

Chapter 4. 'Is everyone alright?' The younger son's story



Describing yourself is always hard to do. But since you and I have never met and I am at the moment just text on a page to you, it is best that I tell you a little about me first. My name is Danny. Good start; got my name down. I am fourteen years old, rapidly approaching fifteen, and already taller than my older brother and Dad, much to their annoyance. I'm skinny, rather tanned thanks to my Indian grand-dad's family, and have long black hair, which desperately needs a trim. Not a lot else I can say about myself physically. I could go on about my shoe size for another few pages if you like, but I'm guessing the majority of sane people out there would prefer I change the subject.

I think I'm size eight and a half by the way.

As I'm sure you've already guessed I hate describing myself. Say certain things and you come across as a big-head, whilst others just make you seem completely idiotic or that you are faking modesty. When I asked dad for some words to sum me up, he said I used to go around asking everyone if they were alright, like it was my job to check the family was OK. That's why he titled this chapter 'Is everyone alright?' Thanks. I won't be saying that again, then.

I thought I'd duck out of any more self-description completely and instead ask people who know me to describe me to you (still with me?). Warning: it's a biased version of me, since they're my friends, so don't believe any of it for a second. Here goes...

Me, according to some friends

"You are fun to be around because you are always up for a laugh, you tend to take a leading role within our group, you are possibly the most moral person I know, which is good because that makes you one of the most loyal people I know, but is sometimes bad because you get slightly too bothered about other peoples' business (like people drinking). Probably your best quality is that you're willing to make friends with anyone who deserves it, you don't care what idiots from the 'cool' crowd think, which is a wicked thing because frankly I doubt your shenanigans have made you the most popular guy in the year, but more importantly you're always there for those who matter." ~ Chris*

*(**Editor's note:** Danny has a tendency to take on anyone he feels is being unfair or bullying others, and very loudly tells them where they are going wrong. This has earned him a bit of a reputation as mouthy at school. And we're proud of him for it.)

*"You are very caring and you care about other people a lot which can be a bad thing at times as you don't care about yourself enough. I think you worry a bit too much about others sometimes and not yourself. You work hard and you like writing which I think you are very good at, and you're not really a sporty person. I think you are very funny and witty and a positive person with a positive attitude. I don't think you are very sociable but under the circumstances that is completely understandable." ~ **Abbi***

"When I think about Danny I think

- 1) You're very private; don't always know when to tell people what's wrong in your life*
- 2) You try to deal with things on your own because you don't like to worry others*
- 3) You don't think you're as special as everyone else when really you are*
- 4) You have to be the funniest guy I know and most carefree (you never let little things get you down)*
- 5) You can be pig headed*
- 6) But saying that, when you're in the wrong you always make up for it by being so apologetic*
- 7) You're always sensitive when talking about people. People know what you say is what you truly mean*
and
- 8) You're a brilliant friend; somebody I can trust not to just be there when I need but to tell me when I need to be realistic" ~ **Becky***

I was cringing as I read that myself. I can imagine you all thinking what a big-head I am! Thank you so much to all three of those friends for finding it in your time to do this, and for your friendship in general. Your payment is a place in this book and my heart. (Yeah, other friends, you're in my heart too, but I've been told to keep the word count down here).