

***DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER***

Durham Cast

Owen            HARRY  
Elliot           Teenager WILL  
Paige           KATHERINE the candymaker Kidnapper  
Sydney          MAXINE or Max the Librarian  
Harper          CINDY Princess Cinderella  
Cloe            ALEX the Bookwork Teen  
Lexi            LEXI Detective  
Eleanor        DR SCARLETT of Candy Chemistry/kidnapper  
Clare           CLARE new child

**SCENE 1**

NARRATOR

There was a town of Durham that was especially known for being sweet. There was a strange smell that permeated the air here that attracted people to live in this town. No one really understood why but there was a secret lurking in the hills no one knew about.

ENTER KATHERINE AND DR SCARLETT

SCARLETT

Have you mastered the ingredients yet sister?

KATHERINE

Not quite. I need to dial it in.

NARRATOR

***KATHERINE is mixing potions during...***

There were two sister Katherine and Scarlett that were Doctors of Candy science. They were known in Europe for having the most amazing candies but were exiled for child testing their candies on the village children, which caused lots of cavities and created lots of problems since there was only one dentist. Katherine had been working on a secret concoction.

KATHERINE

That's it. I think I finally have it.

SCARLETT

OOOOuuuu OOOOUUUU let me try!

***She tastes***

Ohhhh... that is very good. You have outdone yourself this time.

KATHERINE

I think it is time. It is time to do it.

KATHERINE & SCARLETT

Child test.

**SCENE 2**

NARRATOR

What Scarlett and Katherine did not know is there was a detective from Interpol hot on their tail that had followed them from Hungary. This detective was like the Scotland Yard, the Sherlock Holms, the James Bond, the...

EVERYONE

All right already... They get it.

NARRATOR

OKAY! Gosh...This detective was now the best in the west.

LEXI

They are going to set up shop in America next I just know it. I can tell by this map they have circled Durham. They are so predictable. They are going to drive of the cost of dentistry. I must follow these candy bandits to America.

NARRATOR

And so she did...

### **SCENE 3**

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Katherine and Scarlett set off to town at Durham's library. The library was very busy with lots of kids buzzing about reading and checking out books. Which gave them the perfect place to find children to try their new recipe. There was a librarian named Maxine at her desk helping children check out books.

MAX

#### ***To little girl Clare***

Hey there. What is your name?

CLARE

My name is Clare. I just moved here.

MAX

Well... Welcome to Durham.

#### ***She hands her back her book and leaves***

ALEX

#### ***Waving to girl***

Hey there how are you?

CLARE

I am fine... actually mommy told me not to talk to strangers.

#### ***She goes to reading area***

ALEX

Okay then... How is it going Max?

MAX

Busy day today at the library today.

ALEX

I see that.

MAX

I am going to have shelve all these books. I just don't know how I am going to study.

ALEX

That's right, you have the SAT coming up so you can apply for your scholarships.

MAX

Yeah... I hope I can get into Med school. I just have so much work to do and no time to study. And if I don't get that scholarship, my family cannot send me to school.

OWEN

#### ***Walking up***

What's up sister?

MAX

Just working.

OWEN

Well... Mom and dad will not be home until later after work. Do you get off work soon? Can you walk me home?

WILL

***Walks up and interrupts.***

Hey guys! I was going to head to Sweet Toads after here. You know Love peace and yogurt. Wanna go?

MAX

Can't. I have to work.

OWEN

Who am I supposed to walk home with?

MAX

I don't know Owen. I cannot do everything.

***She gets up and walks off***

OWEN

Geez...

WILL

She's in a mood.

ALEX

She is just stressed-out. Hey buddy. I know, why don't you go talk to that little girl over there? You guys are about the same age.

OWEN

OK

CINDY

***Walks up to the desk very prissy princess- To Alex***

Where is the librarian?

ALEX

Oh.. She stepped out.

CINDERELLA

Well. I am Princess Cinderella and I need a new book to read. Can you tell me where the princess section is?

WILL

Princesses are over there with the princes. These little kids are so cute. They give me such joy to watch them. Look how they are reading together.

ALEX

I know.

NARRATOR

What Alex and Will did not know was that Dr. Scarlett and Katherine were casing out the library for young kids to try their candies on. They were secretly talking in the corner for potential triers.

SCARLETT

That one looks good.

KATHERINE

Actually, those three look good.

SCARLETT

But we have to have someone a little older too. You know for field testing.

KATHERINE

Your right. What about that one?

***She points to Alex***

She looks like she knows a lot about everything.

SCARLETT

It is settled. We will wait until the library is closed and we will make our move.

***EXIT Scarlett and Katherine - ENTER MAX***

MAX

Okay everyone. I am sorry but the library will be closing. Everyone must exit the building.

Owen, did you meet some friends?

OWEN

Yes Max.

MAX

***To Clare and Cindy***

Can he please walk home with you guys?

CLARE & CINDY

I guess so.

MAX

Alex, will you walk with these guys home? I just know it is getting late and it will be a long journey home.

ALEX

Sure. No problem. Come on guys. We will stop by Sweet Toads. See you there Max and Will?

MAX

Sure. I could go for a treat.

WILL

We will catch up with you guys in a bit.

***They start actions to look like they are picking up to close the library.***

**SCENE 4**

NARRATOR

What they did not know was Katherine and Scarlett had set up a plot to capture their candy tasters.

ALEX

***Writing in a book with her backpack as she walks.***

Where are you from Clare?

