

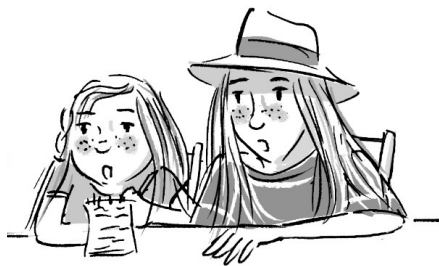


Hilde Cracks
the Case

THIEF STRIKES!

**BY HILDE LYSIAK
WITH MATTHEW LYSIAK**

**ILLUSTRATED BY
JOANNE LEW-VRIETHOFF**



**BRANCHES™**
SCHOLASTIC INC.

For the great staff at the Patagonia Montessori Elementary School.
The best school in the world!



If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”

Text copyright © 2019 by Hilde Lysiak and Matthew Lysiak
Illustrations copyright © 2019 by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff

Jacket photos ©: spirals: Kavee Pathomboon/Dreamstime; front flap Hilde:
Courtesy of Isabel Rose Lysiak; back flap tape: PixMarket/Shutterstock.

Photos ©: cover spirals: Kavee Pathomboon/Dreamstime; back cover Hilde: Courtesy of Isabel Rose Lysiak; back cover paper: Frbird/Dreamstime; back cover paperclip: Picsfive/Dreamstime; 88 paperclips: Fosin/Shutterstock; 88 pushpins: Picsfive/Dreamstime; 88 bottom: Courtesy of Joanne Lew-Vriethoff; 88 background: Leo Lintang/Dreamtime.

All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Inc., *Publishers since 1920*.
SCHOLASTIC, BRANCHES, and associated logos are trademarks
and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any
responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system,
or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording,
or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher.

For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc.,
Attention: Permissions Department, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of the authors' imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lysiak, Hilde, 2006- author. | Lysiak, Matthew, author. | Lew-Vriethoff, Joanne, illustrator. | Lysiak, Hilde, 2006- Hilde cracks the case ; 6. Title: Thief strikes! / by Hilde Lysiak, with Matthew Lysiak ; illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff. Description: First edition. | New York, NY : Branches/Scholastic Inc., 2019. | Series: Hilde cracks the case! ; 6 | Summary: Hilde and her sister/photographer Izzy have two cases to investigate for their paper, the *Orange Street News*: someone is stealing vegetables from the local greenhouse, and a lot of people seem to be getting sick eating the hot dogs from a local food stand—and soon Hilde starts to believe that the two cases may be related. Identifiers: LCCN 2018031383 | ISBN 9781338283914 (pbk) | ISBN 9781338283921 (hardcover) Subjects: LCSH: Reporters and reporting—Juvenile fiction. | Theft—Juvenile fiction. | Frankfurters—Juvenile fiction. | Food poisoning—Juvenile fiction. | Detective and mystery stories. | CYAC: Mystery and detective stories. | Reporters and reporting—Fiction. | Stealing—Fiction. | Food poisoning—Fiction. | GSAFD: Mystery fiction. | LCGFT: Detective and mystery fiction.

Classification: LCC PZ7.1.L97 Th 2019 | DDC 813.6 [Fic]—dc23
LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018031383>

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

19 20 21 22 23

Printed in China 62
First edition, March 2019
Edited by Katie Carella
Book design by Baily Crawford



1 Rocket Ship

The police car's tires squealed as Officer Dee blasted out of Rotary Park like a rocket ship.

"Hurry!" I said to my sister Izzy. "Officer Dee is on his way to catch a thief. We can't lose him!"

I pushed down on my bike pedals with all my strength. Izzy was right at my side.

But our bikes were no match for a car. Especially a police car driven by Officer Dee.

Izzy and I stopped at Mill Street. We looked both ways.

"Which way did Officer Dee go?" asked Izzy.

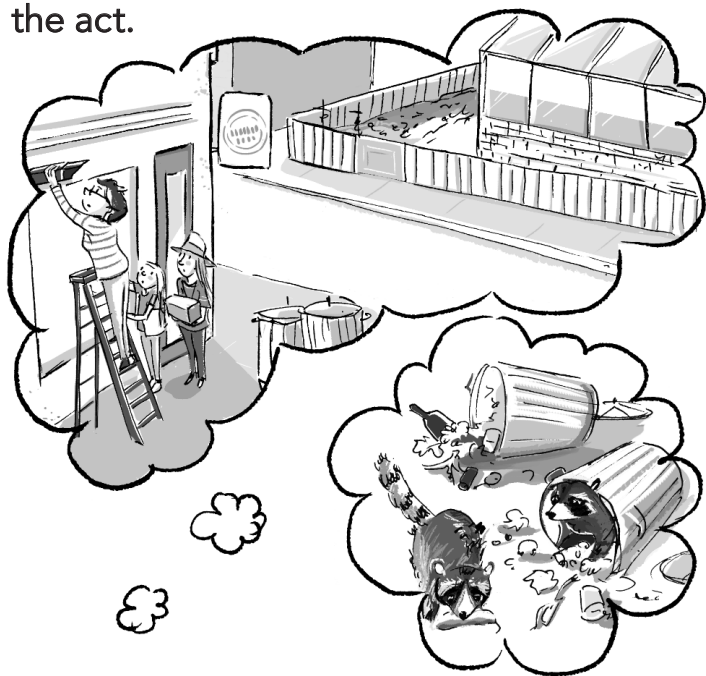
"I'm not sure," I said.

I checked my phone. It was 2:15 p.m. Our deadline wasn't until 6 p.m., so we had plenty of time to get the scoop on this story.

Just then, a text popped up on my screen. It was a tip! I often receive information from people when there is breaking news. This tip was from Harriet, the owner of Harriet's Ribs on Market Street.



Izzy and I had just eaten at Harriet's Ribs last week, after we helped Harriet discover that raccoons had been tipping over her garbage cans. Harriet had set up a security camera to catch them in the act.



She gave us a large plate of barbecue ribs as thanks for our help. I told her the only thing that would taste better would be if she put macaroni and cheese on top of the ribs. She laughed so hard her belly shook.



Izzy saw the text and said, "Hmm. Selinsgrove Garden is where the local restaurant owners grow their fruits and vegetables. Why would anyone want to steal plants?"

"I don't know," I said. I looked back down at the text. "But it sounds like we should go talk to Glenn."

Glenn owns my favorite restaurant — the Kind Kat Café. He has three cats, and he is also our friend.

“Yes,” agreed Izzy. “Let’s follow up on this tip.”

“Then we’ll head to Selinsgrove Garden afterward — since that’s where Officer Dee was probably headed,” I added as Izzy and I pedaled to the Kind Kat Café.



