

## 34. Surprise!

(Girl)

1 This is the worst night of my life. Worse than when I fell  
2 down the bleachers during an assembly. Worse than when I  
3 sang the wrong verse of the *National Anthem* at the  
4 basketball game. Worse than both of those things  
5 combined! Because this time — this time — it isn't just  
6 about being clumsy or even forgetful — it's about being  
7 *stood up* — in front of everyone! By my *best friend!*

8 I'd spent weeks planning Nicole's surprise thirteenth  
9 birthday party. In fact, if you count the stuff I'd ordered  
10 online — it was more like months! I spent hour after hour  
11 planning, calling, scheming — just to make sure that my  
12 best friend in the whole world had the best party in her  
13 entire life. She'd never had a surprise party before. I wanted  
14 to be the one to give that to her. And what better  
15 opportunity than her thirteenth birthday? A huge milestone  
16 in every girl's life. Finally becoming a true *teenager!* Not a  
17 stupid pre-teen.

18 I would've let her boyfriend, Zach, in on the little secret,  
19 but I know him well enough that he wouldn't keep anything  
20 from Nicole! So I had it all arranged — his best friend was  
21 going to pick him up and bring him here, too. Zach thought  
22 he was going bowling! He would've been just as surprised  
23 as Nicole!

24 Only guess what? When Blake went to pick Zach up, he  
25 wasn't there! His mom said he was out with Nicole. Zach  
26 stood Blake up and Nicole stood *me* up to go out on a date!  
27 I've got fifty people here waiting to jump out and yell,  
28 "surprise," and what do I get? A text message telling me

1 she's home sick! Home sick! She even has the nerve to lie!  
2 I may never speak to her again! How could she ditch me  
3 for him? Well, I guess at *this surprise party* the only one with  
4 a surprised look on her face is me!