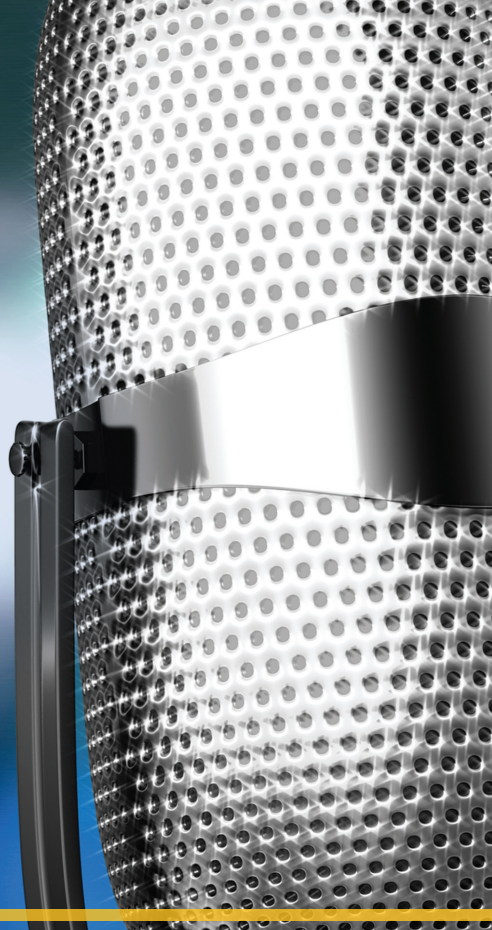




CARTER HIGH
SENIOR YEAR



THE *Wrong Way*



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

Claire just arrived at school. It was almost time for classes to begin.

Marge walked over to her. Marge was in her math class.

Marge asked, “Did you finish your math homework?”

“Yes. Did you?” Claire asked.

“Yes. But I always do,” Marge said.

And Claire did too. So she didn’t know why Marge asked her that.

Marge said, “I wasn’t sure you had time to do it. We had to practice a long time yesterday.”

Claire was in the senior play. She had

a very big part. Marge was in the play too. Marge played a girl who caused a lot of trouble. Some girls said Marge didn't have to act to play that kind of part. But Marge didn't know they said that about her.

Marge said, "I am so excited about the play. I have never been in a play before. And I can hardly wait for the first night."

The seniors would perform the play on three nights.

Marge asked, "Do you think many people will come to see the play?"

"Sure," Claire said.

Many people always came to the see the senior play. That was why the play would be held on three nights.

Marge said, "I am having a really great year. How about you?"

"I am too," Claire said.

But that wasn't true. Claire had been



having a great year. But things had changed for Claire.

Marge said, "I know we have to practice a lot. But it's great fun to be in the play. Don't you think so too?"

"It's OK," Claire said.

She had thought it would be a lot of fun. But it wasn't.

Claire had dated Kirk all of last year and most of this year. But he broke up with her two weeks ago. And nothing was much fun anymore without him.

Claire still wanted to date Kirk. She liked him a lot. She didn't know how much until he broke up with her.

Marge said, "I see Gwen. She is talking to Kirk."

Gwen was in the play too. But Gwen had only a small part.

"Claire, I heard that Kirk broke up with you. Is that true? I never get time

to ask you at rehearsal. We always have so much to do,” Marge said.

“Yes. We broke up,” Claire said.

Kirk did break up with her. But why did Marge have to say he did? Why didn’t Marge just say she heard they broke up?

“I heard Kirk is dating Gwen now,” Marge said.

Claire had heard that too.

“Do you still like Kirk? I hope you don’t. He isn’t dating you anymore,” Marge said.

“No. I don’t like him,” Claire said.

But that wasn’t true.

And Marge didn’t seem to believe Claire.

Marge said, “I am glad Gwen didn’t get your part in the play. I heard she wanted it.”

That surprised Claire very much.

“Gwen didn’t try out for the part. So you are wrong about that,” Claire said.

Sometimes Marge got things mixed up. Sometimes she got things wrong.

Marge said, "You were the first to try out for that part. And Mrs. Vance said you were very good. So Gwen didn't think she could get the part."

Claire still thought Marge was wrong about Gwen.

Marge said, "Gwen wanted your part in the play. But she didn't get it. And now she dates Kirk. Didn't they start dating after you got that part?"

"Yes," Claire said.

Marge asked, "Why did Gwen start dating Kirk? Do you think it was because you got the part?"

Claire didn't know why. She wished she did.

Was Marge right about Gwen? Did she go after Kirk because Claire got the part?



Chapter 2

Claire got to school early. She had heard some bad news. And now she had to talk to Mrs. Vance before school started.

Mrs. Vance was her drama teacher.

Marge was in front of the school. She hurried over to Claire.

Marge said, “Hi, Claire. Why are you here so early?”

“I need to talk to Mrs. Vance before school starts,” Claire said.

“Why?” Marge asked.

Claire said, “My grandmother is sick. I just found out last night. We don’t know how sick yet. She is going to have some

tests to find out.”

“That is too bad, Claire. I hope she gets better,” Marge said.

“Thanks, Marge,” Claire said.

“But why do you need to talk to Mrs. Vance?” Marge asked.

“I might have to visit my grandmother every weekend. Then I wouldn’t be here for the play,” Claire said.

Claire’s grandmother lived out of town.

Claire said, “Mrs. Vance might want me to quit the play now. She might not want me to wait until I hear about my grandmother’s tests.”

“I hope you can still be in the play, Claire. You need to talk to Mrs. Vance now. Then you can find out what she thinks you should do,” Marge said.

Claire hurried to Mrs. Vance’s room.

She quickly told Mrs. Vance about her grandmother.



Mrs. Vance said, "I am sorry to hear that, Claire."

"Do you think I should quit the play?" Claire asked.

Mrs. Vance said, "No, Claire. You don't need to do that. Don't worry about the play. I will have someone else learn your part. Then we will have a back-up for your part. But I hope your grandmother gets better soon. Then you can still be in the play."

Mrs. Vance still wanted her to be in the play. And Claire was glad about that.

But who would Mrs. Vance ask to learn her part? Claire could hardly wait to find out.

Claire was glad when school was over. It was time for rehearsal.

Claire hurried to rehearsal.

Marge was already there. She hurried over to Claire.