

## THE DANCE . . . 2

**JOHN:** Seventeen, feeling some misgivings about going to the dance with Mary because she is treating him strangely.

**AL:** John's best friend, more worldly wise to the ways of women, sees it as his job to guide his innocent friend.

**AL:** John, I'm going to reserve the limo for Homecoming and I need your money by Friday.

**JOHN:** You might have to wait a little longer.

**AL:** I can't. The guy says that if I don't have the money there by Friday, we will lose the limo. Wait till you see it, it's great.

**JOHN:** Al, I might not be going to Homecoming.

**AL:** I thought Mary said that she would go.

**JOHN:** She did. But now . . . I don't know.

**AL:** What happened?

**JOHN:** She called me last night and said that she wanted to make sure that I knew that we were going as "just friends."

**AL:** Oooh.

**JOHN:** Really. "Just friends." I mean, what else did she think? I can't believe it.

**AL:** So, what did you say?

**JOHN:** I said, yes, of course I knew that. God, she acted like she was doing me a favor.

**AL:** Did you tell her that?

**JOHN:** No, I just told her that friends was all I wanted to go as in the first place. She has been acting so weird since I asked her to go.

**AL:** Well, John, I'm not surprised. I told you not to make a big deal out of asking her. But no, you had to go all out and get a stupid balloon and those dumb flowers. You couldn't just say, "Hey, Mary, want to go to Homecoming?"

JOHN: I wanted it to be special. I thought she would like it.

AL: You were obviously wrong. Why do you always do that?

JOHN: Do what?

AL: Go overboard on everything. You have to make a big deal and then you always end up getting used for a doormat. You don't see that happening to me.

JOHN: Doormat. Thanks.

AL: Oh, c'mon. It's not that bad. So, now you know and she knows you are going as friends, so everything's cool.

JOHN: I guess so.

AL: Now what's wrong?

JOHN: I didn't tell you everything.

AL: What? She wants you to wear brown.

JOHN: Don't be stupid. You know, she's been acting kind of funny ever since I asked her to this dance. She avoids me at school, doesn't talk to me in class anymore. It's weird.

AL: Why is she doing that? Did you ask her?

JOHN: Yes. She said she wasn't. But she acted really funny about it.

AL: What do you mean?

JOHN: I asked her flat out why she was doing that, and she said I was imagining things.

AL: I don't understand this at all. Weren't you two like the best of friends not more than a week ago?

JOHN: That's what I thought. And then I asked her to this stupid dance and it's been horrible ever since.

AL: Have you guys stopped talking on the phone?

JOHN: Oh, that's the best part. I asked her if she wanted me to not talk to her at school, and we could just talk at night on the phone. She said . . . are you ready? She said, YES! She doesn't want me to talk

to her at school. She just wants to talk to me at night on the phone.

AL: You can't be serious.

JOHN: Yes I can. Can you believe it?

AL: I can't believe you are seriously thinking of still seeing her.

JOHN: What?

AL: You can't still be thinking of taking her to Homecoming, can you?

JOHN: Well, I . . . uh . . .

AL: Omigod! You are an idiot.

JOHN: Why?

AL: The girl avoids you at school, tells you that you two are going as "just friends," and then has the nerve to tell you that you aren't ALLOWED to talk to her at school? Only at night on the phone? And you are still going to spend \$500 on Homecoming for her? YOU ARE AN IDIOT!!

JOHN: Al, you make it sound much worse than it is.

AL: John, she won't allow you to talk to her in front of her friends at school. It doesn't get much worse than that.

JOHN: (*Thinking a moment*) Yeah, you're right.

AL: You're darn right, I'm right. You get on that phone right now and tell that wench that you aren't going to that dance with her.

JOHN: But it's only a week before the dance. Who will she go with if I don't go with her?

AL: What an IDIOT! Don't be such a wimp. Let it be her problem.

JOHN: She already got a dress.

AL: Let her wear it when she talks to her friends at school. Of course, you'll never see it, because you're not ALLOWED to talk to her at school. Call her, John.

JOHN: Now?

AL: Yes, now. If you wait till you get home, you'll wimp out. I know how you are.

JOHN: Yeah, maybe you're right.

AL: *(Picking up the phone and dialing)* Here.

JOHN: It's ringing...she's probably not home... Oh, Hi, Mary? Yeah, this is John. Listen. I...uh... what? Red?

AL: What's she saying?

JOHN: *(Putting hand over the phone to talk to AL and still listening to MARY)* She's telling me what color corsage to get.

AL: Tell her, John.

JOHN: Mary, I... Huh? Oh, I don't know. Well, yeah, I guess we could do that.

AL: What, what?

JOHN: Hold on a second, Mary. *(To AL)* She wants to know if it would be all right if we could stop at her grandma's before we head out so she could see Mary in her formal. *(Back to MARY)*

AL: I don't believe this. Tell her!!

JOHN: Huh? Oh, Al. I'm at his house . . . Mary says hi.

AL: Yeah, but will she say hi at school?

JOHN: Shut up . . . No, not you, Mary. Al. Anyway, the reason I called was . . . Oh, really? *(To AL)* She got her dress from the dressmaker's today. *(To MARY)* Oh, yeah, I can't wait . . . No kidding, She is?

AL: John . . . You better tell her before it's too late.

JOHN: Yeah, well, I'll call you tonight.

AL: I'm dying here.

JOHN: OK, bye. *(He hangs up.)* I didn't tell her.

AL: Oh, really? What a wimp.

JOHN: Al, her sister is flying in from college to see her off to her first formal. What was I supposed to do?

AL: What a wimp.

JOHN: I know. I'm trapped.

AL: Like a rat.

JOHN: So, it's one night out of my life.

AL: And \$500. For a girl who won't talk to you at school.

JOHN: I bet this is one of those things that in the years to come I will look back and laugh at.

AL and JOHN: Nah.