The Prank King

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Chapter 1

The Prank King - Chapter 1

Ms. Rawls rushed out of her room wearing a sparkly dress with her heels in her hands as she walked down the hallway where her two sons rooms were, both doors shut. She was on her way to a client party that her boss was throwing and all hands were on deck to impress. It was a big night for her, if things went good she might even be looking at a promotion. The only problem was it was starting to get late and the babysitter hadn't shown up yet.

Ms. Rawls walked into her younger sons Henry's room first. She found the nine year old sat on his bed his tablet splayed out in front of him. He was tall for his age, the tallest kid in his class. Given this, he always looked like he would be more at home in a sixth grade classroom rather than the fourth grade one he inhabited. He wore a red beanie on his head and had earbuds in his ears. He usually wore a serious expression and dressed with clean cut look preferring to keep things nice and orderly.

His mother waved to get his attention.

“The babysitter should be here any minute,” Mrs. Rawls said. Henry gave her a gloomy expression.

“Why do I even still need a babysitter?” Henry whined.

“Because you are still not old enough to stay home by yourself,” Ms. Rawls said.

“But you let Cam stay home alone all the time,” Henry protested.

“Your brother is older,” Ms. Rawls said having heard this argument many times. “When you are his age you'll be able to stay home alone too.”

“So why can't you just put Cam in charge? We won't cause any problem with each other, promise,” Henry whined.

“Please Henry if I left you and your brother alone I would come back to a burned down house or some other catastrophe.” Ms. Rawls said with a hint of skepticism. Henry placed his cheeks in his hands in a pout.

“I hate when Mrs. Beam babysits,” he grumbled. “She treats me like a little kid.”

“I have good news for you then,” Ms. Rawls said with a grin. “Mrs. Beam had to cancel last minute but she is sending over a replacement.” This news didn't seem to do much to lift the boys spirits as he scrunched up his face.

“Great, one of her other old lady friends,” Henry said.

“Nope, she said its a daughter of one of her friends,” Ms. Rawls said. “A college girl actually said she was looking for some babysitting gigs for extra cash.”

Henry gave an indifferent reaction to the news. He was glad that he wouldn't be spending a night with Mrs. Beam treating him like little kid, but he still less than enthused by the prospect that he was getting a babysitter while his brother

would be left to his own devices. Ms. Rawls walked over to Henry and planted a kiss on top of his head.

“Be good,” she said. “I'll be back late tonight.” Ms. Rawls walked out of the room shutting the door behind her and walked over to her other sons room.

She walked in to find him shooting an orange plastic ball into a small hoop that hung on his wall. Cameron was different to his brother in nearly every way. Even though he was eleven he still was about as tall as the average five year old. It seemed Henry had gotten all the height genes. Cam had a mop of blond hair on his head that he usually combed to one side to keep it out of his eyes. His round face and little button nose and a pair of big blue eyes exuded an innocent charm pairing that with his natural charisma and sharp wit he was quite the popular kid among his peers, the girls thought he was cute and the boys thought he was cool even some of his teachers couldn't help but be swayed by him which Cam used to get out of trouble.

Ms. Rawls however was immune and did not let her self be fooled by her oldest sons looks and charm. She loved both her sons very much and thought the world of them. But she knew all too well that Cam's charm could quickly turn to mischief at the drop of a pin. In fact only a week prior he had found himself suspended from school for being the ringleader behind a food fight that had broke out in the lunchroom. Something that had earned him a two week suspension and a grounding from his Mother. In his defense he had said it had gotten out of hand he had only meant it as a prank. Cam was

a prankster at heart. He even had given himself the title The Prank King. Something that only spurred him on to find himself in trouble. His grounding should have been lifted by the end of the week coinciding with his return to school, but he had earned himself an extension since in that time he had decided to launch another salvo in the prank war he and Henry were engaged in.

This prank war was something Ms. Rawls did not tolerate. In truth it couldn't even be considered a war as it was more of a one sided affair. No matter how much Henry tried he couldn't seem to match his brothers wit or cunning. Most of the time he tried to steer clear but in the few times he had tried to get him back, Cam always managed to somehow turn it back around on Henry.

The latest incident that had earned Cam his current stint of grounding had happened a couple days ago.

Cam had been restless, driven by the boredom of being stuck in the house and banished from his precious videogames, Cam had been desperate for some fun. Henry had been in his room with some friends from school. He had left to use the bathroom and Cam had seen his opportunity. Working quickly he had set a container of water on top of Henry's door. When the younger boy returned he found himself drenched with freezing cold water upon entering his room. Cam had been ready and waiting with a bag of flour that he proceeded to shower over his hapless younger brother. This display had caused Henry's friends to burst out in hysterics and had sent a crying and humiliated Henry running to their

shocked Mother.

“Cameron,” Ms. Rawls said getting the boy's attention. “I'm leaving as soon as Henry's babysitter arrives.”

“Okay,” Cam said as he went back to shooting baskets.

“Cameron,” his Mother said with a more forceful tone.

“Whaaat,” Cam said with a groan as he turned to face her.

“I don't want you causing any trouble for the babysitter tonight,”

“Hey I don't want to spend time with Mrs. Beam anymore than Henry probably does,” Cam said.

“Well for your information Mrs. Beam had to cancel, its someone new,” Ms. Rawls said.

“Isn't that a pleasant surprise,” Cam said with a mischievous grin as his mother could almost see the gears in his head beginning to turn.

“Cameron, I mean it.” Ms. Rawls said. “I will be making it known that you are grounded and not to leave this house. If I even get one little shred of bad news about you tonight for whatever reason you can consider yourself grounded for another month.” She said shooting Cam a grave look.

“I'm not going to do anything,” Cam said annoyed. “I want to be off this grounding more than anything, okay.” he said waving his hands through the air showing his conviction behind his statement.

“Alright, that sounds like a wise decision,” Ms. Rawls said assured that he was telling the truth. “Now come give me a hug.”

Cam rolled his eyes and went and gave his Mother a half-hearted hug before turning back around.

“And don't tease your brother,” Ms. Rawls reminded.

“Got it,” Cam said perturbed by his Mother's seemingly endless reminders.

Just then the doorbell rang. Ms. Rawls rushed down the stairs towards the front door trying to put on her heels as she did. Ms. Rawls fussed with her hair for a second before opening the door to find a young brown haired girl standing on the front stoop.

“Are you the babysitter?” she asked opening the screen door to let the young woman in.

“Yeah, I'm Cici, Mrs Beam sent me,” she said extending her hand towards Ms. Rawls as she walked into the house.

“I'm really sorry I cant stay longer and chat,” Ms Rawls said shaking Cici's hand. “I'm already running late. Did Mrs. Beam fill you in on the boys?”

“No, she just said you had two,” Cici said.

“You'll only need to concern yourself with my younger son, the older one can take care of himself I just don't trust him to look after his brother, plus he is grounded right now so don't let him leave the house no matter what he says. I left a note

with more detailed directions and numbers in case of emergency on the counter as well as tip money for the pizza that's on its way.” Ms. Rawls said grabbing her purse from the hook by the door. “Oh and I guess I should mention my youngest might be a little grumpy about having a babysitter while his brother doesn't. Don't hold it against him though he's a very sweet boy actually.”

“That's okay I'm sure will be good friends by the end of the night,” Cici said with a grin.

