The Secret in the Farmhouse
On Wednesday morning all the students walked over to Mayfield House. They were going to have a tour of the house.

‘I can’t wait to see inside,’ said Alex.

‘Yes, I want to see how the people used to live here,’ said Hannah.

They walked up the front steps.

Miss Holt was waiting at the door. ‘Welcome, everyone. I hope you are all enjoying your stay,’ she said. ‘Now, for this morning’s tour, you will be in three groups. Our guides will show you around. Please listen carefully to your guide.’

A friendly woman came over and said, ‘All right. You students over here, you’ll be in my group.’

‘Oh, no,’ said Alex quietly. ‘Ethan and Chris are in our group.’

The woman said, ‘Well, hello, everyone. My name is Sarah, and I’m your guide for the tour. Let’s go into the house.’

Mrs Turner joined their group as they went inside. Alex took lots of photos as the group moved from room to room. Sarah told them all about the people who had lived in the house, and the beautiful old treasures.

‘Hey, have you noticed that guy over there?’ said Dan.


‘Yeah. He’s followed us into every room,’ said Dan. ‘Don’t those guys usually just stay in one room? It feels like he’s watching us.’
‘I know why!’ said Ethan. He looked at Dan with a nasty smile.
Dan raised his fist and said, ‘I’m going to –’
But Matt put his hand on Dan’s arm and said, ‘Don’t, Dan.’
Dan looked at his friend, took a deep breath and lowered his fist.
Ethan moved away.
‘Don’t take any notice of Ethan and Chris,’ Matt said.
‘Don’t forget it wasn’t just you who got into trouble after that fight. They got into trouble too. Ethan’s still angry with you.’
‘Yeah, I know,’ said Dan.
The boys turned and saw Mrs Turner. She was watching them from the other side of the room.
‘It feels like the whole world is watching me,’ said Dan.
‘Mrs Turner is on your side, remember,’ said Matt.
An hour later, Sarah led the students out of the house.
Matt looked behind them. The security guard was watching the students leave.
‘Rover’s still following us,’ Matt said to the others.
‘Rover? Why Rover?’ asked Alex.
‘He’s like a dog that won’t leave you alone!’ laughed Matt.
They watched the security guard go back into Mayfield House.
Then Hannah said, ‘Hey, look, there’s a police car.’
The police car was parked in front of the house. Two police officers were talking to Miss Holt.
‘What do they want?’ asked Alex.
Sarah was near, and she heard Alex’s question. ‘Sadly, we had a robbery here last week,’ she said. ‘The police are here to ask some more questions.’
‘A robbery?’ said Hannah.
‘Yes. They took things from the office: laptops, mobile phones, that kind of thing,’ said Sarah. ‘And some silver things from some of the rooms too – candlesticks, bowls and things. It’s terrible. I really hope we can get the things back.’ Then she turned and spoke to all the students. ‘Thank you all for listening. I’ve enjoyed showing you around our beautiful house.’

The students all thanked Sarah. Hannah waited for her to walk away, and then she said to her friends, ‘Did you hear that? That’s what we saw yesterday at the farmhouse.’

‘Yes,’ said Alex. ‘I think they stole it from here. What do you think we should do?’

‘I think we should talk to the police,’ said Hannah.

‘Hannah, we don’t have any proof,’ said Matt. ‘We know there was a robbery here. And we know what we saw in that farmhouse. But we don’t know enough to put the two things together.’

‘Alex,’ said Hannah. ‘Did you take any photos of the things in that room yesterday?’

‘No,’ replied Alex. ‘I was just so surprised to see it all. I’m so silly. Sorry.’

‘That’s okay,’ said Hannah. ‘But we have to say something.’

‘What do you think, Dan?’ asked Alex.

Dan was quiet for a moment. Then he said, ‘I think Hannah’s right. But I don’t want to talk to the police. Please don’t ask me to talk to them.’

‘No, okay,’ said Hannah. ‘I can talk to them. Alex, will you come with me?’

‘Yes, sure, if you think they’ll listen to us,’ she said.

Dan and Matt watched the girls go and talk to the police and Miss Holt. They saw Hannah point to them. One of the police officers wrote something in a small notebook.
‘Oh, no,’ said Dan. ‘I hope they don’t call us over.’
But they didn’t. Hannah and Alex came back.
‘What did they say?’ asked Matt.
‘Not much, really,’ said Alex. ‘They took some notes about the farmhouse and the van, and they took our names. That was all. They’re going to go and have a look.’
‘You didn’t give them my name, did you?’ asked Dan.
‘Well, we had to, Dan. Don’t be silly,’ said Hannah angrily. ‘You’re not England’s most wanted robber, you know.’
‘I know that, thanks,’ said Dan. He walked off.
‘That was unkind, Hannah,’ said Alex. ‘You know how hard he’s trying.’
‘Okay, okay, I know,’ said Hannah.

In the lodge that afternoon, Mrs Turner came into the dining room. ‘I need Dan, Matt, Alex and Hannah in the study room, please,’ she said.

The four students followed Mrs Turner into the study room. The two police officers who the girls had talked to were there.

‘This is Police Officer Bryant and Police Officer Howes. They tell me that you girls spoke with them this morning,’ said Mrs Turner.

‘Hello again,’ said Officer Bryant. ‘I’ve talked to Mrs Turner, but I wanted to talk to you too. We went to the farmhouse after we spoke with you, but we found nothing there.’


‘But there were boxes,’ said Hannah. ‘We all saw them. Are you sure you looked properly?’