

青春记事簿4

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[南非] 科林·雷迪 (Coleen Reddy) / 著

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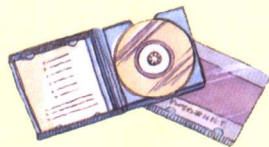
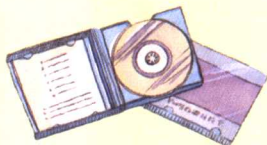
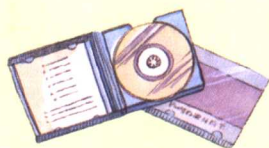
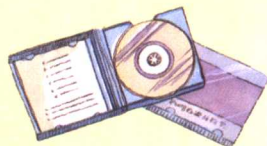
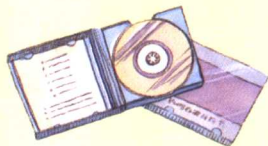
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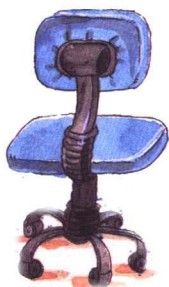
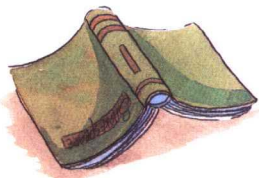
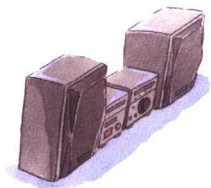
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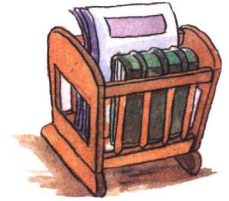
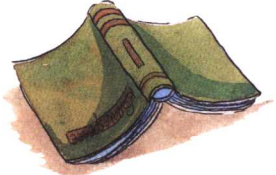
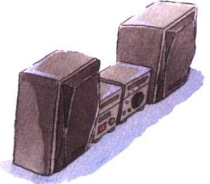
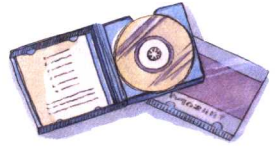


