

# The Other Side of Love

Duda Freitas - inspired by the legend of the red thread  
With help from Hal Ames



## Chapter One

In a small town in Nevada along the winding river that was surrounded by grape vineyards, lived a girl named Amber, who always dreamed of finding her Prince Charming and falling in love. She read many romantic books, and dreamed of the day when she met him.

There was a story about a new boy in their town. He had lived in Las Vegas, but now he was living with his grandmother. No one knew who he was or why he was not with his parents. Some people said he got into trouble in his old school and had to change. He stayed in the house all the time.

Some of the girls said he was handsome and that he had really nice clothes. He even played the piano. Amber didn't care. She was busy finishing her homework from the summer and was getting ready for school to begin in a week. She never listened to the silly stories her friends always talked about because it was always about boys. The boys in her school were so childish. They never took anything seriously. She thought they were such babies.

On the first day of school, Amber, as she was walking in the halls of her high school, passed in front of the music room. She heard the sound of music and stopped to listen. When she looked inside she saw the mystery boy, someone she had never seen before. He had black hair that fell over his eyes. He had light skin and wore a gray coat. He was sitting at the piano playing a beautiful song, alone.

She stood just outside of the door. She thought about going inside, but she didn't have enough courage to talk with him, so she thought, "Maybe, he wants to stay alone!", but she stayed in front of the music room door, listening to the sound of the piano. She could not move. He was so handsome.

"Wow! He's so great!" she said.

The alarm went off to go to class, so she hid behind the trash to hide from the boy when he walked out of the room.

"Ew, this place stinks!" Amber said to herself.

The boy, exited the room, and put his hands in his pockets. Then he heard a loud noise behind him. It was Amber. She had knocked over the trash can and garbage went everywhere. She was so embarrassed that she dropped to the floor and covered her face.

He held out one hand.

“Are you okay?” he asked.

Without looking up, she said, “Yes, don’t worry!”, her face went flush.

“My name is Josh, and you?” he asked the girl.

“Amber...” she said shyly, still not looking at him.

“Ok, I have to go now, trouble girl...”, he said with a laugh.

“What? Trouble?”, she asked, but he was already gone.

Amber got up to go to her first class.

“Hey! Amber!” Jean, Amber’s best friend yelled.

“Hey Jean!”, Amber answered, “We have go to literature class!”

“Oh my! Let’s go!” Jean said as the bell rang.

When they got to the classroom, they had to sit at the back since they were a little late. Amber noticed a new student in the room.

“OH MY GOD! It’s the boy from the music room!” she thought to herself.

The teacher slapped the desk with her ruler and then said, “Class, we are starting now. May I have your attention, please.”

The class was boring, but Amber was not listening because she was staring at the boy with the long black hair.

The class came to an end and the teacher gave out the homework assignment.

“Okay, guys, you have homework. I’ll put you into teams of two people, and you have search about the legends of the world,” the teacher said. “You will have two weeks to prepare your presentation. I’m expecting amazing stories and presentations! Have fun!”

“I hope it’s us together,” Amber said to Jean.

“Me too!” Jean answered.

“Pay attention, the doubles are, Jean Adams and Mary Jane Williams. You have to search about ‘The legend of Sleep Hollow’.”

“Oh, I’m sorry Amber!” Jean said, “Okay, maybe next time.”

She continued to put students together until only Amber and Josh were left.

“The last double is Joshua Evans and Amber Jones”, the teacher said.

“Teacher, what do we have search for?”, Josh asked the teacher.

“Hmmm, I know! ‘The legend of The red Thread!’” she gave them their assignment

“What is that?” Amber asked.

“Research, and you’ll find out!” the teacher answered.

After the class, Josh went to talk with Amber.

She didn’t know what to say. She just looked at him confused.

He spoke first, “We need to decide how we are going to do this assignment. Do you have any ideas?”

“So, we do the work at your home, or in mine?” she asked.

“Whatever, I just want to finish it…” he looked seriously at her.

“But I need to know…”, she said.

“Okay, in my home”, he responded.

“When will I see you…” Amber asked.

“Three o’clock,” He answered. “My house is on the corner of Maple and First. It is the grey house. You can’t miss it.”

Amber went home and put her books away. She got some snacks and sat on the floor in her room and listened to music while she searched on her phone for information about the legend of the red thread.

A while later…

“Knock, Knock.” Amber knocked on the door. After a minute, Josh opened the door.

“Hey! Come in”, he said.

“Oh, are you excited?”, Amber asked,

“Uh whatever. Not really. I was searching about ‘The legend of the Red Thread!’” he explained.

“Me too. What did you find?” she said.

“Do you really want me to show you?” he asked.

“Of course, that is what we are supposed to do.” she replied.

“Look, this legend is very interesting. It is a legend of Chinese origin, and according to it, at birth the gods tie an invisible red rope around the ankles of a man and woman who are predestined to fall in love, and it is inevitable,” he said smiling.

“Wow, very interesting!” Amber responded.

She already knew this, but she wanted him to feel like he was smart.

“Can it can be real?” Josh asked, with a smile.

“W-why are you so happy with it?” she asked.

Josh’s demeanor completely changed.

He looked at the floor, “Because I don’t want to be alone forever...” he answered sadly.

“Hey, you’re not alone,” Amber said.

“Maybe...”, Josh responded.

He paused trying to think of something to say that would sound smart.

“But, we have work to do. Let’s go to the dinning room table. I have my books there.”

Then Josh opened his book about the legend and continued to explain, “So, the legend spread, and in Japan they say the rope is around the pinky finger!” Josh contunued. “It’s the same story just a little different.”

“It’s cute...”, Amber said, flushed, “Oh, you have a reason. If someone is on the other side of the thread on my ankle, I can be happy for all my life,” Amber said looking at the ceiling.

They took different books to read and sat quietly for a long time.

They decided to take a brief break from the work.

Out of the blue, Josh said “Do you know how to play the piano?”

A little surprised at the question she answered, “No... It’s hard!”

”No it’s not. I can help you!” he said.

“Okay!” she said.

So, Josh and Amber went over to the piano on the other side of the room. Amber sat down and then Josh sat next to her, she felt funny inside. She didn’t expect to be so close to him. Strange feelings were inside her. She liked it.

“Here, you start like this,” he said as he took her hands and put them on the keys.

He pushed her fingers and she began to play a simple song, 'Mary had a little lamb'.

"OK, now try it yourself. Do you think you can do it?" he asked.

She slowly played the notes he had shown her.

"Like this?" she asked.

"Yep, that's great! Keep playing. It's really good for the first time," he complimented her.

Amber's cheeks became red again.

She leaned over and pushed him with her shoulder. He almost fell off the piano bench.

"What did you do that for?" Josh asked as he got back onto the bench.

"You're just saying that. I'm terrible," she answered.

"Well, actually you are, but at least you are trying to play," he joked.

"I give up. Let's get back to our homework," Amber said.

"No, this is fun. I like being on the bench with you," Josh said looking her in the eyes.

This made her more nervous. What was he going to do? She giggled.

Just then he leaned forward to give her a kiss.

She jumped back and fell onto the floor.

"What are you doing?" she blurted out.

"Nothing, I just thought it would be nice to give you a kiss," he replied.

"Well, you could have asked first, you know," she said, as she stood up.

"OK, do you want me to kiss you?" he asked very politely.

"No, I hardly know you," she said rudely. "Let's get back to work, OK?"

