest thing I am jealous of is my brother, he has had many girlfriends over the years, but I have never been able to get a boyfriend. Anyway, that's it for today.*

### Chapter 2... Ben

*High school changed me, I find it fun, and all the girls made it even better. I'm not particularly eager to talk about family, but some thoughts on my family... My parents are great but sometimes get in the way of my plans. They also asked too many questions; my sister used to be my best friend, but then high school happened, and I found more people that were more fun to hang out with than my sister. My best friend's name is Jose, and he has been my best friend for two years. We are always together outside of school. I am not close to my sister. She always needs mom and dad, and it's annoying. I have been hitting on Tracey, Josh's Girlfriend. If he*

*knew, that wouldn't be far from good, but I love Tracey's company and can't help it, we haven't done too much yet, and it wasn't apparent that we were talking. That's all I want to share.*

### Chapter 3... Aspen

Aspen walked to school today with more pep in her step. She was eager to talk to Zach; today was the day, she thought. She tried to get there a bit earlier because she had always seen him arrive early and thought it would be a great time to bond. As she arrived, she saw Zach talking to his friends and wearily decided to wait till lunch to chat. As the already long classes feel longer, she wonders what will happen between them at lunch. By the time lunch came around, she was nervous. After getting the courage to go up to him, she tripped into him and said, "Sorry, hey...what's up."

"Nothing much Wh- arent you Bens' sister?" \*Awkward Silence\*

"Yeah?"

"Oh, well, nice to meet you. I gotta go."

That was a cf, she thought.

### Chapter 4... Ben + Aspen

Ben and Aspen went to the same school. Even though they were 1 grade apart, they would sometimes bump into each other in the hall. Aspen was always more excited to see Ben than the other way around. Still, today she saw him making out with a new girl (Tracey) in the hall, and well, so did Josh, and that wasn't good because Josh was pissed to see his girlfriend with Ben. He wanted to fight right there, right then. That would have caused too much attention, though.

"Why did you have to do that to me?"

"I loved her-" Ben cut him off,

“I am sorry, man, but I have liked her too, and I think she likes me more than you.”

“But I had her first!” Josh went off.

“I said I am sorry, but I will not stop.”

“THEN You're Going to FIGHT ME AFTER SCHOOL, and You're Going to DIE AT 3, BE SCARED!”

This wasn't good; Ben thought as his anxiety built.

Chapter 5... Ben

The bell rang, and students poured into the halls and out the doors. Everyone was having a wonderful day; well, everyone besides Ben. He had gnawed on half of his fingernails and was about to have an anxiety attack. Suddenly, someone yelled his name in a tone he had hoped would never come.

“BEN!” called Josh. Josh had arranged a fight after school. Ben knew what he had done. Josh had caught his girlfriend and Ben making out in the hallway. Josh had set the fight up for after school and was pissed. Ben scampered down the hallway. He started sprinting down the sidewalk as far away from the school, as far from the trouble that would ensue moments later. It was now a chase, Josh flying not far behind. Ben let out a loud,

“STOP FOLLOWING ME; I'M SORRY!”

“Are you scared of me? Maybe you should have thought about this before making out with my girl!” Josh dropped his bag and came up on Ben faster than Usain Bolt. A loud war cry followed by a knock coming from Josh's fist. Ben flew like a kid on a trampoline and face-planted into the concrete. The fight was over before it started, and Ben's worrying had drifted deep into his consciousness. “Don't ever mess with her again!” Josh yelled as more kids pulled up to find what looked like a crime scene; everyone started to record.

Eight seconds later, Ben's friend Jose came in like a wrecking ball, his fist smashing into Josh's face like a hammer.

“Why did you do that to my friend!” Ben was starting to wake up from his induced sleep.

“Why did you hit me?” Josh yelled.

“Because you hit my friend!”

As Ben stood up, blood gushed from his nose. Josh warned,

“Your little friend was making out with my girl in the hall.”

“That doesn't mean you can do that to him.”

As soon as Josh was about to answer with something that probably would have gotten him punched again, the principal yelled,

“What's going on over here?” Everyone scattered, not wanting any trouble, leaving Ben and Jose to talk to the principal. He gasped in horror at seeing all the blood and rushed to assist Ben. Later, after his parents had gotten called to pick him up, and all the details were wrenched out of Ben.

Ben whimpered, “What's going to happen?”

The principal replied. “First, you should worry about healing, then get figured out. But if you're asking about Josh, he will not be coming to school for a while. We have a strict no-bully policy.”

Jose stood up and asked if he could go home because his parents wanted him back. So he walked home. About 10 mins later, Ben's parents rushed into the office, worried as ever, to see their son with an ice pack on his nose. Meanwhile, Tracey was warily texting him, and he didn't

want to respond. At least all the blood had stopped coming out, and he had cleaned himself up because his parents would have made an even bigger deal if they had seen that.

In a shallow and worried voice, Ben's mom said, “Are you ok, honey? I was super worried about you?”

Ben replied, “Yes, mom, I’m ok.” All he wanted was to go home and lay in his cozy bed. The nurse was sure he had a concussion and advised the parents to visit a doctor as soon as possible. The principal apologized, and they all exited to the car.

Chapter 6... After answering many questions and eating, Aspen looked bored, not getting enough attention; Ben expected this would have happened. Ben and Aspen were both happy once they stood up from the table. Even doing dishes would be better than this, they thought. Later in the night, he was woken up by Tracey calling him. He answered hesitatingly. Ben was sad about all the worrying Tracey was doing, and Tracy was worried about ben. Ben assured her that he was fine. Her hate for Josh had turned into anger.

Chapter 7... Ben + Aspen Later that night, Ben couldn't sleep, so he went downstairs to sit on the couch and get some new ice, and as he reached the bottom of the stairs, he saw his sister at the fridge filling up a cup with ice-cold water, he didn't want to interact with her. Still, as he came closer to her, she said, “I am worried about you and wanted to make sure that you were ok, but did not want to make it awkward. I also have a lot to tell you and hoped you would listen to me for a bit.”

Ben wearily agreed and reached into the freezer for some ice; he gestured towards the couch, “We can talk there for a bit until I am tired.”