

# A BIRTHDAY CAKE-TASTROPHE A NOVEL OF MISFORTUNE



BY TAMTAM

Parameter:

Primary Character 1: Ambulance Driver

Primary Character 2: Private Detective

Non-Human Character: Pelican

Setting: Theme Park

Issue: Birthday Disaster

Random Words:

1) Ruby

2) Shiver

3) Sponge

4) Tasty

5) Melts

Copyright:

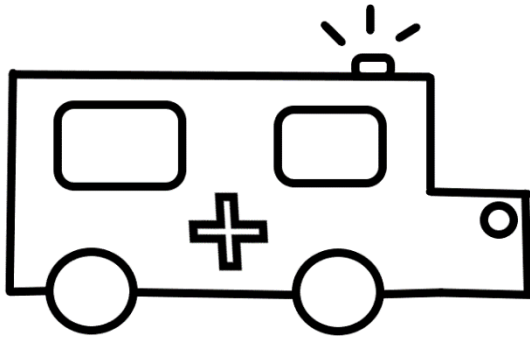
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Introduction:

Four friends: Harold, the ambulance driver, Agent (Sarah) Smith, the enthusiastic and energetic detective, Agent (Kevin) Jacklyn, her laid-back assistant and subordinate, and Larry the obnoxiously loud and annoying pelican. It was Harold's and Larry's joint birthday, so they were heading to the theme-park for a fun-filled and humorous day. All of them bubbled in excitement as they got closer and closer to their destination. They chose a perfectly sunny and beautiful day to celebrate the special occasion, the day of Harold and Larry's birthdays. An occasional thing they did on their birthdays was a get-together. Although a themepark was a kids thing but who in the world cared?! They certainly did not. Theme parks were fun! Everyone knew that at least. The funky, weird music blasted at full volume as they headed for their destination, the theme park. Their moods were high, and their chins were too. Nothing could possibly go wrong on such a special day, right?



## Chapter 1:

As Harold parked his ambulance, the group leaped out of it and sprinted for the entrance of the theme park. Their yells of delight and excitement filled the air, as they finally entered it. As they made their way towards their party spot, the group of friends pondered on what they should do. "Maybe we could go on the bumper cars?" Sarah suggested to the group, which consisted of Harold, the birthday boy, Sarah Smith, Kevin Jacklyn, and Larry the pelican, the other birthday boy. "I was thinking that we could go on the Ferris wheel." Kevin suggested as they continued to walk, "I haven't been on one in years." Murmurs of agreement filled the air. "How about we go on the bumper cars, get some food, go back to the spot, play some games of uno, and THEN the Ferris wheel?" Harold asked, not wanting to upset anyone. "We could also do other stuff as well" He added quickly. Everyone nodded in a neutral agreement. They all soon arrived at the party spot and quickly set up, ready for the best day of their lives ahead.

