

With a B average, and struggling to learn a new instrument, Lisa devotes herself to middle school orchestra, only to meet another Lisa - who is pretty, popular, and gets straight A's. Can anything good come of this? Middle School Promises is an inspirational and humorous coming-of-age story for readers Grades 5-8.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMISES

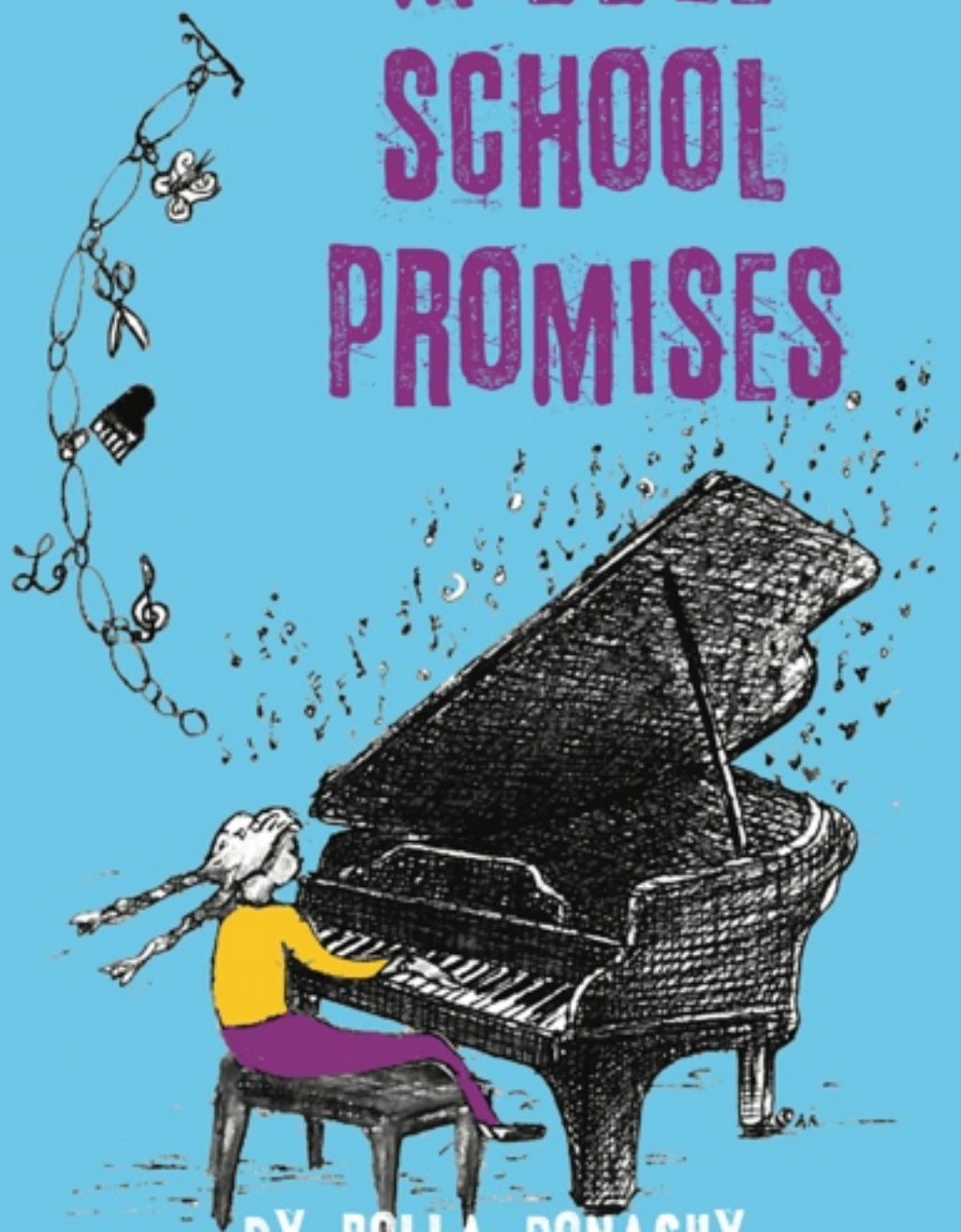
By Rolla Donaghy, Illustrations by Angela Amato

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BY ROLLA DONAGHY
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANGELA AMATO

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CHAPTER 1

A Big Mistake

THE CAFETERIA AT Everton Middle is so big and noisy I can hardly hear a thing as I wait for Jasmine, my BFF even if we aren't in the same classes this year.

My phone beeps with a message: 'Save me a place.'

She rushes in, grabs a chair and sits to catch her breath. "Hi there. Sorry I'm late. You eating already? You promised to wait."

I look up, chewing a celery stick. "I am waiting. I wonder what birthday present mom will give me next month. She usually gives me a charm for my bracelet; it has my favorite things from when I was little like unicorns; now I want a piano."

"Don't you guys already have a piano?" Jasmine asks.



"I mean for my bracelet. Last year we added a treble clef."

Jasmine nods, "I remember your birthday party last year. You doing anything special this weekend?"

"Nope. I go over and feed the Jenkins' cat. There's new music in orchestra today, that means fun sight reading."

"Reading is reading is boring reading," gasps Jasmine.

"Not sight-reading new music! It's great because we can make mistakes and not get in trouble."

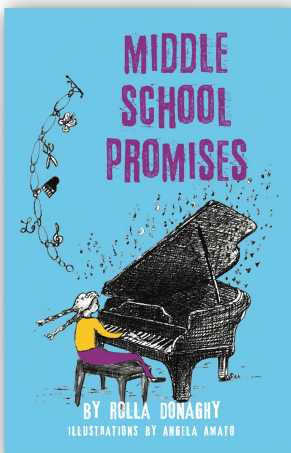
She looks over with a raised eyebrow and pulls out an essay. "Hey, what's sticking out of your notebook? Oh, wow. An 'A'. Mi gosh. Vienna in the 1700's."

I take it back to look more closely. "I didn't write this! I didn't know that Vienna existed in the 1700's. This is definitely not my homework because I wrote about Broadway musicals. At the top is printed 'Lisa P'. Well, I'm Lisa P. For a fact, my name is Lisa Planter."

"Why argue with an A?" persists Jasmine, swapping her peaches in pear juice for my granola bar to put in her pocket.

"This is baffling. Another girl in orchestra is named Lisa with a P last name? She gets A's. Look, she drew an oboe next to her name."

Who is this other Lisa? She's smart. Is she nice or mean? We are destined to be confused for each other this year.



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