But her mind was telling her yes.

Slowly Josh got up from the piano bench and they went back to the dining room where all of their papers were on the table.

Amber took some papers and Josh looked her and asked, "Are you shy? You look like a tomato..."

"No, I'm not shy..." she said more red and hiding her face.

"Okay tomato!" he giggled.

"Really? Tomato? Are you kidding with me?" she said very very flushed.

"Be honest..." he said smiling.

“Okay, you win, I’m very shy…” she hid her face.

“Well…” he leaned over to hug her.

This surprised Amber, but she liked it.

“Well what?” she asked curious.

“Why were you stalking me today?” he asked.

“I wasn’t stalking you!” Amber almost yelled at him.

“Yes you were. Every time I looked around, there you were. That is what I call stalking,”

Josh responded. “Admit it!”

“Ahh… because… well… I thought you were interesting…” she looked at him.

“And now, am I interesting?” he stared at her curiously, bringing his face close to hers.

“So, so… You’re a weirdo and daring…” she closed her eyes and he kissed her forehead.

“Am I a weirdo?” he asked confused.

“Of course, yes! Before you tried kiss my mouth and now you kissed my forehead!” she said loudly. “I have to go…”

“But it’s raining,” he said as he looked out of the window.

“Do you want dinner here today? The rain is very strong, and I can order a pizza!” he said happily.

“Right… But…” Amber tried to think of a reason to go home.

“I have a question,” Josh said.

“OK, what is it?” Amber answered.

“Well, you know, we have been studying about this legend of the red thread,” he started.

“Yeah, what about it?” Amber responded.

“Do you think we have one?” he asked rather shyly.

“According to the legend, everyone has one, right?” she answered.

“What I mean is do you think that we have a red thread between us?” he asked.

“You know it’s just a legend, right?” Amber said trying to change the subject.

“Yeah, but what if it’s true?” Josh continued, “and that we have a thread between us.”

“Don’t be stupid. I’m going home now. I don’t care if I get wet,” Amber put her books in her bag and left.





## Chapter two

The next day in school, “Jean! Jean!” Amber yelled over to Jean.

“What’s up Amby?” Jean said curiously.

“You don’t know what happened yesterday!” she said pushing Jean.

“Of course I don’t know, you still haven’t told me!” Jean almost yelled.

“Shhhh! Pay attention!” she said, and Jean look very curiously to her.

“Yesterday, Josh tried kiss me!” she said.

“WHAT? Are you kidding? I can’t believe!” she set on the floor very scared.

“I’m serious! Look, first he tried kiss my mouth and then he kissed my forehead, and he hugged me!” she said seriously and fast.

“Okay, but the question is, did you like it?” she looked to Amber.

“Ahhh...Is... It...It is strange, because isn’t me... is strange feelings but they are good...” she said flushed.

“So, you liked it?” she asked again.

Amber sighed, “Yes... I liked...” she were very shyly.

“So what happened after?” she asked excitedly.

“I went home, because, he said, the legend that we are working can be real and we have one!”

“Oh my God! You like him and he likes you!” She said very exciting.

“He doesn’t like me!” she said shy.

“Oh really?” Jean looked at her.

“Yes, why?” she crossed the arms.

“Because he is coming here,” Jean giggled.

“Hey Amber!” Josh said, “I want talk with you in particular.”

He looked at Jean.

“Okay, I’m going to the class, Amber I’ll see you there.” Jean said walking.

“So, tell me.” Amber said seriously to Josh.

“I’m sorry for yesterday if you didn’t like what happened. I didn’t want give you the wrong impression.” He said.

“It’s okay, I was very surprised, because I didn’t hope to be very close to you” she said smiling.

“So, do you want go to the park today, after class?” he asked.

“I’ll think about it, so I’ll give you an answer in the lunch, okay?” she said sure.

“Okay, see you!” he said and left.

“HEY!” Amber heard someone yells behind her.

“Jean! You scared me!” she said laughing.

“How was it with him? Better, your future boyfriend!” she said giggling.

“He isn’t my boyfriend and won’t be!” she said angrily, “But he said sorry for yesterday and he asked me to go out with him after class...”

“And what did you say?” Jean asked very curiously.

“I said I’ll think about it and tell him at the lunch,” she said seriously.

“Oh man! You’re so stupid!” Jean put her hand on her face.

“Why?” Amber said very confused.

“Because, you haven’t made yourself want to be with him, and where is he?” Jean asked.

“I don’t know, maybe...” Jean broke off Amber.

“In the music room, okay you’ll go there and you will say, ‘I want go with you!’” she said pushing Amber.

“No... but... I...” Amber was trying say something.

“No but! You have to go there now!” Jean pushed her into the music room.

“Amber? What are you doing in here?” Josh said scared.

“I want go with you...” she said flushed.

“What?” he was confused.

“I want go to the park with you!” she yelled.

“Really? Are you sure?” he got up the piano’s bench.

“Yes, I’m...” she said shyly.

“Hey, you are shy again!” he giggled.

“This is not funny,” she said more red.

“Yes, isn’t.” he said seriously “But it is cute, you’re so cutie!” he said with a child’s voice and squeezed her cheeks. “You’re a tomato again.”

“Okay! I understand! Stop it now!” she giggled.

“So, do you want play the piano with me? I’m learning a new song,” he asked smiling.

They went to the piano and set together in the bench.

“Yep, what music will we play?” she asked looking at the piano.

“Fur Elise’ from Beethoven.” He answered.

“That’s interesting... Can you play it for me?” she asked.

So, he began to play a beautiful song.

“He’s so calm and... handsome?” she thought.

“You’re very great!” she said.

“Thanks...” he replied shyly and the bell rang.

“I have to go... See you!” Amber said.

“See you!” he said as she exited the room and almost fell down on the floor.

After the class she went to the park to find Josh.

“Where’s he?” she said to herself.

“BOO!” someone said behind her.

“Were you searching for me?” Josh asked.

“Of course, where were you?” she asked curiously.

“I was in the shopping mall!” he said smiling.

“Why? What were you doing?” she asked confuse.

“I bought this new clothes!” he said with a big smile on his face, “Do you liked it?” he asked.

“Yeah, you’re so...”

“So, what?” he asked confuse.

She couldn’t say, but she wanted to say he was handsome.

“Am I what?” he asked again.

“Pretty cute!” she said shyly.

“Cute? Really? Just this?” he said disappointed.

“No...” she said giggling

“So, am I what?” he said a little angrily.

“Handsome...” she whispered.

“I don’t understand, repeat please, he said politely.

“Handsome!” she yelled, and everybody looked to her.

“Really? Okay, thank you!” he laughed, and she was very red, “You’re look like a tomato, again!” he said wispered in her ear and laughed.

“Hey, look!” she said.

“What?” he asked.

“Ice cream, do you want one?” she tried change the subject.

“Okay let’s go, Tomato.” He said laughted and walking to the ice cream car.

“What the flavor you want?” he asked Amber.

“Strawberry...” she said a little shyly.

“It’s my favority flavor,” he said looking at her.

They sat on the park’s bench and Amber dropped her ice cream on Josh’s t-shirt.

“Oh no! I’m really sorry!” she said trying clean his clothes.

“It’s okay... I can clean it myself,” Josh took a napkin to clean the ice cream off of his new shirt.

“I think it is going to be a stain. I ruined your new shirt,” Amber was upset.

