

**Background Information: Joel and Brie just began dating. Joel has low vision and his new girlfriend, Brie is blind. Joel is like a big brother to Brie's younger brother, Matt, who is sighted.**

### You Can Count on It!

Joel and Brie returned home from a movie one night when Joel heard Matt, Brie's little brother, struggling with math homework.

"Hey, Matt, you need some help with your homework?" Joel asked.

"Oh, hey, Joel," Matt answered. "Yes, my teacher wants us to do money problems in our head. She keeps asking us questions like, "The total of the bill is \$77.35- how much money will you get back if you hand the clerk a \$100.00?" See, it is too hard for me," Matt moaned.

Brie put her cane down and sat beside her brother and Joel while they worked on money problems together.

"Matt, you should go to the bank with me tomorrow. I am putting my paycheck into the bank. We can go to the ATM machine at the bank and go to the sporting goods store next door, and if you are good, I might even buy you something," Joel teased.

"That is a deal!" Matt said excitedly.

When Joel was walking home, he received a text from Brie thanking him for helping her younger brother.

"I am happy to help and how about another date? LOL?"

Brie texted Joel back, "Only if his math improves. LOL. And Y."

The following morning, as promised, Joel walked to Brie and Joel's house passing the pond, the stop sign and three houses down from the bank.

Brie and Matt answered the door

"Hey Matt- are you ready to spend some of my money?" Joel asked.

“I think shopping should be our next date,” Brie laughed.

“Joel, do you need sighted guide? I know you see some, but I thought I would offer,” Matt asked.

“I’m good, bro, but thank you,” Joel smiled.

Matt was impressed when he watched Joel deposit his check, used his signature guide to sign the back of the check and how polite he was to the bank teller, Mrs. Wang.

“I want to be just like Joel when I’m older,” Matt thought to himself.

“Come on, Dude, let’s go to the ATM, take out one hundred dollars and spend money,” Joel said.

When Joel and Matt walked out of the bank, they turned right and walked next door to the sporting goods store.

Once inside, Joel asked Matt to help him read the prices on football jerseys.

“Joel, this one with the smooth sleeves is 65.45,” Matt stated.

“Okay, now for our math lesson, Matt. I have a \$100.00 bill, so the clerk needs to subtract the amount owed from the \$100.00 bill,” Joel explained.

“I still don’t get it!” Matt said.

“Okay, let’s count up with the cents first and get to the nearest dollar. Ready?” Joel asked.

“I’m ready,” Matt laughed.

“Take 45 cents up to the dollar. If I add a nickel it turns the 45 to 50 cents and then 50 more cents to the dollar. So you would say you are up to \$66.00. Now, let’s round up \$66.00 to \$70.00,” Joel explained.

“Oh, I am getting it now,” Matt said. “I would count up four dollars to have \$70.00 then \$30.00 would make \$100.00,”

“Exactly- great work! So, the clerk would hand you 55 cents and \$34.00 in change.” Joel smiled

“Joel, you are one cool dude! Thank you for the help. It isn’t hard to understand math when it is a living skill. This is fun!” Matt said.

“The jersey is for you, Matt, so go get your change. Make sure they do not cheat you, Friend,” Joel smiled.

On the way home from the sporting goods store, Matt was swinging the bag containing his new jersey, happy and feeling smarter than he did the day before.

“Hey, Joel, I think I need another math lesson on your money,” Matt teased again.

“Hey, Matt- you can count on it- not!!” Joel laughed already texting Brie about their next date.