For Lyn and Sharlene

Two Extraordinary Sisters

献给我特别的姐妹们——Lyn 及 Sharlene

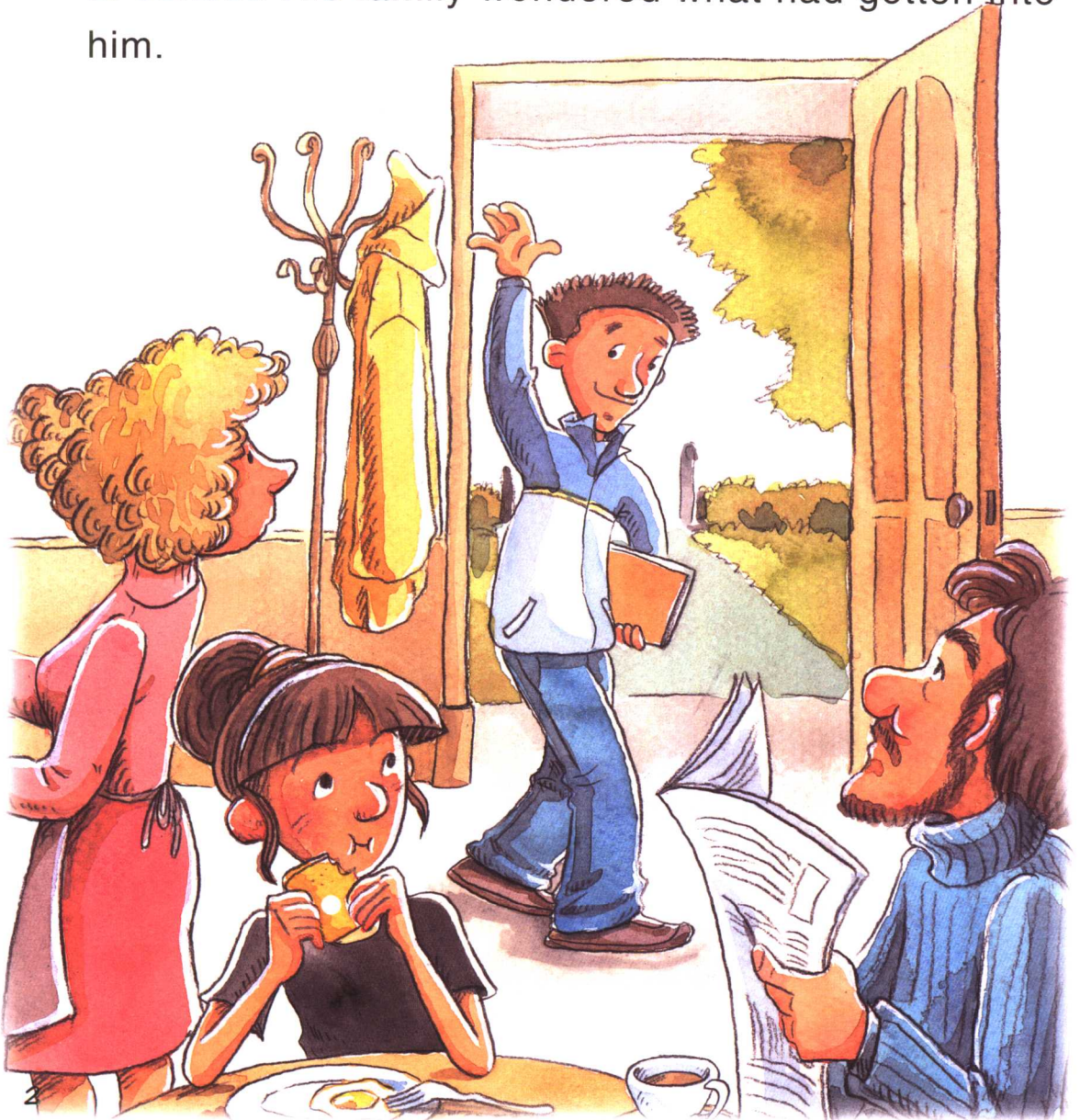




Jack Smith was fifteen years old. He and his sister, Amy, went to Dogooder Junior High School. Jack did not like school and he was very afraid of the principal, Mr. Stern. Mr. Stern was always yelling at him and scolding him for some reason.



But recently, Jack looked forward to school. In fact, instead of always being late, he started going early to school. His family wondered what had gotten into him.



He also began dressing differently. Usually Jack was scruffy and looked untidy. But now he was wearing clean clothes and started using gel on his hair. He even used his father's aftershave. His parents were happy about the new Jack but they could not help wondering why he had suddenly changed. Amy thought Jack was weird, and weird people did weird things. But even she smelled something fishy.