“Thanks so much,” Ms. Rawls said as she opened the door. “Boys come say hi to Cici,” Ms. Rawls yelled up the stairs before leaving in a flurry. It wasn't until she had gotten to the car that she had realized she hadn't even told Cici her son's names. She shook her head she was already behind and they were more than capable of introducing themselves.

Meanwhile Cam had heard his Mother's call and walked out of his room. He opened his brothers door.

“C'mon lets go meet your babysitter,” he said to Henry with a mocking tone. Henry rolled his eyes and with a groan before following his brother down the stairs. Cici watched as the boys came downstairs and came to stand in front of them. Henry thought she was certainly an improvement over Mrs. Beam hopefully she wouldn't treat him like a little kid. Although he was still gloomy about having a babysitter.

Cam on the other hand couldn't take his eyes off of her. At eleven his interest in girls was still just starting to burgeon. However it seems he was completely smitten with the college

girl who was standing in his house. The way her curly brunette hair with the blond highlights seemed to flow down from her head. Her pleasant smile that seemed to have a cheery effect. The thing that stuck out the most to him was her green eyes that he seemed to find himself drawn into. He was so absorbed in his thoughts that he hadn't even heard her introduce herself to Henry.

“Hey, I'm Cici, I didn't catch your names” she said extending a hand to Henry.

“I'm Henry,” he said with a weak smile. She shook Henry's hand before turning her attention towards Cam. She knelt down to get eye level with him.

“And this must be the brother I get to spend the night with, what's your name cutie? Can you tell me how old you are?” Cici asked with a disarming smile. Cam had not snapped out of his daze quick enough to fully realize the misunderstanding that had just happened. Henry on the other hand had picked up on it immediately and saw the opportunity for a little fun at Cam's expense.

“This is Cameron. He's five,” Henry blurted out. Henry had learned not to poke fun at his brother's appearance lest he would find himself on the other end of Cam's ire which often ended badly for him. However he had overheard part of the conversation his Mother had had with Cam before she left. Cam wanted off his grounding as soon as possible so was going to be on his best behavior tonight. Plus as long as Henry was with Cici he wouldn't dare try anything to get

back at him for his little joke.

“Awww, such a big boy,” Cici cooed. Cam's face flushed red.

“I am not,” Cam said shooting his brother a withering glare, not only for the comment but for also calling him Cameron. Only his Mother called him that and only when she was mad.

“You mean you're not a big boy?” Cici asked making a mock confused face.

“No, I mean you're supposed to watch him not me,” Cam said pointing at Henry.

“Hmm, I don't know about that,” Cici said standing back up. “Your mommy said your big brother can take care of himself and I only need to worry about you. She also said you were a little grumpy about having a babysitter, but no fear I know how to cure boys who have on their grumpy pants.” she said as a gleeful smile spread across her mouth.

Cici began to tickle Cam who was powerless to resist. Henry stared wide-eyed at his older brother now on the ground laughing uncontrollably in between muddled protest. Henry couldn't believe it. He had thought for sure Cici would have caught on but it seemed she was thoroughly convinced of the fact that Cam was his younger brother and nothing Cam said would dissuade her. Henry was about to come clean it had only been meant as a little joke. Yet he found himself stopping. A devious plan had just flashed in his mind and if he was able to pull it off, it would be just the payback he wanted to give to Cam. The prank to end all pranks.

Chapter 2

The Prank King Part 2 - Chapter 2

Part 2

Cam was now in full on laughter hysterics as Cici continued her tickling. Henry realized he was going to have to act fast if he was going to enact his plan.

“I guess I'll leave you two to it,” Henry said as he began to walk towards the kitchen.

“Wait one minute,” Cici said pausing to look at Henry giving Cam a chance to breathe. “Your Mom told me all about your grounding, I don't need to worry about you trying to sneak out, do I?” she asked giving him a questioning glance.

“You don't have to worry about me,” Henry said innocently. “I'll be keeping myself plenty busy tonight.”

“Good,” Cici said with a grin before turning her attention back to Cam. “You need some more?” she asked.

“Please, no more,” Cam said breathlessly.

“So you ready for fun night with your cool babysitter?” Cici asked.

“I'm telling you I'm too old for a babysitter” Cam said with some indignation.

“Whoopsy looks like someone still has a case of the grumpy gooses,” Cici said picking Cam up into her arms. “I think I'll

need to get more serious it's time for a horsey ride," she said as she carried him into the living room.

"Horsey wha?" Cam said still trying to catch his breath. Before he knew it Cici had him on her knee and was bucking him up and down jostling him around with such force that he could only hold on to her leg in an effort not to fall off as she recited some nursery rhyme.

"This is the way the cowboys ride, the cowboys, ride so early in the morning," she said in a sing song voice. After a few more minutes she gave him one last buck and lifted him off her leg plopping him on the couch next to her. "So how about now, feeling better," Cici asked. "Because I can keep going, I told your mommy we were going to be the best of friends by the end of the night and that is a promise I aim to keep."

Cam sat up having recovered from his wild ride. He had to make Cici see that this was all a big misunderstanding.

"Listen to me please, I'm telling you I'm not the one you are supposed to be babysitting I'm not some little kid" Cam said trying to get her to come to her senses.

"You're right you are a big kid," Cici said with a raised eyebrow. "So we need to play a big kid game how about truth or dare, I'll go first. Truth or dare?" Cam was beginning to become frustrated, she wasn't listening to a word he said.

"Truth," he grumbled.

"Okay, how old are you?" Cici asked. Cam's eyes lit up finally he had his chance.

“I'm eleven, eleven,” he said with some emphasis on the last word.

“Really?” Cici asked. “You're really eleven?”

“Yees,” Cam said with some relief thinking he had finally gotten through to her.

“Bzzzt,” “she said making a buzzing sound. “We've detected a lie and you know what happens if you lie during truth or dare, you get a visit from the tickle monster,” Cici said.

“I didn't lie,” Cam said before Cici was on top of him sending him into another laughter filled tickle fit.

Meanwhile as Cam was being put through Cici's games Henry had been running around the house setting his plan into motion. The first place he stopped was the kitchen where he found his Mother's written note on the counter. He read it over before folding it up and placing it in his pocket, if Cici read that his ploy would be revealed. He ran upstairs and walked into a closet that had a stairs leading up to an attic where there Mother stored things. Ms. Rawls didn't like to throw things away no matter how useless they seemed at the time. Henry had been up here days prior looking for some bed sheets for his Mother when he had come across the bin that had old things from when the brothers were younger in it. He looked around for the bin trying to remember where he had seen it.

Henry spotted it near the corner of the room and opened the top digging through its contents as ideas began to spring to

mind. He grabbed some old juvenile looking pajamas first. He then spotted a sippy cup that had been his and finally grabbed a few more items that would hopefully come into play later. He kept on digging to see if their was anything else he could use when he found an open package of pull-ups. He lifted them out of the box wondering why his Mother had even saved them. He chuckled to himself for a moment before placing them back in the box. He felt that those would have been going to far even if it was for revenge on Cam.

With his items chosen he went to work placing them throughout the house. First he went into Cam's room and took all his gym shorts and sweatpants and old ratty t-shirts that he usually slept in out of his dresser and replaced them with the old pajamas he had found. Next he stopped off in the bathroom and put a few choice items near the tub. He then went to the kitchen and planted the sippy cup in the cupboard with the rest of the glasses. Finally he took out another piece of paper and began to copy his Mother's written instructions changing around the names where necessary. He decided to keep it close to the original as to not arouse Cici's suspicion but did add one or two extra items. He could hear Cam laughing in the living room, he guessed Cici wasn't letting up and was pleased his plan seemed to be going smoothly. With the note set, everything was in place the only thing left to do was go back up to his room and wait for the fireworks.

