

CHAPTER 1

My Perfect Life Begins



“HAVE YOU noticed anything strange about Daniel?” Miriam asked.

“Daniel is always doing strange things,” I answered.

Miriam screwed up her face. “Yes—but this time he’s acting really, really strangely.”

I stopped packing my bag. “Sorry, can’t say I’ve noticed anything too weird. But then, I’ve barely noticed anything.” I gave a little twirl on the spot. “That’s because I’m so excited about tomorrow!” To prove it I picked up my ratty old lunchbox and waved it in the air. “No more boring soggy sandwiches!”

Miriam sighed. “It’s only the canteen re-opening, Sara.”

“Yes! But it’s been closed for weeks. When it opens tomorrow my mum is going to be in charge! Didn’t you read the newsletter?”

This time she groaned. “I didn’t have to. You read it to me fifty times. I know it off by heart!”

“Are you sure?” I couldn’t take a chance she’d forgotten one teeny bit. I pulled the newsletter out of my pocket and read out loud, “Our new canteen manager will be Mrs Averil Edmonds, mother of Year 4 student, Sara Edmonds.”

I paused and rolled my eyes. “But I still think they should have mentioned that she’s a great cook and that her brilliant daughter is a spectacular artist!”

Miriam groaned again. “You call *Daniel* strange! If you ask me, he’s not as bad as some people around here!”

“You were the one who said that. I just agreed with you!” I said as I closed my bag. “Anyway, what’s Daniel been doing this time?”

Miriam frowned. “Ever since he came back from that trip to Sydney with his parents, he hardly talks to us any more. And he wears that big thick coat to school!”

