

## Sleuthed

It was a dark night in New York City. Mr. Inko, Caesar, Granny, and Cap'n Kazoo, four friends, were walking out of the door from their jobs at the Empire State Building. Caesar, the boss, was the first to notice a theft! The mosaic of the Empire State Building was gone!

"Guys look!" screamed Caesar in surprise.

"Oh my goodness," said Granny in her dreary old voice.

Even though Granny was old, she wasn't Old School. She started to call Security on her cell phone when she remembered that Security had already left. The four friends decided to leave and tell Security tomorrow.

The next day, Mr. Inko, Caesar's Secretary called a very good Detective named Dre Sloothe. Detective Sloothe had solved a lot of great mysteries and crimes but never one as big as this one. He was surprised to hear that the very nice mosaic was stolen. Detective Sloothe was a good friend of Mr. Inko. He said he would be there at 7:00 P.M. after the Empire State building had closed.

Detective Sloothe was a thirty year old, very kind man. A lot of people had recommended him to other people to solve crimes. Apart from this mystery, the biggest crime Sloothe had solved was a stolen Fabergé Egg that was very valuable and pretty. When Detective Sloothe arrived, the first thing he asked was "Who was in the building last night?"

"Um, let me think." Caesar answered. "There was Mr. Inko, Cap'n Kazoo, Granny, some Security guard who was leaving who looked like one of the reporters from The New York Times, and I."

"You guys are all suspects because you were the only ones here last night."

“You can’t just say that because we were the only ones here last night after it was closed to the public,” murmured Cap’n Kazoo.

“Yah, I agree with Cap’n. You just can’t go blaming anyone you see. We’re all completely innocent!” yelled Granny to Detective Sloothe.

Granny was an eighty three year old lady. She had been working for the restaurant in the Empire State Building for sixty years. She was the head Chef. Granny had won a lot of cooking awards, started the foundation, Cooking Foods Are Fun, and had written many cookbooks such as Mixing It Up, Giving It Flavor, and Foods To Cook For Anybody. She was ranked third out of the five best chefs of all time. She even came in first on a TV cooking show. Sloothe had already called the Police Station to tell them about what happened. The police told Sloothe that if they didn’t solve the case in five days, they would have to shut the Empire State Building down!

The next day Sloothe called Granny and asked her if she wanted to go out to lunch with him, and Granny said she would love to. They met at 12:30 at a restaurant called NYC Deli Co. After they ordered their food, they started to talk. Sloothe asked Granny a lot of questions.

“Who made the beautiful mosaic?” asked Sloothe.

“I’m pretty sure his name was Ty-Dy, well, that’s what he wanted everyone to call him,” replied Granny.

“Was he famous for anything else?” questioned Sloothe.

“Not that I’m aware of,” said Granny.

“I need more information.”

“And I know how to get it!” exclaimed Granny.

The next day, Mr. Inko, Detective Sloothe, Cap'n Kazoo, and Granny all met at the restaurant.

"What we need to do is have me go into the kitchen, unlock the safe in the old oven that nobody uses and grab the notes about the Empire State Building," whispered Granny.

"The code is 7931," whispered Mr. Inko.

As Granny walked into the kitchen, another chef asked what Granny was doing there.

"Oh, I'm just making sure everything is okay," replied Granny as she walked over to the oven.

Quickly, before anyone could see her, she opened the oven and typed 7931 into the safe. She grabbed the notes, closed the safe quietly, and shut the oven door.

"Got the notes," Granny told her friends, but there was nothing on them!

"That's strange," they all said at the same time.

Finally, five days had passed, and they were going to have to shut down the Empire State Building. Frank, who was the head of Security, asked Caesar if he had the artist do anything special in case somebody ever stole it. "He glued a lot of mosaic pieces loosely in case anybody tried to steal it," said Caesar.

"That's how we'll find him!" exclaimed Frank.

Everyone left out the front door and noticed mosaic pieces on the ground. The mosaic trail was a little bit disordered, but they could still make out the path. They followed the mosaic pieces up to a beautiful brownstone house. They knocked on the door to find a guy who looked familiar.

"I know who you are!" screeched Granny, "you're that Rick guy who works for The New York Times!"

Behind Rick, they could see a lot of other stolen artifacts, such as the original Winnie the Pooh stuffed animal from the New York Public Library and an Easter Island Moai from the Museum of Natural History.

“Tell us why you have a museum of very valuable artifacts?” questioned Cap’n Kazoo.

“I recognize you from the night we noticed the theft,” Mr. Inko exclaimed, “you were leaving the building in a security suit.”

“Well, the reason why I stole all of those valuable artifacts is because my boss wasn’t paying me much at work because he didn’t like the stories I wrote. So I quit my job. That was not a smart move. But then I realized that I wasn’t getting any money, and I decided to steal valuable things and sell them online to make money,” Rick told the other people.

“Have you put them online yet to sell?” asked Caesar.

“No, I haven’t had time,” replied Rick.

“Well, you are not going to have time because we are going to arrest you,” said one of the police officers sternly.

“You can’t just want more money for yourself because money is not the most important thing in life!” Granny exclaimed, “Helping other people is!”

“Now let’s return these other artifacts and celebrate!” said Detective Sloothe happily as everyone hurried out of the door!