



CARTER HIGH
CHRONICLES



IT IS
Not a Date



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Chapter 1

It was Saturday morning. Kirk got his tennis racket. He went in the den. His mom and Beth were there. Beth was his sister. She was eight years old.

Kirk said, “I’m going to the park to play tennis.”

Kirk was on the tennis team last year. He hoped to be on the tennis team this year too.

Beth ran up to him. She said, “Take me with you, Kirk.”

“No way,” Kirk said.

Beth yelled, “Make him take me, Mama. Make him take me.”

“Stop yelling, Beth,” his mom said.

Kirk hurried to the door. He knew Dan was waiting for him on the sidewalk. Dan was his best friend.

Kirk went outside.

He and Dan started to walk down the sidewalk.

Dan said, “What are you doing this afternoon? Are you going to work at the plant store?”

“Yeah,” Kirk said.

Kirk worked there some on the weekends. He liked his job. He helped people find where plants were. Sometimes he took the plants to their cars.

He worked for Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill was the owner of the store.

Kirk said, “What are your plans for today?”

“I told Dad I would help him with some yard work. Tonight I have a date

with Eve,” Dan said.

Eve was Dan’s girlfriend. They had been dating for almost a year.

“Where are you going?” Kirk asked.

“I don’t know yet. It is Eve’s turn to say where we go. She is still thinking about it. Her little sister is in the band. So I think she will say the band concert,” Dan said.

“That sounds like fun,” Kirk said.

Dan said, “I hope it will be. Where are you and Claire going?”

Claire was Kirk’s girlfriend. They had been dating for four months.

“To a movie,” Kirk said.

“Which one?” Dan asked.

“Some movie Claire wants to see. I forgot the name of it,” Kirk said.

Dan said, “Let me know how you like the movie. Eve and I might want to see it next week.”

“OK,” Kirk said.

The guys got to the park.

They did some stretching exercises. Then Dan said, “Do you want to play some games? Or just hit the ball back and forth?”

“Play some games,” Kirk said.

The guys played for a while.

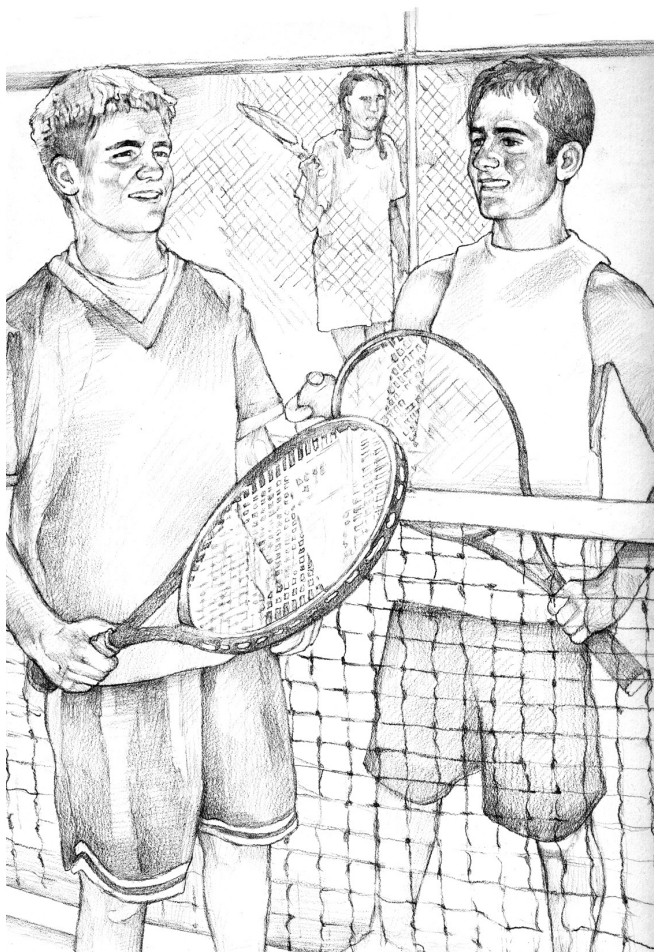
Kirk won the first game. He was about to win the second game. But he hit the ball into the net. He went to the net to get the ball. Dan went to the net too.

Dan said, “A girl is watching us play. Do you know her?”

Kirk got the ball. Then he turned and looked at the girl.

“No, I don’t. I have never seen her before. Have you?” Kirk said.

“She goes to our school. I’ve seen her in the hall. But she isn’t in any of my classes,” Dan said.



The girl left when she saw the boys were looking at her.

The boys played three games. Kirk won two of them.

Then Kirk said, "We had better stop now. I need to get home and eat lunch. I don't want to be late to work."

The boys started to walk back to Kirk's house.

Kirk said, "Do you want to do something Sunday afternoon?"

Dan said, "I can't. I have to study for a test. Be glad your teachers don't give Monday tests."

"Then I guess we won't talk again until Monday," Kirk said.



Chapter 2

Kirk ate lunch. Then he went to the plant store. He stayed busy the whole afternoon.

It was almost time for the store to close.

Mr. Hill said, “It’s almost time to close, Kirk. Get those plants in front of the store. And bring them inside.”

“OK,” Kirk said.

Kirk started to the door.

A girl came in. She was the girl from the park. Kirk was surprised to see her.

The girl looked surprised to see Kirk.

A man was with her. They went over to Mr. Hill.

Kirk went outside to get the plants. He took all of the plants inside.

The man talked to Mr. Hill. But the girl kept looking at Kirk.

Mr. Hill said, “Kirk, time to close. Lock the door. And then come over here.”

Kirk locked the door. He went over to Mr. Hill.

Mr. Hill said, “I want you to meet my brother. And my niece, Gail.”

Kirk said, “Hi. Nice to meet you.”

Gail smiled. She said, “You are a very good tennis player.”

Mr. Hill said, “I didn’t know you two knew each other.”

Gail said, “We don’t. I saw Kirk playing tennis at the park this morning.”

Mr. Hill said, “Kirk is on the school tennis team. He is the best player on the team.”

“That’s great,” Gail said.

Her dad said, “Gail hopes to be on the tennis team. She can hardly wait for the team try-outs next spring.”

“Were you on the team at your other school?” Kirk asked.

Gail said, “No. I couldn’t make the team last year. I needed to serve better to be on the team.”

Her dad said, “Gail worked on her serves all summer. She serves a lot better now.”

Gail said, “I do serve better. But not that much better.”

Gail kept looking at Kirk. Did she want him to ask her for a tennis date? She seemed nice. And she was pretty. But he dated Claire. And they dated only each other.

Mr. Hill said, “Maybe Kirk could help you. Do you think you could, Kirk?”

How could Kirk say no? He had

needed a job last summer. Mr. Hill had given him a job. And now Mr. Hill let him work some on the weekends.

“Sure,” Kirk said.

What else could he say?

Gail said, “I know you are busy. Do you really have time to help me?”

“Sure he does,” Mr. Hill said. Then he looked over at Kirk.

“I have time,” Kirk said.

What else could he say?

Gail smiled at Kirk. She said, “When can you help me? Any time is OK with me.”

Kirk didn’t know what to say. But Mr. Hill, Gail, and her dad were all looking at him.

“I don’t know. I help with the football team after school. And I work here on Saturday afternoons,” Kirk said.

Gail didn’t say anything.

Mr. Hill said, “What about next