



CARTER HIGH
CHRONICLES



BACK-UP

Quarterback



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

Dan was in his front yard. Kirk was there too. Kirk was his best friend.

“What do you want to do?” Dan asked.

“I don’t know. What do you want to do?” Kirk asked.

Dan said, “Practice starts next week. I could throw some passes to you.”

“OK,” Kirk said.

Dan was on the football team. Kirk was on the tennis team. But Kirk also helped the football team.

Dan got his football from the house. Then both boys went to Dan’s backyard.

Kirk said, “What are you and Eve

going to do this weekend?”

Eve was Dan’s girlfriend. They had been dating for almost a year.

Dan said, “We’re going to a show. What are you and Claire going to do?”

Claire was Kirk’s girlfriend. They had been dating for about two months.

Kirk said, “Claire has to go out of town. She has to go see her grandmother one weekend each month.”

The boys threw the ball to each other for a while.

Then Dan said, “What do you think?”

“About what?” Kirk asked.

“Will I be the quarterback this year?”

Dan said.

The team would need a new quarterback.

Dan hoped he would be the quarterback. Last year he had been the back-up quarterback.

Two other boys were going to try out for the job. He and Kirk knew them.

Kirk said, "You should be. You pass better than the other guys. So the coach should pick you."

Dan was sure he would be the quarterback too. He could hardly wait for the season to start.

The boys threw some more passes to each other.

Then Dan said, "Know any news?"

Not much had been going on all week.

"One thing," Kirk said.

"What?" Dan asked.

"A new guy moved in down the street from me. But I haven't met him yet," Kirk said.

"Know anything about him?" Dan asked.

Kirk said, "Yeah. He played on the football team at his other school."



“What did he play?” Dan asked.

Kirk said, “I heard he’s a running back. But I don’t know for sure.”

They could use a new running back on the team.

Dan said, “I hope he is a back. We sure could use one more good back.”

Kirk said, “I’ll let you know as soon as I find out. I’m going to try to meet him before practice starts.”

Dan heard the phone ring.

Dan said, “I hear the phone. I’ll be back in a few minutes.”

Dan hurried into the house. Kirk stayed out in the yard.

The phone call was for Dan.

It was Coach Grant.

Dan got very excited.

Did Coach Grant call to tell him he would be the quarterback?



Chapter 2

Coach Grant said, “I’m at school, Dan. I need to talk to you. Do you have time to come over here?”

“Sure. When?” Dan asked.

“As soon as you can,” Coach Grant said.

Dan said, “Kirk is here. Do you want him to come too?”

“No. Just you, Dan,” Coach Grant said.

“I’ll be right over,” Dan said.

Dan hurried outside.

“Who was it?” Kirk asked.

Dan said, “Coach Grant. He wants me at school. He wants to talk to me.”

“Does he want to talk to me too?”
Kirk asked.

Dan said, “No. I asked him. He just wants to see me.”

“Why do you think he wants to see you?” Kirk asked.

“Maybe to tell me I will be the quarterback. And to go over some plays with me,” Dan said.

“Good luck. I will be at home. Let me know what he wanted,” Kirk said.

Dan said, “Thanks. I’ll stop by your house on the way home. And I will tell you all about it.”

Dan hurried to the school.

Coach Grant was in his office. His office door was open. He was sitting at his desk. He was looking at some papers on his desk.

Dan knocked on the door.

The coach looked up. He said,

“Thanks for coming, Dan. Come in and shut the door.”

Why did the coach want him to shut the door? That didn’t sound good to Dan.

“Sit down, Dan,” Coach Grant said.

Why did the coach ask him to sit down? Did he have bad news for Dan? Or was he just going to go over some plays with Dan?

Coach Grant said, “A new guy is going out for the team. He is from out of state. His name is Clay. He is going to try out for quarterback.”

Coach Grant quit talking. He seemed to be waiting for Dan to say something.

But Dan was too surprised to know what to say.

“I wanted you to hear that from me, Dan. And not from someone else,” Coach Grant said.

Dan made himself say, “Thanks for telling me.”

Coach Grant said, “Clay gave me a letter from his coach. Last year Clay was one of the top players in his state.”

What was the coach trying to tell Dan? Was it that Clay would be the quarterback? And not him?

Dan had to know. He said, “What are you telling me? That he will be the quarterback this year?”

Slowly Coach Grant said, “Maybe, Dan. I won’t know until I see both of you at practice. The better player will get the job. I hope it is you. You worked hard last year. But you need to know it might be Clay.”

