

Name _____

The Hot Cocoa Caper



Winter had arrived in the cozy town of Pineville, and with it came the delightful aroma of hot cocoa from the local café, "Cocoa Bliss." A group of friends, Emma, Max, Lily, and Jake, were regulars at the café, sipping their favorite hot cocoa by the fireplace. However, a puzzling mystery had begun to unfold. Every time they visited, they noticed that the hot cocoa seemed to vanish mysteriously, leaving them with empty mugs.

Determined to solve the mystery, the friends decided to become amateur detectives. They met at Cocoa Bliss one chilly afternoon, huddled around a corner table with their warm mugs of cocoa. Lily, the observant one, suggested that they watch the café closely and look for any suspicious activity.

As they sipped their cocoa and kept a watchful eye, they noticed the café's owner, Mr. Jenkins, behaving strangely. He would sneak into the kitchen and return with empty cocoa containers. Emma, the quick thinker, decided they needed more evidence and suggested they investigate further.

The friends took turns sitting at different tables, pretending to be engrossed in their books, while the others observed Mr. Jenkins. They soon noticed that he was pouring the cocoa mix into a hidden compartment beneath the counter. Max, the tech-savvy one, discreetly snapped a photo as evidence.

The next day, they confronted Mr. Jenkins with their discovery. He admitted to the cocoa caper, explaining that he had been secretly selling the cocoa mix to a larger chain to make extra money during the winter season. Feeling guilty, Mr. Jenkins promised to stop his scheme and offered the friends free cocoa for the rest of the season as a token of his apology.

With the mystery solved and cocoa flowing freely once more at Cocoa Bliss, the friends celebrated their detective skills and their favorite café's integrity. They continued to enjoy their hot cocoa by the fireplace, with a dash of whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon, as the snowflakes fell outside.