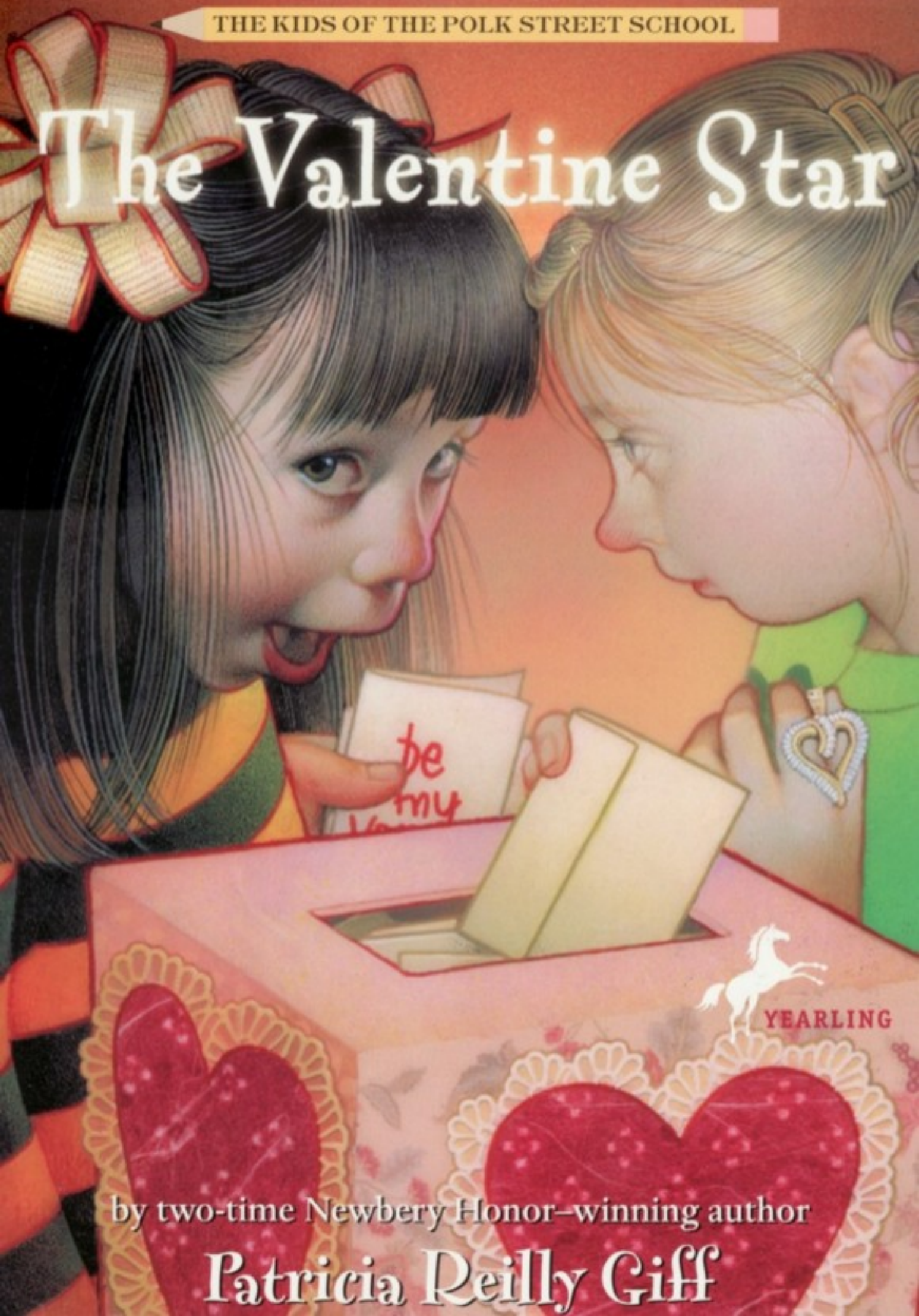


THE KIDS OF THE POLK STREET SCHOOL

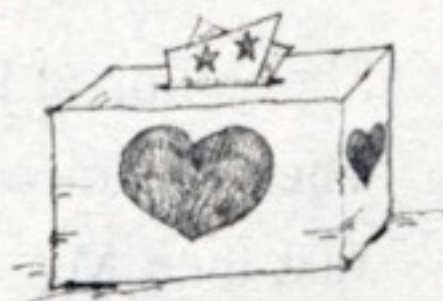
# The Valentine Star



by two-time Newbery Honor-winning author

Patricia Reilly Giff

# Chapter 1



Emily Arrow raced across the schoolyard.

“Come on, Uni,” she said. She held the little rubber unicorn up high.

She jumped over a clump of snow.

“Faster,” she yelled. “Faster.”

“Wait up,” said a voice behind her.

“Fastest in the world,” Emily said.

“Hey,” said the voice.

Emily looked back. It was Sherri Dent.

“How about playing something?” Sherri yelled.

Emily shook her head. She wanted to run with Uni.

She raced to the highest snow pile. It was the one near the schoolyard fence.

They weren’t supposed to climb on it.

But she was running fast. Too fast to stop.

