Sam (Chapter 1 and 2)

1

**I** tucked my long, wispy, brown hair behind my ear. It was a windy October morning in Wisconsin. I, Sam, (short for Samantha), was sitting on my family's front porch. Today was the 15th, one of my cousins birthdays, and she and her family were coming to our little house in Wausau to celebrate her turning 8. I suddenly heard the sound of a car and looked up. A brown minivan was pulling up our driveway. Finally! They were here.

I heard the door open and saw my little brother, Zeke, and my dad come out to greet them. The door to the minivan opened and Ryan, another cousin, the birthday girl’s older brother, got out. Then the door on the other side opened and… “ Quinn!” Zeke shouted across the lawn. “ Happy Birthday!” Zeke was great friends with Quinn, And always loved when she came over. Me and my dad escorted them into the house, where mammi was making cake.”Um…Quinn? Do you want to go downstairs?” “Sure, of course.” Quinn was always outgoing and not shy at all, unlike me. At school, I usually didn’t raise my hand much. Quinn’s hand was always up, not because she was really smart, but because she loved talking. I went to Herban elementary school with her. I was in 5th grade with Ms. Ramerz. I am 10 years old, Zeke is 7, and my other little sister Myla is 9.

Me, Quinn, and Zeke went downstairs to find my dog and cat, Rexer, and Refael, chasing each other on the carpet. Those two, oddly enough, really like each other. They would be married if they weren’t cat and dog. “Whats in there?” Quinn asked, pointing to a door that led to a small storage room. “Oh, just storage.” I answered. “Hey Quinn! Wanna go see my room?” Zach was super exited. “ Sure!” I laughed. Zach always asks that question, Quinn must have seen the room he and I shared at least 5 times. I walked into the kitchen where mammi was now making her delicious rice pudding. “Mammi, Zach’s invited Quinn to his room again.” I said, lauging. She laughed too. “Well, give him this. He’ll like pretending he’s on a secret mission.” She handed me a folded up note. I went to the living room and opened it. In my mothers handwriting, it

said:

Dear spy,

Please ask Quinn if she wants to play with Rexer and Refael

Thank you

2

I laughed again. Then went upstairs and handed it to Zeke, who’s face lit up. “Hey, Quinn, do you wanna go play with Rexer and Refael?” I rolled my eyes. “Zach she might have forgotten who…” “The cat and dog?” Quinn was trying hard to remember. ”Yeah,” Zach said. “Come on!” They rushed out. I followed them down two sets of staircases to the basement where the two R’s liked to hang out. They weren’t there.

I looked in the storage space, then everyone looked all over the house. “Mammi, I can’t find them.” I said, Almost crying. I heard the back door slam and Zeke voice saying,”Rex, Ref, what are you doing?” I smiled. “Zach ,come in!”

For the rest of the day I helped mammi in the kitchen, we ate dinner and cake, and we played. Then, a few hours later, mammi asked Zach to show Quinn how to feed the dog and cat. I went down with them. “They’re on the windowsill.” I told them, remembering where we put them in they’re favorite sunny spot on the windowsill. But they weren’t. Seeing Zach’s worried look, I said, “they’re probably somewhere else, like last time.” We looked everywhere *and* outside.

But Rexer and Refael were nowhere to be found.

By – Virginia P - Marble