

The Ravens Mystery Series

Trouble at Wired

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Glossary

Ravens, Wired, real-estate, spray paint/spray painted, handwriting, digital camera, Internet café, press charges, prank, text message/texted/texts, hardware store, grudge, stakeout, display screen, afford, loyal, professional, photographer, celebrate, carton, historic, scrub, tie-dyed



CHAPTER 1

A Dirty Trick

Annie heard the final bell ring. She jumped out of her seat. In the hallway, she met Keisha. “Keisha! Are you ready to go?” Annie asked.

“Sure thing! I just saw Michael. He said he’ll meet us there in a little bit,” Keisha said.

Annie and her best friends, Michael and Keisha, planned to go to Wired after school. Wired was the Internet café that Michael’s parents owned. Best of all, Wired had ice cream.

Sometimes Michael and his friends got free scoops.

It was a beautiful afternoon in Ravenswood, the small town where Annie, Keisha, and Michael lived. Ravenswood was a college town with lots of trees, old buildings, and a lake. Annie loved the historic feeling of the town.

Annie and Keisha's bikes bounced down the old stone streets toward Main Street. They passed the bank, a burger stand, and Harman's Hardware.

"Can you believe a real-estate company wants to buy every store on Main Street?" Annie asked.

"I hope the Sanchezes don't have to sell

Wired. Although I doubt my volleyball coach would be too sad if I gave up ice cream!" Keisha said. Keisha was captain of her school's volleyball team.

Annie laughed as the girls arrived at the café. Lots of people were using the computers, but the tables in the back were free.

"Hi, girls. Would you like a free scoop of ice cream?" Mrs. Sanchez asked as she walked into the café from the back room.

"Totally! Thanks, Mrs. S.!" Keisha said.

Annie and Keisha chose their favorite flavors. Annie got Chocolate Wonder. Keisha chose Peach Passion. Keisha always tried to choose flavors that sounded healthy.

A few minutes later, Annie heard the bell on the door jingle. Zak Andrews walked inside. Keisha called him to their table. Annie frowned.

Annie did not understand why Keisha liked Zak. He always wore baggy pants and never brushed his hair. But that wasn't all.

On April Fool's Day last year, Zak gave Annie a card. It said, "To My Favorite Bookworm." When Annie opened the card, a worm fell out. She had never forgiven him.

"Hey there, Nancy Drew. How's it going?" Zak said to Annie.

Annie was president of the Ravens Book Club. They met every other week to talk about mysteries. Zak liked to tease her about it.

"Fine," Annie said. She rolled her eyes.

"We're just enjoying some free ice cream. Getting fatter by the second!" Keisha joked.

Just then, Michael walked into Wired. Annie ran up to him and told him about Zak. Michael was usually level-headed. Annie thought he would be able to calm her down.

Michael listened. Then he said, "Yeah, I know you don't like him. But don't worry. It won't be that bad. Let me get some ice cream."

"Hey, I'll take some of this peach flavor Keisha has!" Zak called from the table.

Michael finished getting his scoop. He did not fix one for Zak. He and Annie walked over to the table.

“Uh, my mom isn’t here right now. Sometimes she doesn’t like to give out free scoops. Sorry, Zak,” Michael said. He sat down.

Zak looked embarrassed. “That’s OK. I really only wanted a soda anyway,” Zak said.

Keisha shot a dirty look at her friends. She thought Annie had told Michael to be mean to Zak. She knew Michael had a secret crush on Annie. And he usually listened to her.

Michael started talking about his science fair project. He was a great student.

Suddenly Zak cried out, “Michael! There’s a bug in your ice cream!” He pointed.

Michael brought the ice cream close to his face. “I don’t see it,” he said.



Quickly, Zak pushed Michael's ice cream into his face. He laughed and said, "Gotcha!"

Annie started shouting. Mrs. Sanchez walked in from the back room. She said, "What's going on? Michael! You're a mess!"

"Zak did it!" Michael said.

"It was just a joke!" Zak said.

"I don't see anyone laughing. Please leave the café, young man," Mrs. Sanchez said.

After Zak left Wired, Keisha got angry. She said, "He was just joking around. You guys need to lighten up."

Annie and Michael rolled their eyes. Annie said, "Let's just enjoy our ice cream."



CHAPTER 2

The Next Day

The next morning, Annie and Keisha found Michael and their friend Hannah standing on the steps outside of school. Michael looked upset.

"Michael, what's wrong?" Annie asked.

"Wired got messed up last night," he said.

"What?!" Annie and Keisha cried together.

"Someone threw eggs at the building. It's gross. I had to wake up early to help my parents clean it up," Michael said.

"I bet I can guess who did it," Annie said.

"Don't tell me you think it was Zak!" Keisha said. She rolled her eyes.

"Why? What did he do?" Hannah asked.

"Zak was kicked out of Wired yesterday for playing a dirty trick on Michael," Annie said.

"Oh, that's awful," Hannah said.

"I have an idea! I think we should follow him. If I know Zak," Annie started to say.

"Annie, you *don't* know him!" Keisha said.

"Keisha, who else would have a reason to attack Wired?" Annie said.

"I just know it wasn't Zak. You guys are impossible. I have to go. See you at lunch," Keisha said. She turned and walked off.

"It sounds like we have a mystery to solve!

But what if Zak doesn't go back?" Hannah said.

"Maybe we can catch him doing something else. At least we can prove to Keisha that Zak is bad news," Annie said. The friends went inside.

After school, Annie, Michael, and Hannah met outside by their bikes. "Hannah, why don't you go with Annie? I'll go home and get some snacks," Michael said. The friends agreed.

"Look, there he is!" Hannah said suddenly.

"He's got his bike. Let's go!" Annie said.

The girls followed Zak to his house. They waited by the house next door.

One hour later, Hannah pointed down the street. She said, "Annie, look! It's Keisha!"

"You're right! She's walking her dog. Stay here. Text me if Zak leaves," Annie said.

"OK," Hannah said. She moved behind a bush to stay out of sight.

Annie rode down the street to Keisha.

"Annie!" Keisha said. She looked surprised.

"I thought you had practice," Annie said.

"I decided to take Sasha on a long walk. She hasn't gotten much exercise now that I walk other dogs too," Keisha said.

"I'll come with you. I haven't seen Sasha in weeks," Annie said. She patted the dog's head.

Keisha paused, then agreed. In the bushes, Hannah sighed with relief. Keisha would be angry if she knew their plan.



When the girls got to Keisha's house, Annie said goodbye to Keisha and Sasha. Then she got a text message from Hannah.

Z is at melrose markdt buying efgs hurry!

Annie did not understand. Hannah always messed up texts. After staring at it for a few seconds, Annie realized what Hannah meant. She texted Michael.

Go 2 Melrose Market. Zak buying EGGS!

Annie raced back to town. She knew they would catch Zak in the act tonight!



CHAPTER 3

Another Attack

Annie met Michael and Hannah at the market. The sun was just going down. Hannah had to leave to help her mom with dinner. She was upset about missing all the action.

Just then, Zak left the shop with a carton of eggs. Michael and Annie followed Zak to his house. They waited there.

"Wired has been closed for hours. Why isn't Zak making his move?" Annie asked. She wished he would hurry up.