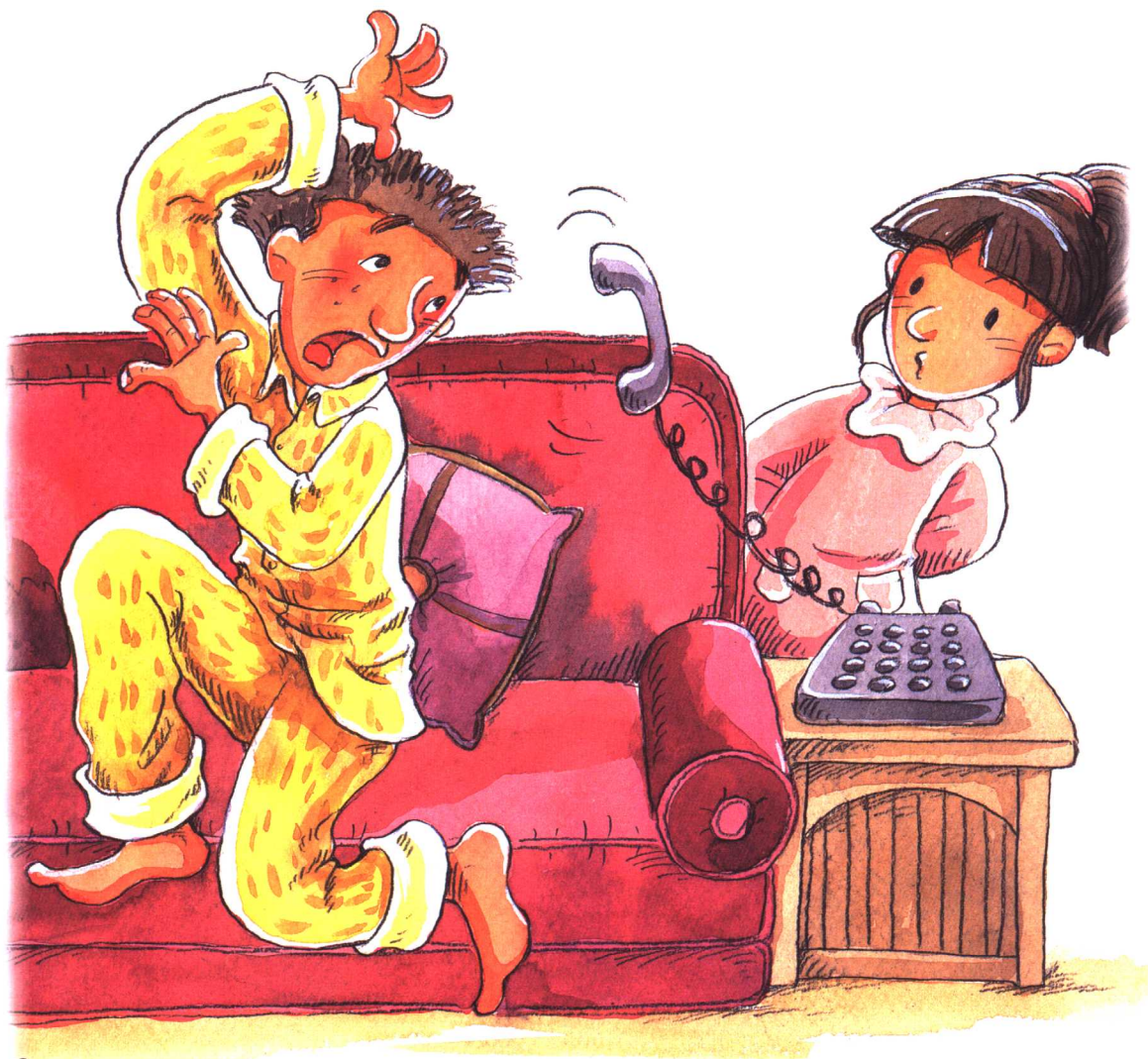


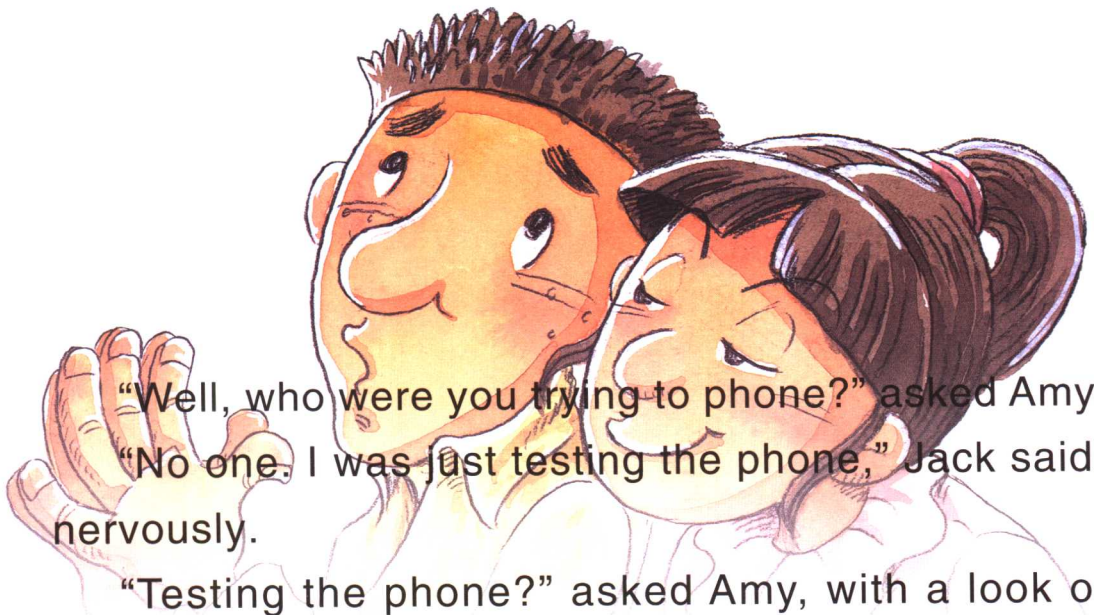


One night, Amy was walking past the living room when she saw something strange. Jack was using the telephone but he wasn't talking to anyone. He would dial a number and then slam the telephone down a few seconds later. Once, he looked like he really wanted to say something. His mouth opened and he was trying to speak, but no sounds came out his mouth. Eventually, he put the phone down. This happened about five times. Amy was dying of curiosity.

“What are you doing?” Amy asked her brother.
Jack jumped up and screamed.

“You scared me! I didn’t know you were here,” Jack
said.





"Well, who were you trying to phone?" asked Amy.

"No one. I was just testing the phone," Jack said, nervously.

"Testing the phone?" asked Amy, with a look of disbelief.

"Um, um, yes. I just wanted to see if it was working," said Jack.

"You're lying. I saw you. You were calling someone and then hanging up. Are you playing pranks on people?" asked Amy.

"No! I told you that I was testing the phone. Anyway, it's NOYB," yelled Jack.

"NOYB?" asked Amy.

"Yeah, None Of Your Business!" said Jack and he walked out of the room.