“Don’t worry about it accidents happen. Let’s just go for a walk, OK?” he asked as he stood up taking her hand a helping her up.

Amber looked up at him smiling. He didn’t let go of her hand as they walked down the path into the forest.

Amber was getting scared. It was dark in the forest and she didn’t know what Josh was planning, so she turned around and ran toward the playground. She got onto a swing an began to swing as high as she could. Josh go onto the swing next to her and they had a contest to see who could go higher.

“JUMP!” yelled Josh as he flew out of his swing, into the air and he fell with a thump onto the ground.

“OUCH!” he yelled.

Amber stopped her swing to go see what was wrong with Josh. When she bent over to help him, he grabbed her and pulled her down on the ground.

“Gotcha!” Josh laughed.

Amber hit him. “You made me think you were hurt. I hate you!”

She got up and started to run away, but Josh chased her until they got back to the bench they were sitting while eating the ice cream.

“Don’t ever do that again!” Yelled Amber. “You really scared me.”

“I’m sorry. I was just fooling around with you. I didn’t mean to scare you,” Josh said apologetically.

“Make sure you don’t!” Amber responded.

It was getting late and they both needed to get home for dinner, so Josh walked Amber to her house.

They held hands and talked about their project and when they would study together again.

“Why don’t we study at my house this time. My parents said it would be OK for tomorrow,” Amber suggested.

“OK. that sounds good. After school tomorrow at your place,” he said with a smile.

Josh couldn’t do anything, Amber ran up to the door of her house and said, “Good-bye, see you tomorrow.”

Then the door closed behind her.

Josh stood looking at the door wondering what had just happened.

The door opened and Amber stuck her head out and said, “You know if you hadn’t scared me like that I would have let you hug me, but I am mad at you!”

Josh ran up to the door, but before he could open it, Amber had locked it.

Josh turned slowly and walked home.

## Chapter three

Amber lay in her bed reading a book, but it was hard for her to concentrate on what the book was about because she couldn't stop thinking about Josh. When the phone rang, she answered.

"Hello?" she said but no one responded.

"Hello?" she said again.

"Hey, Amber?" someone said.

"Yes, who are you?" she asked.

"Josh..." he said, "I just want to say..." he paused.

"Say what?" she said.

"Nevermind..." he said sadly, because in his mind he can't say he likes her.

"Are you fine?" he asked trying change the subject.

"Yes... I... Maybe... Nevermind..." she said, but she wanted to say she liked him too.

"Tell me!" he said worried.

"Nothing!" she almost yelled.

"Okay, so I won't tell you what I want to say..." he said.

"OK! I don't care!" she turned off the phone, but she really cared about what Josh had to say.

In the next day, in the school she saw Josh in the hall, but they didn't talk.

"Amber?" Jean said, but Amber didn't answer because she was looking for Josh.

"Amber!" Jean yelled her and she looked.

"What?" she said rudely.

"Why are you so mad?" she asked.

"Because, you can't believe, but Josh called my phone, and tried to say something but he didn't! and he said, 'I won't tell you!', but I wanted to tell him about my feelings! That idiot boy!" she said very upset.

“Maybe he was shy and wanted tell you about his feelings,” she said.

“Oh really?” Amber crossed her arms.

“Okay, you don’t believe me, so, I’ll ask him,” she said and ran to Josh.

“No! Jean! Are you crazy?” she yelled but Jean was too far.

“Josh!” Jean yelled Josh very mad.

“What you want?” he said rudely.

“What did you want to tell to Amber last night?” she asked.

“Why do you want know?” he asked.

“Why are you so stupid? I’m trying help you,” Jean said, frustrated.

“Okay, I was trying to say to her, I’m in love with her... But I didn’t have enough courage to tell it to her,” he said a little shyly.

“I have an idea!” she said exciting.

“OK, tell me!” he said.

“Today, at night at 6:00 you go to the park and Amber will be there, because I’ll be there, but not actually. You will tell her about your feelings, everything will be okay, and you will go home. Then I’ll appear, okay?” she asked.

“You have to be there at six o’clock!” she finished the plan.

“Okay... But are you sure?” he asked worried. “We were supposed to go to her house to study for the presentation?”

“Don’t worry. I will make sure she is there. Just trust me!” she said.

Jean walked back to where Amber was waiting for her. When Jean saw Amber, she yelled out to her, “Hey Amber!”

Amber looked up and saw Jean walking toward her.

“Jean! What you did you say to him?” she asked.

“Nothing, I was in the bathroom. I was kidding!” she lied, “Do you want go to the park tonight?” she asked.

“Yes, of course,” Amber said.

“Okay, I see you at six o’clock!” Jean said.

The rest of the day Amber thought about Josh, but she didn’t know what to do. She liked

the idea of meeting Jean in the park. That way she would have someone to talk to about her feelings.

It was six o'clock and Amber was in the park sitting on the bench waiting for Jean, when someone sat next to her. She looked. It was Josh.

"Hey Amber..." he said.

"Hey, what are you doing on here?" she asked.

"I was walking, and you?" he asked.

"Waiting for Jean..." she answered.

"I'm sorry..." he said.

"For what?" she inquired.

"Because I haven't told you..." he said.

"If you don't want to say it's okay... But I decided to tell you..." she said, and he was very surprised.

"We need to finish our presentation," she said giving a big sigh.

"Really? Really? Are you talking serious with me?" he said so disappointed and surprised.

"Yes I am, why not?" she asked.

"Okay I'm giving up," he said to her.

Under his breath he looked up to the sky and said, "Why God? Why are women so hard?"

He got up from the bench.

"Josh! Wait!" she said taking his hand.

"What?" he said looking at her.

"I owe you a hug, remember?" she said. She stood up and gave him a hug. He was so surprised.

He was hugging her with a big smile on his surprised face.

"Do you want to go to my house to study like we planned?" Amber requested.

"Not really, but I guess we have to," Josh responded.

Just then Jean walked up.

"So, how are you two lovebirds getting along?" she questioned.

Both of them turned red and didn't know what to say.



“You be quiet about this! Do you hear me? Nobody needs to know about how we feel.” Amber shouted at Jean to make sure she kept her mouth shut.

“UH... Uh.. OK, no problem,” Jean replied. “Your secret is my secret..”

“Just like when you told my mother about when I got my hair colored blue? You know you can’t keep a secret,” Amber was still angry at Jean.

Josh looked at Amber.

“You dyed your hair blue? That must have looked really funny,” he commented laughing.

Amber hit him.

“You didn’t see it. It looked pretty cool, only my mom made me wash it out,” Amber told him about it.

“So, Jean. If you say anything at all, I will kill you, understand?” Amber was very serious.

Jean backed up, “OK, I get it. Sorry!”

Josh suggested, “Why don’t the three of us go and get some ice cream. I know you like ice cream, don’t you,” Josh offered. “I will pay,”

The girls looked at each other. How could they refuse ice cream!

They walked together to the ice cream truck on the side of the park. Josh took Amber’s hand, but she pulled away. She didn’t want anyone to know her feelings.

When they got to the truck, Amber ordered her favorite, strawberry.

“Sorry young lady, but I am out of strawberry. Would you like something else?” the vendor advised her.

“No, I only like strawberry,” she responded with a sad face.

Josh ordered chocolate and Jean wanted mint with chocolate.

Amber saw Jean’s ice cream and changed her mind.

“Can I have on like that?” she asked.

