

**DATE
WITH
DANGER**

JO BROWNING WROE

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JO BROWNING WROTE

Illustrated by
Julia Page

Barrington  Stoke





It was a warm but windy day. The sea was full of waves. They slapped against the sand.

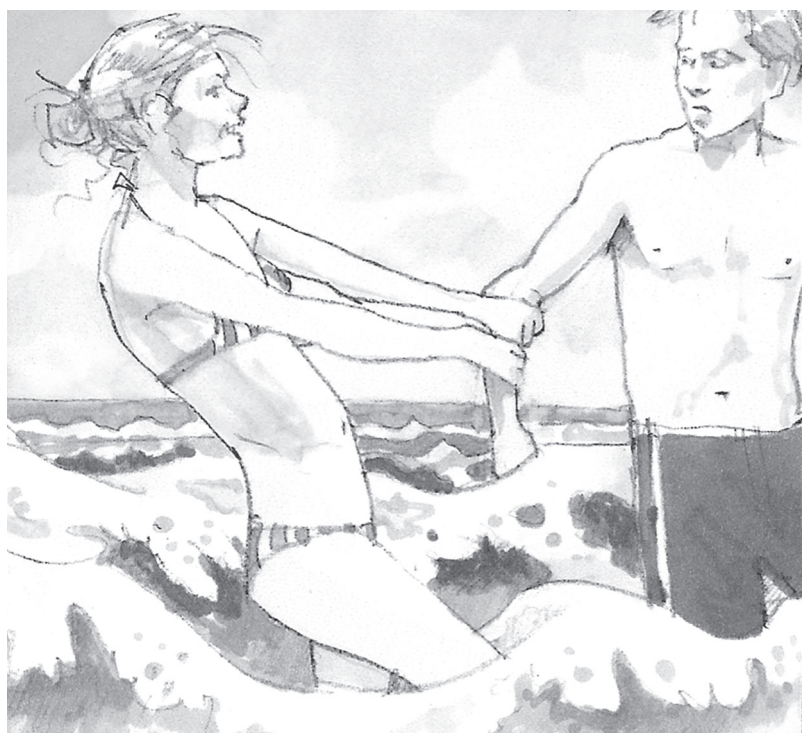




“I’m not going in,” Ben said to Carla.

“I can’t swim.”

Carla was in the sea up to her knees. She held out her hand. “It’ll be fun. We’ll paddle.” She pulled him in.

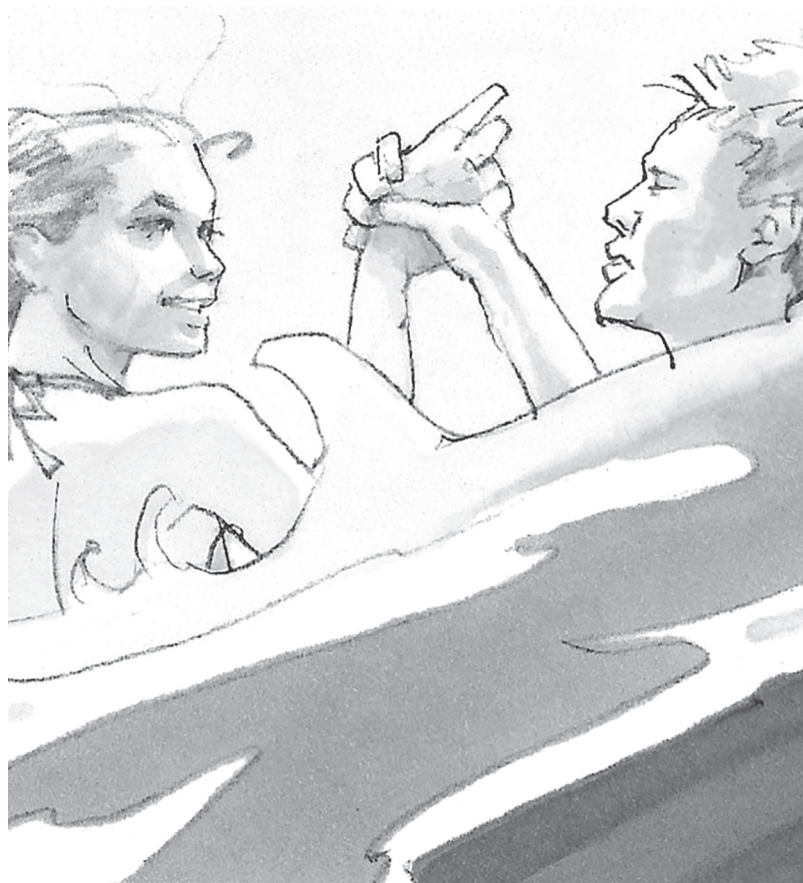


Ben had loved Carla since they were 5. Now they were 16. Last week, she'd asked him out. The girls Ben knew didn't ask boys out, but Carla wasn't like other girls. That's why he loved her.





Carla pulled Ben in deeper. He didn't like it, but at least he got to hold her hand. The water was up to his chin. Waves hit his face. The sea pressed on his chest.





Suddenly, Carla yanked her hand from his. She swam away. He could hear her laugh over the roar of the sea.

“Carla! Come back!” he yelled.

