Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

Honey and Me

Written by

Karen McCombie

Illustrated by

Cathy Brett

Published by

Barrington Stoke Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

For Romilly (surprise!)

First published in 2015 in Great Britain by
Barrington Stoke Ltd
18 Walker Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7LP

www.barringtonstoke.co.uk

Text © 2015 Karen McCombie
Illustrations © 2015 Cathy Brett

The moral right of Karen McCombie and Cathy Brett to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in any part in any form without the written permission of the publisher

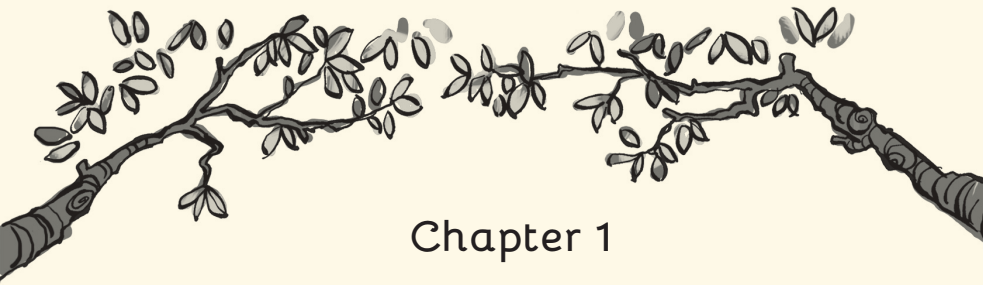
A CIP catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library upon request

ISBN: 978-1-78112-475-8

Printed in China by Leo

Contents

1	I Wish	1
2	Something Shocking	9
3	Keep Calm	15
4	In a Spin	23
5	From Bad to Better	32
6	The Best Thing	38
7	Wrong or Right	45
8	One Last Thing	54



Chapter 1

I Wish

You'll think I'm mad. But for most of this year, I've had a strange sort of wish. I wished everything could be … normal.

Ordinary.

Maybe even a little bit boring.

But so far, this year's been full of good luck, then bad luck. Good times, then bad times. In fact, any time good stuff happened, I didn't enjoy it. Not much. Because it meant bad stuff was lurking just around the corner.

Here's the sort of thing I mean …

April

- Mum gets a new job at the estate agents, which means lots more pay. We're rich!

- *The firm Dad works for goes bust and he's out of a job. We're SO not rich …*

May

- I find out that Harris Academy has a brand-new dance studio. This is the best, since I love, love, *love* dancing! It's massive with a proper wooden floor, ballet barres and mirrors everywhere.

- *I find out my friends Dani and Grace and everyone in my primary class got into Harris Academy – everyone except ME …*

June

- Dad's friend's cat has kittens – and Dad brings one home!

- *Mum goes mad at Dad cos he forgot my big brother Finn is allergic to fur …*

July

- Mum books us a last-minute surprise sunshine holiday!

- *But the only surprise is that it rains every day and Mum and Dad argue non-stop …*

But maybe – fingers crossed – things are changing.

❁

When I started at Brook City School three weeks ago, I was scared I'd be all on my own. Then I sat next to Nazreen in my tutor group, and it was as if we'd been friends for ever. (Both of us got the giggles when our teacher said his name was Mr Winterbottom. Ha!)

Then we met Scarlett at lunch. (She got the giggles when my long hair trailed in my custard. Yuck!)

And there are three other reasons that life is turning out good at my new school.

1. I like all my teachers

2. Brook City School has a great dance studio too, with huge windows that look out over the city. I can't wait to try it out …

and

3. A cute boy called Lewis likes me, I think.

I can see Lewis now, coming out of his History class.

"Ow!" I yelp.

Nazreen has just thumped me in the ribs with her elbow. "Don't look now, Kirsten, but Lewis is staring at you!" she says.

"Yes, I know – I saw him as well," I whisper back. I can feel that my cheeks have gone pink as a prawn.

"Eek! He's walking this way!" Scarlett says.

"Pretend we're chatting," Nazreen says.

"Hey, let's chat about how much Lewis likes Kirsten!" Scarlett says.