Cam was still engaged in the game of truth or dare with Cici in the living room. Apparently according to her rules if you failed on your turn you got skipped so it was still up to him to

choose truth or dare.

“Dare,” Cam chose trying to switch up his strategy. Cici took a moment to think.

“Okay I dare you to without speaking act out your favorite animal while I try to guess what it is,” she said. Cam wanted to refuse at first but decided against it, figuring that it would earn him another round with the tickle monster which was something he wanted to avoid. He thought of the simplest thing he possibly could before dejectedly getting on all fours.

“You're going to have to do something else to help me figure it out,” Cici said. Cam tried to think of the most straightforward and least embarrassing thing he could think of. He shook his butt like he had a tail as he felt his cheeks go red. “I'm still not sure,” Cici said obviously acting oblivious. Cam grimaced realizing she was going to make him make it as obvious as possible before she would let him be done. Cam got on his knees and put his hands up in front of him and made a puppy dog face.

“Awww, you must be a puppy,” Cici cooed.

“Yes,” Cam said getting to his feet.

“That was so cute,” Cici said. “I guess its my turn now, I choose dare.”

Cam was about to dare her to believe him when he said he was eleven but was interrupted by the doorbell ringing.

“Oh I guess the pizza is here,” Cici said with a frown. “Why

don't you go get ready at the table while I pay the delivery driver," she instructed. Cam was happy to comply. He was actually starving since he had skipped lunch that day and besides dinner was the perfect place for him to try and get Cici to listen to him. After all she wouldn't tickle him at the table, right?

Cam walked into the kitchen and took a seat at the head of the table. Cici walked in with the pizza box and set it on the table.

"Henry, pizzas here," she called out. Henry's footsteps could be heard as he came down the stairs and then walked into the kitchen. He took a seat at the opposite end of the table. He looked at Cam who was glaring at him. Henry just gave a nonchalant smirk back. Cici came back to the table with plates in her hands she set one down in front of both boys before taking her own seat closest to Cam. She opened the pizza box and the smell of pepperoni hit Cam's nose as he looked at the cheesy gooey pizza in the box. He was practically salivating he was so hungry.

"Henry hand me your plate, how many pieces do you want?" Cici asked.

"Two please," Henry said handing his plate over. Cici served him up two pieces before putting a smaller piece on Cam's plate.

"I want two as well," Cam said.

"If you eat that whole piece and still want more, I'll give you

another," Cici said with a smile. Cam was about to protest at the childish treatment before he realized no matter what he said she wasn't going to budge. Cam looked away and pouted. Cici grabbed a couple slices for herself before sitting down. "Oh drinks," she said getting back up and going to the fridge to see what was available. "What does everyone want?"

"I'll have some juice," Henry said.

"Cam what about you sweetie?" Cici asked.

"I want a coke," Cam said not thinking anything of his request.

"Really?" Cici asked with a curious tone.

"Cam's not allowed to have soda," Henry interjected.

"I thought as much," Cici said with a chuckle.

"Hey," Cam protested looking at Henry who was smiling and then turning to look at Cici who was giving him a raised eyebrow. Once again he knew their was no point in arguing the fact. "Juice is fine," Cam grumbled as he slumped in his seat.

"I think I'll have some juice too, looks good," Cici said taking a pitcher out of the fridge and setting on the counter.

Cici then opened the cupboard where the cups were located she paused for a moment before pulling the sippy cup out. She looked over at the table at Henry. She pointed at the sippy cup and then at Cam to confirm if that's what she was supposed to use. Henry nodded enthusiastically. From where

Cam was sitting his back was too Cici so he hadn't picked up on the silent conversation that had just taken place. She brought the two glasses for her and Henry to the table first and then doubled back to grab the sippy cup which she placed in front of Cam as she sat down.

“What is this?” Cam asked mystified as to where she had even gotten the cup from.

“Oh according to Henry that's yours?” Cici said looking a little confused by Cam's reaction.

“I don't need a sippy cup, he's lying to you” Cam protested, not even sure when Henry had told her that.

“Now now,” Cici said not for a minute believing in Cam's words. “I'm sure that Henry wouldn't lie to me. After all according to your Mom's note he's supposed to be able to answer any questions I may have.”

“Note, what note?” Cam said his ears perking up.

“This one,” Cici said getting up from her seat and going to the counter and grabbing the note Henry had replaced earlier. “Lets see,” Cici said sitting back down and beginning to read aloud. “Henry is grounded and is expected to be on his best behavior or risk further grounding. Feel free to ask him any questions that may arise.” Cam couldn't believe what he was hearing it certainly did sound like his Mother except for the part where it had said Henry was the one who was grounded. Cam peered over and could see the writing and he knew immediately that that was not his Mother's handwriting.

“You aren't lying to me are you Henry?” Cici said raising an eyebrow.

“Honest, I don't want to be grounded any longer than I have to,” Henry said placing his hand over his heart. "Cam always tries to deny it when we have company, but if he doesn't have his cup he spills all over the place. Just a couple of days ago he spilled a bunch of water on me, don't you remember, Cam?” Henry said staring directly at Cam making it known to his brother what he was actually referring to.

“That's not what happened,” Cam sputtered taken off guard by Henry's comment.

“I don't want to have to clean up any spills tonight,” Cici said as she pushed the sippy cup a little closer to Cam.

“This isn't fair,” Cam said getting more frustrated. “I'm the one who is grounded not him.”

“Aww that's so silly. Why would anyone lie about being grounded.” Cici said ruffling Cam's hair. “I'm sure Henry would rather be out with his friends on a Friday night rather than stuck at home. Besides if you were grounded than we wouldn't be able to have any fun tonight, and that would make me oh so sad.” Cici said making an exaggerated sad face.

“It's okay Cam,” Henry said. “I think your cup is cool.” Cam stared at Henry from across the table smiling at him. Cam couldn't take it anymore his frustration had reached its boiling point.

“If you think its so cool than you drink out of it you idiot,” Cam yelled as he swatted at the sippy cup sending it tumbling across the table into Henry's lap. There was now silence as Henry sat with a dumbfound expression on his face. Cam stared at his brother his teeth clenched breathing heavily. He was so wrapped up in his anger he didn't notice Cici get up from her seat and take one of the stools from the counter and place it in the corner of the room. She came up behind Cam and lifted him up from under his armpits and then carried him over to the stool which she plopped him on top of. It had all happened so fast Cam couldn't even react. Cici then stood in front of him looking down at his reddened confused face.

“I think somebody is a little too mad to be at the table right now. So you are going to cool off now in a time out for the next ten minutes after which I will check to see if you think you will be able to have some proper table manners.” Cici said as she walked away. Cam was in disbelief. There was no way he was going to let this happen.

“I am not going in time out,” he said defiantly getting off the stool. Cici said nothing as she walked back over and picked him up and put him back on the stool.

