

SAGE COOKSON'S

Ring of Truth



SALLY MURPHY

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COOKSON'S

Ring of
Truth

For my family, who always believe in me.

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CHAPTER 1



Lucy! Your mum's here,' my mum calls up the stairs.

'Already?' Lucy pulls a face. 'I was hoping she'd be late.'

I glance at the clock and smile. 'She is!'

We'd been having so much fun together that we didn't notice how late it was. We'd been talking, and listening to music and surfing the net, and laughing and doing all the things that we don't get to do together when I'm away.

‘Lucy!’ Mum calls again.

‘Coming!’ Lucy calls back, then turns to give me a hug. ‘Have fun on Harmon Island,’ she says.

‘I will,’ I say. I really enjoy travelling so often, and there’s always something interesting to do and see at the places we go. ‘But I’ll miss you,’ I add.

It’s true. Lucy is my best friend, and the only thing I don’t like about travelling with my parents is being so far away from Lucy.

‘I’ll miss you too. Just stay out of trouble.’ Lucy twists a strand of hair as she talks. ‘You gave me such a fright last time.’

She gives me a last quick hug before she runs downstairs. I hear the front door close as I turn to the open suitcase on my bed. I had better start packing.

It wasn’t just Lucy who got a fright on my last trip. When the chocolatier Marco

stranded my parents and me deep in the bush, we were really lost. There were moments when we didn't think we'd ever get out. It was lucky that I had managed to get a text to Lucy before our phone reception cut out. It was Lucy who had raised the alarm that led to us getting rescued.

Thinking about this reminds me to pack my phone charger and slip my phone into my pocket. It took a lot of convincing for Lucy and I to be allowed to have mobiles to keep in touch. Of course, since it was those phones that helped us out of trouble on our last trip, my parents have stopped worrying that I'll use it too much. Well, maybe they still worry a little bit. That's what parents do.

I whip my phone back out of my pocket and open a new text message.

Miss you already.

I think for a moment then add: *Will bring you back something yummy.*

As I turn back to my packing, my phone buzzes.

Miss you too. More chocolate?

I smile. Lucy and I have the same tastes in food, as well as lots of other things. When I'm home we go rollerskating, watch movies and talk for hours. When I'm away we like to read the same books, or look at the same websites so we can talk about them in emails or texts. And, of course, I get to share my travels with her so she can enjoy them too.