



STORY BY

DAN SANTAT

SCHOLASTIC INC.

FOR QUINLAN AND ORLA KEANE

- D.P.

FOR JILL AND IRA - D.S.

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CHAPTER ONE RICKY AND HIS ROBOT

One fine day, Ricky Ricotta and his Mighty Robot were playing cops and robbers in their yard. Ricky liked to play the robber because he was good at hiding. Ricky's Mighty Robot liked playing the cop because he was good at finding things.



"Hey, no fair," Ricky laughed. "You're not allowed to use X-ray vision!"



Soon Ricky's mother came outside.

"Come along, boys," she said. "We are going to your cousin Lucy's house for lunch."

"Aww, man!" said Ricky. "Do we have to go?"

"Yes," said Ricky's mother. "It will be fun."

"But Uncle Freddie always shakes my hand too hard," said Ricky. "And Auntie Ethel always kisses me too much . . . and Cousin Lucy always wants to play *princess*!"

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"Well, we are going anyway," said Ricky's mother. "So please try to have some fun."

"We'll go," Ricky sighed, "but we won't have any fun!"

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