“Every time you get off that stool I'm adding five minutes to your time. I can do this all night Cam,” she said her authoritative tone showing how serious her threat was. Cam knew there was nothing he could do. He bent forward resting his elbows on his legs and his chin on top of his hands in a pout completely defeated and humiliated. Henry looked at his brother and couldn't believe how well things were playing

out. He couldn't imagine that he would have been able to keep things going this long and now Cam had gotten himself put into a timeout. As he looked at Cam he did feel a little bad for him. However all Henry had to do was remember back to any of Cam's horrible pranks he had played on him and that guilt went away.

Cam sat on the stool listening to Cici and Henry talk at the table. She asked Henry what he had done to get grounded. Henry just told her all about how he had gotten suspended from school for a food fight making sure to add comments about how stupid and immature it had been to start a food fight and how he had learned his lesson. The added jabs at Cam were not unnoticed by the boy on the stool.

As Cam began to calm down he started to think about how things had gotten really out of hand tonight. He couldn't believe that Henry of all people had been able to manipulate everything so well. He still couldn't figure out where Henry had even gotten the sippy cup from. Yet the most unbelievable part had been how his goody two shoes of a brother had forged a note from their Mother. He didn't even know that Henry had had it in him to be so devious. If the situation were different Cam might have even been a little impressed.

Cam's thoughts then wandered to what was their Mother going to say when she found out? She was definitely going to go nuclear on Henry. Cam was actually starting to have fun imagining that, but then another thought had crossed his mind. How would she react if Cici told her about Cam's

outburst just now? Even given the circumstances he could totally see her turning this around on him, she somehow had a knack for that. She never listened to him when he tried to defend himself. She had completely sided with the school on the food fight even though he tried to tell her it wasn't his fault. All he had done was throw a carrot at the kid, how was he supposed to know the kid would retaliate by throwing some mashed potatoes, that's what had really started the food fight. If anything it was the other kids fault.

As Cam continued to contemplate the situation he could totally see her telling him how outrageous it was that he had smacked the cup across the table. She would say he should have acted like an adult and used words to get his point across, instead of acting like a toddler.

Cam covered his eyes as a feeling of hopelessness overtook him. There was no way he was ever going to convince Cici that he wasn't a little kid especially after just having thrown a temper tantrum like one.

A timer sounded from Cici's phone signaling that the fifteen minutes were up. Cici got up and walked over to Cam kneeling down beside him and rubbing his back.

“You feeling better buddy, ready to come back to the table?” she asked in a sweet voice. Cam looked at her with an ashamed look and nodded his head.

“You aren't going to tell my mom are you?” Cam asked. Cici gave him a sympathetic smile.

“Tell you what, if you are good boy for the rest of the night, then I think we can keep this between us, okay.” Cici said leading Cam back to the table. Cam looked at the food in front of him seeing the sippy cup had been placed back in front of him.

“Well I'm stuffed,” Henry said getting up from his seat. “I'll be up in my room if you need me,” he said walking off towards the stairs. In reality another idea had come to him and he wanted to go set it up. Cici began to clean up the food and Cam found that his mouth had gone completely dry. He picked up the cup with no other options and began to drink down the juice, it was a small mercy that Henry was not there to witness it. Cam had drank most of the juice by the time Cici sat back down.

“Someone was thirsty,” Cici commented. Cam felt his ears go a little red. “Are you done eating?” she said pointing to the half eaten slice of pizza.

Yeah,” Cam said sliding the plate away from himself. He didn't really have an appetite to finish the now cold pizza.

“And you wanted two slices silly,” Cici said removing the plate and putting it in the sink. Cici came and sat back down. “So we need to figure out what to do for the rest of the night,” she said. “We could play a game or maybe you could show me some of your cool toys, maybe we could draw some pictures,” she said throwing out one idea after another.

“No thanks,” Cam said. He knew now that their was no way to convince her of the truth. He had decided to now switch

methods and try to keep the babying behavior to a minimum.

“I know,” Cici said holding up a finger. “Since its Friday night lets watch a movie. I'll even make some popcorn for us.”

“Sure, that sounds cool,” Cam said. He really just wanted to go hide in his room for the rest of the night, but he knew that Cici wasn't going to let him out of her sight. A movie was probably the best option he was going to get. Plus he now realized that he was starting to feel hungry again. The promise of popcorn was too good to pass up.

“Okay you go get blankets and I'll make the popcorn,” she said. “And if you want a stuffy you better go get it now.”

“I don't have a stuffy,” Cam said turning around red faced.

“Okay, no reason to get all huffy,” Cici said with a chuckle.

Cam stomped off into the living room still fuming from Cici's insinuation. He grabbed a blanket from behind the couch and threw it haphazardly to one side before taking a seat on the opposite side. Cici entered a couple minutes later with a bowl of popcorn in her hand. As she walked past Cam she dropped the sippy cup into his lap. Cam picked up the cup out of his lap and set it to the side to show that he did not want it. Cici didn't seem to notice as she sat down on the couch next to him.

“Here hold the popcorn while I find a good movie,” she said placing the bowl on Cam's lap while she picked up the remote and began to search through the streaming service catalog. Cam began to snack on the popcorn glad that she at least

trusted him to be able to hold it. “Let' s see what to watch I wonder,” Cici said as she scrolled through all the titles.

“That one,” Cam said pointing at a movie he had been eagerly awaiting to see excited to see that it was finally available.

“Oh I wanted to see that one too,” Cici said. Cam's face lit up. Finally they were going to actually do something he wanted to do. Cici then scrunched up her face. “Unfortunately that movie is rated R I think you're a little too young to be watching something like that. How about this one?” Cici asked moving the cursor to highlight another movie.

“The Fun Bunch,” Cam said with disgust as the image of a bunch of smiling forest animals filled the screen. It was definitely a movie for little kids.

“I used to watch this movie all the time when I was your age,” Cici said. “You'll love it, trust me,” she said before clicking the remote and starting the movie. Cam frowned as the first few notes of some bright and cheery melody began to play. As the movie went on Cam found himself beginning to relax from all the dinnertime drama.

Even though he would never in a million years choose to watch this movie on his own he had to admit it wasn't nearly as bad as he thought it would be and at least it was a break from the constant embarrassment he had been subjected to. He began to eat the popcorn fast as his hunger was growing. The saltiness of the popcorn had begun to make him incredibly thirsty that he even began to take sips from the

sippy cup at his side which didn't bother him all that much as long as Henry was not their to see. Cici wasn't going to judge she already thought he was a little kid anyways.

At the half-way point of the movie Cici lifted the remote and paused the movie.

“I think its time for a bathroom break what do you say?” she asked.

“I don't have to go,” Cam said.

“I think you should at least try, you've drank a lot of juice,” Cici said holding up the sippy cup and shaking it to show it was empty. “Just go real fast so we can get back to the movie.”

“Fine,” Cam said sliding off the couch knowing that she wasn't going to budge on the issue.

“Do you need help?” Cici asked.

“I can do it myself,” Cam said with some offense. He made is way into the bathroom and went to the toilet. He did actually have to go but it wasn't as if he couldn't have held it in. After finishing his business he went to the sink and ran his hands under the water for a few seconds as he always did.

Upon opening the door he found Cici standing in the hallway.

“Did you wash your hands?” Cici asked.

“Yes,” Cam said with a groan.

“Really?” Cici asked with a knowing look. “Because I only

heard the water run for a couple of seconds.” she then grabbed his wrist and gave his hand a sniff. “I don't smell any soap. Let me help you squirt,” Cici said as she lead him back to the sink. She stood behind trapping Cam in between the counter and her body. “Lets see those hands,” she said picking up the soap and squirting some onto his hands. She took his hands into her own and began to rub the soap all over. “You have to sing your ABC's while you do this part to make sure you get it all over, Do you know those yet?” Cici asked continuing to help him rub the soap in.

