New Ways

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Chapter 1

Waiting for Dad



Tess and Nathan sat on the window seat and looked out at the storm. The trees bent with the wind and the rain crashed up against the glass. Tess watched the raindrops run down the pane and thought that they looked like tears. She looked at her watch. Dad was late!

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Several times, Nathan jumped up expecting to see the blue ute turn into the drive, only to sit down again, disappointed. "Perhaps Dad's not coming," he muttered. "Perhaps we don't matter any more."

"Of course he's coming!" Tess snapped. "He promised, didn't he? And Gran's expecting us too."

Mum came over to the window seat. "Dad will be here soon," she reassured them. "There'll be a good reason for him being late. He'd never let you down," she said quietly.





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Just then the ute pulled up in front of the house.

"Here he is!" shouted Nathan as he grabbed his coat and backpack and raced to the front door. "See you tomorrow, Mum!" he called over his shoulder.

Tess picked up her jacket and followed him. "Will you be all right, Mum?" she asked.



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Mum laughed, just a little too loudly. "I'll be fine. It'll be great to have some peace and quiet!"

Tess raced back to give Mum a hug. "You'll miss us!" she teased. "We love you," she whispered, then she put her jacket on and ran out into the rain.

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Chapter 2

A Right Time to Cry



"Hi, Dad! You're a bit late!" exclaimed Nathan as he slipped into the back seat of the ute and twisted out of his wet coat.

Tess opened the front door and jumped in out of the rain. "We were worried," she said.

Dad grinned. "So was I!" he said. "I thought I'd never get here! There was a tree down across River Road. I had to take a detour."