

### **Extract from *Joe All Alone* by Jo Nadin**

I should know something's up right from the off, because when I get in Dean isn't on the sofa playing Xbox, there's just that big dip there instead and a stain from where he spilt Cherry 20/20 that time. And Mum has this smile on her like she's on a TV game show, all stretched so wide you think her face is going to crack. And then she gives me a Mars bar and we haven't had them in yonks. But my head's too busy being happy that it's the last day of school, which means no Perry Fletcher for a whole week, and that I get a chocolate bar instead of a biscuit or bread and marg, and that I can play Xbox without getting kicked off or kicked. So it's not until Dean comes back four hours later with his breath all sour and two plane tickets in his hand that I know any better.