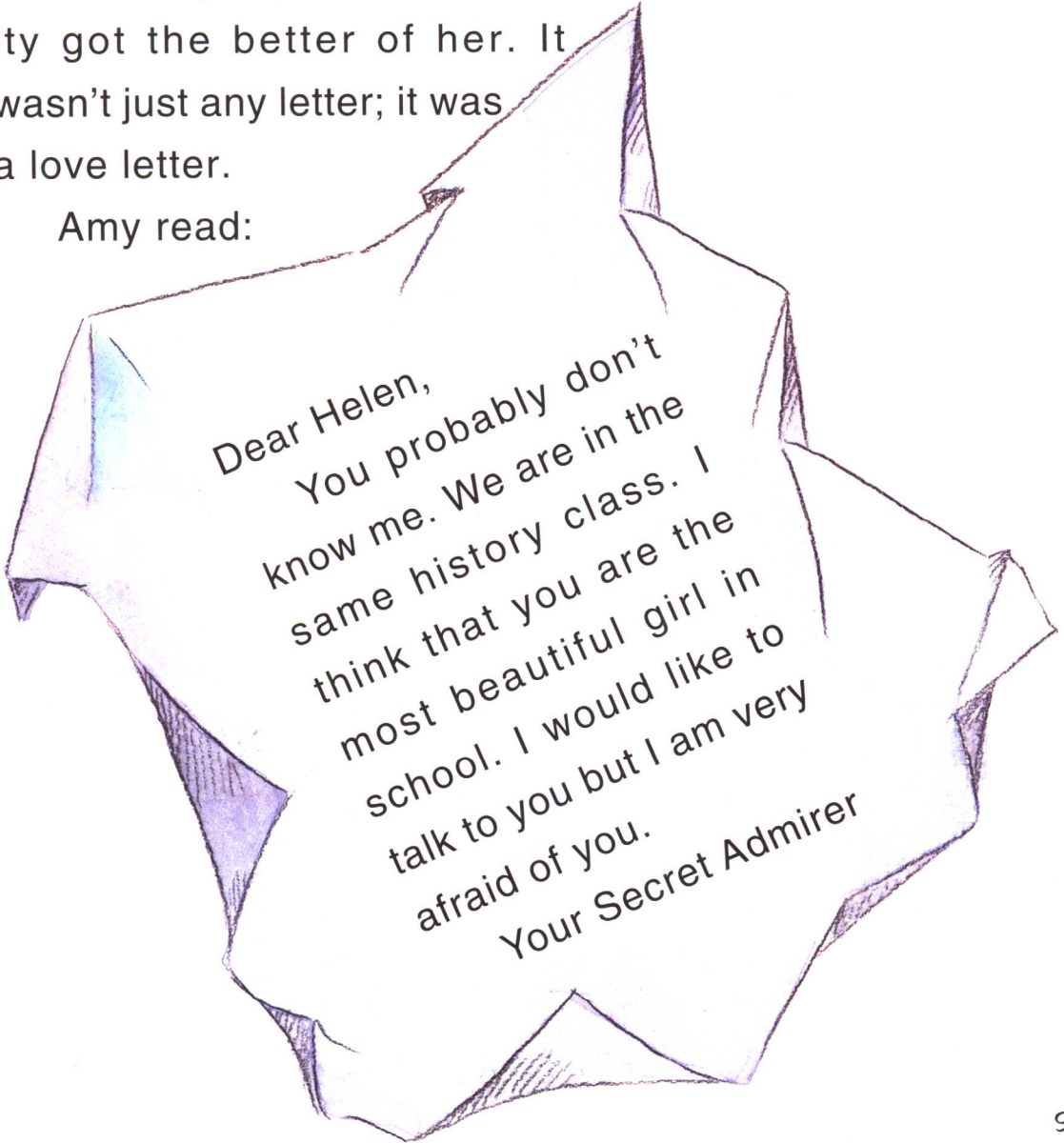
Amy shook her head. Jack was getting weirder every day.

A few days later, Amy was doing the laundry. She hated doing chores, but if she didn't do them, her parents wouldn't give her an allowance. She picked up Jack's smelly pants and something fell out of them.



It looked like a letter that Jack had written. Amy wondered whether she should read it. It was rude to read other people's letters, but in the end her curiosity got the better of her. It wasn't just any letter; it was a love letter.

Amy read:

A crumpled piece of paper, possibly a napkin or a scrap of paper, with a love letter written on it. The paper is white with purple and blue shading around the edges, suggesting it's been handled or is part of a larger scene. The text is written in a simple, handwritten style.

Dear Helen,
You probably don't
know me. We are in the
same history class. I
think that you are the
most beautiful girl in
school. I would like to
talk to you but I am very
afraid of you.
Your Secret Admirer

“So that’s what’s going on with Jack. He’s in love.”
Amy giggled. The idea of Jack being in love or having
a girlfriend was very funny.

“I wonder who Helen is?” thought Amy.

