

CYBER NIGHTMARE - Leseprobe

It was late October, the break for the potato harvest was over and life was back to normal in Northern Maine. School was in full swing again.

Almost.

Some students were finding it difficult to concentrate on their schoolwork after the long, three-week break. Their minds were on other things, not all of them good. You could see it in their eyes.

Sylvia's eyes were scanning the faces in the crowded cafeteria when the idea came to her. Smiling, she turned to Cora. 'I know how we can have some fun,' she said.

Cora's blank face lighted up. 'How?'

'We pick a victim and rattle their cage!'

'Huh?' Cora's face went blank again.

Sylvia leaned closer to her friend. 'We pick someone we don't like and bully them.'

'Bully them? What if they're bigger than us?'

'Bigger, smaller, faster, slower - it doesn't make any difference. We do it electronically. You know, via IM, email or computer.'

'Oh, yeah. That'd be fun!' Cora clapped her hands like a little girl. Suddenly, she stopped, a question written all over her face. 'But who?'

Sylvia narrowed her eyes and smiled. 'That shouldn't be a problem. Think of all the kids we don't like.' She started scanning the faces in the cafeteria again. A moment later she stopped and turned again to her friend. 'That guy, for example!' she said in a whisper.

'Which guy?' Cora's voice was full of excitement.

'The one in the blue sweatshirt, talking to some girls, three tables from here.'

'You mean Neil, Neil Green?' Cora's eyes opened wider and wider.

Sylvia laughed softly. 'That's the one. The one and only Neil Green.'

Cora looked puzzled. 'Why him?' Before Sylvia could answer, Cora smiled and said, 'Wait a minute! Last year! You had the hots for him but he never even looked at you. I remember!'

Sylvia gave her friend an angry look. 'Not because of that. I forgot about that a long time ago,' she said. 'It's because he's such a conceited bastard. Look at him. Look at that smile. It's got I'm-the-coolest-guy-here written all over it. Do you see it?'

'Yeah.' Cora nodded quickly to show how strongly she agreed with her friend.

'Why don't we begin with an IM? Got any ideas?'

Cora's face went blank again. She looked at Sylvia and shook her head.

'Well, I have! Listen!' Sylvia looked around and then began to whisper to her friend.