



**Penny** was hoping to spend time with her **twin** brother Peyton today. As she left her room she bumped into Peyton's friend Kevin.

"Hi Penny!" Kevin said as his monkey Chipo gave her a sucker.

"Oh. Hi. Thanks," Penny said, smiling a small smile. Maybe Mom has time to spend with me, she thought.

Downstairs, Mom was **quickly** collecting her coat and keys. "I'll be back late," Mom said. "See you later." Penny nodded.

The door shut and the family truck revved up and roared away. Sigh! Alone again.





**Penny** knew that Dad was probably too busy to visit. He'd been outside spending every spare moment building a secret project. She pulled on her shoes and coat and went out back anyway. Her cat Horace **trotted** alongside.

"Dad?" Penny called through the tent of tarps hiding Dad's doings.

"Penny!" Dad said quickly. "Don't come in. You'll spoil the surprise!"

"Sorry," Penny said.

Dad heard her disappointment. "We're all going out together tomorrow for back-to-school shopping."

"Okay, Dad." Penny picked Horace up, aimed for the open **fields**, and started to walk.





Penny sat down by a farmer's fence. A large, **woolly sheep** poked its nose out to greet them. "Hi Sheepie." "Baaa," the sheep said.



Penny was feeling kind of lonely. She had Horace, but all summer long it seemed that everyone else was **too busy** to spend time with her. She had really wanted to go back to the Perfect Pet Pal Emporium and visit their water park. But it was only open for the summer, and summer was over.



Somehow Sheepie helped Penny **feel better** and made her think of Mr. Chapman.