“Yes,” Cam grumbled.

“Well I don't hear them,” Cici said. “I guess we'll just have to stay here until I do.” Cam begrudgingly began to recite the alphabet as quickly as he could without making it seem like he was rushing.

“Next time won't you sing with me,” Cam said bringing an end to the humiliating task. Cici then turned on the water and rinsed away all the soap, It was then that Cam noticed just how soft her hands were. She then took a towel drying her hands first before drying his for him.

“You said your ABC's so perfectly you must be smart, I'll definitely sing with you next time, cutie,” she said before giving him a quick peck on his cheek. “Lets get back to the movie,” she said leaving the bathroom.

Cam was completely flabbergasted as his face went red. He stood in the bathroom with his mouth agape as he slowly touched the spot on his cheek where she had kissed him. He

turned to look at himself in the mirror. She had actually kissed him! A girl as beautiful as her had kissed him. As he let his hand drop a little he felt a small smile begin to form on his lips.

“Cam hurry up,” Cici called from the living room. Cam came walking out and paused for a moment to look at Cici. The sun had gone down leaving the living room dark. She was lit up by the glow of the tv screen and once again he found himself realizing how absolutely gorgeous he thought she was.

“You coming?” she asked turning to look at him as she smiled.

“Uhh yeah,” Cam said shaking himself out of his daze. As he sat back on the couch he felt his heart begin to beat a little faster and butterfly's begin to form in his stomach just from sitting next to her.

“You want more juice before I start it again?” she asked.

“No thank you I'm not thirsty,” Cam said quietly.

“Yeah it is getting kind of late you probably shouldn't have any more I wouldn't want you to wet the bed,” she said nonchalantly.

“I don't wet the bed!” Cam yelped as his face went a deep red. Cici was taken aback a moment by his reaction as she looked at him now with his head down looking away from her. She realized now that her comment had come off as insensitive which hadn't been her intention.

“Hey, I'm sorry that wasn't very thoughtful of me. I know you're a big boy,” she said apologetically. Her phrasing was not making Cam feel any better. “And you know what happens to big boys, don't you? They get to cuddle with their babysitter's.” Cici said as she grabbed Cam and pulled him onto her lap.

In one motion she wrapped the blanket around him she then wrapped her own arms around the bundle. Cam was so surprised he didn't even know how to react. Cici started the movie back up.

“All comfy and cozy now,” Cici said. Cam couldn't even speak letting out a small squeak that sounded enough like an acknowledgment. As the movie continued on Cici snuggled him a little closer so now his head was resting on her chest. Cam's heart was again starting to beat faster, being this close to her he was now taken with how amazing she smelled. She brought a hand to his head and began to softly stroke his hair which seemed to just turn him into putty.

Henry had come downstairs to see how things were progressing when he caught the sight of his brother cuddled up with Cici on the couch. She didn't seem to notice him. Cam turned his head a little to meet his brother's stare. Henry gave him a condescending smirk, but to his surprise Cam gave him one right back. Henry's face went sour as he turned back around to go upstairs. Was Cam actually enjoying this? He began to fear that Cam was somehow going to turn this around on him.

No matter how hard Henry had tried in the past, no matter how much he had planned his prank out, Cam somehow had always been two steps ahead of him. As Henry walked down the hall he went past the bathroom, he looked in and smiled. There was no way Cam was going to spoil this one. Henry hadn't even played his full hand yet. If Cam had a thought that his horrible night was winding down he was in for a rude awakening.

Chapter 3

The Prank King Part 3 - Chapter 3

The credits began to roll on the movie as Cici stretched out her arms which roused Cam out of his drowsy state. He rubbed his eyes as he sat up surprised that he had actually started to doze off.

“So did you like?” Cici asked with an expectant gaze.

“It was alright,” Cam mumbled. He hadn't loved it or anything but it had kept his attention.

“I noticed you getting sleepy at the end, its starting to get late you almost ready for bed?” Cici asked.

“I am not tired,” Cam retorted.

“Okay, whatever you say,” Cici said with some skepticism. “Anyways before bedtime I need to give you a bath,” Cici said.

“B-bath,” Cam stammered as his eyes went wide.

“Yep, your mom left it on the note.” Cam felt his stomach drop as he realized now that Henry had probably added it in. How could Henry do this to him? As if everything else hadn't been bad enough, this was too far. It seemed Henry didn't know how to hold back.

“I don't need a bath, really,” Cam said in a panic.

“That's what they all say,” Cici said with a chuckle. She

picked Cam up into her arms and began to walk to the upstairs bathroom. Cam tried to squirm his way out of her hold protesting the whole way. Cici was too strong for him and had him held tight. “You little boys are always so dramatic,” Cici said. “You spend all your time fighting it and then when you get in the water you don't want to get out.”

Henry had come out of his room upon hearing all the commotion. He had to hold back his laughter upon seeing Cam being carried into the bathroom.

“Henry can you get me a fresh towel, please?” Cici asked upon noticing the boy standing in the hallway.

“I'd be happy too,” Henry said as he went to the linen closet and pulled out a towel. He entered into the bathroom to see Cam standing near the tub as Cici turned on the faucet.

“Is wittle Cam ready to get squeaky clean in his bath,” Henry said mockingly as he smirked. Cam glared, yet a second later a devious little smile formed across his lips. He changed his expression into the most pitiful look he could muster.

“Cici, Henry's being mean and teasing me,” Cam said making it sound as if he were about to cry.

“I heard that,” Cici cooed before shooting a look at Henry which caused him to straighten up. “Henry if you are going to be like that then perhaps you should give Cam a bath.” she said sternly.

“Um no I,” Henry sputtered as he was not used to being the one in trouble.

“You'll make sure to splash him nice and good won't you,” Cici said ruffling Cam's hair.

“I'm really good at getting Henry wet,” Cam said with smile as he looked at his brother.

Now it was Henry's turn to glare at his brother not taking kindly to the comment. To add insult to injury while Cici's back was turned Cam stuck out his tongue at his brother clearly pleased with himself and is little manipulation. Henry left the bathroom in a huff. Even though he knew what more was in for Cam it didn't seem like enough. He needed to pay back Cam for his little act of defiance. As Henry walked past the attic door, he stopped and went in stomping up the stairs.

Meanwhile back in the bathroom Cici was waiting for the water to warm up.

“Okay lets get your clothes off,” Cici said. “Can you do it by yourself, or do you need help?”

Cam had been so pleased by his brothers obvious annoyance that he had forgotten about trying to get out of his current predicament. He couldn't let this happen. He couldn't let her see him naked.

“I don't need a bath, really. I smell great,” Cam said frenzied as he sniffed his arm. “See I smell fine we can skip the bath and I'll go right to bed I swear.”

“No can do kiddo,” Cici said with a chuckle. “Your mom's note was very clear. She said you needed a bath so you're getting one. I guess I'm taking those clothes off for you,” she

said.

Cici grabbed Cam's shirt and pulled it up over his head. Cam immediately covered his chest with his hands. She then knelt down and pulled his track pants down leaving him in just his underwear. She then grabbed the waistband of his underwear.

“Please,” Cam squeaked.

