

brian / 8 / talkin' 'puters

previous development: when the two boys had chosen their teams, there was a girl left that neither of them wanted. she was new at school and Brian was enough of a gentleman to stick up for her and save her from further humiliation

I **don't** think people should hate you **for** something you inherit. They were giving Callie a hard time because of **the way** she looked, and now Zubov was **giving me a hard time because of my grades. Besides**, I never **boss anybody around**. My mother **calls** me Know-it-all O'Brien, because I think I have all the answers, but that's not the same thing as **bossing** people around.

So **neither one of us** played keep-away that afternoon. **Instead** we went over to the wall. Callie started talking about computers. She knew everything about them, and **expected her father to get** her an inexpensive **one** for Christmas. **Since** I read so many magazines in the public library, I knew exactly what she was getting – “the Only True Computer for Under a Hundred Dollars” the company **called** it. The reviews **said** that sometimes the connection that **was supposed to** ground the circuitry didn't **work properly**. I **mentioned this to** Callie, but she didn't know anything about electronics. She just **knew how to** program computers. She promised I could **come over** and see it after Christmas.