

The Mystery of the Ransacked Abode

by Angel Gabriel Velez

Pico was all set to have a calm and peaceful day today, until he found out that his house got ransacked.

When the curious 20-year-old walked down the stairs, he saw that the entire downstairs area was a mess. Dust gathered in every corner of the room, books were scattered everywhere, and a few of his video games were missing. Something was amiss.

Just then, he heard a doorbell. He decided to answer it. He saw his friend, Dustin, standing in the doorway. Not only that, but it seemed that the neighborhood troublemakers, Zack and Cody, were with him as well.

“Umm, what are these troublemaking twins doing here, Dustin?” Pico asked.

Zack smiled mischievously as he said, “We are here to mess things up for you!”

“Yeah, last night was a wonderful night of harmless pranks,” Cody said.

That earned a sigh from Pico. Dustin took a couple of deep breaths before he said, “They simply followed me here. They do seem like likely suspects though.”

“Wait, how did you know that something bad happened to me?” Pico asked.

“Because you didn’t text me at all yesterday.”

“I see,” Pico said. Then he went inside while everyone else followed along.

Once they made it to the living room, they saw the mess. There certainly was a dusty atmosphere in this room, along with the mess. “Geez, do you live like this?” Cody asked.

“Of course not, dude. Did you two cause this mess?” Pico asked.

“Maybe we did, maybe we did not,” Zack said.

Pico saw another mischievous smile on Zack’s face and rolled his eyes. “Well, anyways, let’s clean this mess up. I want to at least restore the tidiness of this place before we get started on this mystery.”

They all began to tidy up the living room and the rest of the downstairs area. Dustin dusted the sooty corners in every room. Zack and Cody horsed around with the broom and dustpan before they finally swept the floors. Pico picked up all the books from the floor and sorted them in order on the bookshelf.

Once Pico picked up the last book though, he noticed something strange. There was a spoon lying on the floor underneath that book. It was suspicious, since the spoon was not supposed to be there.

He picked up the spoon, washed it in the kitchen, and he put the spoon in the drawer until he noticed another strange occurrence.

Once he opened the drawer, a hat popped out and fell onto the floor. It seemed to be forcibly stuffed in there before the drawer opened. After Pico picked up the hat, he noticed that it was a familiar bright red cap. He knew someone who owned this hat, but he figured it’s best not to jump to conclusions so soon.

“Dustin? Zack and Cody? Come here,” Pico said. After they ran over there, they saw Pico holding both items. “I just found this spoon on the floor, and I just found this cap in the utensils drawer.”

“I think this story is already pretty cap,” Cody said as Zack laughed.

“S-Shut up with your awful puns and listen to what Pico has to say, you little brats,” Dustin said with a scowl.

“Anyways, I think it’s suspicious because these things were not supposed to be in these locations,” Pico said.

“Huh, that is pretty strange. I wonder what happened, but who knows,” Dustin said with a shrug.

“That could be my spoon! I love using the spoon to smear peanut butter on the walls after all,” Zack said.

“And red is my favorite color, so this could be my cap,” Cody said.

“Ugh, could you guys please stop messing with us?” Pico asked.

“Yeah, we’ll stop right about now!”

Cody snatched the cap and ran away with Zack. Dustin gave chase. “Get back here!”

Pico stood there and watched the chase taking place in the living room. The chase didn’t last long, however, as he saw them run towards the living room, and he heard Dustin say, “Whoa!”

It sounded like Dustin saw something, so Pico ran over to the dining room and saw the troublemaker duo playing catch with some video game, with Dustin acting as the monkey in the middle.

“Give it back,” Dustin said.

“You have to catch the game first, loser,” Cody said.

That made Dustin groan. Then Cody threw the game too hard, missing Zack as the game flew at the wall. It was about to be shattered into pieces until Pico dove over and caught the game in his hands. He then inspected the game and gasped. It’s a first-person shooter, and he knew someone who loved those games. Welp, it looked like the evidence added up now.

Pico turned to look at Dustin and asked, “Dude, what were you doing last night?”

Dustin sighed and said, “Looks like you solved the mystery. Yes, I broke into your home and stole some of your video games. I just don’t want to buy them myself, so I stole them. You hid them well, so my search attempts turned your house into a mess. I accidentally left some stuff behind because of that.”

Pico could only stare in silence before he looked away and said, “Get out.”

“With pleasure,” Dustin said with a scowl as he walked out.

Pico looked over at the troublemaker duo and said, “Well, I guess some of your reputation is restored after all. Maybe I should trust you two again.”

“Yay!” The twins cheered.

“But no more tricks, okay?”

“Aww...”

Pico sighed. He may have had lost a (fake) friend, but at least he solved the mystery and restored his house back to normal. Not only that, but he also restored the duo’s reputation and gained a possible new friendly rivalry relationship between him and the duo. At least he achieved victory and restoration today.