



CARTER HIGH
CHRONICLES



ONE DATE
Too Many



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

It was Monday. Paz was at lunch. Bel was with her.

Bel was her best friend. Bel's real name was Belinda.

The girls were talking about the spring dance.

Bel said, "Al called me last night."

Al was Bel's boyfriend. His real name was Alberto. He was on the baseball team. He and Bel had been dating for only a few weeks.

Bel said, "We talked about the dance. I can hardly wait. It is the first dance since Al and I started to date."

Paz was glad Bel had a date to the dance. She wished she did.

"I wish Cruz would ask me to the dance. But I don't think he will," Paz said.

Cruz was on the baseball team too. And he was very cute.

Bel said, "Maybe he will. He doesn't have a date."

"How do you know?" Paz asked.

"He was talking to Juan before math class started. And he told Juan he didn't have a date," Bel said.

Juan was on the track team. And he was in history class with Paz. But Cruz was not in a class with Paz.

"What else did you hear Cruz say?" Paz asked.

"That he does plan to go to the dance. But that is all I heard," Bel said.

"Do you really think Cruz might ask me?" Paz asked.

Bel thought about it. Then she said, “I don’t know. But I do know one guy who wants to ask you.”

“Who?” Paz asked.

“Juan,” Bel said.

That surprised Paz.

“How do you know?” Paz asked.

“He asked me who you are going to the dance with,” Bel said.

“What did you tell him?” Paz asked.

“That you didn’t have a date,” Bel said.

“Do you think he asked you for Cruz?” Paz asked.

She sure hoped he did.

Bel laughed.

Then she said, “No. I am sure he asked for himself. Because I think he likes you. And he wants to ask you to the dance.”

“Did Cruz hear you talking to Juan?” Paz asked.

“I don’t think so,” Bel said.

Paz hoped he didn’t.

Paz said, “Good. I like Juan OK. But I want to go to the dance with Cruz.”

And she didn’t want Cruz to think she might go with Juan.

Lunch time was almost over.

Bel said, “Cruz is coming this way. Maybe he wants to talk to you.”

Paz sure hoped he did.

Bel said, “Juan is coming this way too. And he will get here first.”

And Juan did get there first.

“Hi,” he said to both girls.

“Hi,” both girls said to him.

“I was looking for you. I am glad I saw you,” Juan said. But he was looking only at Paz.

Oh, no. He was going to ask her to the dance. Paz was sure of it.

Just then Cruz walked by their table.

But he did not stop.

A girl named Ana said something to Cruz. And he stopped to talk to her. Paz hoped he didn't ask her to the dance.

Then Paz thought about Juan. She had forgotten he had stopped to talk to her. She felt bad that she forgot.

Juan looked like he wanted to ask her something. But he just said, "Lunch time is over. I will talk to you later."

"OK," Paz said.

But she was thinking about Cruz. And not about what Juan said.

Juan walked away from the table.

Bel said, "I thought Juan was going to ask you to the dance."

Paz had thought so too. But she wished Cruz would ask her. But she did not think he would.

Bel said, "We need to go. It will soon be time for class."

The girls quickly got up from the table. They put their trays up. Then they hurried out into the hall.

Cruz was in the hall just outside the lunchroom.

Why was he there?

Paz wished she could stop and talk to him. But she knew she could not do that.

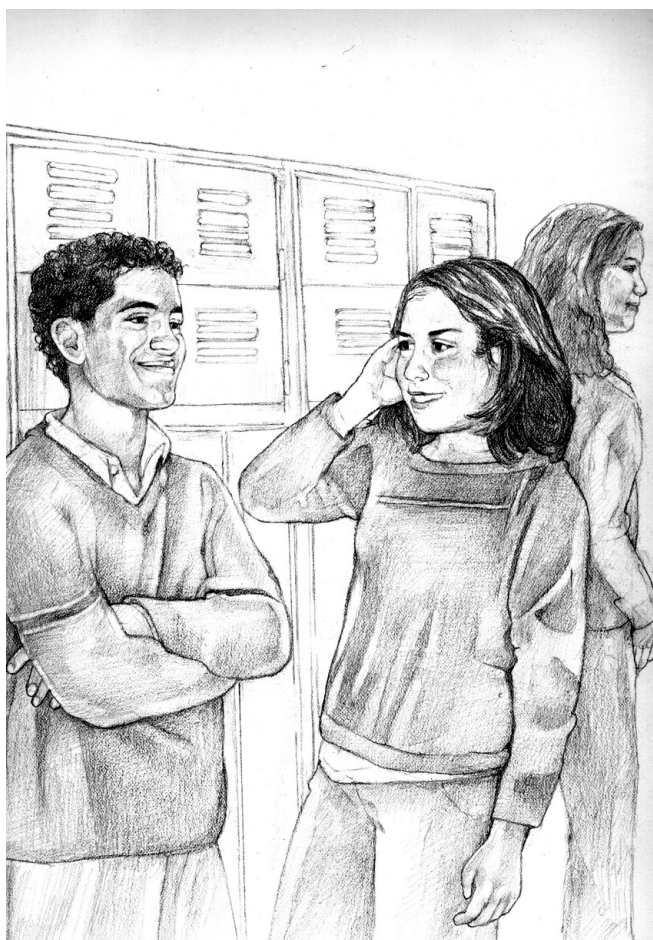
So she just waved and walked by him.

Cruz said, "Paz. Wait up. I need to ask you something."

Paz stopped.

Was she wrong?

Was Cruz going to ask her to the dance?





Chapter 2

Bel said, “See you in class, Paz. Good luck.”

Only Paz could hear what Bel said.

Bel hurried off. So Paz could talk to Cruz by herself.

Cruz walked up to Paz.

Cruz said, “What did you do in science today? We always do the same thing your class does.”

“Lab work,” Paz said.

Cruz said, “Good. Lab work is OK. One more thing. Do you—?”

But he didn’t get to finish what he wanted to ask.

Griff came out of the lunch room.

Griff had English with Paz. And so did Bel. It was their next class. Coach Mann was their teacher.

Griff said, "You need to get to class, Paz. And you too, Cruz. So you won't be late."

Griff always got to class on time. But he did not always do his work.

Cruz said, "I need to go. Maybe I will ask you later."

What did he want to ask her? Was it about science? Or was he about to ask her to the dance?

Cruz walked off. And Paz hurried to class.

The bell rang as Paz walked into class. She quickly sat down in front of Bel.

"Did he ask you?" Bel asked.

"No," Paz said.

Paz wanted to tell Bel that Cruz

almost asked her something. But it was time for class to start.

Coach Mann called the roll. Then he said, "First we will go over your homework. So you can find out how you did on it."

The class went over the homework. Paz did OK. English was always hard for her. But she studied it a lot. So she had a good grade in the class.

Then Coach Mann said, "Now we will talk about your paper."

"What paper?" Griff asked.

"The one all of you have to write," Coach Mann said.

"Do we have to?" Griff asked.

Coach Mann said, "Yes, Griff. It needs to be five pages. And you have to turn it in next Friday."

"I don't want to write a five page paper," Griff said.