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Opening extract from

The Spaghetti Yeti

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THIS YOUNG SUPER SLEUTH JOURNAL BELONGS TO ...

MARIELLA MYSTERY: That's me! Amazing girl detective, aged nine and a bit. If you have a mystery, come to the Mystery Girls. Do not go to totally rubbish detective agency, Half a Mystery*, set up by my annoying younger brother, Arthur, and his even more annoying friend, Pippa.

***HALF A MYSTERY:** *Apparently this sounds like Arthur's name: Arthur Mystery. Rubbish name for a detective agency – why would you only want half a mystery solving?*

DETECTIVE BOOKS I AM TAKING ON HOLIDAY:



YOUNG SUPER SLEUTH'S HANDBOOK



TOTALLY THRILLING MYSTERIES:
Amazing books about a team of detectives called The Fishy Four*, who solve mysteries in their school holidays.

"Fishsticks! There's something fishy going on here."



***FISHY FOUR:** The gang got their name because Sally Gum has a cool detective catchphrase:

Monday 21st July

Wooooon! No more school – the holidays start here! The Mystery Girls' first ever team camping trip is TODAY!





8:00AM
IN THE BACK OF CAR, TRAVELLING TO SALTY BAY (HOLIDAY DESTINATION)

I've been hoping that I'll have an amazing adventure in my school holidays, like the ones Sally Gum has in the Totally Thrilling Mystery stories. But when I detected the first mystery of the trip (before we'd even set off for Salty Bay) it was NOT what I was expecting at all.



CASE REPORT: SALTY BAY CAMPING TRIP: MYSTERY TEAM ASSEMBLED

6:00AM: The Mystery Girls are up and ready to go. (Poppy and Violet slept over.) We've given ourselves special roles so we can be prepared for any mystery situation.

Poppy Holmes

Outdoor Outfit Organiser. Poppy says it's important to have a range of outfits for outdoor mystery solving. (I have told her not to get carried away with showy-off costumes like the ones she makes for her synchronised swimming team.)





Violet Maple

Mystery Mayhem Monitor. Violet will be assessing the riskiness of mystery situations. (She has already made an escape plan in case the tent blows away with her in it.)





Mariella Mystery

Mystery Magnet. I'll be looking for things to investigate. (Dark caves, secret passageways in abandoned lighthouses, that sort of thing.)



SALTY BAY CAMPING TRIP: MYSTERIOUS EVENTS BEGIN



6:15AM: We should have set off by now but Mum and Dad forgot to set their alarm. Ugh, they KNOW the Mystery Girls have a lot of work to do at the campsite. Like setting up Mystery HQ and doing a sweep of the local area for a Totally Thrilling Mystery.



6:30AM: I overhear Dad having a whispered phone conversation. He says, "Don't worry, we haven't left yet. Drop her off as soon as you can." My Mystery Senses are tuned in. Who else is coming on our camping trip?

WHO IS THE MYSTERY CAMPER?

A: It can't be Granny Mystery – she vowed never to go camping again after the time she woke up with a slug on her nose.



B: It's not Poppy and Violet. They are already here.



C: Mum and Dad have finally given in and got me a sniffer dog. This makes perfect sense because a camping holiday would be the ideal place to begin dog training.

6:35AM: I tell Violet and Poppy the exciting news and decide to call the new puppy Shadow, because it's a really mysterious name.



6:45AM: The doorbell rings and I race to answer it. Dad shouts, "Wait! There's something we haven't told you." I tell Dad that you can't surprise a trained detective. I already know about Shadow.

6:47AM: I open the door. There is no puppy. Only a Peanut.

The Peanut

Pippa Patterson,
Arthur's stupid friend.
(Me, Poppy and Violet
have called her the
Peanut ever since Arthur
pushed a peanut up her
nose and she had to
go to hospital to have
it removed.)



6:48AM: I conclude that a whole week of being around Pippa and Arthur will most probably be like having a peanut stuck up your nose. TOTALLY ANNOYING.

CASE CLOSED.