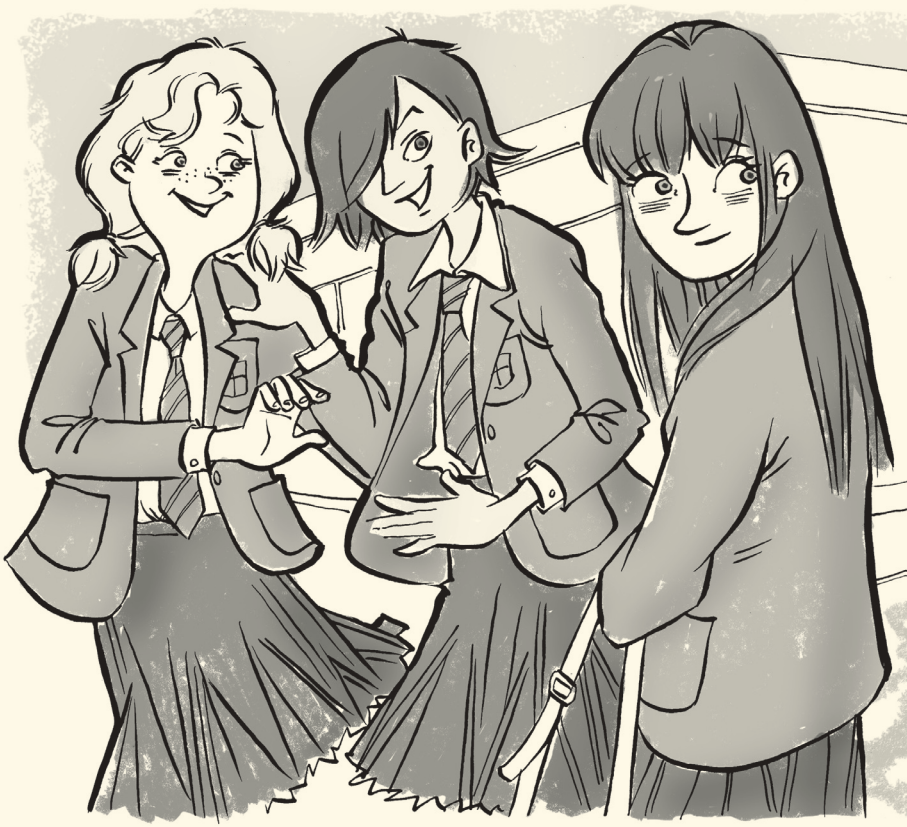
"Shh! *Don't*!" I mutter at her.

Lewis is really close now.

"Hi!" he says. He's trying to sound all cool as he saunters past us.

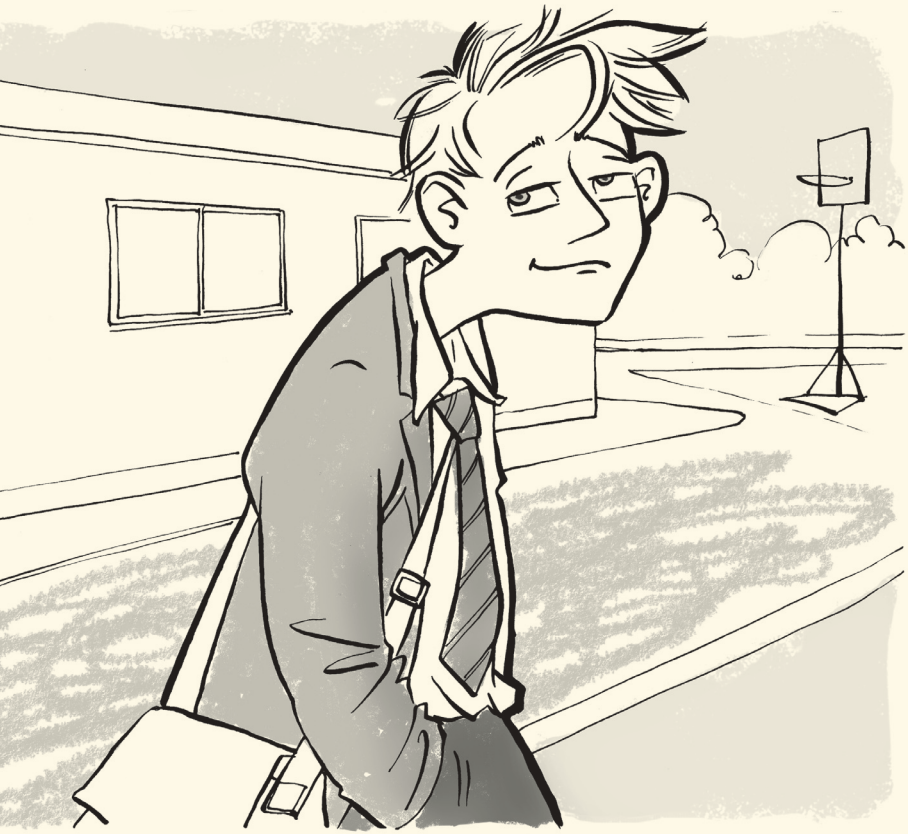
"Bye!" Nazreen says.

"*Waaaaaaah-ha-ha!*" we all burst out when Lewis has gone round the corner.



We keep on laughing for ages. I hope Lewis didn't hear us – how embarrassing would *that* be?

Still, friends are more important than boys. And brand-new friends that you want to hang onto are *extra* important.



I haven't hung around with Nazreen and Scarlett for very long, but I really like them. Scarlett even looks a bit like my old friend Honey – she has the same warm smile and cute scatter of freckles across her nose.

So maybe my luck is changing. Maybe it will all be good from now on. But who am I kidding?

Good stuff is happening at school, but at home it's ALL bad news.