

EXCERPT FROM MAX'S DRAFT

I sat in the middle of the bus. The cool kids sat in the back. The nerdy kids sat in the front where the bus driver could keep an eye on them. I sat in the middle with all the sort of regular kids. The ones who just wanted to be left alone. I sat by myself, wishing, like I always did, that my mom would let me walk home like Rick. But she always said, "One more year. When you're in High School you can knock yourself out." Then she laughed like she had made the funniest joke in the world.

Anyway, I was sitting on the bus, bored and trying not to be noticed when I took out my phone. I went to swipe to turn it on and it flashed red battery sign. It was dead!! Now what? I had a long bus ride home with nothing to do. I could do my homework, but why would I want to do that?