CLARE

I am from Houston.

OWEN

That is cool. What flavor Yogurt is your favorite.

CINDY

I like Strawberry.

CLARE

Chocolate.

NARRATOR

When all of a sudden out the bushes they were ambushed by Katherine and Scarlett.

KATHERINE & SCARLETT

***Jumping out of bushes***

Stop right there.

***They tie a rope around the 4 of them.***

KATHERINE

We are kidnapping you...

SCARLETT

Yeah... But don't worry. It is only for a short time.

CINDY

I am scared.

CLARE

Me too.

OWEN

Where are you taking us? My parents don't have money for a ransom. They can barely afford to send my sister Max to school.

KATHERINE

They will not need ransom money. We are only barrowing you.

SCARLETT

Yeah... short term.

ALL KIDS

***Scream***

KATHERINE

Trust us. We are not what you think.

NARRATOR

Katherine and Scarlett snatched the children away but before they could do so, Alex dropped a clue. She had written "KIDNAP" in the book she was reading.

***EXIT ALL***

## **SCENE 5**

NARRATOR

Max was ready to check out of the library herself with her friend Will when all of a sudden Detective Lexi entered.

LEXI ***enter***

Excuse me. Have you seen these 2?

***Shows photo***

MAX

Can't say I have.

WILL

Me neither. Why?

LEXI

These two are fugitives of Hungary. They are known as the candy bandits or Doctor Cavities. They kidnap children.

WILL

Kidnap Children?!

MAX

Oh no! The kids!! We have to find them!!!

LEXI, MAX AND WILL

Let's go.

NARRATOR

And so they set off to find the Cady Bandits and children.

## **SCENE 6**

NARRATOR

The Candy Bandits took them to an old abandoned train.

ALEX

Where are you taking us?

KATHERINE

We call it lollipop junction.

SCARLETT

We are not going to hurt you.

KIDS

***Scream Help... Help... Help!***

KATHERINE

Relax... We will let you go. We just need you to do something!

ALEX

Do what?

KATHERINE

You'll see...

KIDS

Help... Help ... Help!!!

NARRATOR

The kids were very scared as they entered Lollipop Junction.

### **SCENE 7**

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, Max, Will and Detective Lexi were on the hunt for the Kids and Bandits. They were walking along the sidewalk when they came upon a book.

MAX

Alex's book!

WILL

She would never drop a book. She is too much of a nerd.

MAX

***to Lexi***

She reads like all the time.

LEXI

Hold on a minute. Maybe there is a clue inside the book.

***She opens the book and reads***

This confirms my suspicions. They have been taken.

WILL

But where?

MAX

Hold on... I have the find my I-phone app on Owen's phone. I bet we can ping him.

LEXI

Good idea.

MAX

Got it. The old Railroad station.

WILL

Let's go.

### **SCENE 8**

NARRATOR

Inside Lollipop Junction, it was filled with colorful lollipops, chocolates, and candies.

KATHERINE

Ok now. Here you go... The sooner you taste it the sooner you can leave.

***She places out candy***

SCARLETT

You have to tell what you think.

KATHERINE

And be honest!

ALEX

I don't know about this...

OWEN

She said they are going to let us go.

CLARE

But what if there is poison in it or something?

CINDY

Looks good.

***Takes first bite***

ALEX

Cindy don't!!!

***Now OWEN and CLARE take a bite.***

OWEN

It is really good.

CLARE

It is delicious!

SCARLETT

We are waiting on you Alex.

ALEX

Oh, all right.

***She takes a bite. And then she really gets into the candy like an animal.***

Ohhhh my gosh. Yum.

KATHERINE

Does it need anything?

ALEX

I would not change anything!

NARRATOR

As the children were beginning to enjoy their candy, in came Detective Lexi followed by Max and Will.

***ENTER LEXI, MAX and WILL***

LEXI

Stop right there!!!

MAX

Owen... Oh thank goodness you are okay.

***To KATHERINE and SCARLETT***

Who do you think you are?

LEXI

You are under arrest for kidnapping.

***She goes to round them up and cuff them. But they get away***

Well, it looks like I finally got you two Doctor Cavities!

OWEN

But it is so good!

***Not wanting to let go.***

MAX

Let go. Our parents cannot afford cavities from sugary candy. We are too poor.

KATHERINE

But wait... Those are sugar free.

SCARLETT

Yeah... we've been working on a method to make our candies so they DON'T cause cavities...

KATHERINE

Yeah. And they are zero Calorie. Here...

***She gives one to Max, Will and Lexi. They taste.***

WILL

Wow... these really are good!

LEXI

Hmmmm. But why do you kidnap the children.

KATHERINE

We let them go. It's not kidnapping. We call it "child testing."

SCARLETT

And we pay them to try our candy.

KATHERINE

***She gives them a giant Sweepstakes style Check.***

Here ya go. For your trouble.

MAX

***Sees the check.***

Wow... I can pay for my tuition to school.

OWEN, CLARE, CINDY

WOW!!!

ALEX

I thought you two were monsters but it turns out we just needed to be open minded.

LEXI

Well, I see no crime here. This case is solved.

ALL

Yay!!!

WILL

See you don't judge a book by it's cover.

NARRATOR

And so, Max was able to go to school. And the kids all got a part of the child testing Trust fund and Sweet Toads, well for life. Katherine and Scarlett entered into the Candy Hall of Fame with their creation. And they all...

ALL

LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

**THE END**