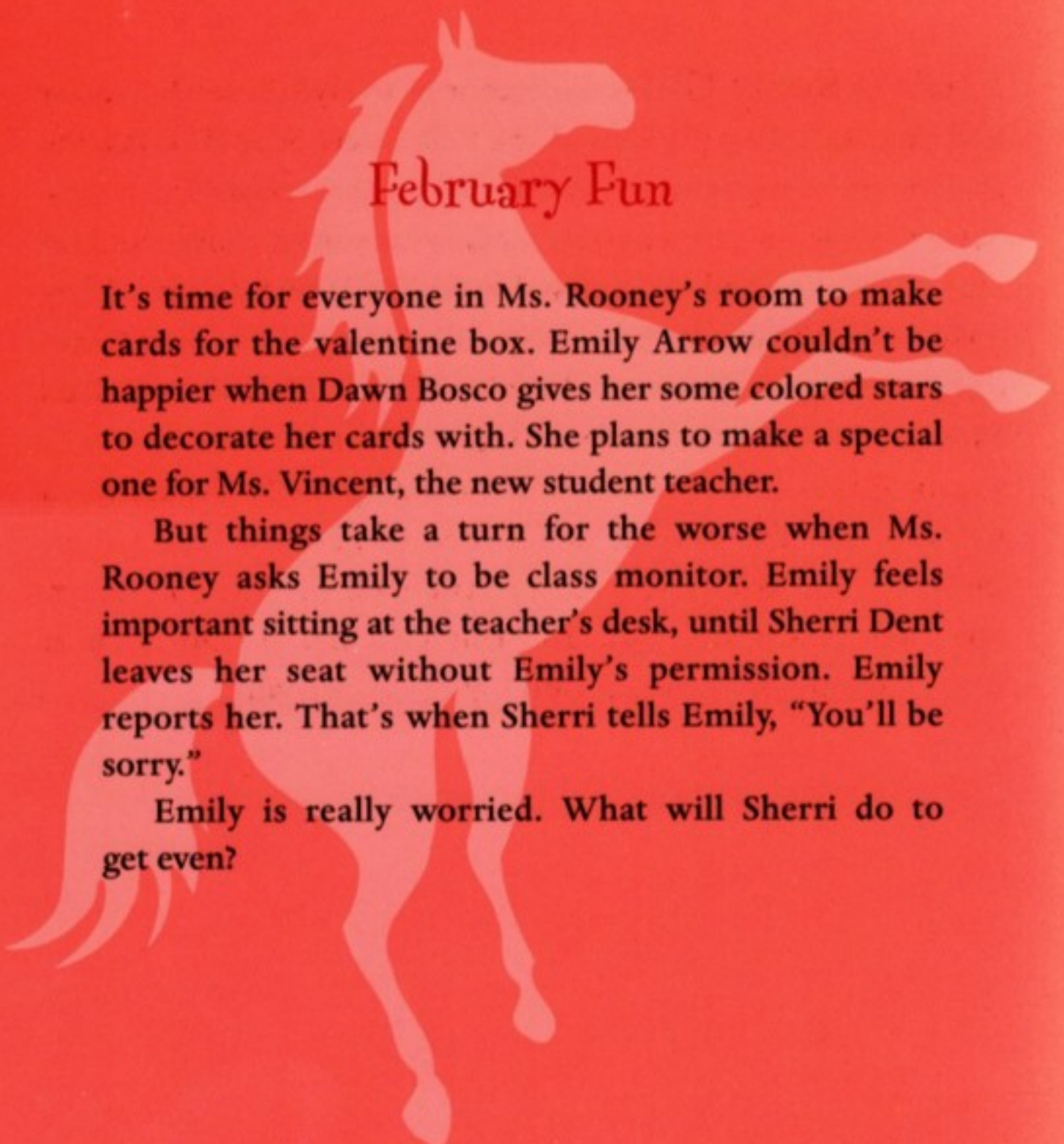
She galloped to the top of the pile.  
Then she raced down again.  
Just then Ms. Rooney blew her whistle.  
Recess was over.  
Emily dashed across the yard to her line.  
Sherri Dent was there ahead of her. She stuck  
her tongue out at Emily.  
Her tongue was as pointy as her face.  
Emily stared at her.  
She opened her mouth.  
Then she closed it with a pop.  
“Fish face to you, Sherri Dent,” Emily said to  
herself.  
Sherri’s hand shot up in the air.  
“Let’s hurry,” said Ms. Rooney. “I have a  
surprise.”  
“Ms. Rooney,” said Sherri. “Emily was playing  
on the snow pile.”  
Ms. Rooney frowned at Emily.  
Emily ducked her head. She hated it when Ms.  
Rooney frowned.

Ms. Rooney led the line toward the door.  
Emily poked her head around Jason Bazyk.  
She could see Sherri in front of the line.  
Too bad she wasn't closer.  
She'd like to give Sherri a kick in the shins.  
She'd like to pinch her skinny neck that looked  
like a pole.

Inside Emily hung up her jacket quickly.  
She put Uni inside her desk.  
“Is everybody ready?” asked Ms. Rooney.  
Emily sat up straight. She remembered Ms.  
Rooney's surprise.

“This is February tenth,” Ms. Rooney said.  
“Who can tell us what happens in four days?”  
Dawn Bosco raised her hand. So did Emily.  
“Dawn?” asked Ms. Rooney.  
“Valentine's Day,” said Dawn.  
“Right,” said Ms. Rooney.

Ms. Rooney pulled out a box from underneath  
her desk. It was covered with shiny pink paper. It  
had a big red heart on it.



## February Fun

It's time for everyone in Ms. Rooney's room to make cards for the valentine box. Emily Arrow couldn't be happier when Dawn Bosco gives her some colored stars to decorate her cards with. She plans to make a special one for Ms. Vincent, the new student teacher.

But things take a turn for the worse when Ms. Rooney asks Emily to be class monitor. Emily feels important sitting at the teacher's desk, until Sherri Dent leaves her seat without Emily's permission. Emily reports her. That's when Sherri tells Emily, "You'll be sorry."

Emily is really worried. What will Sherri do to get even?

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