# Copyright

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> ISBN: 978-4-910971-00-1 Publisher: I Talk You Talk Press

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NOT FOR SALE

#### **Chapter One**

Tiffany is very small. She is also very pretty. She has blonde hair and big blue eyes. When she was young, her hair was long. Her classmates called her 'Barbie'.

Now she is in her first year at university. Her hair is shorter. No one calls her 'Barbie' anymore, but everyone says she is cute.

Tiffany hates being cute. I want to be tall, she thinks. I want a different face and different hair. I want a different name.

Tiffany has a boyfriend. His name is Max. She loves him very much. One of the reasons she loves Max is because he doesn't think she is cute. He thinks she is very clever. And Max calls her 'Tiff'.

Max is a university student too. He is studying computer science. He is an A student. He is very tall and thin. He has red-brown hair.

Max has a hobby. He likes collecting insects. Sometimes on Saturdays or Sundays, Max goes to the forest near the university to look for new and interesting insects. He always asks Tiffany to go with him.

Tiffany thinks insects are boring, but she loves Max, so she always says 'yes'.

One Sunday afternoon, Tiffany and Max ride their bicycles to a different part of the forest. It is near the river. They have never been to this part of the forest before.

Max takes his insect box and walks between the trees. It has been raining, but Tiffany finds a nice dry place to sit near the river. It is hot and sunny, and Tiffany is tired. She falls asleep.

A little while later, there is a loud noise, and she wakes up. What was that noise? Did something fall into the river? she thinks.

She looks at the river, and after one or two minutes, she sees a person in the water. She runs towards the water. Someone fell into the river. I have to save them, she thinks. Then she sees that the person in the river is dead.

Tiffany turns and runs into the forest. "Max! Max! Where are you?" she shouts.

She can't find Max. She falls over. There is blood on her knee, but she gets up and keeps running.

Suddenly, Max is there. He hugs Tiffany.

"Tiff! What's wrong?"

Tiffany is crying. She is shaking. "Max! I saw a body in the river!" Max holds her tightly. "It's OK. We'll go and look."

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Tiffany doesn't want to go back to the river, but she knows they have to go back.

They walk back to the river. There is no body. There is nothing strange. Everything is normal.

Tiffany can't believe it. "I saw a body! It was there!" She points to the water.

"OK, Tiff. Maybe the river carried the body away. We have to call the police."

Max takes out his smartphone. "There is no signal. I can't call the police from here."

He takes Tiffany's hand. "Come on. We must go back to town."

They ride their bicycles to the police station near the university.

"How can I help you?" asks the policeman at the front desk.

"I saw a dead body in the river," says Tiffany.

The policeman puts up his hand. "Stop," he says. He opens a screen on his computer.

"What's your name?"

"Tiffany Banks."

"Where do you live?"

"Two three seven A College Avenue."

"And how old are you?"

"Twenty," says Tiffany.

The policeman laughs.

"Twenty?"

Tiffany knows the policeman does not believe her. She is angry. She takes her student ID card from her wallet and gives it to the policeman.

The policeman reads the card. He looks surprised. He gives it back to her.

Then he asks, "Where is the body?"

"In the river," says Tiffany.

"It's a big river. I need more information," says the policeman.

Max takes out his smartphone and opens Google Maps. He finds the place.

He shows the screen to the policeman. "It was here," says Max.

"Did you see the body, Sir?" asks the policeman.

"No," says Max. "Tiff came to find me, but when we got back to the river, the body was gone."

"Oh," says the policeman. "The body was gone."

He looks at Tiffany. "Tell me what happened."

"I was sitting next to the river. It was hot and I fell asleep. A loud noise woke me up.

And then I saw the body! I knew the person was dead. I ran to find Max. He came back with me, but the dead body had gone."

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"I think you had a bad dream," says the policeman. "I don't think there was any dead body in the river."

"But I saw it! I wasn't dreaming!" Tiffany is shouting.

The policeman stands up. "Please go away. It was a bad dream, or you are making up stories. You are wasting my time. Go away."