

JiNA JEONG

Project Kindness



BY CAROL KIM

ILLUSTRATED BY FLAVIA ZUNCHEDDU

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1

GRUMPY GIRL 5

Chapter 2

LOST CAT..... 13

Chapter 3

BETTER OFF LOST 21

Chapter 4

CHOOSING KINDNESS..... 29

Chapter 5

OPERATION FIND PANDA..... 39

Chapter 6

FINDING FRIENDSHIP..... 49



Chapter 1



GRUMPY GIRL

“I’m so excited for Chloe’s birthday party!” Jina Jeong said to her friend, Sofia. Jina and Sofia carpooled to school most days. Today, Sofia’s mom was driving.

“Me too!” Sofia said. She leaned toward her mother in the driver’s seat.

“Mom, can we go shopping for Chloe’s gift this week?” she asked.

“Maybe after school tomorrow,” Sofia’s mom said, pulling up to school.

The two girls watched as a girl got out of the car in front of them. Her long, blonde hair swung behind her as she jerked her head around to speak to the driver.

“I told you. I’ll do it later!” the girl yelled, her face red with anger. Then she shut the car door so hard Jina thought it might break.

Jina and Sofia stared at one another in shock as the girl stomped away.

“That was kind of scary,” Sofia said.
“Good thing she’s not in our grade.”

“Yeah, I feel sorry for her classmates,” Jina said.

“Poor thing. She’s clearly having a bad morning,” Sofia’s mom said. “I hope you girls have a much better day!”

“Thanks, Ms. Martinez!” Jina called as Sofia gave her mom a quick hug.

Later that day during recess, Jina and her friends gathered on the playground. Suddenly Sofia gasped and grabbed Jina’s arm.

“Oh my gosh, it’s that girl again!” Sofia whispered loudly in Jina’s ear. The two watched as the blonde girl they had seen at drop-off paced back and forth by the back wall of the playground.

“What girl?” Chloe asked, looking around.

“Over there! By the wall—wait, don’t stare at her!” Sofia said, pulling her friends toward the slide.

“What’s going on?” Bella asked. “Who are you looking at?”

“It’s the girl we told you about this morning,” Jina said. “The one who was really mad. But what is she doing?”

“I think I know who she is,” Chloe said. “Her name is Ava. She’s a grade or two older than us.”

As they watched, Ava suddenly stopped and grabbed a handful of pebbles from the ground. Then she stood back and began hurling the pebbles against the wall.



Sofia gasped, covering her mouth with her hand. “I guess she’s still mad,” she said.

“Uh-oh,” Chloe said. “Now she’s in trouble.” One of the fourth-grade teachers walked up to Ava, shaking her head. After the teacher finished speaking to her, Ava said something back, her hands on her hips. Then she marched away. But after several steps, Ava dropped to the ground, sitting with her arms crossed and her head down.

“We better stop staring,” Jina said. “I don’t want her getting mad at us for watching her.”

“Yeah, she looks so mean!” Bella said.

“Look, the swings are free!” Chloe said.

“Let’s grab them!”

The girls raced each other to the swings. As Jina swung higher and higher, she could see the older girl still sitting on the ground.

Jina didn’t think it was okay the way Ava yelled at her mom and the teacher. But she also couldn’t help feeling sorry for her.