

Chapter 1

If the sound of the door bursting open made my heart skip a beat, the shouts from my mom, who began screaming my name a second later, certainly scared me half to death.

“Wyatt! Wyatt!” she shouted. “I can’t believe it! I won! I won!” she continued as she ran into the living room, waving a piece of paper in front of her. “I won! I won! I won!” she kept carrying on, struggling to catch her breath after having run all the way from the mailbox at the end of our gravel driveway.

“Won what?” I asked, tilting my head and raising my eyebrows to show her I was confused.

"The cabin! I won the cabin," she explained as she shoved the piece of paper she was holding into my face.

"Umm... what cabin?" I asked as I peeked around the paper, still clueless about what she was so worked up over.

"Wyatt," she said, taking a deep breath and forcing herself to talk more slowly, "I won that cabin in Maine. I really won!"

She had sat down next to me now and had stopped waving around the letter she had gotten from the mailbox. She held it between us and said, "Look!" as she jerked it slightly. "Read it for yourself."

"Congratulations!" I read out loud. "We are excited to inform you that you are the winner of the Make Your Home in Maplesville Giveaway. Your name was randomly selected from thousands of entries, and you are now the proud new owner of a beautiful cabin in the wonderful town of Maplesville, Maine."

MAINE MISSION

“What in the world, Mom?” I asked, now getting excited myself. “I didn’t know you entered a drawing for a cabin!”

“Well, maybe I didn’t even say anything. I really don’t remember,” she admitted. The truth is, I enter these silly drawings all the time, but I never really have any hope that I might actually win one of them. It’s just something I do for the fun of it. And I probably don’t say anything about most of them. Because, again, who thinks they are really going to win? Who would ever think they’d win a cabin in Maine?!?” she exclaimed while shaking the letter above her head and getting way too excited all over again.

“Does Dad know?” I asked, getting excited with her. “That you entered, I mean?”

“I don’t know. I’m not sure if I told him either,” she answered. “But y’all are a big part of the reason I entered. Look at the pictures,” she said as she pulled out another page from the envelope she had torn open at

the mailbox. "It's a hunting cabin, Wyatt. Look at all the antlers and mounts on the walls!"

She was right. The wooden walls of the cabin were covered with deer mounts—and even a moose! There must have been close to thirty of them in all.

"When I first read about the cabin give-away online," she continued, "I thought it would be a perfect getaway for us—a place where you and your dad could go hunting and somewhere for me to relax and read. And look at the precious little town!" she added as she excitedly pushed another piece of paper my way. "Do you see all those little shops? I could spend day after day exploring that little town while y'all hunt! Oh, I'm just so excited. I still can't believe it!"

I couldn't believe it either. And I couldn't wait for my dad to get home. I couldn't wait to see his reaction to the good news!