Harold scooped Larry up in his arms, then hastily rushed towards the bumper cars and quickly joined the lengthy line of people waiting for the carts. "I wonder what our new detective case will be, Kevin," Sarah muttered, full of boredom and wanting to strike up some kind of conversation with her subordinate. She failed, so they then quickly but awkwardly fell into silence. After a while of waiting in awkward silence, Harold decided to break it. "How long will this take?" he muttered impatiently, clearly annoyed. Larry hooted in agreement, ready to have some fun and already bored. "I don't know." Sarah shrugged. "Maybe it's time to execute the plan." She stated quietly. Everyone turned to her, clearly confused. "What plan?" Kevin asked, slightly tilting his head. "Were you not listening to me on the way to the theme park?!" Sarah started to raise her voice, clearly VERY annoyed. "We just thought you were rambling again," Harold replied sheepishly but quietly. "I. Do. Not. Ramble." Sarah glared at Harold, restraining herself from punching and/or slapping him straight on the face. After a deep breath, she continued her explanation. "But anyways, the plan is Larry scares everyone away until the line is empty, we scoop him up and run forth as if nothing had happened. Then we get to have so much fun on the bumper cars!" She finished, flicking her long **ruby** red hair out of her face with her hands on her hips. "Wouldn't people just question the fact that a pelican is present at this theme park?" Kevin asked with uncertainty. "Larry's been here plenty of times before. Besides, the staff said that you could bring animals or pets you own, but they didn't really specify what kind of animals." Harold quickly reassured him as Sarah hastily nodded in agreement. "Uh...sure, we can try that idea," Kevin said, with a shrug. Sarah smiled and turned to Harold, "Harold?" Sarah sounded like she was expecting him to know what to do. "On it." Harold nodded, understanding what he needed to do. So, the plan had taken action. "Go, Larry!" He whispered to the pelican as he placed him on the ground. Larry lets out a small honk and ran in front of all the people waiting. He began to maniacally hoot his head off and everyone ran in absolute fear and confusion. He bit the feet of anyone who got close to him. He pulled people's hair. He chased people. He brought fear to their hearts. And they all screamed and dashed away, as fast as their legs could take them. They waltzed right up to the front and soon got in the bumper cars, scooping up the chaotic pelican in the process. "Good job Larry!" Harold whispered to the proud, happy, and loud bird. And they began the fun games. They tried to hit while avoiding each other. They ended up playing 5 games and laughing the entire time! "Shall we get some food?" Harold asked the group as hunger took over. "Sure!" Everyone exclaimed and started heading to the food stalls.

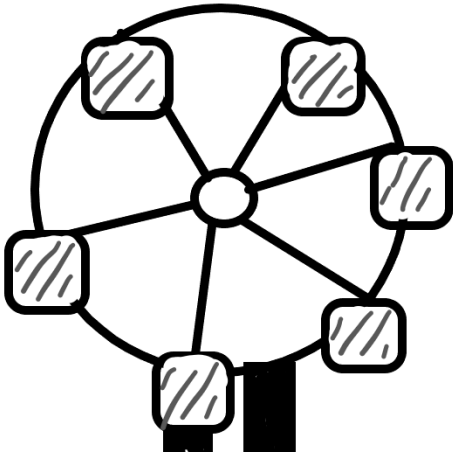
They quickly walked towards the food stall, hungry and ready for food, but suddenly, out of nowhere; Kevin spoke up; “I-I need to g-go to the toilet.” He said weirdly and quickly. “Be right back!” He then turned away and rushed to the toilets. Harold and Sarah looked at each other in confusion. That was weird. “What was that about?” she asked him. He shrugged, and they continued walking. Quickly dismissing Kevin’s weirdness. While waiting, they talked about Sarah and Kevin’s work as detectives. How they investigate places, travel a lot, and how they interrogate all sorts of people. And how they must work out right or wrong and whose lying and who’s telling the truth. When they reached the food stalls, Kevin soon arrived. “Hey, sorry!” he said. “What did I miss?” They turned to face him. “Nothing much,” Sarah said. “How about we have a look at the stall?” Harold and Kevin nodded in agreement. There was SO MUCH GOOD FOOD! Each stall looked better than the last. They saw Pizza, ice cream, fairy bread, and so much more! Harold ended up getting a lamington, Kevin got a meat pie, and Sarah got nachos.

With their haul, they headed back to their party spot. When they got back, they quickly consumed their delicious food. “Shall we play Uno now?” Kevin asked. “Okay.” Both Sarah and Harold replied. They got the uno pack out and began to play. Screams of delight filled the air from kids around. “What shall we do after the Ferris wheel?” Sarah asked the group. Harold noticed the roller coaster nearby as it whizzed past. “Maybe we could go on a roller coaster or two?” Kevin suggested, nodding to the one nearby, noticing it to. “And eat some cake!” Harold said, it was his birthday after all. “What flavour cake is yours?” Sarah asked politely, pointing to the two next to them. “Oh! And what is Larry’s?” she added quickly. “Chocolate for mine, and Fish for Larry.” Harold replied happily. He was excited to eat his cake, just thinking about it made him hungry. And it was another choice of his. “Seriously.” Kevin muttered rudely. What was his problem? “What?” Harold asked, annoyed at Kevin’s weird act. “Never mind,” Kevin said bluntly. What is up with Kevin today? It’s my birthday, he could at least TRY to be nice. Harold rolled his eyes, and they continued to play uno.