“There is nothing to be embarrassed about,” Cici said reassuringly. “I've given plenty of kids baths before. Besides its not like you can get in the tub with your undies on,” she said before pulling his underwear down leaving him completely exposed. Cam shot a hand down to cover himself and turned away from Cici his face turning red. “Hop in,” Cici said giving him a playful swat on his butt. Cam got in the tub curling up in a ball in an attempt to cover himself.

“Let's see,” Cici said kneeling by the tub as she scanned the bottles of soap and shampoo on the far ledge. “Aha I knew you had some,” she said grabbing for a bottle of soap. “Should we add some bubbles?” she said with a grin. The bottle in her hand had a picture of bear on it surrounded by bubbles. Upon seeing the bottle Cam nodded his head enthusiastically.

The bottle actually belonged to Henry who still liked to take bubble baths, something which Cam always mocked him for. Right now however Cam was beyond grateful for his brothers childish preference. Cici poured the mixture in and before long Cam found himself covered in a mass of bubbles. Cici picked up a bunch and placed them on Cam's head obscuring

his face.

“Oh no, where did Cam go?” she said playfully. She then picked up a cup and poured some water on his head washing away the bubbles. “There he is!” she said with exaggerated surprise. Cam frowned.

“C'mon this isn't that bad,” Cici said with a sympathetic gaze. “Look why don't you play with some of your toys.” Cici grabbed a small plastic basket that had been by the tub and dumped a variety of brightly colored rubber whales into the water. Cam recognized them as Henry's old bath toys. Obviously they had been planted by Henry and Cam once again found himself wondering where this stuff was coming from. Cam reached out with a finger and pushed one of the whales away watching as it floated slowly to the other side of the tub. Cici grabbed one of the whales and squeezed it shooting a small stream of water into Cam's face.

“Hey,” Cam yelped.

“Yeah, what are you going to do about, huh?” Cici asked. Cam grabbed one of the whales and shot a stream back at her. “Why, you,” Cici said smiling. They began to squirt one another with the whales for the next several minutes. By the end Cam was double fisting whales and laughing as Cici tried to block his shots.

“Alright, Alright, you win, I surrender,” Cici said grinning. Cam let the whales drop back into the water a smile still on his face. He was a little embarrassed that he had let himself get so into their little game, but he was beginning to like the

attention Cici was giving him. He had been exceptionally pleased with how easy it had been to turn her on Henry earlier. He was even kicking himself a little. If he had only realized it sooner he might have been able to turn things around on his brother.

“I knew there was a happy Cam somewhere in there,” Cici cooed as she pushed a wet strand of hair out of his face. “But we gotta get to work now or its going to be past your bedtime, time to get you squeaky clean.” Cici grabbed a wash cloth and began to soap up Cam's torso. He even laughed when she got under his arms.

“Such a ticklish boy,” Cici remarked, before grabbing a bottle of shampoo and pouring it onto Cam's head. She began to work it into a lather massaging Cam's head which he couldn't deny felt pretty good. Finally she grabbed the cup from earlier and began to pour water over him washing away the soap and shampoo. Cici pulled the plug on the tub as the water began to drain.

“Alright on your feet,” she instructed as she unfolded the towel. Cam stood up still embarrassed but she had alright seen everything so there wasn't much use in hiding. She wrapped the towel around him and lifted him out of the water. She dried him off before wrapping him up again and lifting him up into her arms. She carried him down the hallway where Henry was waiting outside the door to his own room. He had something hidden behind his back. It was his coup-de-grace, the cherry on top to his prank that would solidify once and for all who the true prank king was.

Chapter 4

The Prank King: Final Part - Chapter 4

“Cool room,” Cici remarked as she flipped on the lights before setting Cam on top of the large dresser in his room. Cam's room was decorated with wallpaper that had a construction motif tire tracks, and bulldozers, cement trucks and yellow hard hats dotted the walls of his room, a remnant from his younger days. He had asked his Mother if he could redo his room which she had agreed to and had even taken him to the store to get paint in the colors he wanted. However upon learning that she expected him to do most of the work himself he had dragged his feet in actually getting started leaving the paint cans still unopened in the garage, a decision now, he was very much regretting.

“Let's get your jammies on,” Cici said opening the top drawer of his dresser. “Aren't these adorable,” Cici exclaimed as she pulled out a pair of pajamas that had firetrucks on them as well as dalmatian puppies wearing fire helmets. “You want these ones?” Cici asked excited by the prospect of seeing the boy dressed in them. Cam was in shock to see her pull such childish clothing out of his dresser.

“Those are'nt mine,” he yelped. Yet after the initial shock, Cam did recognize the pair of pajamas as his own from when he had actually been five.

“They came out of your dresser, whose else would they be?”

Cici asked. “And look they got little puppies on them, those are your favorite.”

“Cam actually loves those, he wears them all the time,” Henry said. “Don't ya Cam?” Henry said with a gleeful smirk. Cam looked at his brother and down to the open dresser drawer where he saw his usual sleepwear had been replaced with several pairs of equally childish pajamas. He was now beginning to wonder if Henry hadn't planned all this out in advance but he just couldn't see that being the case. There was no way Henry could have known that things would have worked out so perfectly. Cam even started to suspect that his mother had a hand in all this before dismissing the thought. There was no way she would ever subject him to this kind of humiliation.

“They suit you very well,” Cici said placing them next to Cam on the dresser. “But first you'll need some undies.”

“Oh you'll need this,” Henry said quickly almost as if he had been waiting for this moment as he revealed a pull up from behind his back and handing it to Cici.

“I see,” Cici said without a hint of surprise. As Cam realized what she was holding his face turned a deep scarlet.

“No, no, no,” Cam panicked.

“Now, now,” Cici said hushing him. “Its not a big deal. Lots of kids wear these, some of them older than you,” she said kneeling down as she began to thread his dangling legs into the crinkly pull up. Cam tried to kick his feet out but it was

too late as she had already pulled it up his legs. Cici then quickly scooted him forward off the dresser. Cam landed on his feet and in one motion she had the pull up around his waist making minor adjustments to the waistband as he stood in complete shock.

“See there is no reason to work yourself up,” Cici said. Cam was now standing in front of her in just the pull-up as he could feel himself about to start tearing up. Just then Cici's phone rang. She took it out of her pocket looking at the screen.

“Oooh I gotta take this, Henry keep an eye on him for a moment,” Cici said as she exited the room. Cam looked down at the pull-up it was blue with a cartoon character on the front from some show Henry had used to watch. He couldn't even believe it fit him perfectly. Cam went to take the pull-up off.

“I wouldn't do that if I were you,” Henry said. “She's just going to put it back on.”

“Then I'll just tear it up so she can't” Cam growled.

“I got more,” Henry said with a shrug.

“Why are you doing this?” Cam asked exasperated.

“Originally I wasn't going to use the pull-up but in the bathroom you were starting to act like a bratty little brother, so I thought I should complete your look.” Henry said with smile.

“I don't mean just this, I mean all of it, this is too far,” Cam

retorted.

“Hey relax little bro, its just a prank I'm having a little fun,” Henry said.

“Don't you dare call me little bro,” Cam said through gritted teeth. “And this isn't a prank, pranks are supposed to be funny. If you noticed I'm not laughing. I'm humiliated.”

“Well if you hadn't noticed I wasn't exactly laughing either during any one of your pranks. All the kids still call me flour child after your latest one and my friends spread it around school.” Henry said with some anger in his voice. Henry's comment stirred a little hint of regret in Cam. How was he supposed to know Henry's friends were going to tell everybody. He didn't tell them to do that, how was it his fault?

