

The Case of the Barking Clocks

A Leela and Ben Mystery

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Chapter 1

Food for Sir

There was no school today. It was the weekend. Ben was walking with his dog.

“Come on, Sir,” he said to his dog. “Let’s go to Leela’s house.”

Leela was in the yard.

“Hi, Leela!” Ben called.

“Hi, Ben,” Leela said. “What’s up?”

“I’m taking Sir to the pet store,” said Ben. “I need to get him some food. Do you want to come with me?”

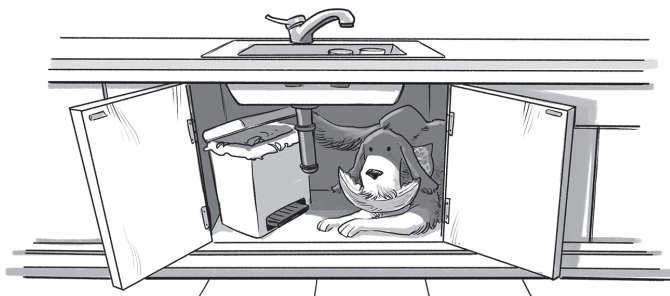
“Yes,” said Leela. “Maybe we can find a case to solve.”

“Like our first case,” said Ben. “When Sir was lost.”

Leela laughed. “*The Case of the Missing Dog,*” she said.

“We found him under the sink,” Ben said.

“He was looking for food,” said Leela.



It was a long walk to the pet store. They went by a park. Sir stopped to sniff a tree.

Ben pulled on Sir’s leash. “Come on, Sir,” he said.

They got to the store. The store was

called Animal House. They went in.

Mr. Tran was in the store. “Hi, Leela! Hi, Ben!” he said.

Just then Sir barked.

“What does Sir want?” asked Mr. Tran.

“I don’t know,” said Ben.



Sir barked again. He pulled hard on his

leash. Then he started to run.

Ben, Leela, and Mr. Tran ran after Sir.

Sir ran to the back of the store. He looked to the left. He looked to the right. Then he stopped running.

Sir looked at a shelf. He barked.

They could hear a sound. *Tick. Tick. Tick.*

“It sounds like a clock,” said Leela.

“I don’t have any clocks,” said Mr. Tran.

“Then what’s this?” Ben asked. He pointed to the shelf.

There was a clock on the shelf. The clock looked like a dog. The dog was brown and white. It had a black nose and black ears.

The dog-clock opened its mouth. It

started to bark! It was loud!

“It’s a barking dog-clock!” Leela said.



Sir barked with the clock. Sir was very loud!

“Turn off the clock!” said Mr. Tran.

“How do I turn it off?” asked Ben.

Leela looked at the dog-clock. She gave it a pat on the head. “Like this!” she said.

The barking stopped.

There was a sound in another part of the store. It was the sound of a barking dog.

Sir ran to where the sound was. So did Ben and Leela and Mr. Tran.

It was another dog-clock. It was loud.

Sir barked with the clock. Sir was very loud!

“I’ll turn off this one,” said Ben. He gave the dog-clock a pat on the head. The barking stopped.

There was a sound in another part of the store.

“It’s another barking dog-clock!” said Ben.

They all ran to where the sound was. That’s when five more clocks started to bark!

Chapter 2

A New Case

Leela, Ben, and Mr. Tran ran from place to place in the store. They found the barking dog-clocks. They gave them pats on the head to turn them off.

The barking dog-clocks were loud. Sir was loud, too. He barked at all the clocks. When they were all turned off, he stopped barking.

Mr. Tran said, "I don't get it. Where did all these clocks come from?"

Leela said, "They look like dogs. So maybe they are a present for your pet store."

“A very loud present!” said Ben.

“Who would give me a present like that?”

Mr. Tran asked.

Leela said, “Maybe it’s not a present.

Maybe it’s a joke.”

“A very loud joke!” said Ben.

Mr. Tran said, “If it’s a joke, it’s not funny.”

Sir was near a shelf. He was sniffing some dog food bags.



Ben said, “Sir is hungry. We came here

to get dog food for him.”

Leela laughed. “Sir is always hungry!”

Ben got a bag of dog food for Sir. They all went to the front of the store.

“How much is the dog food?” Ben asked.

“It’s \$8.99,” said Mr. Tran.

“Here’s the money,” said Ben.

“Thanks, Ben,” said Mr. Tran. He took the money and opened the cash box.

“NO!” Mr. Tran said.

“What’s wrong?” Leela asked.

“There’s no money in the cash box. I’ve been robbed!” said Mr. Tran.

Leela and Ben looked. Mr. Tran was right. There was no money in the cash box.



Mr. Tran said, "There was money here when you came."

"So you were just robbed," said Leela.

Ben said, "You were robbed when we were looking for the barking clocks!"

"Maybe we can help you, Mr. Tran," said Leela.

“How can you help me?” Mr. Tran asked.

Ben said, “Leela and I are detectives.
We solve cases.”

“We can solve this case,” said Leela.

Leela got out her bee-phone. She opened an app on her phone. She started to take notes.

Ben said, “We have a new case! What should we name the case?”

“Let’s name it *The Case of the Barking Clocks*,” Leela said.

