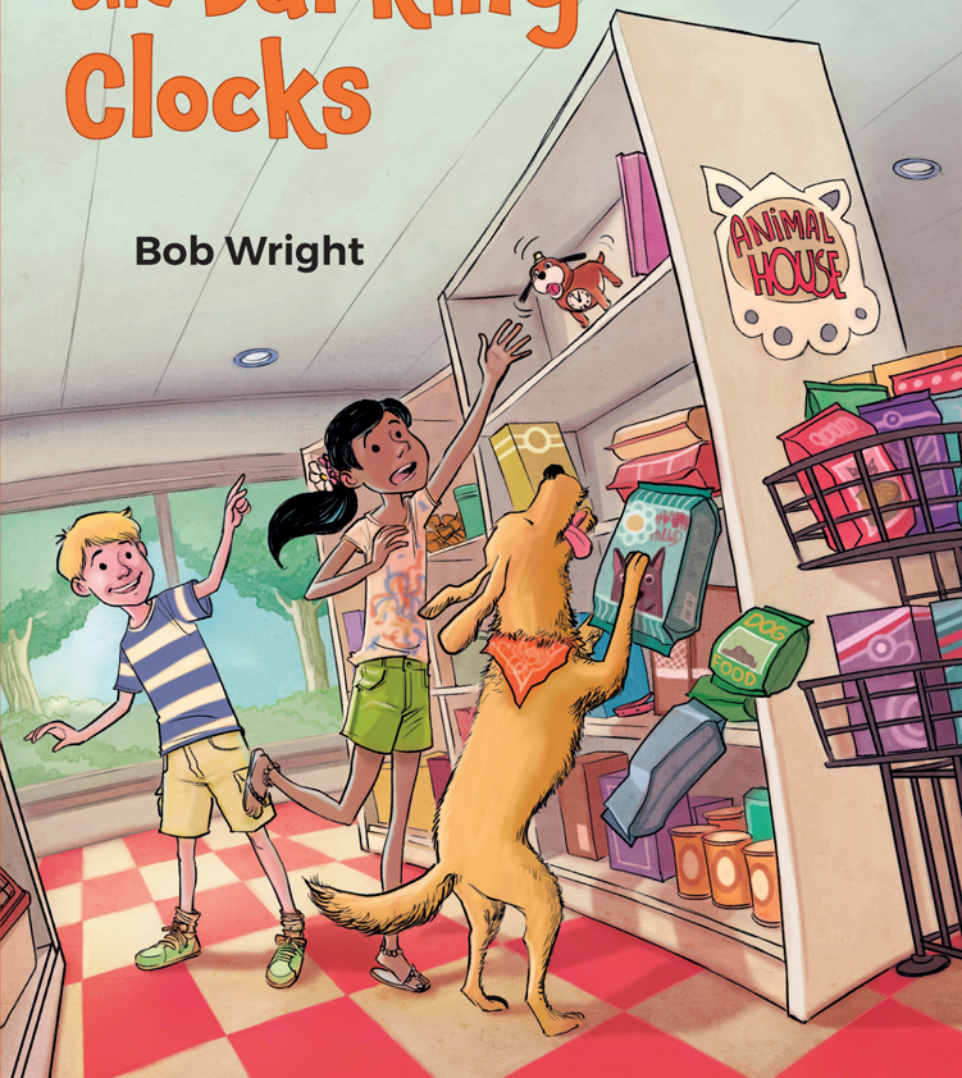


A Leela and Ben
Mystery

The Case of the Barking Clocks

Bob Wright



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Meet Leela and Ben

WOOF!

Oh, and Sir!



Leela and Ben are 12. They are detectives.

Leela has a bee-phone. She takes notes on it.

Ben has a dog named Sir. Sir helps solve cases!

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!