“No problem,” the vendor reached over and gave her the same as Jean.

There was a table nearby, so they sat down to talk.

Jean started the conversation, “What is your project about? Mine is ‘The Legend of Sleepy Hollow’. It’s SOOOOOO boring.”

“Are you kidding me?” Josh said. “I studied that last year and I liked it.”

“Maybe you should have gotten that one. I think yours is better, no matter what it is. Oh yeah, I remember. Amber told me it was about a string?? Jean remembered the assignment. “Do you really think that you and Amber have a string tied to your ankles?” she asked.

Amber glared at Jean.

Josh was embarrassed but asked, “How do you know about that?”

Then he looked at Amber and saw how angry she was and realized how Jean knew.

“I told you that you can’t keep a secret!” Amber screamed at her.

“Amber, I’m so sorry! Please don’t kill me!” she said really fast.

“What’s happening here?” Josh said confused.

“It doesn’t matter, I’m going to kill this girl!” Amber shouted.

“You’re lucky because I didn’t tell him that you like him!” Jean tried to defend herself.

Amber was very upset. She really wanted kill Jean, or at least hurt her.

“You stupid redhead! It was a secret! And you know it!” Amber yelled.

“If you don’t tell him, who will?” she asked smiling.

“You don’t have the right!” she shouted at Jean again.

Josh looked at the girls very scared. He thought they were going to have a big fight and he didn’t know what to do.

“Amber, We... we.... we’ll do the work tomorrow. I have to go home. My mother is probably worried about me...” Josh said walking away.

“Look! Look Jean! It is obvious! He doesn’t like me!” Amber said sadly.

“But he... he likes...” Amber interrupt Jean.

“Shut your mouth! You ruined everything!” she said almost crying while running away.

“Where are you going?” Jean yelled, but Amber didn’t respond.

Amber arrived home and ran to her room. She sat on the floor and started to cry.

“He doesn’t care about me!” she said to herself.

She sat and sobbed for a long time, and then she knew she had to do her homework. It was really late when she finally went to sleep.

The next day at school was very lonely for Jean and Amber. They didn’t talk each other all day.

Josh saw Amber in the hallway after the first class.

“Amber? Are you fine?” Josh inquired.

“Yeah! Sure!” she said with a fake smile in her face.

“So, do you want come to my home today?” he asked.

“Of course, yes!” she said now really smiling.

“Okay... I’ll see you at three o’clock,” he said walking away.

The day at school passed so slowly, but when it was finally over Amber went to Josh’s house.

Amber knocked on the door and waited for to Josh to open it.

“Hello!” Josh opened the door.

“Hi! How are you?” she asked smiling.

“Good... And about you and your friend?” he requested.

“We had a fight yesterday, but it doesn’t matter now. Let’s finish our work.

“Can we make a poster?” Josh asked.

“Yes, we could put all information there,” she said.

They worked to make the poster look beautiful. They quit after two hours of working.

“Oh, I’m so tired!” Amber stretched and yawned.

“Yes, me too,” Josh replied.

“Do you want to eat something?” he asked.

“Yes, I do,” she answered.

He went to the kitchen and opened the refrigerator.

“Amber! We have to go to a restaurant! We don’t have any food to eat in here!” he yelled from the kitchen.

“So, let’s go!” she went to the kitchen.

“My grandma needs go to the supermarket; I’m always getting hungry in this house!” he said.

“Why do you want to go to the supermarket?” Amber asked.

“I don’t know, she doesn’t like when I chose the things,” he answered.

“Yeah, it’s because you just chose junk food!” she laughed.

“Okay, you’re right! But let’s go, I’m so hungry!” he said.

They went to a restaurant. It was a simple place but comfortable.

“I’ll take out the food so we can eat in a place I’ll show you.” Josh said.

Amber was waiting for Josh, outside of the restaurant.

“Hey! Boy!” An old Chinese man called to Josh.

“The girl outside. Is she your girlfriend?” the old man asked.

“What do you want with her?” Josh inquired him.

“Calm down, I was trying say, don’t leave her waiting. You look like you have a strong connection with her!” the old man said.

“What you know about connection?” he asked sarcastically.

“A lot. Don’t you see?” the man inquired.

“See what?” he crossed his arms.

“This red thread on the floor...” he looked at Josh, pointing down at the floor.

When Josh looked, he thought he was crazy, but it was true. There was a red thread connecting their ankles.

“W-what i-is that?” Josh asked stammering.

“You know...” the man answered pausing for a moment, “Tell her about your feelings, and then everything will be fine!” when Josh looked back at the door, the man had disappeared.

“Oh my, where is he?” he asked himself.

“Sir, here’s your food,” the waiter gave him the food bag.

“Thank you, you can keep the change!” He gave the money to the waiter and ran to Amber.

“What’s up?” she asked.

“C’mon!”

He took her hand, and they ran away.

They arrived at a little cave and set down on the floor.

“Here’s my favorite place. When I want to get away from home, sometimes I come here,” He explained to her.

“Wow, here’s so beautiful. I can see, the whole town!” she spoke.

“I want to tell you something... Remember that thing I wasn’t telling you?” he asked.

“Yes, I remember...” she answered.

“I’ll tell it to you, now...” he continued, “I really... really like you, I don’t know why, because today something happened, and you won’t believe it, but it doesn’t matter now,” he said.

“I like you too...” she said very shy.

“I knew it...” he giggled.

“Yes, you knew...” and he hugged her very tightly.

I have something else to tell you. When I was in the restaurant waiting for our food, an old Chinese man came in. he asked me if you were my girlfriend,” he began.

“What did you tell him?” Amber asked very curious about his answer.

“I asked him why he would ask that and why he was interested in you. Well, he went on to say that we have a connection. He said there was a red thread between our ankles. When I looked down, I saw it. Then the man disappeared, and I didn’t see thread anymore.”

“You saw a thread? A red thread?” Amber was very surprised.

“Yeah, and it was tied to our ankles. Can you believe it?” Josh asked.

“I don’t believe you. You’re just trying to make me feel better after my fight with Jean,” Amber responded suspiciously.

“No, really! I did see it, and the old man too,” Josh defended himself.

“I never saw an old Chinese man in the restaurant. I think you were dreaming. It is pretty late, and I should be going home. Bye,” she said as she walked toward home.

“Wait, I’ll go with you,” Josh ran after her.

## Chapter Four

Amber lay in her bed thinking about what Josh had said. If it were true, was he the one she would marry? Was he the one she was tied with by the thread? Was the story really true or was Josh making up a story so she would like him? So many questions were in her mind.

The next morning when she got up, she looked in the mirror. Something was different. She saw giant pimple in the center of her forehead.

“I can’t go to school today!” she yelled. “Mom come here! I have a really big problem. I can’t go to school!”

“What’s the problem, dear?” she asked.

“Look! Look this giant pimple in the center of my forehead!” she said almost yelled.

“This is normal! You’re a teenager!” she said laughing.

“What do I do now?” she questioned.

“Hmmm... I know!” Her mom responded excitedly.

“What?” she said very curiously.

“Go to school!” she answered with a smile in her face.

“Are you crazy Mom?” she asked.

“Yes, I am! Go! Go! Or you’ll lose the class!” she said very fast.

Amber did not want to go. She was so embarrassed. She put a scarf around her head so no one would see her big blemish.

When she arrived at the school everyone was looking for her.

