

Be Fair



Chapter 1

Dru was on her way to school. It was the first day of her senior year. Her mom was driving her. She wanted to get there early. So she didn't want to ride the bus.

Dru thought it would be her best year ever. But then her dad said they had to move. And now she would be at Carter High.

She would have to make all new friends at Carter High. That wasn't always easy for a new student to do.

Her mom asked, "What is wrong, Dru? Are you still upset about going to a new school?"

Dru said, "Yes. It isn't fair. This is my senior year. I should be at my old school with my friends. It is all Dad's fault."

"You need to be fair to people, Dru. And sometimes you aren't fair to them. Sometimes you judge them too quickly. This is one of those times," her mom said.

"I am not being unfair to Dad. He didn't have to take the new job," Dru said.

Her mom said, "Yes, he did, Dru. He took this new job for us. He had to take the job. If he didn't, he would have been laid off. And then he wouldn't have a job at all."

"I didn't know that," Dru said.

"I know you didn't. Your dad didn't want you to know. But you aren't being fair to him. So I thought I should tell you," her mom said.

Dru had been unfair about her dad. She felt bad about it. But it wasn't her fault. She didn't know he had to take the job.

They got to the front of the school. Her mom stopped the car.

"I will see you after school, Dru. Have a good day," her mom said.

"Thanks, Mom," Dru said.

But she didn't think she would have a good day.

She got out of the car. And her mom drove off.

Dru went in the school. She saw a box just inside the door. The school maps were in it. She got one. She walked down the hall. Dru looked at the map.

She opened her purse to get out a pen. Dru wanted to mark her classroom on the map. But she couldn't find her pen. So she stopped to look for it.

Then someone bumped into her from behind.

Dru dropped her purse. It hit the floor. Some of her things fell out of her purse. They started to roll across the floor.

A boy said, "Sorry about that. But I didn't know you were going to stop."

Dru said, "That is OK. It was all my fault. I shouldn't have stopped so quickly."

Dru bent down to get her things. The boy bent down to help her. They quickly picked them all up. He handed Dru her things.

Then he said, "My name is Troy. What is your name?"

"Dru," she said.

"I haven't seen you before. Are you new here?" he asked.

Dru said, "Yes. That is why I stopped. I was looking for a pen. I wanted to mark



my classroom on the map."

"Who do you have for your first class?" Troy asked.

"Mr. Price for math," Dru said.

"I know where his class is. I have time. I can walk you to his class. Do you want me to do that?" Troy asked.

"Yes. That would be great. Then I won't get lost," Dru said.

They slowly walked to Dru's class.

Troy asked, "Where did you go to school last year?"

Dru told him. They talked about Dru's old school.

Then Troy said, "Here we are. This is your class."

"Thanks for showing me where it is," Dru said.

"I am glad I could help. I had better get to my class. I will see you later," Troy said. "OK," Dru said.

Troy hurried down the hall. And Dru went in her class.

Troy was very nice. And he was cute! He even said he would see her later.

Her senior year might be OK after all.

Chapter 2

Dru went to a desk in the first row. She sat down. She was early. It would be OK to talk for a few minutes.

She didn't like to talk to people she didn't know. But Dru knew she had to meet people. It would be a very lonely year for her if she didn't.

Dru turned to the girl next to her. She said, "Hi. My name is Dru. I am new here this year."

The girl said, "Hi. My name is Gail. I was new here last year. So I know how you must feel."

"Is it hard to meet people here?"

Dru asked.

Gail said, "No. Most of the kids are nice. Some aren't so nice. But it's like that at all schools."

It had been the same way at Dru's old school.

"Do you know anything about Mr. Price?" Dru asked.

"He is OK. He gives a lot of tests," Gail said.

"He does?" Dru asked.

"Tests aren't any fun. But they aren't too bad. That way, one test won't count for a lot," Gail said.

More students came in. It was almost time for class to start.

Then the bell rang to start the class.

Mr. Price said, "Time to start your senior year. I hope you all work hard this year. And I hope I don't see any of you next year. Unless you come by for a visit."

Most of the students laughed. But a few of them didn't laugh.

Mr. Price called the roll. Then he passed out their math books.

Mr. Price said, "Try to keep up with your book. Write your name inside your book in case your book gets lost."

Dru quickly wrote her name.

Then Mr. Price said, "You won't have a test this week. But most weeks you will have a test on Friday."

Dru didn't like tests. But she didn't think most other kids did either.

Mr. Price said, "Today I will give you a worksheet to do. I want to find out how much you know. You won't get a grade on it."

Mr. Price passed out the worksheets.

The class started to work on them.

Dru didn't know how to do all of the