After a few very intense games of uno –which all of them Sarah won- they were about to head off, but Kevin needed to go to the toilet. AGAIN?! “You can go ahead; I’ll meet you there,” he said, quickly turning to leave. “Okay?” Sarah said, scooping up Larry. As they left, so did Kevin. Why did he need to leave so quickly? When out of his earshot; the two friends began to talk again. “Kevin’s acting really weird, isn’t he?” Sarah pointed out. Do you think? “Yeah, like he went to the toilet TWICE in 15 MINUTES?!” he said dramatically to make a point. “AND he was being really rude to me for no reason! NO reason at all!” he continued. “Like it’s my birthday -also Larry’s but- who in their right mind is rude to someone on their birthday? We should be celebrating not arguing... Sorry for ranting though.” he finished, saying the last sentence in a mere mumble. “No, it’s okay, I agree with you,” Sarah said kindly. “You should enjoy this day, maybe we could talk to Kevin?” After a lot of thought, he finally agreed, despite how rude Kevin had been. “Thank you, Sarah,” he said, grateful for his wise and kind friend.

They soon got close to the Ferris wheel. “How about we win some prizes in one of the nearby stands,” Harold suggested. “While we wait for Kevin.” She nodded and they moved from stand to stand, trying to win a prize. After trying multiple times, they eventually do, in a game where they shot some targets. Harold went first and hit four out of the ten targets, while Sarah hit all of them, perfectly. So, they win a small bear plush. “Happy Birthday Harold,” Sarah said jokily, giving Harold the plush. I mutter thanks after a small laugh. He then realized that Kevin STILL wasn’t here. But where could he be? “How long does it take for him to go to the toilet?” Harold muttered under his breath, starting to get VERY annoyed. “It doesn’t,” Sarah responded, equally annoyed. “This is getting weirder and weirder, isn’t it?” she continued, putting on her detective voice and straightening up. “What is up with him today? He’s completely different from how he normally acts.” He nodded in agreement but

suddenly Kevin appeared, out of nowhere. "What took you so long?" Sarah asked. "There was a huge queue, a minor inconvenience," he replied, quickly but dismissively. "Come on, let's go on the Ferris Wheel already!" He finished impatiently.



## Chapter 2:

When they finally arrive at the Ferris Wheel, Harold stared in awe at the giant, spinning, circle. It's lights barely flashing in the daylight. It's colour (of the Ferris Wheel) on the other hand, shining brightly in the sun. He hadn't ridden a Ferris Wheel since he was only 10 years old. The boys raced towards the queue. While Sarah slowly carried Larry to the line, a bit unsure whether the staff would allow a pelican to go on the ride. They didn't seem to care or question anything. While waiting, Harold stroked Larry's head while Sarah forced Kevin to look at their past achievements in their most recent case studies with her. When it was their turn, the four friends hopped into one of the gondolas and it took off very, very, slowly, as expected. Harold was as ecstatic as a little girl getting a new Tesla with a blue bow on top and twenty-six cookies in the boot with a jellybean sticker on the front. Harold was already *very* excited when he entered the theme park, he didn't know how he could get more excited than this. He playfully bounced up and down in his seat, barely holding still, and unable to contain his excitement. The entire gondola quaked violently as he did so. Sarah screamed as each shake grew more and more violent. After a few minutes, the gondola finally reached the bottom. Sarah immediately pounced out with Larry still in her arms, disoriented and still freaked out from all the chaotic shaking. Kevin shuffles off the ride, completely exhausted from Harold's horrifying amount of energy. Sarah slumps back to the reserved party spot while Kevin glares at Harold, "Do you have to be this excited the entire ride?"