Cici came back in the room not having heard a word of the brother's conversation.

“Now lets get your jammies on,” she said looking at Cam. “You must be getting cold. Cam stood with his arms crossed looking down his brow furrowed. “What's the matter hmm?” Cici asked as she knelt down to Cam's eye level.

“I'm not wearing this, I'm not a baby,” Cam said with a glare that came off looking more like a pout.

“Oh Cam, like I said lots of kids need protection at night. It doesn't make you a baby, you're still my big boy, right?” she asked with a sympathetic look. Cam stayed silent knowing that nothing he could say was going to change things.

“Is that grumpy Cam I see?” Cici asked “I thought we had gotten rid of that guy.” Cici said giving Cam's stomach a poke.

“Stop it,” Cam yelped.

“It is grumpy Cam, well no matter I know how to deal with that guy,” Cici said. Before Cam could even react she picked him up and tossed him onto his bed. She was over him a second later tickling him all over. Cam began to laugh as his body began to flop from side to side. It was bad enough when he had been fully clothed but now in just a pull-up the tickling was all the more intense.

“And the finisher,” Cici said triumphantly. She buried here face in his stomach and blew three raspberry's into Cam's stomach each one eliciting a giggle.

“Stop, stop, I give,” Cam said as he tried to catch his breath his arms and legs splayed out on the bed.

“All right then,” Cici said standing up and grabbing the pajamas from the dresser. “Let me help you get all nice and cozy.” She started with the pants threading his legs through the pants before pulling them up. She then grabbed his wrists and pulled him into a sitting position. She grabbed the shirt putting his arms through the sleeves before pulling it down. Cici then got him to his feet and pulled the pants all the way so they completely covered the pull-up.

“There, all ready for beddy-bye,” she cooed.

“Don't forget his puppy, he can't sleep without it,” Henry said pointing. Cam looked behind him and saw a little stuffed dog

sitting by his pillow. This however was not one of Henry's it had been Cam's. He had taken it everywhere with him when he had been younger and the wear and tear showed.

“Awww, I knew you had a stuffy,” Cici said grabbing the stuffed animal and placing it in Cam's arms.

“Does this little guy have name?” Cici asked.

“Huey,” Cam whispered. There was a tinge of familiar attachment as Cam held his long forgotten friend in his arms and it did provide a little bit of comfort to him.

“Thats a great name, Now lets get you and Huey tucked in,” Cici said pulling back the covers. “I think we have time for one story.”

Henry left the room a satisfied expression spread across his face. Cam crawled over to the head of the bed and got under the covers, if it meant bringing a quicker end to this long night he was going to take it. Cici pulled the covers up.

“Alright lets see what you have for reading material,” she said walking over to the bookcase. Cam wasn't much for reading so none of the books on his bookshelf actually reflected what a kid of his age would actually be into reading. Most of them were left over picture books that had been gathering dust over the years. “You have a favorite?” Cici asked scanning over the titles.

“No, I don't need a story. I'll just go to sleep,” Cam said.

“C'mon now reading is good for you, and if you read right

before you go to bed it'll make it easier to fall asleep and give you happy dreams. Here lets do this one," Cici said grabbing a book of the shelf. She laid in the bed next to him propping her self up against the back wall. Cam looked at the book she had picked out. "The Great Monkey Caper" it read. It had a picture of two smiling monkeys on the front with a bunch of bananas between them. Cam had a foggy memory of his own mother reading him this book long ago.

"I really don't want a story," Cam repeated. Cici set the book down.

"Listen I know we've had some rough patches here and there. But I really enjoyed getting to spend time with you tonight. I liked watching our movie together and I had blast during our little water fight too. Something tells me you didn't hate it either." Cam frowned as he looked over at Cici but found his frown disappear as he caught sight of her eyes. The way she was looking at him was so calming and reassuring.

"I guess, I had a little fun," Cam said quietly.

"See it wasn't that hard to admit. So just sit back and relax and let me take care of you," she said.

Cici opened the book and began to read. As she was reading the story she began once again to stroke Cam's hair softly mixed with her gentle voice as she read. Cam could not resist the calming effect that was taking over. All the stress throughout the night seemed to be melting out of him. By the time she got to the end he had already closed his eyes and was just on the edge of sleep. He felt her get up and tuck him

in.

“Good night sweetie,” she said before giving him a kiss on his forehead. She turned off the light and shut the door leaving a small crack. Cici went to Henry's door knocking before entering.

“I got Cam put down for bed. I'm just here to remind you that your mom wanted you in bed before she got home. Which should be a couple of hours from now. I'm gonna watch some TV till then if you want to join me for a bit.”

“I'm actually going to hit the hay pretty soon myself, but thanks for the offer,” Henry said feeling pretty tired himself from all the work he had done.

“Alright sounds good,” Cici said.

“Oh Cici,” Henry said stopping her from leaving. “I hope Cam wasn't too much trouble tonight.”

“Nah, compared to some kids I've babysat he was an angel, and I've gotta thank you for your help tonight,” Cici said.

“I just know he can be kind of a handful sometimes,” Henry remarked.

“He's gotta a lot of pride for a little guy,” Cici said. “You better watch your back he's going to be quite the force to reckon with when he is older.”

“I'm sure,” Henry said with a smile as Cici left.

Henry stayed up keeping an eye out for his Mother. When he

heard her walk in the front door he hid himself at the top of the stairs to listen in on the conversation nervous that he was going to be found out.

“Hey, how was your event,” Cici asked greeting Ms. Rawls at the door.

“Exhausting,” Ms. Rawls said as she began to take off her heels. “I've been on my feet all night and I can't wait to soak my feet. How was your night?”

“I think you've got two great boys, we had a good night,” Cici said.

“Really,” Ms. Rawls said slightly skeptical. “No trouble from Cam?”

“Well,” Cici said with an awkward laugh. “He was a little moody at first but he warmed up in the end.”

Ms. Rawls nodded knowing Cam had started to show signs of turning into a moody teenager something she hoped was still a few years off.

“Well here is what I owe you, plus a little extra for short notice,” Ms. Rawls said handing Cici some money.

“Thanks so much,” Cici said. “I'm pretty open with my schedule so if you ever need a babysitter again I would love to come back.”

“I'll keep that in mind,” Ms. Rawls said as she let Cici out the door.

As soon as Cici was gone Henry moved, he knew he had little time before his Mother ventured upstairs and their were still some loose ends he had tie up. He walked into Cam's room and found his brother asleep curled up clutching Huey in his arms.

“Hey, wake up,” Henry said shaking him.

“What do you want? I was asleep,” Cam groaned.

“Mom's home,” Henry said.

“Well that sucks for you,” Cam said unconcerned. “When she finds out what you did she is going to blow a gasket at you.”

“I don't think I have to worry,” Henry said. “Cici already left and Mom knows nothing, and you won't be telling her anything either.”

“What makes you think I would ever agree to that? I've been fantasizing about how much trouble you're going to be in,” Cam said looking at his brother as if he were a crazed man.

“Because if you do, I'll make sure all your friends see this,” Henry said revealing his tablet screen. Cam squinted for a moment before his eyes went wide. On Henry's tablet was an image of Cam, his smiling face and pull-up in full view receiving a raspberry from Cici. Cam was shocked by what he was seeing, When had Henry even taken the picture?

