



CARTER HIGH
MYSTERIES

Dear Paige,

I want to ask you to dance. But I'm not sure you'll say yes. That's why haven't asked you.

Your Secret Admirer

THE SECRET ADMIRER

Mystery

 SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

It was Friday. Paige was at school. She was in the lunchroom.

Paige was sitting at a table. Lin and Willow were with her. Willow was in her wheelchair.

All three girls were good friends. And all three lived at Grayson Apartments.

Lin seemed very happy. She said, “I can hardly wait until next Friday.”

The Carter High school dance was next Friday night.

A boy had called Lin last night. He’d asked her to the dance.

Paige wished someone would ask her, too. But no one had yet.

Paige didn't want to talk about the dance. But she knew Lin wanted to talk about it.

"What are you going to wear, Lin?" Paige asked.

"I don't know yet. My mom said I can buy a new dress. And I'm going to look for one tomorrow," Lin said.

"I hope you find something you like," Paige said.

"I hope so, too, Paige. I'm sure I will," Lin said.

"I'm sure you will, too," Willow said.

Paige wanted a new dress to wear to the dance. But most of all she wanted a date to the dance. And she didn't have that yet.

"Are you and Emmett going to the dance, Willow?" Lin asked.

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

"No. We aren't going to the dance," Willow said.

That surprised Paige. "Why?" she asked.

"Emmett has to work that night. And he can't go to the dance. But that's okay. His school dance is the next weekend. And we're going to it," Willow said.

"What about you, Paige? Are you going to the dance? I hope you are," Lin said.

"I don't know," Paige said.

"Why, Paige? Don't you want to go?" Lin asked.

"Yes. But no one has asked me yet," Paige said.

"Someone will, Paige. The dance isn't until next week," Willow said.

“I know that someone could still ask me. But I don’t think anyone will,” Paige said.

Lin and Willow seemed very surprised.

“Why do you think that, Paige?” Willow asked.

Paige said, “I haven’t had a date in three weeks. That’s why I don’t think anyone will ask me to the dance.”

“Don’t worry, Paige. Someone will ask you,” Willow said.

“Yes, Paige. Someone will ask you,” Lin said.

Paige thought Willow and Lin spoke too quickly. And she wasn’t sure they really thought that someone would ask her to the dance.



Chapter 2

It was the next morning. Paige sat in front of her apartment building. Willow was there, too.

The girls were talking about school. But they weren't talking about the school dance.

Paige didn't want to talk about the dance. And she didn't want to hear about it either.

Paige saw Logan, Drake, and Jack. The three boys lived at Grayson Apartments. They were good friends. And they were good friends with Paige and Willow, too.

The boys came over to talk to Paige and Willow.

Logan said, "I know what you two girls were talking about." Then he laughed.

Paige knew Logan didn't know anything. But she wanted to know what he thought they were talking about anyway.

"What were we talking about?" Paige asked.

"The school dance. What else?" Logan asked.

"Yeah," Drake said.

"That's for sure," Jack said.

Paige said, "You're wrong. We weren't talking about the dance."

"Well we were," Logan said.

"Who are you taking to the dance?" Willow asked.

Drake and Jack quickly told Willow. But Logan didn't say anything.

Willow asked, “What about you, Logan? Who are you taking to the dance?”

“I don’t know yet,” Logan said.

Logan liked to date many girls. And he never dated one girl for very long.

Willow said, “You should ask someone soon, Logan.”

“Yes, Logan. You should ask someone soon,” Jack said.

“I still have a lot of time. The dance isn’t until next week,” Logan said.

“You need to ask someone now, Logan. Girls don’t like to be asked at the last minute,” Willow said.

“That’s right, Logan. I wouldn’t want to be asked at the last minute,” Paige said.

“Maybe. But you would still go with the guy,” Logan said. Then he laughed.

Paige looked at Logan. And she didn’t say anything. But she didn’t like what

Logan just said.

Willow said, "That wasn't a nice thing to say to Paige, Logan."

"No. That wasn't nice," Paige said.

"I was only joking," Logan said.

But Paige wasn't sure that he was.

"Do you have a date to the school dance, Paige?" Logan asked.

"No," Paige said.

"But you'll have a date, Paige. The dance isn't until next Friday," Willow said.

Logan said, "Let me see if I get this right. I should ask a girl for a date now. But it's okay for some other guy to ask Paige next week."

That made Paige mad.

"Don't worry about me. And don't worry about who I go to the dance with," Paige said.

And she didn't say that in a nice way.

Logan said, “Don’t get mad at me, Paige. It isn’t my fault you can’t get a date to the dance.”

That made Paige even more upset. But she was too upset to say anything to Logan.

“That wasn’t nice, Logan,” Willow said.

“That’s for sure,” Jack said.

“I’m sorry, Paige. I was only joking. I tell you what I’ll do. I’ll ask around. And I’ll find a date for you,” Logan said.

“I can get my own date. I don’t need your help,” Paige said.

“Don’t say anything else, Logan,” Willow said.

“Yeah, Logan,” Drake said.

“That’s for sure,” Jack said.

Logan liked to joke. But much of the time Paige didn’t think he was funny.

For a few minutes the five didn't talk. But Paige was thinking about the school dance.

The three guys were her friends. So maybe she should tell them why she was so upset.

Paige said, "I haven't had a date in three weeks. And I don't think anyone will ask me to the dance."

The three guys seemed surprised.

At first no one said anything. But then Logan asked, "What about Brett? Some days he talks to you after science class. Maybe he'll ask you."

"Brett just wants to know what my class did in English. We have the same teacher," Paige said.

"I can hint to him that you need a date to the dance. Do you want me to do that?" Logan asked.