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A New Friend

Paul and his family were early. The rodeo wouldn't begin for more than an hour. They found their seats in the middle of the bleachers, about half-way up. Paul looked onto the field, and he decided that these were the best seats anyone could get.

Now what? he asked himself.

As if reading Paul's mind, his dad answered. "Maybe you and Matt should try to get a few cowboy autographs."

"Really?" Paul nearly fell out of his seat.

"Yes, really," said his dad.

Matt the Brat almost ruined it. “I don’t want to go,” shrieked the boy. “I want popcorn!”

Paul frowned. He wouldn’t let Matt spoil his fun, not today.

“Can I go without him?” begged the young Super Spy.

Matt held his breath. Then he screamed. Then he held his breath. Then, once again, he screamed.

Mrs. Jenkins had heard enough. “You stop that right now, or you can watch this rodeo from the car.”

Paul almost laughed, but he swallowed hard. He didn’t want to get in trouble too.

His dad gave him a quick glance and said, “Yes, you can go. But stay out of trouble.”

Paul didn’t need to be told twice. He jumped out of his seat and weaved his way down the aisle. He dashed toward the cowboys’ trailers, their little homes on wheels.

It was easy to spot Carter. Paul could see the line of fans waiting to meet him. He ran around the fenced area to the back of the field, where most of the trailers were. He took his place at the end of the line and counted nearly 20 people in front of him. He heard a few fans hop into line behind him too.

The Super Spy couldn't see Carter any more. But he heard someone in front yelling, "Hurry, I don't have all day!"

At least, Paul said to himself, the line is moving quickly. I'll be up there in no time.

His thoughts were interrupted by the voice of someone standing in line behind him. "Nice watch."

It sounded like Paul's best friend, Emily. The boy spun around, expecting to see her.

Instead he looked into the green eyes of a girl he didn't know. She smiled at him and pointed to her own wrist. She was wearing a Super Spy watch too.