Jean saw her in the hallway and went to talk with her.

“Amber?” Jean said.

“Yes...” she said with her hair covering her face.

“I’m sorry, but why are you hiding your face?” she asked.

She said whispered, “Well, first of all I forgive you ,and second have a big big pimple on my forehead!” she said whispered.

“Can I see?” she questioned.

“Okay... But don’t laugh!” and she showed Jean her forehead.

“That’s horrible! It’s in the center!” Jean commented.

“I know!” she said.

“Hey girls! Friends again?” Josh appeared.

Amber quickly turned away to make sure the scarf was covering her face.

“Of course, yes!” Jean said.

“Amber why are you hiding your face?” he asked.

“Nothing!” she almost yelled.

“Let me see!” he said and moved her blond hair on her face to see.

“Josh!” she yelled.

“Wow! Big pimple!” he said laughing.

“You’re an idiot boy!” she spoke and hit him.

“Hey! That hurts!” he said.

“I don’t care!” she said.

“Oh really?” he looked at her eyes.

“Okay! I understand!” she said. “But you don’t have to tease me. I wasn’t even going to come to school today, but my mom made me.”

“It’s not that bad,” Josh said with a smile on his face.

She hit him again.

“Liar! Stop trying to make me feel better,” Amber responded.

Amber dropped one of her books onto the floor. As she bent over to pick it up Josh did the same and they hit heads right on her pimple. It began to bleed.

“Ouch! What did you do that for?” she asked, and then realized it was bleeding. “Now you’ve made it even worse! I’m going home!”

She ran down the hallway, but when she got to the door, a teacher told her to get to class. Instead of going to her class, she went to the girl’s room and hid in one of the stalls.

A voice came from the door, “Is anyone in here?”

Amber pulled her feet up so no one would know she was there. Then there was a knock on the door.

“Can’t you see I’m busy in here. Go away!” she yelled.

“Amber, it’s me, Amy. I heard about your pimple. I have something that might help,” she spoke up.

“Really!? I don’t think so. You just want to tease me just like everyone else,” Amber responded in a very mean way.

“No, I’m serious. Come out here and I will help you, OK?” Amy begged.

Amber opened the door slowly. Amy had a smile on her face. Come on, I have some cream in my bag that will make your pimple almost invisible. Do you want to try it?” she asked.

They went over to the mirror.

“Ew, that is terrible. What happened?” Amy asked.

“I hit my head with Josh. He was helping me pick up my books when we hit. It really hurts,” Amber told her about how she hurt her head.

“It’s OK. First we need to clean the blood and wash your face,” Amy helped.

Amber washed her face and then Amy gave her cloth to dry the water. It had some medicine on it which made it feel better.

“Let me put this cream on for you. When I am done, you will look much better,” began to put the cream on her forehead.

Amber closed her eyes and let Amy do what she wanted. When she opened her eyes, she couldn’t believe it.

Not only was the pimple gone, but she looked beautiful.

“What did you do? It’s a miracle,” Amber burst out.

“I am planning to go to beauty school, so I am learning how to do make up and cut hair. Do you like it?” Amy asked.

“Of course! Can you teach me how to do this?” Amber almost begged her.

Amber got a big smile on her face, left the bathroom, and went to her class.

When she walked in, she was late, and everyone was looking at her. She first thought about the pimple, and then she realized they were looking at her face and how beautiful she looked. She became shy and ran to her desk and put her head down.

Jean leaned over and said.

“What happened to you? You look great! And that pimple is gone,” Jean commented.



“It was Amy. She is amazing. She did this. I look better than I have ever looked,” Amber whispered.

Josh couldn't stop looking at her. He couldn't take his eyes off her. She was so beautiful. After the class he went to talk with her.

“Hi...” he said a little awkwardly.

“Hey, are you fine?” she asked confused.

“Y-yes, of course yes, why not?” he spoke uneasily.

“What's happening with you?” she giggled

“Nothing...” he laughed.

“Oh, really? So, am I beautiful?” she tried to tease him.

“Yes, you are,” he said so sure and smiling at her.

She made a surprised face, “What's happening with this boy?” She thought.

“Amber, do you want to meet me at the cinema tonight?” he asked.

“Oh, I'm so sorry, I can't, my grandma is sick, and I'll go to her home at night,” she said a little sadly.

“Okay, no problem, and I'm sorry for your grandma!” he answered.

The day passed so fast, and when Amber was in the bus stop at night, someone was there, but who was it?

“Good evening!” one man said.

“Good... Josh?” she questioned.

“Hey Amber?” he said smiling.

“Where are you going?” she inquired.

“Vegas...” he said sadly.

“What?” she said surprised.

“Don't worry, I'm going to just see my mom, I'll spend the weekend there!” he responded.

“Oh, okay, alright...” she said.

The bus finally arrived, and Josh stayed waiting for his bus, so she entered it. Amber sat on the first bench she saw, and an old Chinese man was in the other.

“Good evening, miss!” the man said smiling.

“Hello!” she answered.

“Do you know that boy?” he asked pointing the finger to Josh.

“Yes, I know...” she spoke confused.

“When I saw you, I thought ‘This girl and this boy have a connection’,” he said smiling.

“What kind of connection?” she inquired.

“Like... Well... Love!” he said smiling, “This red thread connecting you can explain for me!” he smiled again.

At that moment she could see. She went to the window and saw the thread around Josh’s ankle, she couldn’t believe it at first, but after some seconds she said, “I need to talk with him!”

“Yes, maybe... Just if you believe!” he said.

“I believe! Yes! I believe him!” she spoke fast, “I believe in love!” she yelled.

“I’m sorry! Mister driver can you back to the last stop?” she asked to the driver.

“I’m sorry, but I can’t!” he told her.

“So, stop here! Stop here! I need to go!” she said fast.

“OK! OK! I stop for you!”

So, he stopped the bus, and she ran very fast.

She ran so fast. When she could see the bus stop she yelled at Josh very loud.

Josh looked up and saw her running.

“Amber?” he yelled, she ran into him and knocked him down on the ground.

“Amber? What’s happening with you?” he asked scared.

“I...I... I believe in you... The Chinese man! I saw him on the bus!” she said almost yelled.

“Saw what?” he questioned.

“The red thread!” she yelled.

“Really?” he asked.

“Yes! I’m sorry...” Josh interrupted her with a hug.

They got up off the ground and sat on the bench talking. Josh missed his bus, but he didn’t care.

“Oh, my goodness! I missed the bus to my grandma’s house. She is going to be waiting for me at the bus stop. Then she will call my mom and I am going to get into big trouble,” Amber

panicked.

“Don’t worry. I will call an Uber for you,” Josh suggested.

“I don’t have enough money for an Uber,” Amber said still very worried.

“I will give you the money. It’s my fault you left the bus. It will be a loan. You can pay me back when you can, OK?” Josh offered.

He picked up his cellphone to make a call, but when he looked at it, the screen was cracked, and it didn’t work.

“Oh no, when you knocked me down, my phone fell out of my pocket and its broken!” Josh spoke in an irritated way.

“I’m sorry. I was just so excited to know that what you told me was true,” Amber said sadly.

“Wait, I have my phone with me. We can use it,” Amber took her phone out of her back pocket of her jeans. “I didn’t remember I had it with me. I’ll call my grandma and let her know I will be late.”

Her grandmother was not happy, but she understood. She told her it would be better if she came the next day instead. It was getting late, and she was not feeling very well. She wanted to stay home.

