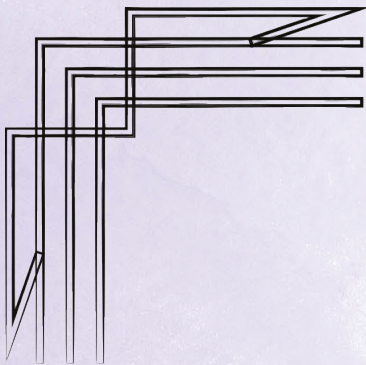


SOAR [4] Realistic Life

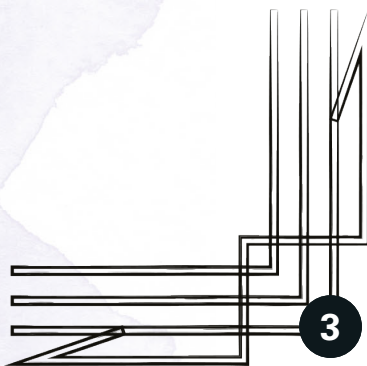
Count on Me

by Shanna Silva



Joe's summer had not even started.
But it was already **ruined**.

To him, summer meant playing sports with his friends. His mom had other plans, though. She had gotten him a job.



Even worse, the job wasn't at a pizza place or a store. It was at an **accounting office**. That meant dressing up and taking the early bus.

Not fun, he thought when she told him.



"Why accounting?" he asked. "I know nothing about it."

"But you're good at math," she said.

"They will teach you what you need to know."





“A job using math doesn’t sound fun. I don’t even use it in real life.”

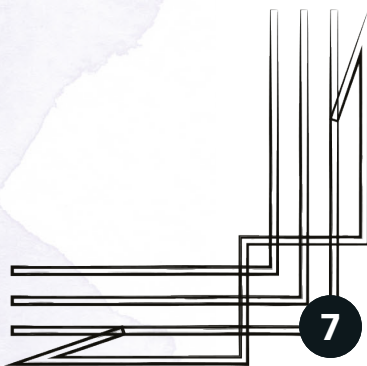
“You use it every day,” she said.

Joe rolled his eyes. “When?”

“Whenever you buy something. And when you play sports. Did I tell you the pay is good?”

Joe perked up. “Really? Then I’ll do it.”

She smiled. “I **thought** that would convince you.”





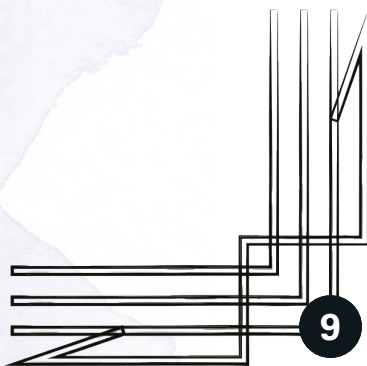
A few days passed. It was Joe's first day on the job. He was tired. And his tie felt too tight. Dressing up was the **worst**.

It was summer. He should be with his friends. Instead, he sat on the bus and read their texts.

Ed and Tom were headed to the park.

"Where are you?" Ed texted.

"On my way to work," Joe texted back.



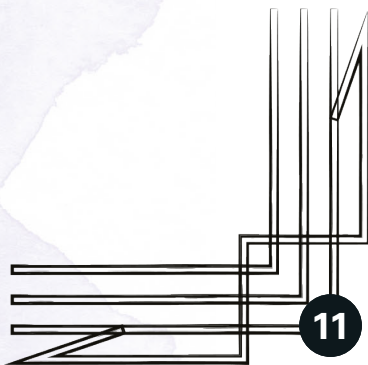


When he got to the office, his boss greeted him. Her name was Mrs. Dunn.

“Follow me,” she said.

She led him to a room. There was a folding table in the corner. This was his desk.

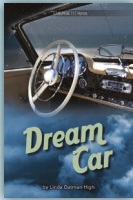
Then she handed him a piece of paper. "These are the **office rules**. Read them, and I'll be back."





Joe read the rules. Then his phone **buzzed**. It was a text from a friend. No one was around, so he texted back. Then he played a few games.

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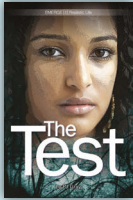
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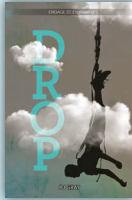
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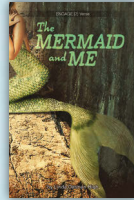
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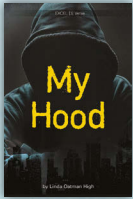
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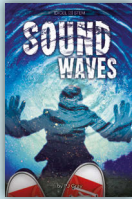
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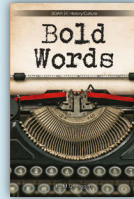
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