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Dressed for Success sample
NOT FOR SALE

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Hunted in Hong Kong
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ISBN: 978-4-909733-24-5
Publisher: I Talk You Talk Press

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1. Carrie

Caroline Holland lives on a small farm in Oregon. Everyone calls her Carrie. It takes 15 minutes to drive to the nearest store. It's a general store. It sells food, farm clothes, boots, seeds, and buckets. Carrie knows the general store very well because she works there.

Ben Garden, who owns the store, is also the local postman and deliveryman. Carrie looks after the store when he's not there.

Carrie left school when she was 18 years old. She didn't know what job she wanted. She said, "I am not interested in anything. I am not good at anything."

Her father said, "Don't worry. You have the job at the store. You help in the house and on the farm. That's enough."

Carrie's mother did not agree. She wanted Carrie to have adventures. She wanted her daughter to have an interesting life.

Carrie's mother is deaf. She cannot hear. She was born deaf. Many deaf people learn to speak, but Carrie's mother grew up on a farm. There were no special schools for deaf people near the farm. She learnt to communicate using sign language, but she never learned to speak. Of course, Carrie and her father, Mike, can use sign language too.

Carrie's mother is an artist. She paints farmland, horses, and sunsets. She makes jewellery too. She uses stones, feathers, and wood. Carrie thinks her mother's necklaces and earrings and bracelets are beautiful. Ben Garden sells her paintings and jewellery in the store. Sometimes people buy them, but not very often.

Carrie doesn't know what she wants to do with her life, but she knows she wants to leave the farm and go somewhere new.

She dreams about doing something special. She loves magazines. She loves watching TV dramas about beautiful people. She likes travel programmes too.

Could I be a model? thinks Carrie.

She doesn't think so. She is very tall and very thin. She has long red-brown hair. Sometimes her eyes look green, and sometimes they look yellow-brown. She has long eyelashes.

But I am not beautiful. My nose is too big.

She has never had a boyfriend. She doesn't go anywhere, and everyone on the farms in the area is already married, or too old, or not interested in girls.

2. The store accounts

One day, about six months after Carrie started working in the store, Ben said, "Carrie?"

Carrie is counting eggs. "Yes?" she answers.

"Carrie, I'm having trouble with these accounts. The numbers don't make sense. Can you look at them?"

Counting eggs is boring, so Carrie says, "OK."

She sits down next to Ben. She looks at the rows of numbers. She can see the mistake.

"You added this up wrong." She points to a number.

Ben says, "I hate doing the accounts."

"Why don't you use a computer?" she asks Ben. "You have a computer. Why don't you use it for the accounts?"

"I bought the computer to do the accounts, but it's too difficult. I bought some books to teach myself, but I don't like it."

"I did some computer classes at school," says Carrie. "I thought they was easy."

"OK," says Ben. "Take the computer and the books home. Learn how to use it. Then you can do the accounts."

Carrie takes the computer and the books home with her. She teaches herself how to use the computer. She enjoys doing the accounts for the store.

I like this. I am good at this, thinks Carrie.

Carrie searches the Internet and finds an on-line course in accounting. It is not too expensive. She signs up for the course.

Now Carrie is very busy. She works in the store and she does the accounts for the store. She helps on the farm and in the house. She studies hard.

After six months, Carries finishes the course. She gets a certificate in the mail.

She takes the certificate into the store to show Ben.

"Wow!" says Ben. "Congratulations! You can get a job in a company now. You can look for a real job."

I could go to another place. I could leave here, thinks Carrie.

"Maybe it's a good idea if you look for a job," says Ben. "I am getting married. I am going to marry Melissa Briggs."

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Carrie knows Melissa Briggs. She lives on a farm about 30 minutes by car from the store. Her husband died in a tractor accident, and Melissa lives with her parents. Carrie thinks Melissa and Ben will be very happy.

“When we are married, Melissa will come and work in the store with me.”

Carrie is very happy for Ben. She is also happy and excited for herself..

-----END OF SAMPLE-----

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