“You dirty rotten” Cam began.

“Hang on, I'll delete it as long as Mom doesn't find out,” Henry said cutting Cam off. “I even brought you a change of

clothes.” Henry said holding up some of Cam's regular sleep attire.

“Great, I can't wait to change out of these dumb things,” Cam said reaching relieved at the sight of his normal clothes .

“Not so fast,” Henry said pulling them away. “I need one more thing from you,” Henry said with a devilish look.

“Henry c'mon I wont tell” Cam said.

“I want a video of you declaring me Prank King,” Henry said.

“Whatever, just hurry up already,” Cam said with a roll of his eyes. Was that really what this had all been about? Henry made Cam get out of bed and stand in front of him as he used his tablet to start filming.

“Oh for added effect,” Henry said pulling Cam's pants down to expose the pull-up he was still wearing underneath.

“Henry, knock it off,” Cam growled.

“Clock's ticking, Mom will be up here any minute.” Henry reminded him. Cam stood for a moment glaring at his brother's stupid face.

“Henry is the Prank King,” Cam mumbled under his breath.

“What was that? Could'nt hear you,” Henry said.

“Henry is the Prank King,” Cam repeated this time so it was audible. Cam was done fighting Henry, he had beaten him, there was no question about that.

“And I will never prank him again, because I'm nothing but a dumb baby,” Henry said. Cam went to protest again before closing his mouth as he furrowed his brow.

“And I will never prank him again,” Cam said. He hesitated a moment as Henry made a circular motion with his hand. “Because I'm a dumb baby,” Cam finished.

“Good enough,” Henry said tossing Cam his clothes before leaving the room. Cam was livid not only because Henry had made him say something so stupid but also because that was the best thing he could come up. It only went to show how immature Henry could be. It was Cam's opinion that Henry had no real vision for good pranks.

Ms. Rawls made her way up the stairs after a few minutes of checking the downstairs and making sure things were locked up for the night. She saw Henry's light was off. She crept into his room to his bedside where he was sleeping peacefully in his bed.

“Hey honey,” she said lightly rubbing his back. Henry stirred rubbing his eyes as he looked at her.

“Sorry to wake you I just wanted to know how it went tonight?” she asked in a low voice.

“It was fine,” Henry said.

“Did you like Cici?” she asked.

“Yeah, she was great I had a lot of fun tonight, much better than Mrs. Beam,”

“That's good,” Ms. Rawls said. “And how about Cam he didn't try to mess with you did he?”

“No,” Henry said. “I didn't see much of Cam tonight actually. We mostly stayed out of each others way,” Henry replied.

“That's what I like to hear,” Ms Rawls said with a grin. “Okay sweetie go back to sleep.”

“Night mommy,” Henry said closing his eyes again. Ms. Rawls walked back out into the hallway. Cam's door was closed but she could see his light was still on. She knocked before entering to find Cam pulling up his shorts. He spun around to face her, a surprised look on his face.

“Geez Mom I'm changing in here,” Cam said.

“Sorry about that, hun,” Ms. Rawls said with a chuckle. “I just wanted to come in and see how you were doing. It sounds like you managed to keep your nose clean for one night.”

“I said I would,” Cam said with some annoyance as he got into his bed.

“You did, and because you stayed true to your word I've decided to lift your grounding from one month down to the rest of the week just until your suspension is up and you go back to school.” Ms. Rawls said.

“Really,” Cam said with a smile.

“Yes, really. It sounds like you didn't cause any problems for Cici and even Henry said you left him alone. By the way

what did you think of Cici?" Ms. Rawls asked.

"She was pretty nice, I guess," Cam said. "Why? Did she say something about me?"

"Not really, I was just curious what you boys thought. That's all," Ms. Rawls said walking over to Cam's bedside.

"Goodnight, honey. I love you," Ms. Rawls said as gave Cam a kiss on his cheek.

"Goodnight," Cam said as he pulled his covers up. Ms. Rawls turned off the light and closed the door making her way to her own room where a hot foot soaking was waiting for her.

In the remaining week Cam had of his suspension he decided to finally get his room painted. He worked all through the week getting things cleared out. Ms. Rawls was so impressed with his sudden burst of initiative that she jumped in to help him get done before the weekend was done, even Henry pitched in. Cam decided to paint the walls black to cover up the wallpaper underneath. He then splattered different colors all around like some Jackson Pollack painting. As apprehensive as Ms. Rawls was at first, the end product turned out much better than she could have anticipated. With one final push of the bed frame everything had been put back in its place.

"Well I gotta say it looks great Cam," Ms. Rawls said wiping some sweat from her brow.

"I know I'm a genius," Cam gloated.

“I think I want to paint my room too,” Henry said.

“You can't copy me,” Cam said.

“I wasn't going to,” Henry replied.

“I don't see a problem with it, what did you have in mind Henry?” Ms. Rawls said before the boys could start bickering.

“I gotta a couple of ideas, let me have some time to decide maybe we could do it at the end of the month.” Henry said.

“I don't know about that,” Ms. Rawls said. “I have to go out of town for a convention that weekend and I can't bring you guys along on this one.”

“So we get stay home alone, right,” Cam said with some hope.

“No,” Ms. Rawls said. “ Although I've decided I can probably trust you guys alone for a night but since its going to be the whole weekend I'm still going to have someone come and keep an eye on the place. I was thinking maybe I could ask Cici.”

“NO,” both boys shouted in unison staring at their mother with their eyes practically shooting from their sockets.

“I thought you guys like Cici,” Ms. Rawls said surprised by her son's reactions.

“I mean we do and all...” Henry stammered.

“Its just that we don't think she would really like to have to spend the whole weekend with some dumb kids like us, she seems busy and everything,” Cam said. Ms. Rawls looked at

the both of them with some suspicion as if she knew there was something they weren't telling her.

“All right then, I guess it will be Mrs. Beam,” Ms. Rawls said.

“Yaay,” Henry said with some glum sarcasm as he waved his hands in the air un-enthusiastically not excited by the prospect of being babied by the older woman for a whole weekend.

“Anyways, I'm starving,” Ms. Rawls said. “Who wants Chinese?” Both boys agreed and Ms. Rawls left the room to go put in the order.

“That was a close one,” Henry said after his Mother was safely out of the room. “Can you imagine if Cici came back?”

“We'd have to figure something out,” Cam said. “After all I don't want those pictures getting out,” Cam said with some bitterness.

“Oh I erased those,” Henry said.

“You did,” Cam said surprise.

“Yeah, to tell you the truth I started to feel really bad about the whole thing. I guess I got a little carried away and I guess I should apologize. You aren't going to tell Mom now are you?” Henry asked looking a tad bit worried.

“Nah, I'm content with just forgetting about the whole thing. Plus I've had a lot of time to think on my past pranks and I'm sorry too. If it was the other way around and you had done all those things to me I got a chance to get you back I would

have gotten a little carried away too.” Cam said.

“Thanks,” Henry said slightly touched by his brother's understanding.

“Now get out of here,” Cam said with a grin. “I'm getting tired of this mushy brother crap.”

“Okay,” Henry said with a chuckle as he left the room. Cam went and layed down on his bed still admiring the look of his new room. It was true that he had no intention of ever breathing a word of what happened to their Mother. In fact he had decided to leave pranks behind all together. They were worth far more trouble than he wanted. Besides he was the prank king no longer and that suited him just fine.

THE END