“Do you want to come the Vegas with me?” Josh asked.

“No, I can’t do that without asking my mom and I am sure she will say no,” Amber replied. “But it sounds like it would be fun.”

“Are you sure? She thinks you are at your grandma’s house. How would she know?” Josh tried to convince her to go with him.

“You don’t know my mom. She finds out everything. I can never keep a secret from her. I won’t even try,” Amber said straightforward. “I’m gonna call my mom and have her come and get me. I’ll wait with you until the next bus to Vegas comes, OK? She won’t get her for an hour or so. She is still at work.”

Josh went to buy another ticket since he missed his bus.

When he returned he said, “Good news. The ticket guy let me have another ticket for free. He said we were so cute together, he understood why I missed the bus. Funny thing, he looked a

lot like the Chinaman,”

“Really?” Amber asked very surprised.

“Now, I was just kidding,” Josh smiled

Then Amber hit him on the shoulder again.

“You have to stop doing that. It hurts,” he yelled out.

“You deserve it, and you know it,” Amber retorted.

It wasn't long before Josh's bus came. He gave Amber a hug but before she would let him go she got onto her tiptoes and kissed him.

Josh turned red.

“Bye Tomato!” Amber yelled as he got onto the bus.

## Chapter Five

Amber's mother came to pick her up. Amber was smiling bigger than he mother had ever seen.

“Why are you smiling?” her mother asked. “And why did you miss the bus?”

Amber did not know what to say, so she turned on the radio and turned up the music.

“Turn that down young lady, I asked you a question. Answer me now!” he mother was very upset now.

Amber thought, “Oops, I made her angry,”

“Well, I was on the bus and then .....

“And then?” her mother asked.

“Ah, well, it's like this. You see, I met a man, and he told me something, and I well... you see..., OH mom! I can't tell you.” Amber was totally confused.

She knew her mother wouldn't believe her, and she didn't want to tell her that she liked Josh so much. She began to turn red again.

“What's going on? You have never had trouble telling me about things in the past. Is something wrong?” her mother inquired.

“NO! Everything is just fine.” Amber replied.

“Does this have anything to do with that boy you have been seeing lately?” she asked.

“Huh? What do you mean?” Amber was surprised her mother knew about Josh.

“You know what I mean...” she said convinced.

“Mom... It's okay... I promise!” she smiled.

When Amber arrived home, she ran to her room, and lay on her bed, thinking, “Is Josh home now? Is him okay? What's him thinking now?” She just could think about him but soon fell asleep.

~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~

Josh arrived home later, but his mother was still awake, he knocked the door, and she ran to open.

“Son!” she hugged him very tightly.

“Hi mom!” he said, “Where’s dad?” he said entering the house.

“He is in the kitchen, he’s always eating!” she exclaimed and took him to kitchen.

“Josh!” his dad said surprised, “How are you, son?” he asked.

“I’m fine. Do you have any news?” he questioned the father.

“No... And you?” his father asked.

“Nothing...” he said turning red.

“Nothing? Really?” he said suspiciously.

“Yes! I’m Sure!” Josh answered lying.

“Maybe... Did you make friends?” his dad asked pretending to be naive.

“Yes, of course!” he responded.

“And... Do you... Have... A girlfriend?” he inquired very unconvinced.

“Of course, not!” he almost yelled.

“Oh, I’m sorry, but I don’t believe in you!” he laughed.

“Oh Dad! Please!” he put his hand on face.

“So, did you fell in love?” he asked curiously.

“Oh my God! I came here from another city, and you ask me these kinds of questions!” He put his hands on his hips and went upstairs for his room.

“Look what you did!” his mother said upset.

“What?” he spoke confused.

She sighed and left.

The night passed fast and quiet, Josh passed all night thinking about Amber, about that kiss...

“Good morning!” Josh’s mom yelled.

“Mom, it’s Saturday!” he put the pillow on his face.

“It’s noon!” Let’s go!” she said pulling his feet.

“Okay! I’m going!” he spoke.

“I almost forgot, Darron is here, he wants to see you!” She smiled.

Darron is Josh’s best friend, they met when them were kids. Darron was a different boy,

he always wore black, and he loved to play his electric guitar, he wanted to be a rock star.

Josh changed his clothes as fast as he could. He ran downstairs and yelled, “Darron!”

“Hey weirdo boy!” He yelled and ran to hug Josh, “I can’t believe it! You grew up!”

“But... I’ve always been taller than you!” he said confused.

“You father told me!” he said with a surprised face.

“What?” he was really confused.

“You fell in love!” He smiled.

“Oh my!” Josh put his hand on his face.

“Why don’t we talk about this?” he asked.

“Okay, let’s go to the garage,” he said.

They went to the garage, there Josh’s father kept the old things.

“Well, tell me!” Darron said.

He told Darron the whole story, he passed hours telling about this to his friend.

“Well... I don’t know what say... Maybe... You could kiss her? Date her?” he suggested.

“Really?” he asked.

“Look, I never dated anyone before, but you can try. Make something romantic...” he gave the idea.

“I will try, but what if she doesn’t accept?” he questioned.

“She will, trust me!” he smiled.

“Why don’t we take the bus to the city today, and put our plan in action?” Josh suggested.

“But, I have to go to the school on Monday!” Darron said, a little worried.

“You’ll be back tomorrow at night!” he said.

“You really enjoy spending money. You act like my sister!” Darron said.

“Shut up! Get your bags and we’ll go at four pm!” he told.

Since Josh was trying to give him advice, he said, “Okay! I’m going, dad!” rolling the eyes.

Josh went to talk to his mom.

“Darron and I want to go on a little trip. We’ll be back tomorrow. What do you think?” he asked.

“You just got here. We haven’t seen you since school started. Your dad had to work today,

so you won't even see him before you go back to your grandmother's. Does this have something to do with that girl?" she questioned him.

"What girl?" Josh responded.

"Don't play games with me young man. We know all about her," his mom informed him. "Your grandmother has been telling us about Amber. Are you going to go to see her?"

"Why would you think that? Darron and I want a little adventure. Is that bad?" Josh retorted.

"When it has something to do with a girl, yes, it is bad," his mother stated. "You need to stay home for the weekend and finish your homework before you go back. I'm sure your father will agree with me."

"BUT..... That's not fair!" Josh yelled. "I can do almost anything I want at grandma's, but when I come home you have all these rules. I think I will just go back to grandma's house!" Josh yelled.

Just then, unexpectedly, his father returned home.

"Hey everybody! I got off work early. Let's go out for dinner. I'm starved!" he said with a big smile on his face, but when he saw Josh and his wife, her realized they were not very happy about something.

"What's up? Why are you looking at each other that way?" he asked.

"Darron and I want to go on an adventure, but mom is saying NO!. It's not fair," Josh tried to get his father on his side of the argument.

"Where are you going to go?" his dad asked very directly.

"UH... to the city," he answered.

"What city?" his dad inquired.

"Uh, you know, the city," Josh tried to avoid the question.

"Do you mean where Amber is at?" he asked.

Now Josh was really getting mad. How did his father know about Amber, then he remembered that his grandmother had told them everything?

"OK, that is where I want to go. Is it so bad?" Josh was almost begging.

"We haven't seen you in two months and now you want to leave us for a girl?" his father



said with a smile.

“Yeah, that’s about it,” Josh said.