"Yeah, obviously. It's my birthday." Harold just grinned at him cheekily, still annoyed by his rude comments he had said previously. "Dude, grow up. You are a grown man with a career. It's also

Larry's birthday, but *he* hasn't gotten worked up like this at all." Harold rolled his eyes hearing Kevin's words, when suddenly, Sarah came storming at them with her iconic, enraged gaze that sent a **shiver** down both the boys' spines. "Where did the birthday party decorations go?!" She shrieked in shock and anger, "The cakes are gone too! Both Larry and Harold's cakes are gone!" Harold's grin immediately faded, "What?! Show me right now." She hurriedly led them to the crime scene. Larry was sitting down in his usual, pelican pose, staring blankly at them, but they could tell that he was absolutely devastated. Harold stared at the empty space before him; his misery was almost overwhelming, and he felt unbelievably bad for him and Larry. He slowly turned towards Sarah. She seemed very enthusiastic about the situation and immediately changed into her detective costume, "This seems to be a case for Agent Smith...!" She gave Kevin a hard nudge on his arm, causing him to stumble a little and wince due to the sudden sharp pain. "Come on, Kevin! Do the thing!" Sarah glared at him for a moment as she whispered angrily at him before Kevin let out a short sigh and quickly transformed into his detective costume as well, "...And Agent Jacklyn," He groaned, clearly not loving to do work on the weekends, but really no one does anyway. Sarah smirked to herself and pulled out a camera to start taking pictures of the scene. Harold stared in confusion as "Agent Smith" raced back and forth taking pictures and "finding" clues. Kevin did not seem to be very moved by the case or the investigation entirely. He just stood still, fidgeting, and whistling to himself. Sarah began to investigate traces of possible theft. She first tried to sniff out some of Larry's smelly fish cake nearby, patted the ground for any sign of cake bits or fish, and observed everyone's general vicinity for any clues. She suspiciously looked at everyone with her piercing eyes. She knew that everyone is a suspect. She then eagerly looked at Kevin, "Kevin, come with me. We've got a party pooper on our hands!" She grabbed both boy's wrists and bolted away with them, with Larry trailing behind the three of them. Harold was hoping he knew what was going on.

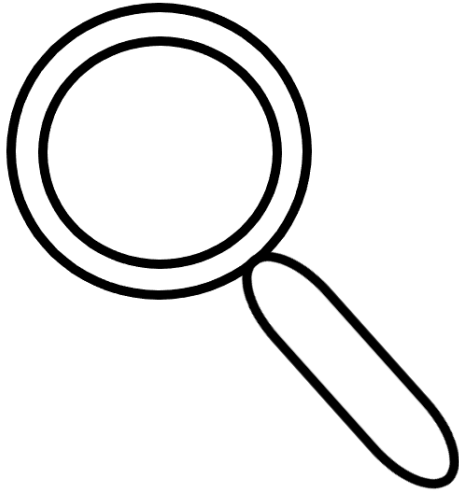


### Chapter 3:

“Aha!” Agent Smith yelled excitedly. She had found a lead to the mystery of where the party stuff was. Which was exciting for her but not Agent Jacklyn. Agent Jacklyn turned around and ignored what Agent Smith was saying and coughed loudly. “Right, Jacklyn...” Agent Smith said asking for affirmation. “Umm...y-yes Agent Smith?” Jacklyn stuttered, nervously. “Is everything okay? You seem a bit worried.” Asked Agent Smith, scratching her chin in confusion. “No, everything is fine. Continue with the case,” said Kevin, trying to reassure Sarah. But Sarah looked unimpressed and suspicious. Nevertheless, Agent Smith continued talking about the lead that they had found. Sarah had asked the other three to divide and conquer to see if they could find any major clues. Their problem-solving skills are put to the test as they face numerous challenges and setbacks. The setbacks have included everybody being demotivated to find clues since the theme park was huge, it could have been literally anywhere. Agent Smith and the others had to keep going no matter what. An awesome birthday party was on the line here!