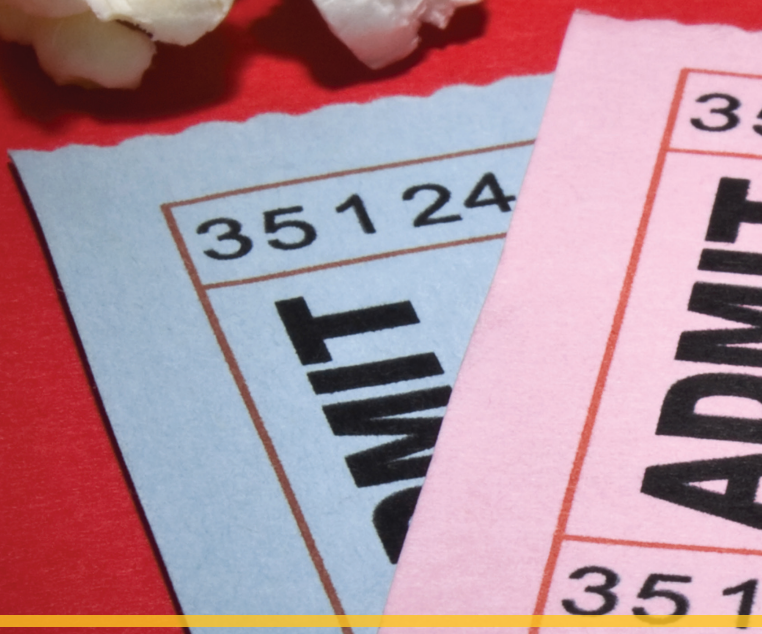
Dan didn’t want to stay there any longer. He had to get out of there.

Dan said, “OK for me to go? Or did you need to see me about something else?”





CARTER HIGH
CHRONICLES



THE BEST *Week Ever*



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

Deb was at her locker. Val was at her locker too. Val was Deb's best friend.

Val said, "Steve will be out of town this weekend. Do you want to do something Saturday afternoon?"

Steve was Val's boyfriend.

"Sure. What?" Deb said.

Val said, "I don't know. We can think about it."

"OK," Deb said.

Deb saw Ben. He was in her math class. And he was Steve's best friend.

Ben was very cute. Deb wished he would ask her for a date.

“Does Ben have a girlfriend?” Deb asked.

Val said, “Not that I know of. He did. But they broke up. And she dates someone else now.”

The girls hurried to their history class. It was their last class of the day. Miss Brent was their teacher.

The girls went to their desks. Val had to sit on the other side of the room. So she and Deb couldn’t sit together.

The bell rang. Miss Brent started class. She always started class on time.

“Today we will talk about what you had to read for homework. And we won’t read in the book,” Miss Brent said.

Deb was glad they wouldn’t read in the book. She didn’t read well. So she could read only a little of the history book. Her mom had read the homework to her.

Miss Brent called on Deb first. And Deb was able to answer what Miss Brent asked her.

Miss Brent said, "Good answer, Deb."

That made Deb feel good.

Deb didn't have to try to read the book. So the class went by fast for her.

It was almost time for the class to be over.

Miss Brent said, "Don't forget you will have a test tomorrow. It will be a hard test. So you will need to study a lot for it."

Deb always studied a lot for the tests.

She could not read most of what was on the tests. But Miss Brent taped the tests for her. So she did not have to know how to read them. And Miss Brent gave her more time on the tests when she needed it.

Miss Brent let Deb write very short answers. And she did not count off for spelling.

But Deb still did not do well on the tests. It was hard for her to remember what she had studied.

It was going to be a bad week for her. It always was when she had a history test.



Chapter 2

The bell rang.

Deb got up to go. But Val wasn't ready to go. She was talking to Tess. Tess sat next to Val.

They talked for a few minutes. Then Tess hurried out of the class.

Val came over to Deb.

Val said, "Tess is coming over to my house today. We are going to study for the test. Do you want to study with us?"

Deb said, "Thanks. But Mom doesn't want me to study with my friends."

Her mom thought the girls would talk too much. And not study. And her mom

knew Deb had to study a lot.

“I know your mom wants you to study by yourself. But maybe it would help you to study with us,” Val said.

Deb didn’t say anything.

“Let’s ask Miss Brent what she thinks,” Val said.

“OK,” Deb said.

The girls walked over to Miss Brent.

Val said, “Tess and I study for the tests together. And that helps us to do better. Do you think it would help Deb to study with us?”

“Why don’t you wait in the hall, Val? And Deb and I will talk about it,” Miss Brent said.

“OK,” Val said.

Val hurried out in the hall.

Miss Brent said, “Do you want to study with Val and Tess?”

“Oh, yes. But my mom doesn’t want

me to study with friends. She thinks we would talk too much. And not study,” Deb said.

“Val and Tess have been doing well on their tests. So I think they study a lot. And not just talk,” Miss Brent said.

“Do you think it would help me to study with them?” Deb asked.

Miss Brent said, “It might. Some people learn best with their eyes. Some learn best with their ears. Don’t you learn best when you hear things?”

“Yes,” Deb said.

“I think it would help you to talk about history with your friends. That might help you to remember it. You would be studying with your ears,” Miss Brent said.

“Thanks, Miss Brent. I’ll tell my mom that,” Deb said.

Deb hurried out into the hall. Val

was waiting for her.

“What did Miss Brent say?” Val asked.

“Miss Brent thinks it is a good idea. But are you sure you want to study with me?” Deb said.

“Yes. Why did you ask?” Val said.

“Because I don’t read well,” Deb said.

Val said, “That doesn’t matter. Tess and I will do all the reading.”

“I’ll ask my mom as soon as I get home,” Deb said.

Deb asked her mom when she got home. And her mom said she could study with them just one time. And then see how she did on the test.

Val lived down the street from Deb. Deb hurried over to her house. She studied with Val and Tess for a long time.

Val and Tess did all of the reading.



And Deb helped them to understand some of the things they read.

Deb thought she did well on her test the next day. So she thought it helped her to study with them. But she wouldn't know until she got her test back.