

# **Magnolia Street**

## **What Amy did next**

### **Book Two**

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#### **Chapter One**

# Brenda and Amy get ready

Brenda's bedroom is more untidy than usual on this cold Thursday evening. All of her clothes, make-up, key-rings, CDs and DVDs are either on her bed or lying on the bedroom floor. Brenda pulls the last jumper out of her cupboard, and then she sits down on her chair in front of the window.

Tonight is the night of the Stronger Voices meeting at the Green Gates Centre and Brenda can't wait! She has been trying on her clothes all afternoon. Now it is getting late and she is finding it hard to choose which jumper to wear.

Brenda Booth lives at 81 Magnolia Street with her best friend Amy Cooper. When Amy went to town last week, she met Gary who told her all about the Stronger Voices group. Gary used to go to school with Amy and Brenda and they had not seen him for a long time. When Brenda heard about the Stronger Voices group, Brenda decided she wanted to go too.

Just as she gets up off her chair to choose a jumper from her bed, the phone rings downstairs. Brenda almost falls down the stairs when she trips over her bag which she left there last night.

On Saturday, Brenda is going to stay with her mum and dad who live in a village not far from here. Now her mum is phoning to tell Brenda that she will be in Magnolia Street at two o'clock on Saturday afternoon.

When Brenda tells her mum that she is going to the Stronger Voices group tonight, her mum wants to know more. Brenda promises to tell her all about it when she sees her on Saturday.

But there is no time to think about Saturday now. Brenda needs to make up her mind what to wear because it will soon be time to go out.

Finally, Brenda chooses a blue skirt and her best red jumper that Amy likes. When she is dressed and has brushed her hair, Brenda stands and looks at herself in the mirror.

Brenda is happy. This is going to be a great night and Brenda can't wait.

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Across the landing, Amy is in her bedroom sitting on her bed. It is quiet and peaceful here which is just the way Amy likes it. Amy doesn't like it when it is noisy.

All day today Amy has been thinking about the Stronger Voices group and now she is feeling nervous. Brenda and Amy both filled in a form with Jackie, their support worker at lunchtime today. They have been told to take these forms with them when they go to the Stronger Voices group tonight.

Even though she really wants to go out tonight, Amy is also worried. This is because Amy has never been to the Stronger Voices group before and she doesn't know what it will be like.

Amy is glad that Brenda will be with her and she is looking forward to seeing Gary again. When she met Gary last week, he told her all about the Stronger Voices group. It sounded

good and she wanted to try it. Their support worker, Jackie, said it would be good because it would help Amy to be more confident.

As she sits quietly on her bed, Amy thinks about the bad thing that happened this morning. When Brenda went to the shop across the road, a man knocked on their front door. After he had gone, Amy went up to her bedroom. She didn't want to tell Brenda about him.

Amy moves her hands up and down the cold and bumpy wall in her bedroom. When Amy feels scared or nervous, she likes to touch walls. This helps Amy to feel calm and the voices in Amy's head get quieter. As she rubs her eyes and stretches her arms above her head, Amy hears Brenda calling her.

"Hurry up Vera or we'll be late!" Brenda shouts as she knocks loudly on Amy's door.

Brenda calls Amy "Vera" whenever she wants to annoy her. Vera is Amy's real name, but Amy has always hated this name. A few years ago, she found out that she had a middle name.

Her sister, Jennifer, told Amy that her full name was Vera Amy Cooper. It was then that she decided she would ask people to call her Amy. Their mum was not very happy about this but everyone else agreed to call her Amy instead.

"I wish you would stop calling me Vera," she shouts out as she walks towards her bedroom door.

Bending down to pick up her door keys and handbag, Amy hopes Brenda will wait for her. Amy knows that when Brenda is in a hurry, she won't wait for her even when she asks Brenda to.

As Amy walks carefully down the stairs, she sees that Brenda is already wearing her coat and is ready to go. So,

without saying anything, Amy puts her jacket on and watches as Brenda opens the front door and walks outside. She can hear Brenda talking as she locks the front door, but she can't hear what she's saying.

Putting her keys in her bag and pulling her hat down over her ears, Amy walks quickly to catch up with Brenda.

