

# glee

## SUMMER BREAK

### CHAPTER 1

## Summer plans

‘Only one more week of school before the summer holidays!’ Rachel Berry smiled and got out of bed quickly. She switched on her computer and looked happily at her timetable: RACHEL’S STAR SUMMER!

‘It’s going to be a busy summer,’ she thought. ‘Dance classes, voice classes, and best of all, I’ve got a meeting with a real Broadway\* talent agency! It will all help me to become a star.’

During the holidays, most teenagers just wanted to enjoy the sun and hang out with friends, but Rachel was different. She was a talented singer and she wanted to get better – much better. She wanted to be a famous singer on Broadway. For Rachel, this wasn’t hard work. It was a chance to make her dream come true.



\* Broadway is the famous theatre area in New York, with over 40 theatres.

‘All year, I’ve worked hard to help the others in Glee Club,’ she thought. ‘Now this summer is *my* time to work on my talents.’

Rachel looked at a photo on her wall, of her and Finn Hudson. They had been boyfriend and girlfriend and broken up many times, but they were together again now. Finn didn’t know yet, but Rachel had included him in her Star Summer plans. She had paid for dance classes for herself and Finn. ‘It’ll be just like the dancing in the film *Singin’ in the Rain\**,’ Rachel thought. ‘And so romantic too.’ She couldn’t wait to tell Finn when she got to school.

Rachel printed three of her summer timetables. She wrote her name on one, and then *Finn* and *Mr Schuester* on the other two. ‘This way, Mr Schuester will know that I’m serious about getting better,’ she thought. ‘And he’ll know exactly what I’m doing all the time. After all, he might need to speak to me about songs for next year.’

Yesterday, all students had received the *Thunderclap*, the McKinley High School yearbook. Rachel hadn’t looked at her copy yet. She wanted to enjoy looking at the photos of herself when she was alone. Rachel always tried to appear in as many yearbook photos as possible. She thought it was good practice for when she was a star. Of course, most of the photos were of the Cheerios, the cheerleaders.

Luckily, one of the *Thunderclap* photographers, Jacob Ben Israel, thought Rachel was hot. Rachel secretly thought Jacob – or J-Fro as everyone called him – was a creep, but he loved taking photos of her. And around yearbook time, Rachel let him. This year, the yearbook had an article called *A Day in the Life* all about her! Rachel couldn’t wait to read it.

\* *Singin’ in the Rain* is a 1952 musical comedy film about Hollywood. It’s famous for its songs and dance routines.

Yesterday, J-Fro had spoken to her about the photos. 'It's not my fault,' he said. 'Sorry ... the Cheerios changed the photos I used in the article. They put the worst photos in instead. I've only just found out!'

Rachel wasn't happy with what she saw. There was a photo of someone throwing a slushie at her. There was a photo of her singing in Glee Club, but everyone around her looked bored. It didn't exactly look like an article about a young star. Still, it was her first important article and her two dads were very proud of it.

'At least people at school are talking about me,' Rachel thought. More than anything, she wanted everyone to know her name – even if they were saying bad things about her. 'And for the next three months all I have to think about is me and my plans!'



Mercedes Jones was waiting for her best friend Kurt Hummel outside the school. 'I hope he brings me his Spanish notes,' she thought. 'He promised.' Mercedes still had a Spanish exam to do, and she wasn't great at languages. After that, though, it was the summer holidays!

For Mercedes, the summer holiday meant hanging out with Kurt and doing very little – usually this was Mercedes' idea of a perfect summer. She didn't have to worry about homework or exams or getting slushied by the other students.

But this summer was a bit different. Mercedes was starting to think about the future. Maybe



singing wasn't just for fun. Maybe she could actually get a job in performing arts. 'I'm going to miss Glee Club this summer,' she thought. 'Rachel's always saying we have to keep practising, but the only time I ever perform in summer is at the church's Fourth of July\* party. Maybe I need to get a bit more serious about singing.'

While she was waiting, she listened to 'Airplanes'\*\* on her iPod. It was the next Glee solo and for once, Rachel wasn't doing the solo. 'I hope Mr Schuester chooses me to do the solo,' Mercedes thought as the song played. She was practising the song as often as she could.

Suddenly she noticed the time: 8.13! 'Classes started three minutes ago! Where's Kurt? He's never late. I hope everything's OK.' Mercedes decided to wait.

Finally, ten minutes later, Kurt arrived. His clothes looked a bit untidy, which was strange because his clothes were always perfect. Always. For Kurt, clothes and his appearance were the most important things in life. He always spent a long time thinking about what to wear each day – and he tried never to wear exactly the same clothes more than once. He loved shopping for clothes and he knew all the cool designers.

'Why are you so late? Please tell me nothing's wrong and you've brought me your Spanish notes,' Mercedes said.



\* In 1783 America won a war against the British and became a free country. The Fourth of July celebrates this day.

\*\* 'Airplanes' is a famous rap song by B.o.B (Bobby Ray Simmons). It went to number one in the UK in 2010.

'I can't think about homework now! My life is over!' Kurt answered.

'What *are* you talking about?'

'My dad won't give me any more money for clothes, and I can't use eBay,' Kurt shook his head sadly. 'Last night, I was watching *What Not to Wear*\* on TV while I was doing my homework. I was imagining I was doing the show. You know how I get when I watch these shows ... my personality changes ... I almost become that TV personality. Anyway, Carol came in and asked if she could help. I told her it would help *everyone* if she stopped wearing those awful trousers.'

Mercedes couldn't believe it. 'You said that to Carol? Your dad's new wife?!'

'The trouble is, my dad heard,' Kurt continued. 'He thinks I'm too selfish and I need to think about other people more. He won't give me any money for new clothes until I do. If I help other people, he'll start giving me money again.'

'Well, once a month, I go with my mom and her friends from church to visit some old people. You could come with us. That would be helping people,' Mercedes suggested.

'Visit old people? No, thanks.' Kurt looked at her. 'You've got to help me. I look awful. I'm always the best-dressed student at school. I can't let this happen.'

'Of course I'll help you with your clothes.' Mercedes said, as they walked into school.

'I'll help Kurt,' Mercedes thought. 'Then I have to decide what I want to do this summer.'

\* *What Not to Wear* is a TV series about fashion and style.