

Ruby Heisler

Meet Me in the Tunnel at Midnight

It was an ordinary Saturday morning in the Miller household. Mr. Miller was reading the paper, "listen to this," he said, "there was a burglary at Birdman's!" Birdman's is the most popular department store in the city. "I wonder who would do that!" Mrs. Miller exclaimed! Susan Miller exchanged a look with her dog, Rover. He barked. "I will take Rover for a walk!" Susan exclaimed. "Ok" Her mom answered". They were off, and they walked outside.

Something weird happened. Rover pulled on the leash for a couple blocks until they reached Birdman's then he ran through the door. On the floor they saw a huge mess of glass and splintered wood. There were two police officers. One asked. "Are you the detective?" They did not give Susan any time to answer. The other stated. "Ok. This is Gerald, and I am Josh." "Why are you so young?" Gerald asked. This was a genuine question, because Susan was only sixteen. "I....." Susan sputtered. Rover barked very loudly. "RRRUFF RRRUFF" Josh gave him a look but moved on. "You take this side, and we have this side" Josh declared. "Bbbut" Susan sputtered. "Just get to work" Gerald demanded. "Oh" Susan whimpered. Rover whimpered, which earned another disapproving look from Josh who sighed. They trudged to the other side of the room and looked for clues.

They searched for clues all day and then Susan and Rover walked out of the messy department store with Gerald. Now Susan felt like a real detective. "Meet us at the station tomorrow at seven o'clock", announced Gerald.

Then leaving Susan and Rover alone, he drove away. As they started for home, they looked back and saw Josh looking out the window. He did not see them and mumbled to himself. "Coast is clear".

"That's weird." Susan whispered. Rover made a small bark "RRUFF RRUFF!". "Shhhh", Susan replied. "Let's investigate". As Susan and Rover walked to the door, they saw that Josh was on a phone call and overheard him saying, "I think this kid is on to me. We should talk about this later in the tunnel." Josh ended his phone call and put his phone away. Next, he walked over to a picture and pulled on it. With a jerk, it opened, revealing a button which he then pressed. The wall opened, and he walked in, pulling a switch to close the wall. Susan heard muffled voices and could only make out a few words: meet - twelve o'clock - tonight.

As they were walking home, Rover excitedly barked "RRUFF RRUFF!". Susan replied, "That's a good idea Rover." When they got home, Mrs. Miller asked, "Where have you and Rover been all day?" Susan replied, "Just on a walk". "That's a long walk, Missy," said Mr. Miller. "Yes", agreed Susan, "but we needed the exercise." "OK", Mrs. Miller stated as they hurried up to Susan's room to discuss their plan.

With their plan in place and Susan's parents sleeping, they slipped out of the house. As they ran two blocks to Birdman's, Susan checked the time and saw it was 11:55pm. They had five minutes to get to the tunnel and set up their plan. When they arrived, they looked through a window and saw the store was empty. When Susan tried to open the door, she was surprised that it was open. They tip-toed inside and right when they got in. Susan got hit hard and everything went black.

As she awoke, light-headed and woozy, she realized that she was tied up, and Rover was chained to a pole. She tried to scream but wasn't making a sound through the tape on her mouth. When her eyes got used to the darkness, she saw that Rover had an injured back leg. When Rover heard the trap door opening, he let out a bark and ran towards the door, not realizing he was chained. Then, with lots of force, Rover flung back to the other side of the room. When Susan realized that nobody was coming in and the door was locked, she immediately tried to get out of the rope. With thoughts of getting out, she drifted off to a deep sleep.

When Susan awoke, she saw that it was already 6:45 in the morning. "Oh, no , " she exclaimed, "my parents wake me up at 6:30, and they should already know that I am missing." "RRUFF RRUFF," Rover answered. Then Susan replied, "You're right. They should call the police to come to look for me. That also could make Josh check on us, and he could hurt us."

It took about an hour, but Susan figured out how to get her rope off and then unclicked Rover's chain. They were free, but there was one problem: Susan did not remember where the button to open and close the door was. Rover barked and ran to the light switch. It was low to the ground, so Rover pulled the light cover up and revealed a button, which Susan pressed. The door slid open, and she ran to the telephone to call the only police officer she trusted - Gerald. Gerald answered the phone, and Susan explained everything, including why she was late and told him to meet her at Birdman's. As she hung up, she saw a piece of paper on the floor. Rover ran and fetched it for Susan. She saw it had a coded message. After she decoded the message, she saw it read "MEET ME IN THE TUNNEL AT MIDNIGHT." When Gerald got to Birdman's, she explained about the message and her plan.

12:05 pm- Josh and his partner were arrested, the jewels were recovered, and Gerald and Susan had talked. Susan apologized for the misunderstanding, and Gerald asked if Susan and Rover would like to become private detectives. They said yes of course. Back at home snuggled in their beds they wondered what mystery they would tackle next!!

The End