Although Brenda is sometimes bossy, shouts at her and eats her favourite cereal, she is Amy's best friend. And Brenda looks after Amy when she is feeling nervous or unhappy.

Amy looks at Brenda as they walk to the Green Gates Centre. She feels so happy that Brenda is her friend!



**Brenda asks you these questions**

Do you know who phoned me?

Where are we going tonight?

Why do you think I am excited about tonight?

What does Amy think I do to upset her?

# Chapter Two

## **Jack annoys his sister**

At the other end of Magnolia Street, Jack Wilson is sitting in his kitchen. Jack uses a wheelchair and lives with his mum and dad and sister Bella. He lives at the other end of Magnolia Street and their house is right next door to the Golden Lion pub.

Jack has already finished eating his dinner and is almost ready to go out to the Stronger Voices group. His dad is taking him there in the car so Jack asks his dad if he is ready to go.

“Let me finish my dinner and then we can get going”  
Jack’s dad tells him.

“OK dad, I’m going to get my phone from my room” Jack shouts out, as he wheels his chair into his bedroom.

Jack’s bedroom is on the ground floor at the other end of this large old house. He likes this room as he can see the garden from the big white window.

Sometimes Jack sits here and watches a family of squirrels running up the trees. Last week he saw a cat chasing the birds but when he banged on the window, the black and white cat ran away.

Jack hasn’t got time to look out of the window now because he is in a rush. It will soon be time to go out and he

needs to make sure he is not late. He is really looking forward to the Stronger Voices group tonight because Gary told him there will be two new people there. Gary told him all about his friend Amy but he didn't say much about Brenda.

Jack wheels his chair round to the side of his bed and reaches out for his hair gel. Even if he is in a rush, Jack needs to make sure his hair looks good.

Before he leaves his bedroom, Jack picks up his wallet and his mobile phone and places them in the back of his chair. Then he reaches over for the bottle of deodorant by the side of his bed. He sprays this all over his clothes before he slams his bedroom door shut.

As Jack wheels his chair back to the kitchen, he thinks about his friend, Raz. Jack and Raz have known each other for a long time and now Jack is worried about Raz.

For the last two weeks, Jack has phoned Raz on his mobile phone lots of times. But Raz never answers his phone. Last week, Jack went to Raz's house, but he didn't open the door. Now Jack is worried that Raz doesn't want to be his friend anymore.

Last week he told his keyworker, Claire, at Bluebells about Raz. Claire told Jack not to worry. But Jack is worried. When Jack tried to talk to Gary about Raz this week, Gary didn't want to listen.

As Jack wheels himself back into the kitchen, he sees his younger sister Bella at the kitchen table, still eating her tea.

"How much deodorant have you got on?" Jack's sister Bella asks him.

"Mind your own business" he tells her "at least I smell nice!"

"No wonder you haven't got a girlfriend when you smell like that" Bella tells Jack.

"I haven't got time to argue with you now, Bella smell-her!" Jack shouts back.

"Mum, Jack's being rude to me" Bella says in a squeaky voice.

His mum tells Bella to leave Jack alone and says he hasn't done anything wrong. As Jack wheels his chair out of the kitchen he laughs to himself. He loves to wind Bella up and get her in trouble.

As Jack goes outside with his mum, she reminds him to tell the group about the strange man who is knocking on people's doors.

While they are talking, Jack's dad beeps the car horn. Then he shouts out, "Come on Jack, if we wait any longer you will be late!"

As Jack says goodbye to his mum, he slides himself out of his wheel chair and into the front seat of his car. While his dad is putting his chair into the car, Jack thinks about the two new people who are coming tonight. Gary talked a lot about Amy but he didn't say much about her friend Brenda.

"You're very quiet Jack" his dad tells him.

"I'm thinking about tonight and all my friends of course" Jack says as his dad drives out of Magnolia Street.

It's not dark yet outside but as Jack looks out of the car window some of the houses already have their lights on.

"You are lucky to have such good friends Jack" his dad tells him.

As they drive towards the Green Gates centre, Jack hopes that Amy and Brenda will be his friends as well.



**Jack asks you these questions:**

What is my sisters' name?

What did I do to annoy my sister?

Who is Raz and why am I worried about him?

What make of car do you think my dad drives?

What did my mum tell me to tell the group about?