

Chapter 1

Nick kicked his new football across the garden. It zoomed through the grass and hit the outstretched foot of his younger sister, Meg.

Meg looked over the edge of her book. Then she carried on reading. Her book was about horseshoe crabs, and she was astounded by everything she read about them.

‘You promised!’ said Nick.

‘It’s too hot,’ said Meg.

Meg was sitting in the shade of the big Hong Kong orchid tree in their garden. She had a stack of books and a large bowl of ice cream, and she did not want to move one inch.



'You said that yesterday,' said Nick. He ran across the garden and nestled into the long grass next to Meg. 'You said it the day before yesterday as well.'

'It's been too hot to play football all week,' said Meg.

'But I'm bored!' said Nick.

Meg picked up a book from the pile next to her. She tossed it to her brother. It was about pink dolphins, and Meg adored it.

'I've read this one,' he said. He looked at the other books Meg had. 'I've read all of these. They're baby books.'

Meg scowled at her brother. He was only a year older than her, but lately, he'd been saying that everything she liked was babyish.

Meg had complained about this to Mum and Dad. They'd told her that Nick didn't mean it and he loved her really.

Meg had asked Aunt Sam what to do about Nick. Aunt Sam was a police officer, and she always had good ideas.

Aunt Sam had said Nick was just going through a phase. She'd told Meg to ignore her brother until he grew out of it.

Meg hadn't been very impressed by that advice. But that afternoon in the garden, ignoring Nick seemed like an excellent plan.