

CHAPTER 1

MM'S LIST FOR THE PERFECT BEDROOM!

- ✿ 1. Bed in corner with PURPLE bedspread.
Not stupid, flowery, old-lady one.
- ☆ 2. Books ordered in series, then by colour,
to make rainbow on shelf. Babyish
books hidden behind.
- ♡ 3. Clothes folded, divided winter/summer,
then ordered by colour in drawers.

- ☆ 4. Desk under window with sketch pad casually left open to brilliant drawing of Ava to show how deep and sensitive I am, like a real artist. Also, mega-box of tissues and bulk bottle of hand sanitiser in case of germs.
- ♡ 5. Music stand with Broadway Musical Songbook on it, so it looks like I break into song at random times of day, like a singing genius.
- ✿ 6. Poster of Rosie over desk to inspire me and toughen me up.

It was Day One in Wombat Gully and I'd followed my bedroom list perfectly, but something was missing. It nagged at me. I stood in the centre of the room and turned like a chicken cooking in the BBQ shop, trying to figure it out.

I'd crossed off points one to six so all my furniture and stuff was in the right place. The window in this room looked onto trees instead of office buildings, but that wasn't it. I tugged the bandana from my hair and glanced at the old-timey poster of Rosie the Riveter that Mum had given me. Rosie the Riveter was a woman who worked in a factory during World War II, when most men were off fighting. In the war poster, she's in a jumpsuit flexing her muscles to show that women can be brave and tough. Mum gave me Rosie the Riveter to remind me that I'm brave and tough, even if I don't always feel that way. Rosie glared down from the correct spot on the wall.

So what was wrong?

Then I spotted it. I hurried to the hall where the unpacked boxes were stacked, dug around and came back hugging Uni. I lay my purple unicorn toy on the bed and stroked her soft, woolly eyelashes. There.