



CHAPTER 1

HEADLINE

On the first day back at school after Easter, half the pupils were trying not to stare at Sasha. The other half weren't bothered about what people thought and just stared at her openly. Only Zoe and Alice weren't involved, because they were in the head teacher's study. This time however they were not there for being in trouble.

"I take it you're aware of what happened to Sasha Williams's brother over the holiday," said Ms Driver.

"Like we could miss it!" said Zoe, and she had a point. The news had been everywhere. Headlines online and in the local papers: **LOCAL BOY**

FEARED DROWNED. BOY, 17, LOST AT SEA. It had even made one of the national newspapers under the heading ITALIAN HOLIDAY TRAGEDY, with a small photo of Josh Williams in swimming trunks.

“Well,” the teacher carried on, “as Sasha’s friends, I expect you to support her through this difficult time. Her parents inform me that she is having some problems adapting and showing some... strange behaviour. I know I can count on you to help.”

“Oh great,” said Zoe as soon as they’d left the study. “It was bad enough hanging around with the boring cow last term. I’m not being stuck with her again if she’s gone crazy.”

“I thought you liked her,” said Alice.

“As if! I just wanted a chance to meet that gorgeous brother of hers.”

“But you’re going out with Ben!”