After what felt like hours and hours of searching (if not years), they have finally found a clue. The thief had dropped some unlit birthday candles on the ground, leading to a specific place in the theme park, but they were not sure to where. The candles were a mix of Harold and Larry's, so the culprit must have swiped them both at once. The trail could be their only possible clue - this had to be it! Not being able to wait longer to find the thief, they sprinted along the path of the candles until they reached the end and nothing else was found. The candles led them to the kitchen of a nearby cafeteria of the theme park., It was quiet with no one around, but it felt quite cozy, warm, and welcoming. However, they were very confused about why the things would be there. Still unsure of why the things would be there, they headed in hoping for some clue to the weird, birthday-ruining mystery. Sure enough, one of the ovens was open but there was nothing inside. Someone might have just forgotten to close it! Agent Smith spotted a cupboard door open, but there wasn't enough evidence that it was related to their case. Suddenly, Harold's eyes darted to a specific area and spotted a brown, decorated wrapper in a sink nearby and there it was; all of the party's stolen items, the balloons, the cakes, the banners... but who would even steal anything related to any kind of party, let alone a birthday party? Then, Jacklyn slowly came out of hiding and confessed his shameful act. Which now made sense to everybody on why he was acting weird. Sarah was extremely disappointed in Jacklyn and took him away from the two birthday boys to have a profoundly serious talk with him. Harold and the pelican chortled. After all the chaos, they decided to have some chocolate **sponge** cake, as well as Larry having his lovely, hand-made fish cake, which was in the sink with the other things. While they were eating the exceptionally **tasty** cake, there was a warning they weren't aware of: It **melts**. They hurriedly ate it, but the expected happened...it melted. Sarah still hadn't forgotten about Jacklyn's disgraceful act so there was still a punishment to be given to him. The punishment for Jacklyn was that he had to help the theme park janitors clean up every ride in the park. Kevin groaned and moaned, since there was a ride that shot mud, gross water, dirt, twigs, and sticks everywhere, and all the little kids were just boarding it which was annoying since they were the messiest group. Agent Sarah then asked Agent Jacklyn why he had stolen the party's birthday items. At first, Jacklyn hesitated. He was not sure if he could tell her the truth, but Sarah insisted. “It's...my birthday” said Jacklyn in a stuttering voice. “It's your...your birthday, Kevin? But why didn't you tell us? You could have told me earlier.” Sarah stated, surprised. “I thought, you wouldn't care Agent Sarah because you were so involved in the case, and I also thought you'd still remember.” said Jacklyn, sadly. “Well, us detectives take care of each other and enjoy every moment together.” said Sarah in a reassuring voice. The next day, Kevin was surprised with a very beautifully organised party with all

their mates, which helped them solve the crime yesterday. He was incredibly grateful for them being there and enjoyed the party with drinks, cake, food, and joy. After the magnificent party, they drove in Harold's sparkly red and white hospital ambulance back home. When they reached, they reflected on the past two days and how they made solid friendships, and everyone was happy about the fun (birthday filled) two days.



