

Ella on the Move.



Words by Jennifer Lin
Art by Eliana Lin

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Chapter 1: Ella & Madison

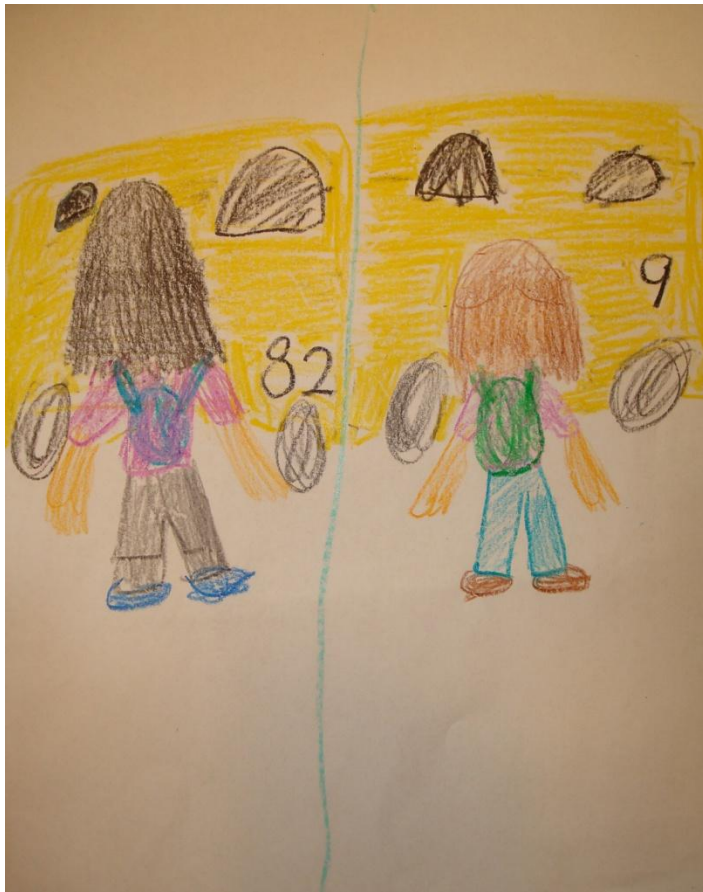
Ella met Madison on the first day of kindergarten.

They both sat at the Blue Table.

They both liked celery sticks with peanut butter but no raisins.

They both thought boys were goofy but fun to play with...sometimes.





Whenever Ella felt homesick, Madison would tell her a knock-knock joke to make her feel better.

Whenever Madison forgot her backpack, Ella would share her paper and crayons.

They had many things in common, but they weren't truly *best friends* until one day...

“What’s your favorite animal?” Ella asked.

“Horses,” Madison replied.

“That’s *my* favorite too!” Ella said.

The two girls looked at each other and smiled. They knew they had found a friend for life.

Chapter 2: Horse Dreams

Ella and Madison called each other everyday.

They begged their moms for playdates, even though they had just seen each other at school.

When Madison went to Ella's house, they would color horse pictures or watch horse movies or play cowgirls.

When Ella went to Madison's house, they would admire Madison's horse posters and read her collection of horse stories.

They talked about horseback-riding and how they wished they lived on a farm instead of boring neighborhoods with sidewalks instead of trails.

When it was Ella's birthday, Madison gave her a necklace with a horse charm and the word "Friends" on it.



“And I have a matching charm, Ella!” Madison said excitedly. She showed Ella the necklace she was wearing.

She had the same horse charm, but underneath, it said “Best”.

“See, when we are together, our necklaces say ‘Best Friends’!” Madison explained.

Ella loved her necklace and wore it to bed every night.

They formed their own We Heart Horses Club. They couldn't wait 'til they were big enough to go riding together.

When they lost their first tooth together, instead of asking the Tooth Fairy for money, they both asked for palominos instead.

“Enough with the horses!” their moms would plead. But horses were all the girls talked about, until one day...

Chapter 3: Ella's News

Ella's mom and dad told her they had some news.

Her dad had gotten a job in a town called Chattanooga, and they would be moving there that summer.

The town, Ella's mom told her, has a zoo, an aquarium, a cave, a train called the Chattanooga Choo Choo, and a science museum for kids (if there's anything Ella loved more than horses, it was science!).

"You are going to *love* it," Ella's mom said.

Ella wasn't listening.

She grabbed the phone and dashed into her room. This was news Madison needed to hear!

"Guess what, Madison?" Ella asked when Madison answered.

"What?" Madison replied.

"We are moving to Chattanooga!" Ella said.



“Chatta-*what?!*” Madison said.

“Chatta-*nooga!*” Ella repeated.

Neither of them knew where the funny-sounding town was, but anywhere that’s not down the street is too far.

“Do you think we can still be best friends?” Madison asked.

“I think so,” Ella said. She wasn’t sure about the Best Friends Rules.

“I would miss you so much...like, to a hundred pieces!” Madison said.

