

# Unexpected

The thought of not going to my best friend's birthday party was such a disappointment. After I failed my mission trying to prove to my parents that I was brave enough to go on their spy mission, I was grounded for a week! That night, I was talking to my friend about the disappointment.

"That's so not fair! You were just trying to help! Does that mean you can't come to my birthday party? I'm inviting everyone in our school and our neighborhood," Maya said, very worried.

"I'm sorry, my mom said I have to go to bed instead of going to your party." It was painful hearing myself say that to my best friend.

"...But you never come to my birthday parties!" Maya continued talking about how I never come to her parties because of all the messes I get into...which she is right. That night after I turned off the lights, I looked at the present that was on my dresser. I was going to give it to Maya for her birthday. I was thinking, *I mean I could just go give it to her before my parents notice I am not in bed...* So I grabbed Maya's gift. Before I left, I went down the stairs very quietly. I heard my mom on the phone. I think she was talking to my dad.

"Where are you!? I thought you were coming home tonight?"

"That's what I thought, but..."

"...But what?!? You need to come home now, before the secret spy counsel comes. We still have to sign the president's contract!"

"...But I am in a pickle."

I can't believe it. My dad needs help. I went back upstairs. *Maybe I could first give the gift to Maya and then I could save dad before they notice I'm gone.* When I got to the party, it was so cool! There were a lot of people. I was looking for the table where all the presents go. I found it but the problem was that Maya was right there talking to someone.

I walked towards her and when I got close enough, she ran over and said, "I thought you were grounded? Wait, let me guess...you sneaked out. Don't say anything, your secret is safe with me. Now I have to introduce you to someone." While we were walking, I saw someone very suspicious walking down to the beach.

"Look, I have to go, but here is your birthday present. Happy birthday," I said while running towards the beach before she could whine about me leaving.

I quietly followed the suspicious person wearing a black coat. The person was walking towards the Dark Forest, where you come in and don't come back out. I knew I had to hurry and get this over with. He/she led me to a cave and you won't believe who was there! My mom and dad were sitting on a chair tied up. The person went past them and onto another path. That was my chance to help my parents or get in trouble with them. I went out of my hiding spot and said very

quietly, “ Are you guys ok?” Then I realized their mouths were covered with tape. I was trying to help them get unstuck and when I did, my mom said, “What are you...” But before she could finish there was a big dark shadow. I heard someone behind me saying, “It is great to see all of the family here. Now I can...”

## **To Be Continued...**