



ONE

The Morning Announcements

Tammy Aiko could barely contain her excitement. Today was the day she'd waited for. Today it would finally happen!

A few weeks ago, Tammy, her best friend, Kyle, and their new friend Alex had founded the Marine Science Club at Waverly Middle School. The only problem? The club wasn't exactly, well . . . *cool*. And that made Tammy

sad, because marine science was pretty awesome.

The three friends, representing the Marine Science Club, had ventured to Tiburon Cove down by the beach, where they'd come across not one, but *three* wild sharks! And the sharks needed the friends' help. The smallest one, a porbeagle, had gotten trapped in some pesky plastic. Thankfully, the Marine Science Club was able to free the little guy and give him a happily ever after. Sometimes when Tammy was feeling down, she liked to imagine the shark swimming under the sea.

Unknowingly, Alex had recorded the whole event with his video camera. It was the perfect way for the Marine Science Club to get some exposure (and some cool points)—after all, what could be cooler than a club

where you meet *sharks*? Tammy had initially pitched the feature to the school paper, but the paper wasn't interested. So now it was time for the morning announcements to do its thing!

The video was going to be *big*. It was going to put the Marine Science Club on the map. And although Tammy wasn't all that interested in being cool anymore, with more kids interested in the MSC, they'd be able to do good things for the oceans more easily, like plan a school-wide beach cleanup field trip. Tammy wanted kids to get involved in making sure no shark was in the porbeagle's position ever again.

But of course, that all rested on the success of the morning announcements.

Tammy tapped her left leg nervously

against the side of her desk. Sadly, she didn't share first period with Alex or Kyle (she had English class, they had Drawing and Painting), but she *was* excited to see what the rest of her classmates' reactions would be. Excitement? Intrigue? Fascination? She could just imagine answering all their questions now!

Finally, the Waverly Middle School logo appeared on the TV screen. The news anchor, an eighth grader named Carolyn Cho, was seated at the middle of a long table. Her hair was combed back and she was wearing a red pantsuit. Next to her was her co-anchor, a seventh-grade student named Leo McCormack. Confidentially, Tammy knew that Leo was only there because his mother, Ms. McCormack, was the morning announcements producer. Tammy knew that Leo would

much rather be down at the football field, being gross and sweaty.

Carolyn squared her gaze with the camera.

“Gooooood morning, Waverly Middle!” Carolyn all but shouted into her mic. “Today’s date is October first, and you’re watching the Waverly Waves!”

Tammy braced herself. *It’s all going to be okay*, she muttered under her breath.

“October has begun,” Carolyn said in her pristine way of reporting the news. “Which means the Drama Club’s school-wide Spookyfest is here! Be sure to stop by the club’s table during lunch and buy a Spookygram. They’re available all week.”

Tammy wiggled in her seat. *Spookygrams*. She’d forgotten that the Drama Club sold Spookygrams. Kids gave the Drama Club

two dollars, and then the Drama Club went around and sang spooky songs for the people who bought them. Last year her friend Beckah had bought her a Spookygram, and one of the members of the Drama Club followed her around all day and sang “Will You Be My Monster?”

Beckah. Tammy bristled. Beckah Cohen and Tammy used to be best friends, but ever since Beckah moved to the fancier part of town and became newspaper editor, they hadn’t hung out. It made Tammy sad, but maybe drifting apart was what middle school was for. Besides, if all went well, maybe Beckah would run a feature on Tammy and the MSC. It’s not like they were fighting or anything. Maybe MSC being cool was how she could win Beckah’s friendship back!