

Chapter 4 – The Plot

Ring! The break-time bell rang repeatedly. “You may be excused now.” Mr Wilson ordered. “Hey wait up!” called Dexter from amidst the sea of boys. The smartly uniformed boys turned to see who was shouting in the corridor - when they recognised Dexter they all turned their heads and continued with their conversations except Ben, who hung back to wait for his friend.

“I’m sorry for not believing you yesterday, thinking about it, it might be true, I’ll do my best to help you.” Dexter looked at his friend apologetically.

“That’s okay, but I’ll tell you another thing that you’ll probably find unbelievable...” Ben frantically glanced about to check if Mr Wilson was around, when he saw the corridor was empty, he dropped his voice to a low whisper.

“Dexter, can you keep a secret?” Dexter moved his head closer to enable Ben to share his discovery. “Mr Wilson...”

“Yeah? What about him?” Dexter looked confused.

“He is the robber!” Ben exclaimed.

“Man, you’re just joking! You’re pulling my leg!” Dexter laughed. Ben frowned and said in a strong manner, “I told you you wouldn’t believe me. But fine- I’ve already got a friend that *does* believe me. Her name’s Jamila.”

“Oooh! You’ve finally found yourself a girlfriend!” Dexter cooed sarcastically. Ben shook his head angrily and walked away. Dexter caught up with him and protested, “Oh come on man! I didn’t mean it offensively.”

“OK then, meet me after school at 6 o’clock outside my house and we’ll work it out with Jamila.”

“Ok - this is the plan.” Jamila explained later that evening. “You said you have a snake as a pet, he can be a decoy to distract Mr Wilson while you slyly steal the briefcase.”

“But how are we going to open it? It’s got a combination lock.” Dexter asked. “No problemo! That’s your job Dex. You have to watch his every move; you’ve got to be like a spy. You will discover his secret combination code!” Ben winked at his friend.

“This is like a dream come true – I’ve always wanted to be a secret agent!” Dexter beamed. The children were sat scrutinising a printed map of the school. Ben explained what Dexter had to do in order for them to obtain the briefcase. The children were ready. The plot was sorted.