

# chapter

# 1

Rae walked down the hall at school. She was on her way to class. Then she saw Jess. Jess was her best friend.

Rae wanted to talk to Jess. So she hurried to meet her.

Rae yelled, “Jess, wait for me!”

Rae looked very mad. And she sounded very mad, too.

Jess stopped and waited for Rae. “You look mad, Rae. What’s wrong?” Jess asked.

Rae hissed, “You’d better believe I’m

mad. I'll pay her back. I promise!"

"Why are you so upset, Rae? And who do you want to pay back?" Jess asked.

"Torie," Rae said. Torie was in her science class. Rae didn't like Torie.

"What did Torie do?" Jess asked.

"She had a date with Chance last Friday night. I just found out about it," Rae said.

Rae and Chance had gone on a few dates. And Rae liked him a lot.

Jess said, "Calm down, Rae. It isn't a big deal."

"It is to me. I like Chance," Rae said.

Jess said, "Don't worry about it. Torie likes Brad. So I don't think she'll date Chance for long."

"I don't care. She shouldn't have dated Chance at all," Rae said.

Rae still looked mad.

Jess said, "Rae, Torie really likes

Brad, not Chance. So you are getting upset about nothing.”

“I’m not upset about nothing. And I’ll pay Torie back,” Rae said.

“Forget about it, Rae. It’s no big deal,” Jess said again.

“It is to me. Just you wait and see,” Rae said.

Jess looked worried. “What are you going to do, Rae?” she asked.

“Torie likes Brad. I’ll get Brad to ask me out on a date. And that will pay Torie back,” Rae said.

“You don’t even like Brad. You’ve never wanted to date him before. So why do you want to date him now?” Jess asked.

Jess was right about that. Rae didn’t like Brad. And she’d never wanted to date him before.

“I just told you why I want to date

Brad. I want to pay Torie back. She dated Chance. And I have to get even with her," Rae said.

"Forget about it, Rae," Jess said.

Rae said, "I don't care what you think, Jess. I'll get Brad to ask me out."

"Don't do it, Rae. You don't even like Brad," Jess said.

"So what? I just want to date him," Rae said. "I don't want to *marry* him," Rae said.

"But it wouldn't be fair to get Brad to date you. You wouldn't want a guy to date you to get even with another girl. Think of how that would make you feel. And Brad would feel that way, too," Jess said.

"He won't know the reason why I want to date him," Rae said.

"But someone might tell him," Jess said.

“You’re the only person who knows. And you won’t tell him, will you?” Rae asked.

“No. But he could still find out,” Jess said.

“No way. Only two of us would know. You are my best friend. You won’t tell him. And I sure won’t,” Rae said.

“Don’t do it, Rae. Think about it some more. Think about how you would feel,” Jess said.

“Don’t try to make me feel bad, Jess. I’ll get a date with Brad. And I’ll pay Torie back. Just you wait and see,” Rae said.