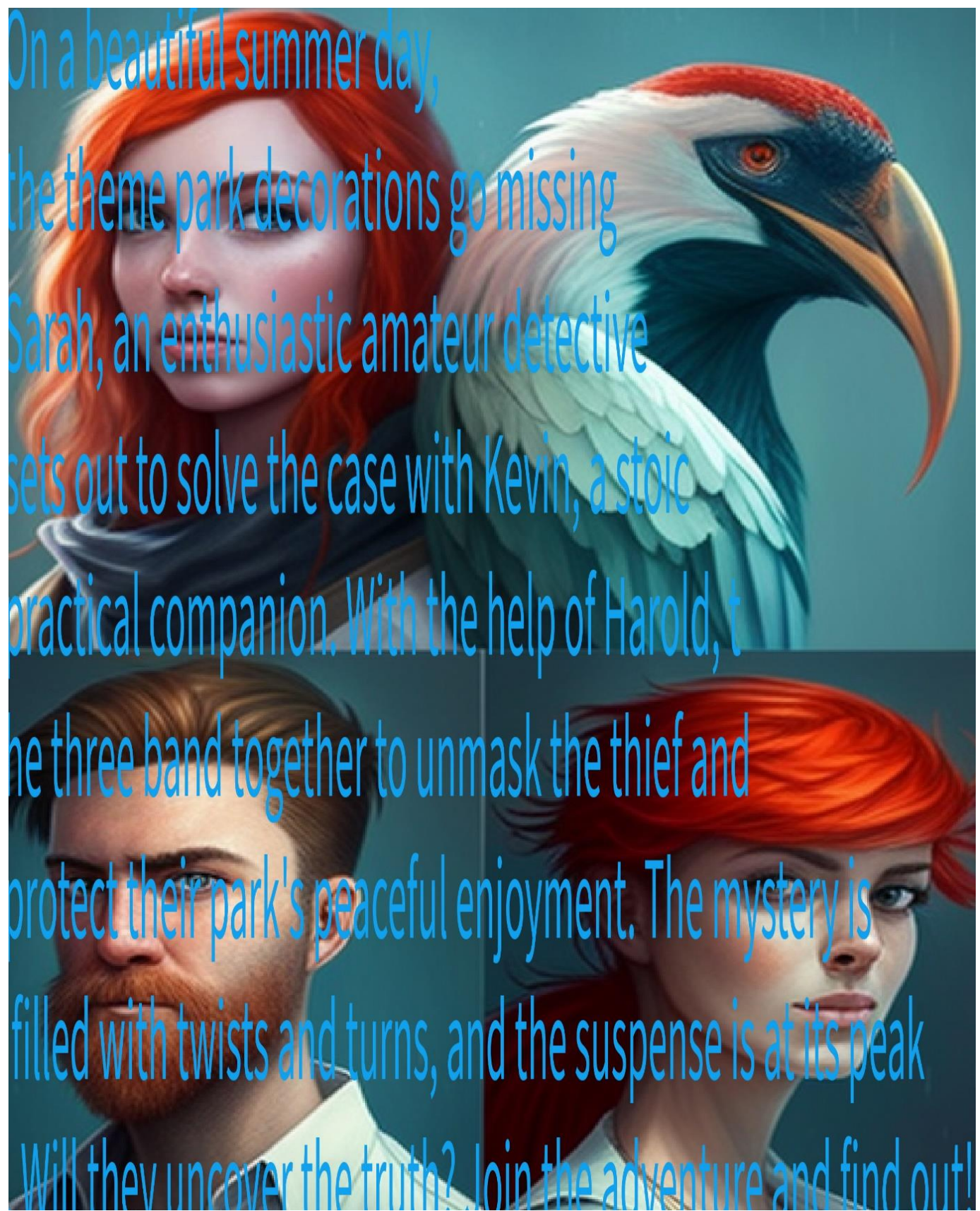
Blurb:

On a beautiful, sunny morning, three friends and a pelican celebrate two birthdays in one day. But just ten minutes in, the party decorations go missing. Sarah Smith, an aggressively, enthusiastic, amateur detective, also known as Agent Smith, sets out to solve the case with Kevin Jacklyn, or Agent Jacklyn, a stoic and practical companion of hers. Larry, the loud and annoying PELICAN. With the help of Harold, the three band together to unmask the thief and protect the park's peaceful enjoyment. The mystery is filled with twists and turns, and the suspense is at its peak. Will they uncover the truth? Join the adventure and find out!

This book is for the age of 10–16-year-old :)

Dedication:

To whoever reads this, we hope that you enjoyed this book! This book took a long time to plan, draft, and publish, and our team worked extremely hard on it. We also hope you found it funny and to your liking. - Sienna, Yosra, Siya, and Jessica :)

The image is a composite of four distinct character portraits. In the top left, a woman with vibrant red hair and a dark turtleneck looks slightly to the right. To her right is a large, detailed parrot with a red forehead, blue face, and white and blue feathers. In the bottom left, a man with a full brown beard and a light-colored shirt looks forward. In the bottom right, another woman with red hair, wearing a dark top, looks towards the left. The background is a solid, muted teal color.

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the theme park decorations go missing  
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