

Wisplurkers

Episode 019. Wisplurkers?

“Look. It’s like this”, said Dalrimple. “The old couple, the Grimleys, and their budgie, have gone somewhere. No one knows where they are. No-one has seen them in weeks. They’ve most likely gone away on holiday, — or they have disappeared into thin air.”

“Disappeared? Just like that?” said Toby interrupting and filled with confidence. “I think you’re wrong, inspector. I think you’ll find they’ve been kidnapped, or worse.”

He scanned the overgrown garden hopefully, “Killed because of something they saw, or a secret. Their bodies, decayed and manky had to be hidden before anyone realized they were missing —.” This was great! Toby was imagining all sorts of gruesome endings.

“S’posing they’ve been tortured to find out what they knew then the gang, it was a large criminal gang, murdered them and buried them behind that shed or under that tree.”

He saw Kylie’s face. She was looking pale. Served her right.

“There could be bits of them buried all over the garden. An arm or leg over there. A head stuffed in that old watering can.” Toby was enjoying himself. He turned to face the inspector.

“Why don’t the police dig up the yard? They could be under here,” he stamped a foot on the solid concrete. The inspector should take him seriously.

“No,” Dalrimple shook his head. “They are definitely not here. I was examining the ground, the other side of the shed, when you lot arrived and as far as I can tell nothing’s been disturbed.”

He’d been hiding, thought Toby, I wonder how long he’s been here? Was the policeman hiding in the garden when he’d been here earlier? Best not to mention it, just in case.

The inspector said, “I’ve been investigating this mystery for some time now. It isn’t only the strange disappearance of the Grimleys, there’s more to this. This started some months ago, before this happened. It began in the old telephone exchange building on the edge of town. Do you know it?”

No one answered. Wiser not to admit to anything, until they knew more.

“It’s that place that was burnt down recently,” continued Dalrimple. “Alf Grimley worked there as night watchman, even though it’s been empty and derelict for years. For some time he’d been

employed by Mr Tiberius Smithing who owns the land and the building, and most of this town.”

The children listened without comment. No one mentioned the earlier visit they’d made in February. This inspector might think they’d been up to no good.

“Anyway, just after last Christmas I began to notice strange things were happening inside the building. A bizarre sound, like chattering in the rooms and something moving around. It could be the fire was started deliberately. I think Alf Grimley himself may have started the fire to try and stop it before it got any worse.”

“What’s ‘it’?” asked Kylie curiously, before the others could ask the same question.

Inspector Dalrimple paused. How much could he tell them? The last thing he wanted was them going home and telling their parents. Then again, would these kids be believed?

“‘It’ could turn out to be a terrible menace called the *Wisplurkers*.”

“The what?” asked Toby.

“Wisplurkers?” said Matt Jameson looking worried.

“Oh yeah!” added Lloyd Wong, not really believing any of it.

Kylie just looked scared.

Inspector Dalrimple continued, “Listen and I’ll explain. Wisplurkers are real. They are shadowy creatures and they’ve actually taken the shapes and forms of humans.”

“What?” Lloyd grinned. He really thought this policeman was treating them like daft kids. He was having a laugh!

“No, I said listen. Wisplurkers are intelligent and extremely cunning.”

The inspector watched the different expressions on their faces. Either they would be frightened off or they’d think he was telling them a fantastic tale. Either way, he hoped it would stop them getting more curious.

Lloyd thought it was nothing more than a daft story to frighten them, Matt decided it was *very scary*, and Toby stood, with his mouth slightly open, fascinated by the whole thing. Kylie just wanted to go home.

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Wisplurkers. By Maggie C.

Go to www.wisplurkers.net, to read the latest episode of the Wisplurkers and subscribe to her blog to get instant updates as she posts them.

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