There was long pause in the house. Then Josh’s dad spoke up.

“Here’s the plan. We will drive you to see Amber. That way we can meet her. If you want to do this, we will do it my way. What do you think?” his dad asked.

Josh thought about it. He was embarrassed to have them meet her, but if it was the only way to make it work he would agree.

“OK, can Darron come with?” he asked.

Josh commented to his parents, “We have to leave very early because she is going by bus to see her grandmother. If we want to meet her, we have to get there before the bus leaves.”

“Sure, we can do that, but we will leave in the morning. We will make a day trip out of it. We will be back tomorrow night. Tonight, you can work on your homework. Are you going to call her and let her know we are coming?” his dad asked.

“I think we will surprise her. I know the address of the house. This is going to be very strange,” Josh said as he went upstairs with Darron.

“I didn’t expect my parents to be like this,” Josh said to Darron.

“I think it’s pretty cool. Now you don’t have to spend your money on a bus ticket. and they will also probably buy us food. Sounds good to me,” Darron commented.

“Josh, Darron! We’re going out to eat. Do you want to join us?” Mom yelled up the stairs.

“Coming!” they both yelled.

~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~

Amber woke up in the morning and looked out the window. The sun was shining, and the birds were singing.

“What a wonderful day it is!” she said to herself. “I wonder what Josh is doing right now.”

“Amber, come downstairs, I have something to tell you,” her mom called up to her.

Amber ran down to see what her mother was talking about.

“Your grandmother called and said she is feeling much better. She asked if you could visit next week instead. She has made plans with her friends to go to the opera today and she knows you don’t like opera. We will go out for breakfast and then we can go shopping. I know you need

some new clothes,” her mom said with a big smile on her face.

“Yay! This day will be nice!” she said excitedly

Amber ate her breakfast and put her clothes as fast as she could.

“Let’s go mom!” she yelled going down the stairs.

“I’m ready!” she responded taking her purse and going out the door with Amber.

~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~

“It’s here, Amber’s house,” Josh said to his father.

“So, here we go.”

They exited from the car and knocked the door.

“Can I help you... everyone?” Amber’s father said a little scared, while holding a cup of coffee.

“Uh... Yes, do you know where Amber is?” Josh said.

“Yes, I know, but who are you?” he asked curiously and a little worried.

“My name’s Josh and this is my family and my friend Darron,” he said giving a fake smile.

“Oh, I know, you’re the boy! Amber told me about you!” he answered unsure about the boy.

“So, do you know where she is, Sir?” he spoke.

“At the shopping mall, with her mother!” He smiled.

“Thanks, sir!” He said.

“You’re welcome! Bye bye!” Amber’s father said closing the door.

“Bye...” Josh said smiling.

They got in the car and went to the shopping mall very fast. Actually, Josh’s father was very curious about Amber, he was asking himself, “Why did my son fell in love with this girl? I don’t have idea who she is ...”

They finally arrived at the mall. Josh was nervous. Darron just wanted to know who she is, and Josh’s parents did too. They entered the elevator and waited. When the doors opened the first

person who Josh saw was... “Amber?” he said.

“Josh? Why are you not in Vegas?” she asked.

“Well, it’s a long story, do you want eat an ice cream with me and my family?” he spoke nervously knowing that his family was there listening to them.

“This is my mom, my dad, and my best friend Darron,” Josh introduced everyone to Amber.

“Do you want to, mom?” she asked for her mother.

“Yes...” she said looking over at Josh.

They went to the Ice cream shop and Amber whispered to Josh, “What’s happening here?”

“Well, my parents wanted to meet you. Somehow they knew about you. When I asked if I could come to see you, they said they would come along. So, I could only see you, if they came with me...” he responded nervously.

“But, who is that boy?” she looked to Darron.

“He’s my best friend, Darron, I want you meet him, he’s like a brother to me...” he smiled.

“Hey, Amber? Right?” Darron asked.

“Yes... And you are... Darron” she smiled.

“Nice to meet you Amber, you’re very famous, Josh talks about you all time!” he smiled, and Josh hit him.

“Shut up your mouth!” Josh whispered smiling.

“You’re scaring me!” Darron commented.

Josh’s mother called over to them, “Hey kids! Let’s sit down!”

“I’m not a kid, mom!” Josh crossed his arms.

“For me you always be my baby!” she squeezed his cheeks.

“Oh! So cute! He’s a little baby!” Darron mocked him.

“You’re such an idiot!” Josh commented.

“Guys, stop fighting!” Amber said sitting on the chair.

“When do you go to see your grandmother?: Josh asked.

“She called and said she is doing much better. She wants me to come next week instead, I could have gone to the opera with her, but I decided not to,” Amber smiled.

“Opera? You like the opera?” Josh asked, puzzled.

“Are you kidding? I hate the opera. That is why I am staying home,” Amber replied. “Are you staying here?”

“No, it’s a long weekend and my parents haven’t seen me in two months, so they want me to go back with them tonight. I’ll be back on Wednesday when school starts again,” Josh informed her.

The rest of the day, Josh, Darron and Amber wandered around the mall looking in the windows while the parents sat in the ice cream shop and talked.

“I wonder what they are talking about?” Josh questioned.

“Probably about us,” Amber answered.

“Yeah, I bet they are thinking of ways to keep you apart,” Darron jumped in.

“What makes you say that?” Josh asked.

“I don’t know. Parents are just like that. Don’t you know?” Darron responded.

“Do you want to see a movie?” asked Josh.

“I’ve got to ask my mom first,” Amber replied and then ran down the hall to the shop.

When she got there, she couldn’t find her mom, nor Josh’s parents.

“Where did they go?” Darron said looking around the room and not seeing anyone at all.

“I’ll call her and find out where she is,” Amber suggested.

The phone rang and rang, but there was no answer.

“That’s strange. She always answers her phone when I call,” Amber looked concerned.

“I’ll call my parents,” Josh proposed.

He took his phone out of his pocket and made the call.

After a couple of minutes, he looked up and said, “No answer. What could be going on? Where are they?”

They sat for a while trying to understand what may have happened to them.

“Why don’t we just go the cinema and wait for them to call us,” suggested Darron.

They agreed that would be a good idea.

When they got to the cinema, they looked at the sign to see what movie they wanted to watch.

“I want to watch ‘Mean Girls’!” Amber offered.

“No way, that is a chick flick,” Darron said loudly.

“It’s OK with me,” said Josh. “I will watch it with you, if that is really what you want to see.”

Amber was happy because Josh was making her feel important enough to watch a movie he really didn’t want to see.

“Okay! Let’s go!” she took his hand and pulled him.

“Guys, what about me?” Darron asked running behind them.

“Do you want come with us, Darron?” Amber asked to him.

“Have I a choice?” He questioned disappointed.

“No!” she responded smiling.

They arrived in the cinema and bought the tickets and popcorn. Darron disagreed with the choice of the movie, but he didn’t have choice.

They entered in the movie room, sat down in the chairs and Darron asked to Josh, “Why are you doing this?”

“Dude, have you never fallen in love before?” he inquired.

“I don’t want talk about this,” he said seriously.

“Why not?” he teased Darron.

“Because... I was very disappointed,” he said a little sad.

“It’s okay now, bro!” Josh smiled.

The movie started, and they stopped talking.

For Darron the movie was so boring, Josh wasn’t pay attention because he was looking at Amber.

Josh hugged Amber, she smiled and turned red.