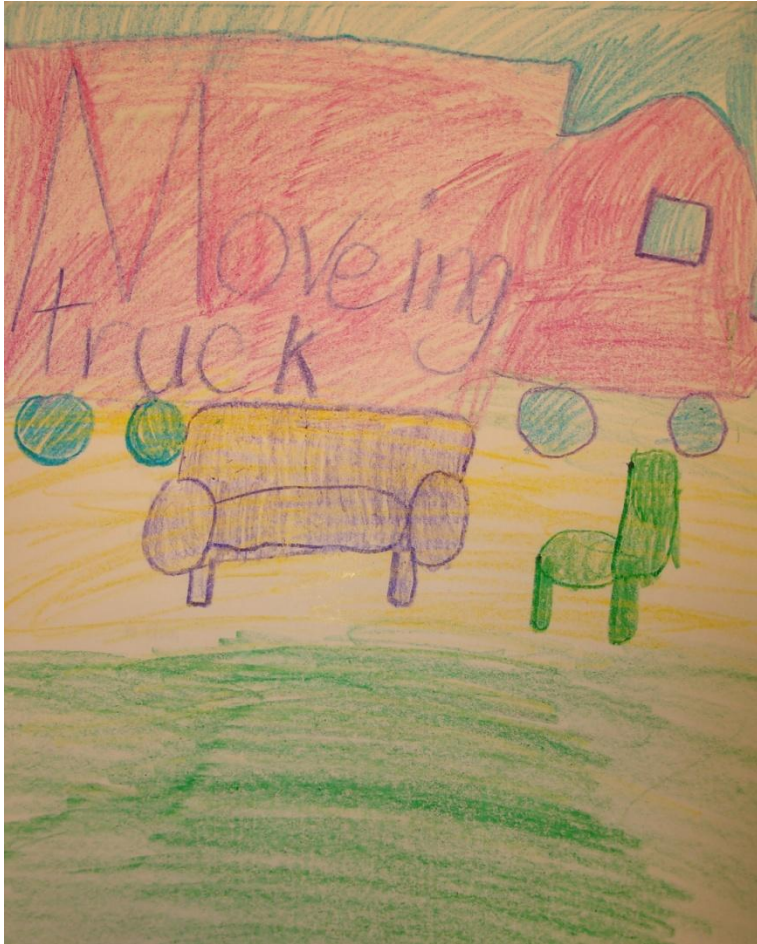
“I would miss you too...like, to a thousand pieces!” Ella said.

Both of them giggled as each tried to think of a bigger number.

Ella realized that of course they would always be best friends.

Even if they couldn't see each other everyday, they could talk on the phone and they would always have their matching Best Friends necklaces.

Chapter 4: Moving Day



On the day Ella's family was driving down to Chattanooga, Madison came over on her scooter to say goodbye.

She gave Ella a present wrapped in pretty paper. Ella opened it. It was a scrapbook with pictures of them inside.

"This is so you can remember me," Madison said. She tried not to cry.

“I have something for you too,” Ella said. She ran into the house and came back with a knapsack.

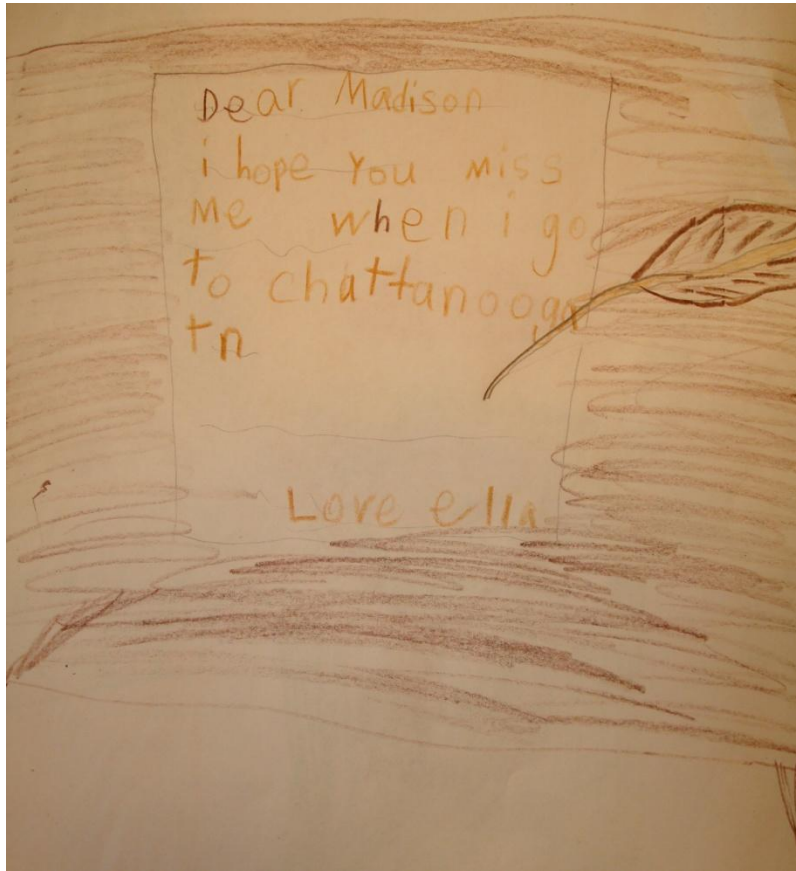
It was filled with pencils, stamps, envelopes, and stationary with horses on it.

