

# TROLL

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## CHAPTER 1

# THREAT

*I will find you.*

*I will hurt you.*

Alice had deleted the posts and blocked the person who'd sent them. But she couldn't stop thinking about them.

*I will come after you.*

*I will make your life hell.*

She plonked down on the bench opposite the science block and took her battered phone out of her pocket.

*I am watching you.*

*You'll see me soon.*

Her pulse sped as she spotted a blood-red circle in the top right corner of the Facebook icon. Was her troll back?

No. It was just her dad. He'd liked the picture she'd posted on Sunday. He hadn't commented, though. And he still hadn't replied to her last text. But it was something.

*You are empty.*

*You are a zero.*

She'd heard nothing from her mysterious abuser since she'd blocked him, but she still felt a little nervous whenever she checked her phone or switched on her laptop at home.

A crowd of year tens was piling out of the science block, pushing past each other to get to the lunch queue. Could any of them be her troll?

The messages could have come from anyone.

But why would they have it in for her? She didn't have many friends except Chris, but she was sure she didn't have any enemies either.

She hated her dad's new girlfriend, Janet, but it wasn't mutual. Janet could barely remember her name. She'd never do anything like that.

This was just some dorky little loser, sitting alone in his bedroom, trying to upset her because it was the only way he could get a response out of anyone.

Best to ignore it. It was like they said – never feed the trolls.

Alice was scrolling down her news feed when her phone buzzed.

A new text. Finally her dad had replied to her.

She tapped the messages icon. This wasn't from her dad. In fact, she didn't recognise the number at all. Alice read the text and her heart raced.

***You are worthless. You are nothing. I will hurt you.***