

Anna Ford

"Eva! Come *on!*" Izzy pleads, tugging on Eva's arm.

"It starts in twenty minutes! We have plenty of time." Eva assures her friend.

"Still! Do you want to get a good spot? 'Cause they'll all be gone by the time *you* want us to get there." Izzy says impatiently.

"Okay, okay," Eva allows, letting Izzy pull her along.

"I just *love* the spring parade! It's so festive!" Izzy chirps.

"Yeah, and we get to go together! It's so nice that all our community pitches in for the parade." Eva adds.

"Yeah," Izzy agrees.

"Eva! Izzy! Over here!" Mrs. Baton waves her arms.

The two girls go over to her, grinning.

"How are my favorite customers?" She asks.

"Good. We're heading to the parade," Izzy raises her eyebrow at Eva.

"Alright, then I won't hold you up. Here, take these. And happy Parade Day!" Mrs. Baton says, handing each girl a saltwater taffy.

"Thank you, Mrs. Baton!" Eva calls as she and Izzy jog down the street.

"Eva! Izzy! Over here!" Mr. Walsh beckons the girls over to his storefront.

"It's nice to see you two. Heading for the parade?" He asks.

"We sure are," Izzy says, nudging Eva.

"I won't hold you girls long, but here, take these. And happy Parade Day!" Mr. Walsh says, handing each girl a slice of Mr. Walsh's special sweet bread.

"Thank you!" Eva calls out as she and Izzy continue down the street.

At last, the girls reach the parade site.

"Hello, girls," Police Officer Molly says, "ready for the parade?"

"We sure are," Izzy replies.

"Alright. Why don't you follow me? There's a really good spot down the street a little. I saved it just for you two."

Eva and Izzy follow the cop down the street until they get to a roped-off bench that has a perfect view of the parade.

"Thank you!" Eva says as the police officer strolls away.

"I'm so glad our community is so connected," Izzy says.

"Me, too," Eva agrees.