“This is so we can write to each other,” Ella said. “I will tell you all about Chattanooga, and you can tell me about what you are doing here!”

The girls promised to write each other every week.

They gave each other long hugs, and waved and waved until Ella’s car disappeared down the street.

Chapter 5: Pen Pals



Ella and Madison kept their promise. They wrote each other every week.

Ella wrote about her adventures in Chattanooga.

Madison wrote about being a first-grader at George A. Elementary.

They wrote about new friends and favorite teachers, pet peeves, and field trips.

But most of all, they wrote about horses.

Hi Madison,

You won't believe what's in Chattanooga -- horses!!! They are everywhere!
My mommy says now that we live on a farm, we might get one for a pet! NO
WAY! HOW AWESOME WOULD THAT BE?!? If we get a palomino I will name
it Maddie.

Miss you lots...wish you were here!

Love, Ella XOXOXO

Hi Ella,

I can't believe you might be getting a horse! You are so lucky! Do you think you can ride it to school? That'd be sooooo cool.

Hugs and kisses, Madison XOXOXO

Hi Madison,

Guess what? Mommy took me to my first horseback-riding lesson! My horse's name is Starlight and she's beautiful. I got to brush her mane and feed her oats. I learned commands like "Whoa" (that means to stop) and "Easy" (that means to slow down). I wonder when I will get to jump!

Miss you lots...wish you were here!

Love, Ella XOXOXO

Every week, Ella waited for the mailman. He would ring the doorbell and hand Ella the mail.

“Another letter with horse stickers?” he would ask Ella.

“Yep! It’s from my best friend!” Ella would answer proudly .

It wasn’t exactly the same as running down to Madison’s house after school, but Ella didn’t feel as alone when she had Madison’s letter in her hands.

Chapter 6: A Special Delivery

Before the girls knew it, the school year was almost over.

Summer! thought Ella. She couldn't wait to visit Madison.

She even made a to-do list and sent it to Madison with her latest letter.

They were going to go swimming, ride bikes, have a sleepover, and have ice cream and movie popcorn until they were so full they couldn't eat any more.

Ella had everything planned out perfectly...except that for the second week in a row, the mailman had no letter with horse stickers to hand her.

“Do you think she forgot?” Ella asked her mom.

“Maybe she’s busy,” her mom said.

“But she always writes!” Ella protested.

“Maybe she didn’t like my list?”

Ella’s mom smiled. “Honey, don’t worry about it. I am sure Madison would write next week.”

But next week came, and there was no letter.



School was out, but all of a sudden, Ella wasn't so excited about summer any more .

One day, when she was washing up before lunch, the door bell rang.

“Ella,” Mommy called out from the kitchen, “could you get it please?”

Ella ran to the door.

The mailman stood at the door with a big grin on his face. “I have a special delivery for you, Ella.”

“For me?” asked Ella.

“Yes,” the mailman said. “I think you’ve been waiting for this for the last few weeks?”

Slowly, he stepped aside.



“Surprise!” a girl in a cowgirl hat yelled.

Ella couldn't believe her eyes.

“Madison?” she asked and took a closer look.

The girl wore a horse charm around her neck.

“MADISON?!?” she shrieked.

Madison burst out laughing. “Yup, it's me!!!”

“What are you *doing* here?” Ella asked.

“Well, you talked so much about Chattanooga and how much fun you were having and all those horses and riding lessons that my dad decided to find a job here and he did and now we are moving here too!”

Madison took a deep breath.

“Guess what, Ella?” she asked.

“What?” Ella said.

“We’re going to be *neiiiiigh*-bors!!!”

About the Artist



Eliana (Ella) Lin is a 5-year-old kindergartener who aspires to be an art teacher. She has been drawing since before the age of 2 (people faces) and loves drawing with crayons, paint, pencils, oil pastels, and water colors. Her favorite things to draw are horses, people, and everything in nature. She currently lives in Dyer, IN, but is moving with her family to Chattanooga, TN. She will miss all her friends in Indiana, but hopes this book will help them remember her.

About the Author



Jennifer Lin (Ella's mommy) used to be a technical/content writer but now works full time as a stay-at-home mom. She writes stories about her daughters Ella and Charlotte in her spare time, and loves the ideas they bring to the table. She currently resides in Indiana and hopes to join her husband in Chattanooga as soon as the house sells.

You can read about Ella's other adventures in Jennifer's ellaBean Series...well, sort of. They are not published so you'll have to ask her personally.