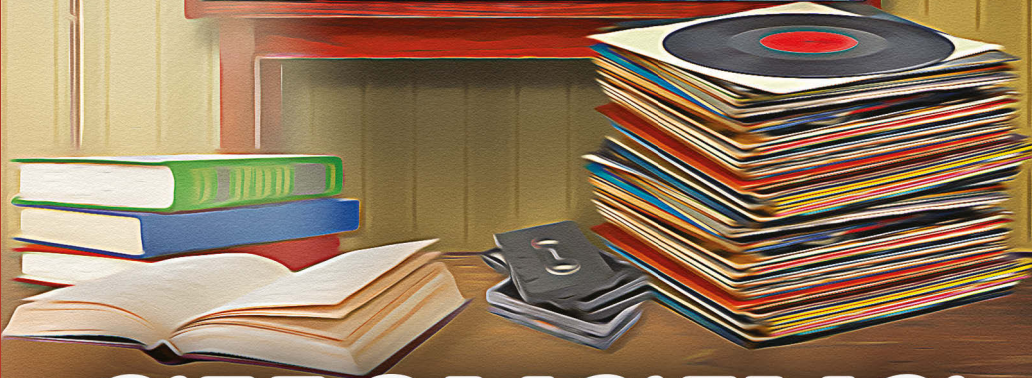


 BLUE DELTA BOOKS®



CHANGING TIMES

GAIL HERMAN

CHAPTER 1

RECORD ROAD

This is it. My real life is about to begin. It's July 7, 1981. I'm 16 years old. In the fall, I'll be a junior. Younger kids look up to juniors. Older ones treat us as equals. Juniors practically rule my Greenfield, New Jersey, high school.

Plus, I have a summer job. My buddy Pete and I are working at Record Road. It's the coolest store at the mall. We're about to begin our first day.

I smile at myself in the mirror. It doesn't

seem real. I'm getting paid to be around music all day. This is too good to be true.

“Celebration” by Kool & the Gang starts playing on my transistor radio. I reach over and turn it up. It's like they're reading my mind. I feel like celebrating.

“Rob Baker!” My sister pounds on the door. “Get out of the bathroom!”

Sue is only 11. But she tries to boss me around. Just for that, I move extra slow. I've been up for hours. My dad slammed the door when he left for work. That was at 6:15 a.m. Then I couldn't fall back to sleep.

After a while, I smell my mom's cooking. She probably made chocolate chip pancakes. That's what she makes for special days. She calls it her “big day breakfast.” To her, my first day of work is a “big” day. It's kind of silly. But I love her pancakes.

My sister bangs on the door again.

“I’m coming!” I yell. Then I look at my watch. It’s 9:40. I have to be at the store at 10:00. Oh no! Why didn’t my mom hurry me?

CHAPTER 2

DREAM JOB

I race out of the bathroom. The door almost hits Sue.

“Sorry!” I tell her as I run by.

Downstairs, my mom sits in the kitchen. She’s watching the news. The pancakes are getting cold on the table.

“Humph!” I say loudly, shoveling in food. I want my mom to hear. She should have told me I was late.

My mom seems surprised. “What?” It’s almost like she forgot about me. “Oh! Good luck, honey.”

I roll my eyes. Then I'm out the door.

Pete is waiting on the corner. "Dude! It's our first day. You're late!"

Together, we hurry down the street.

Soon, we're at the mall. We're both out of breath.

Nick, the owner, is just opening the store. He grins. "Hi, guys. Your timing is perfect."

Before we do anything, Nick puts on a record by Journey. I sing along to "Don't Stop Believin'."

"Let's start your training." Nick shows us the stockroom. It's piled high with records and tapes. There are plenty of rolled-up posters too. Then he teaches us how to work the cash register. Next, he explains how the record bins are set up. There are more sections than I thought. It's a lot to take in.

Nick turns to me. "Rob, you're on register.

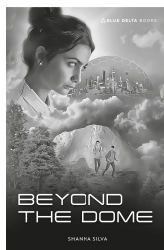
This means you choose the music that plays in the store. Keep it upbeat.”

A stereo is tucked behind the counter. Records are stacked next to it. What should I pick? Queen? The Rolling Stones?

It doesn't matter. They're all great. My life really is perfect.

 **BLUE DELTA BOOKS®**

FICTION



9781638892694



9781638892700



9781638892717



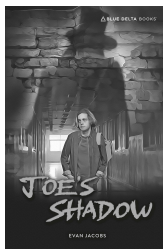
9781638892731



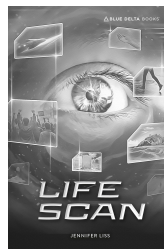
9781638892724



9781638892649



9781638892786



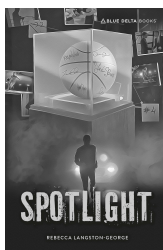
9781638892793



9781638892632



9781638892748



9781638892779



9781638892762

WWW.SDLBACK.COM/BLUE-DELTA-FICTION



HISTORICAL FICTION

CHANGING TIMES

In 1981, the world is moving forward, especially for Rob Baker. He's starting his first job at a record store. Plus, excitement abounds when a woman is nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court for the first time. Rob's family situation reflects the changing times too. Can he and his family withstand the resulting pressures at home? Or will the stress prove too much for them to handle?



BLUE DELTA BOOKS™

LEXILE HL240L

ISBN: 978-1-63889-270-0



9 781638 892700

 **SADDLEBACK**
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING
www.sdlback.com