“Come on Dave, this is the 10th time you cancelled on us without telling us beforehand. What’s going on?” I questioned.

“I…just can’t I was- “ Dave meekly said before being interrupted by our other mutual friend.

“Busy and you can’t say why, we get it.” Finished Sara.” You’d think to have at least changed your response after the 5th time.”

We have been planning to go this brand-new water park that opened over a month ago now. Sara was lucky enough to win 3 free VIP passes that last after one use and expire at the end of the year. We understood the 1st time as anyone can become busy spontaneously so we just dismissed it . As the close friends the 3 of us are, we postponed it till the following week. However, week after week, we never ended up going after 9 previous attempts.

“Man, we are your best friends, you know you can tell us anything right?” Sara pressed. I simply nodded in agreement. You would think after being childhood friends, no secrets would be kept between us after 20 years. “I…I can’t say… I’m sorry” Dave responded. Sara and I glance at each other. Clearly something was troubling him. We couldn’t pinpoint as to what the cause is, but his health and mentality has been taking a toll. He always looked tired and like he hasn’t eaten in weeks, careless mistakes are being made that could have been unavoidable and his mind was never in the right place at the right time. He’d sleep during important meetings and crunch time on our latest game. What was even weirder was that he left work earlier than usual (he is normally the last person to leave). If anything, he is usually cheery, upbeat and the one to spot our careless errors. “I’m sorry guys, maybe next week” He said trying to be optimistic. I responded, “Sure but please, not matter what, we are here for you, we are all worried about you.” After I finished, he just looked at me and Sara with his sad, tired eyes. He looked like he was finally going to say something but then said “I gotta go” and practically ran right out of the office. This wasn’t the Dave we knew

“Sara, what are we gonna do, we can’t finish the game without him and the tickets are going to expire soon as well. I’m worried he got into something he can’t get out of.” I complained to Sara. We stared at each other puzzled thinking what we should do. “Why not tail him and find out” bellowed a voice. We turn around to see Anne, his older sister. “ Sorry, I couldn’t help but eavesdrop but I can to ask about Dave yet I just got my answer” She sighed. We were dumbfounded, not even his sister knows what’s going on?! Sara was the first to snap out of it, and reluctantly said “Let’s do it, we won’t get anywhere sitting around here. I nod in agreement; we need to figure out what is happening and soon!

Sorry Dave, we are just going to invade your privacy for a bit.