

A Kiwi in Texas



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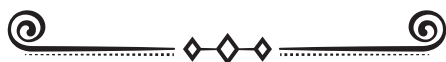
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CHAPTER ONE



Still in Texas

Adam walked half asleep to the kitchen. His backpack was over one shoulder. His black hair stuck up at different angles. He had been dreaming about his favorite treats from back home.

“Happy Monday, buddy! Did you sleep well?” his dad asked as he fried an egg.

Adam slumped in the kitchen chair and didn’t reply. His dad saw the disappointment on his face.

“Today is pen pal day, isn’t it?” his dad asked. Adam nodded his head.



Adam and his family had moved to Houston, Texas, two months earlier. His mom had relocated the family for her work as a hospital manager.

When Adam's mom found out that his teacher, Mrs. Dineen, was looking to start a pen pal program, she offered to set one up with Adam's old school in New Zealand.

"That's exciting. You'll be able to see your old classmates," his dad said.

"I talked to Joshua when we played video games yesterday. It's no big deal."

His dad put the eggs and rice on the table. "Maybe this will be a special day. You never know!"

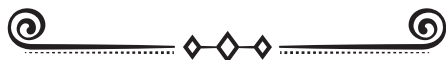
"What would be special is us moving back home," said Adam.

His father sighed. "We talked about this, buddy. Just give it a chance."

Adam shrugged. He poked the egg yolk and watched it spread over the rice. Back home, yolks were deep orange, not this weird pale yellow.



CHAPTER TWO



Different Type of Eggs

Adam boarded the school bus and sat next to Hazel, who was in his class. Hazel was nice, but they didn't have much to talk about. She didn't know anything about rugby or snowboarding. In fact, she had never seen snow. It only rarely snowed in Houston. Most of the time, it was really humid and hot.

But she was nice to Adam, *and* she could understand his accent. He liked having a friend in his new home.



A Kiwi in Texas

Adam misses his friends in New Zealand and wants to move back home. Will a letter from his best friend and a special school day change his mind?

Reading Levels

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