



BLUE DELTA BOOKS™

Drawn to the City

M.S.A. BACON

CHAPTER 1

Running Late

Linh Hua walked fast. Japanese class was starting soon. She didn't want to be late. Education was important in her family. Work was too. There was no time for sports or after-school clubs.

She was a good student. Linh liked school. That was why she had decided to take a summer class. Plus, it gave her a break from working.

The bell rang, so Linh started running. She tripped at the top of the stairs.

“Are you okay?” someone asked.

Linh looked up to see a girl from her class. “Yeah,” she mumbled. “Thanks.”

“I’m Kya,” the girl said.

“I’m Linh.”

Kya laughed. “Now we’re both late.”

They walked into Japanese class together. Both girls would be starting their junior year in the fall.

Linh and Kya met up after class. They walked out together.

Kya turned to Linh. “Are you Japanese?”

Linh shook her head. “No. I’m Vietnamese.”

“Oh. I ask everyone who’s Asian. I’m really into manga and anime. That’s one reason I’m taking Japanese.”

“That’s cool.” Linh saw a comic on Kya’s notebook. “Did you draw that?”

Kya smiled. “Yeah. I love to draw.”

“Me too,” Linh said shyly.

“Really? I haven’t seen you in any art classes.”

Linh shrugged. “I just draw for fun.”

“Maybe we can draw together,” Kya suggested.

That sounded fun to Linh. “I’d like that.”

Kya turned down the hall. “See you tomorrow.” She waved.

Linh waved back. “Bye.”

CHAPTER 2

Big City Dreams

The next day, Kya caught Linh before she left school. “Do you want to get a soda?”

“I can’t,” Linh said. “I have to work.”

Kya looked sad. “That’s too bad.”

“But I wish I could. I would also like to see more of your drawings.”

Kya smiled. “Do you work every day?”

Linh frowned. “Just about.”

Her family owned a sandwich shop. They always worked there. It was closed on Tuesdays.

Still, there was work to do. Her father started at 5:00 a.m. He and her mother worked through the afternoon. Sometimes they stayed until nighttime.

Linh and her younger brother, Troy, were at the shop every day after school. They came in on weekends too. Linh even helped before school when it was busy. She worked at the counter and cleaned. Sometimes Troy helped. But he mostly watched TV. He also played video games.

The family went home after the shop closed. Linh's mom cooked dinner. Her grandmother helped. Linh cleaned up.

She sighed. "After work, I have to help at home."

"Yeah. I help out at home too." Kya did most of the cooking and cleaning. Her mom worked odd jobs. "Let's meet at break tomorrow. I'll bring my drawings. You bring yours."

Linh didn't show her drawings to many people. "I mostly draw buildings."

"Do you mean city buildings?" Kya asked.

Linh nodded. "Is that weird?"

Kya lit up. "No. I love big cities! But I've never been to one."

"I haven't either," Linh said.

Her parents had moved from the city. They'd wanted to start a business. That was cheaper to do in a smaller town. Buying a house also cost less. The schools were good too. Linh and Troy had never lived anywhere else. They had never been outside of Ohio.

Kya sighed. "I would love to see Tokyo someday."

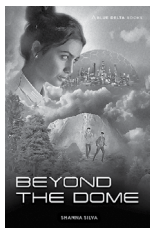
"Me too." Linh laughed. "It's a good thing we're studying Japanese."

"For sure." Kya held up a hand.

Linh gave her a high five. "See you tomorrow."

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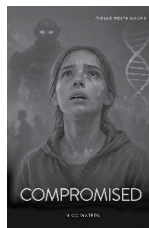
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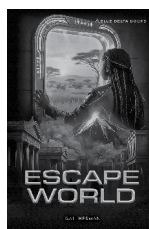
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REALISTIC FICTION

Drawn to the City

Linh dreams of becoming an artist and finds her greatest joy in drawing buildings. Yet she has never visited a big city. When an upcoming school trip offers her the chance to explore Cincinnati, Linh is ecstatic. This trip could be the first step toward the future she dreams of. If she's able to convince her strict mother to let her go, will Linh find what she hopes for in Cincinnati?



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