“What’s going on?” Darron thought.

Josh leaned his face against hers.

“If he does this by my side, I’ll kill this man!” Darron thought again.

Amber was really nervous, but she kissed him, and Darron yelled, “Really? Stop it! You guys are gross!”

He got up very mad.

“What the hell? Darron where are you going?” Josh yelled and he didn’t answer.

“Okay, let’s continued watching the movie...” Josh said.

The movie finished and they got up and walked to find Darron and they parents.

“Do you see him?” Amber said.

“No...” Josh responded a little sadly.

“Hi guys!”

Suddenly Darron appeared.

“Where were you?” Josh questioned.

“Eating ice cream, I just needed air,” he smiled.

“Just air? I was very worried about you!” he hit Darron.

“Why did you do that?” he asked to Josh.

“Because you needed it!” he said very mad.

“Are you going to finish the fight, little children?” Amber asked and they stopped.

“Children! There you are!” Amber’s mother called out to them.

“Mom, where were you?” she asked.

“Talking serious things,” she answered.

“What the kind of serious things?” Amber questioned again.

“About you and your... Friend...” she said looking at Josh, “Why don’t you come to our house today? I’ll make the dinner!” Amber’s mother invited them.

“Don’t worry, we will!” Josh’s mother responded.

“Let’s go Josh, we have to get ready,” Josh’s father said.

“One minute please,” Josh said. “Amber which day do we have to bring the work for the teacher?” he asked her.

“Wednesday ... Oh my! Wednesday!” she put her hands on her face.

“Don’t worry, remember it’s almost finished!” he smiled. “It’s in my grandma’s house!”

“Okay, thanks!” she smiled.

“Okay, I’ll see you!” he said and left.

“Bye, Amber!” Darron said and ran behind Josh.

Amber arrived home and upstairs to her room, opened the bag with her new clothes. She chose the perfect skirt. It was red and black checked.

~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~

“This shirt is not too stinky. You can use it!” Josh said to Darron.

“Yes, this’s okay!” he smiled, “But what are you going to wear?”

“This!” he showed to Darron the only clean shirt in his bag.

“But is the oddest shirt you have!” he said.

“She won’t notice my shirt!” he responded with a laugh.

“She’s a girl, of course she will!” he advised Josh.

“You are so stupid! Of course not!” he replied

~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~ \* ~

Ding Dong – the bell at Amber’s house rang. The door opened and Amber was standing in the doorway. Josh’s eyes opened wide.

“Wow, you look great!” he blurted out.

She looked at Josh. “Isn’t that the old shirt you always wear?” she asked, puzzled as to why he didn’t dress better.

Darron leaned over and whispered to Josh, “I told you so. I knew she was going to notice.”

They walked into the house and Amber led them to the living room where the parents were already talking.

Josh was really uncomfortable. He had no idea what the parents were going to say. He was now unhappy that he had come with his parents. He even thought about running out the door and going to his grandmother’s house.

“Okay, kids, sit down we have something to talk to you about,” Josh’s father began the conversation.

Now Josh was really getting nervous.

He thought, “Did they see me kiss Amber in the cinema?”

“We know that you like each other, and we accept that, BUT we are going to be watching you to make sure you don’t get into trouble,” Amber’s mother spoke up.

“Trouble? What kind of trouble are you talking about?” Amber asked.

Her mother gave her one of those, “are you serious” looks.

“Really? What do you mean?” Amber asked again.

“Let’s just say that we are going to let you see each other, but you will have to let us know where you are going and what you going to do,” Amber’s dad tried to clarify what they were saying.

Josh just sat quietly, letting Amber ask all the questions.

Amber looked over at him to try and get him to help, but he just shrugged his shoulders knowing that whatever he said, would probably not be what the parents wanted to hear. He knew better than to argue.

Amber began to get nervous.

Then she responded, “What the Hell? I don’t get it. We haven’t done anything to make you not trust us.”

“And we want to keep it that way, young lady. AND you don’t have to use that language around us. Got it?” her dad said sternly.

“Okay, sorry. But why are you treating us this way?” Amber begged for an answer.

“Well, you were supposed to your grandmother’s house, and you missed the bus. That was very irresponsible of you,” her mother informed her.

“Actually mom, I got onto the bus. And then something happened, and I got off,” Amber spoke before she thought about what she was going to say.

Josh thought, “Oops, now she is in more trouble.”

“Alright, so what happened that made you get off of the bus?” her dad was very curious about her answer.

“Ummmm, well, you seeeeeee, I saw something and it, ahhh let’s see, it... it scared me,” Amber answered trying to think of a way to not tell them about what had really happened. She was afraid they would laugh at her.

“What was so scary?” her mother asked.

Amber looked over at Josh who was not going to be any help to her.

“I was scared because the driver of the bus looked like a vampire to me,” she answered.

“A vampire? What do you mean? Was he in a Halloween costume?” her dad asked, even



more curious that before.

“Yeah, a Halloween costume and it looked so real I got scared and asked him to let me off. I ran back to Josh because I knew he would protect me,” Amber finished.

“That is the craziest story I have ever heard,” Amber’s dad responded to the crazy tale she told.

“It’s the truth dad. I was really scared,” she tried to convince her dad.

“Okay, Josh, what is your story?” his father asked him.

“Huh? What do you mean?” Josh answered. He had not really been listening to what Amber was saying. Now he wished he had paid more attention to her story.

“Did what Amber tell us really happen?” His mother joined the conversation.

“Yeah, it was just like she said. She got off the bus and came to where I was sitting. She told me a story about a Chinaman she saw,” Josh thought quickly.

“Wait a minute! Was it a zombie or a Chinaman? Which one?” Amber’s dad looked deep into Amber’s eyes.

“OH, that’s right. It was a Chinaman who looked like a zombie who scared me. I almost forgot,” Amber responded very quickly.

“This is getting really complicated. We will eat dinner and then finish this conversation afterwards,” Amber’s mother said as she got up to go to the kitchen to serve the food.

Amber’s mother served the food, everyone was eating, and Darron whispered to Josh and Amber, “Why did you say that?”

“I didn’t know, what she was talking about...” Josh responded nervous.

“What will you say to them now?” he said softly.

“The driver was a Chinaman wearing a Halloween costume!” Amber supposed.

“Great! But why did you tell about a Halloween costume?” Josh said sarcastically.

“I don’t know, I was nervous, and you didn’t care!” she answered a little loudly.

“What are you talking about, children?” Josh’s father asked curiously.

“Nothing dad!” Josh smiled.

“Nothing? Really?” he asked more curiously.

“It’s about a videogame!” Darron told smiling.

“Which videogame are you talking about?” he asked.

“Assassin’s creed!” Amber said fast and nervously.

“Darling, do you play it?” Amber’s father asked.

“Not actually, I was playing it with the boys...” she smiled.

“Okay...” he said suspiciously.

Everybody finished eating. So, their parents looked at them and finally Josh’s mother asked, “What really happened on that day?”

“Okay, actually the driver was a Chinaman wearing a Halloween costume, maybe it is Halloween in China. I was so scared, and I got off of the bus,” Amber told.

She sighed and continued, “Okay, but Josh, and why did you want to come back here?”

“I wanted to introduce Amber to Darron! That’s all the truth!” he told.

“Well, that’s the weirdest story I have ever heard!” Amber’s mother said.

“The most important thing is, the story is true!” Josh said smiling.