

G-R-E-E-N-E

When Jen slowly wakes up, she's totally unaware of how long she has been asleep. It could have been a few minutes or an hour. She has no clue. Her father sometimes falls asleep while watching TV. He is known to sleep through most of a show and awaken with a bewildered look on his face. She thinks that she is like her father in some ways. But right now, she feels disorientated.

As she wipes her eyes, she can hear voices in the nurse's office. One is obviously Ms. Heather, and the other is a girl. Suddenly Jen hears something that brings her completely awake.

"I've been high all day," the girl says.

Jen believes that the word "high" has to do with drugs. It is not like she has ever taken any drugs herself. But she has taken a drug-awareness class and knows what drugs are and even what certain drugs do. Her friend Emma has an older brother who has caused their family a lot of heartache and trouble because he was involved with drugs—the illegal kind. She knows that drugs are really bad news and hearing somebody around her age say that they have been high all day is very startling.

Jen sits up and tries to see through the half-open door. But all she can see is Ms. Heather's desk. She twists her neck to get a better look. The girl is wearing black Converse shoes and anxiously tapping her feet.

"Are you high right now?" Ms. Heather asks.

"Yes," the girl says in a distressed tone.

"Alright," Ms. Heather says calmly. "Let's check again in about an hour to see if you are still high."

"Okay, okay," the girl says with a heavy sigh.



Jen cannot wait for her lunch period. She just has to tell Kendall and Emma what she heard Ms. Heather say to High Girl. Although the three girls have a class together and actually sit near one another, they aren't going to be able to talk. Mr. Jackson is not in a very good mood today! Of course, Jen has missed the first part of the class, but she can tell that a good deal of the students did not do well on their most recent quiz.

"Okay, what is so earthshaking?" Kendall asks as the three girls walk together towards the cafeteria.

"Yeah, tell us, tell us!" Emma shouts, as she leaves Kendall's side and moves in next to Jen so that she can hear her better.

"Once we sit down, I will tell you everything," Jen says.

Emma takes another bite of her sandwich. She tries to be patient. "Alright, let it out!" she blurts out as soon as Jen sits down.

"Wait just a minute," Jen says. "The last time I talked at lunch, I didn't get to eat anything!"