



CARTER HIGH
MYSTERIES

LUCKY FALCON

Mystery



SADDLEBACK
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Chapter 1

It was Monday. Willow went into the lunchroom. She looked for Lin. She needed to borrow Lin's science book.

Willow saw Lin. Lin sat at a table with their friend, Logan.

Willow got her lunch. And she wheeled over to them.

All three were good friends. And all three lived at Grayson Apartments. Lin and Logan rode the same bus to school. Willow rode a special bus with wheelchair access.

Willow saw Lin's science book. It was on the table.

Lin said, "I brought my science book, Willow. Here you go."

Lin picked up the book. Then she gave it to Willow.

Willow said, "Thanks. Are you sure you won't need it this week?"

"I'm sure. We're doing lab work all week. So I won't need it," Lin said.

Willow and Lin didn't have the same science teacher. And Willow needed a book for her class.

"Why do you need to borrow Lin's book, Willow? Did you lose your book?" Logan asked.

Willow said, "No. I left it in Emmett's car. And I won't see Emmett again until this weekend."

Emmett was Willow's boyfriend. He went to Newton High. And he was on the football team.

Then the three started to talk about

Carter High's last football game.

Lin said, "I can't believe we won."

"The football team won the game, Lin. Not you," Logan said.

"You know what I mean," Lin said.

Logan said, "Yeah. I know, Lin. And I also know what Drake will say when he comes."

Drake was on the football team. And he lived at Grayson Apartments, too.

Logan said, "Drake thinks they won because of the lucky falcon. It brought them good luck."

Then Logan laughed.

"It isn't nice to make fun of Drake," Willow said.

"I didn't make fun of him. I just know what he'll say," Logan said.

One of the football players made the lucky falcon in shop class. He made it out of a piece of wood. The team had won all

of its games since then. So the players thought it brought them good luck.

Drake hurried into the lunchroom. Then he came over to their table.

Drake said, "Look! There's a picture and a story about our lucky falcon."

They all looked at the picture in the paper. Then Drake read the story to them. It told how the team thought the falcon brought them good luck.

Drake said, "The lucky falcon will help us win all of our games. We'll be number one this year."

Lin said, "We have a good team. The team doesn't need the lucky falcon. We can win without it."

"Yes, we can," Willow said.

"Maybe... But I think we won because of the lucky falcon. And I sure am glad we have it," Drake said.

Willow knew Drake was wrong. She knew the team was good. That was why they won.

Willow hoped nothing happened to the lucky falcon. Or the players might start to think they couldn't win without it.



Chapter 2

School was over for the day. Willow was on her way to a science club meeting. It didn't start for twenty minutes. But Willow wanted to get there early.

Paige called to Willow, "Wait, Willow."

Paige lived at Grayson Apartments, too. And she was in the science club.

Willow stopped her wheelchair. She waited for Paige. Paige hurried over to her.

Paige asked, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to our meeting. Why?" Willow asked.

"I just saw Drake. He wants us to go and look at the lucky falcon. I just

went to see it. You have time to look at it before our meeting. But Drake said we can't touch it," Paige said.

Willow said, "Okay. I'll go and look at it. And I won't touch it. Where is it?"

"It's in the trophy room," Paige said.

The room had the school's sports awards in it. So it was called the trophy room. But the room was really a part of the library.

Willow started to move her wheelchair quickly down the hall.

Miss Ortiz came into the hall. And Willow almost ran into her. Miss Ortiz was Willow's math teacher.

Miss Ortiz said, "Slow down, Willow. Or one day you'll hit someone."

She said, "Sorry, Miss Ortiz. I'll try to slow down."

Willow went on down the hall. But she didn't go as fast. Willow got to the

trophy room. Levi and Nita were there.

Levi had made the lucky falcon. Nita was his girlfriend. Levi and Nita looked at the lucky falcon. It was on a table. A sign was next to it. The sign said DO NOT TOUCH in big letters.

Nita bent over to touch the school's lucky falcon.

Levi got mad at her. He yelled, "Don't touch it! Don't touch it!"

Nita seemed surprised that Levi had yelled at her.

"Why?" she asked.

"Only football players can touch it. No one else can touch it. That would bring us bad luck. Newton High might beat us. And we want to be number one this year," Levi said.

"That's stupid, Levi. It's only a piece of wood. It won't help you to win the game," Nita said.

Nita bent down again to touch the lucky falcon.

Levi yelled at her again. He said, “I told you not to touch it!”

Nita yelled back at him. She yelled, “Sorry! Fine! I won’t touch it. I’m sick of hearing about football and the lucky falcon. And about being number one.”

Then Nita ran out of the room.

Levi turned around. He looked sternly at Willow. He said, “And don’t you touch it either, Willow.”

“I won’t. I won’t,” Willow said.

Then Levi left the room. But he didn’t go after Nita.

Willow didn’t know why they got so upset about the lucky falcon. Nita was right. It was only a piece of wood.

Willow went over to look at the lucky falcon. It wasn’t very big. So Willow could’ve put it into her backpack.

But it was very nice. It must have taken Levi a long time to make it.

Willow heard a voice behind her. “Hi, Willow,” a boy said.

She quickly turned her wheelchair around.

Willow couldn’t believe it. A boy was in the doorway. He was Willow’s boyfriend, Emmett. He wore a Newton High shirt. And he had a book in his hand.

Emmett walked into the room.

Willow said, “Emmett. I can’t believe it’s you. What are you doing here?”

Emmett said, “I know you need your science book. So I brought it to you.”

Emmett gave the book to Willow.

Willow said, “That was super nice of you to do that, Emmett. But I told you I could borrow a book from someone.”

“I know. But I still wanted to bring your book to you,” Emmett said.

And Willow knew why he did. He just wanted to see her. And she felt the same way about him, too.

“But what about football practice?” Willow asked.

Willow knew Emmett needed to be at practice now.

Emmett said, “Something came up. And the coach had to go somewhere. So he said we wouldn’t have practice.”

“I sure am glad he did. But how did you find me?” Willow asked.

“Paige said you were in here. She said you were looking at your lucky falcon. I read about it in the paper. So I thought I would come down here and take a look at it, too,” Emmett said.

“The football players think it will help them beat you guys this year,” Willow said.

“I know. I read that in the paper,” Emmett said.

Paige yelled at Willow from the doorway. She said, “Willow, come on. We’re going to be late to the meeting.”

Willow said, “I’m sorry, Emmett. I have to go to a meeting. And I can’t stay here with you.”

Why did she have to go to a meeting today? She wanted to stay and talk to Emmett some more.

“That’s okay. I’ll call you tonight,” Emmett said.

Willow knew she had to go to her meeting. So she hurried out of the room.

She left Emmett alone in the room with the lucky falcon.