

Marlow, the Detective Robot

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Chapter One

Timo and the Messbot

Marlow the messbot was tired of cleaning.

"I may be a robot, but I know I can do more interesting tasks than just tidying up," he contemplated.

As Marlow approached the mountain of dirty dishes that filled the sink, he noticed Timo Bravo, a boy in the family, looking miserable.

"What's wrong?" inquired Marlow. "Do you need your bed made or your room dusted?"

Timo knew Marlow was only programmed to clean, but in desperation, he decided to vent anyway.

"The science fair is in two hours, and I still don't have a project.

The worst part is competing against Steven Star. Last year, he sneakily took a short cut to win a race," huffed Timo. "Plus, my mom lost her car keys, so I wonder how we will get there."

Just then, Bebe the dog ran past, playing with a shoe. There was dirt all over her nose. As Marlow bent over to clean the doggy tracks, he got an idea!

"Timo, do you know anything about robot machinery?" asked Marlow, wiping the kitchen table.

Timo nodded.

"I am a messbot," Marlow said, vacuuming the carpet carefully. "However, if you alter my wiring, I could help you."

"That's an amazing idea! Let's go to the basement, and I'll try!" Timo exclaimed.



Chapter Two

A New Invention



The boy switched wires around in the robot. Suddenly, Marlow unplugged the vacuum and bounded outside to the doghouse. In the blink of an eye, Marlow was back inside, holding Mom’s keys.

“How did you do that, Marlow?” asked Timo in awe.

“I used my super-speedy mind to gather clues,” replied Marlow. “Your mom just bought shoes, and Bebe loves playing with shoes. When Bebe ran in, I heard jingling. After getting rewired, I calculated the clues, and realized your mom might have dropped her keys into the shoes. I found them both in Bebe’s doghouse.”

Watching Marlow solve the mystery gave Timo an idea.

Two hours later, Timo and Marlow stood at the science fair, where Steven Star had just exhibited an amazing volcano model. Next was Timo’s exhibit: Marlow the Detective Robot. Steven rolled his eyes. Timo asked his principal, Mr. Williams, to hide something and then provide Marlow with four clues.

The principal borrowed a model eagle from another student’s exhibit. The eagle was painted gold, but it was still wet.

“This will have to do,” said Mr. Williams. Then, he whispered in the girl’s ear where to hide the eagle, and as she ran off, Steven followed her like a cat.

The principal then placed a cube of ice and a toy cow on a lunch tray in front of Marlow.

Chapter Three

The Golden Eagle

"Mr. Williams, that's only three clues," complained Timo.

At that moment, Steven reappeared and stood watching the robot with an evil grin.

"Actually, Timo, these are all I need," interrupted Marlow. He walked straight to the door and out into the hall, and then ambled down the line of lockers until he reached one that had *Steven Star* written on it. He stopped and pointed at the locker.

"I'm sorry, Marlow, but that's wrong," said Mr. Williams.

Marlow kept pointing at the locker, though, so finally Mr. Williams just shrugged and opened it, where he found the eagle inside!

"This isn't where I asked for the eagle to be hidden! How did you find it?" inquired Mr. Williams.

"I calculated that the tray, the ice, and the cow meant that the eagle was in the cafeteria fridge," replied Marlow.

"That's exactly right, but why did you look in the locker instead?" asked Mr. Williams.

"First, I remembered how Steven sometimes cheats to win. Next, I saw him following the girl holding the eagle. Then, I noticed gold paint on Steven's locker and his hands!" Marlow exclaimed.

Everyone stared at Steven, who wasn't grinning anymore.

"Steven, you've lost," announced Mr. Williams. "Timo and his invention, Marlow the Detective Robot, have won!"

In the end, Timo took on more chores and decided to never change Marlow's wiring back.

