

DEC#3

THE JOKER'S LETTERS

SOMETHING STOREN

Case was come with Dian. In our club's, detective club's room, Dave and Caro and I, Eric, drank tea. It is 13:50 and we were just resting and talking in science room. We called this room 'office' or 'club's room.'

"What happened? Please tell us." Dave said and put his cup on the table.

"Er...can I ask you first?" Dian asked.

"Yeah, that's okay." I said.

"Why..." She said, " Why you drink tea?"

Silent became a moment...

"Why?" Caro broke the silent. "Because we're thirsty."

"Caro's father has a tea pack and we can use them in free." Dave explained.

"Here you are." I gave Dian a green cup. In the green cup, filled with a tea.

"Thank you."

There're four cups on the table. The blue cup for me, the yellow for Caro. And Dave's cup covered with check pattern made by black and white. Robert, who is Caro's father, science teacher brought them these a week ago. After Caro became club's member, he wants to help too much.

Dian drank a tea and started her story.

"I...er...had stolen something by someone, probably."

"What is stolen?" Caro asked.

I raised my eyebrows when Dian said 'I don't know.' I had never think about the case of stolen without knowing what was stolen.

"So, why you think you were stolen? There must be reason." Caro asked.

"A letter." Dian answered. "This was in my desk." And she showed us a letter.

It said,

For Dian

I stole your important thing you thought. If you think it is joke, you can check all your thing. I bet you'll find that it's not joke. And you can show that letter to detective club. But they wouldn't help you, I bet, too.

From Joker

"Shit!" I shouted. "We will help Dian. We can!"

"Don't say shit, Eric. Joker wrote this message for you become angry." Dave said.

"When you found this?" He asked to Dian. Dian said she found this letter fifteen minute ago.

"I searched what thing was missing. But I couldn't find nothing and I came here." She added.

"So, you found it about 13:35, five minute after forth class..." Dave said and she nodded.

"Have you left your desk between 30 to 35?" Caro asked.

"Just once." Dian said. "But I didn't left more than one minute."

"Hmm..." Dave mumbled and whispered, "That must be before forth class..."

I see he said about when the robber put that letter. It seems impossible the robber can do that without anyone see him, or her in one minute. But he, or she did two things, stole Dian's thing and put the letter. The robber sure knew where was her thing.

"Who are there when you left your desk?" Caro asked.

"Er...there was many people. Most of the classmates were there."

That means most of our friends are suspects. It isn't funny.

I drunk my tea and tea in a cup was almost gone. Dave's and Caro's cup is empty. They almost had drunk.

I looked up at the clock, which one is on the wall.

It is 13:56. The Clock said.

Oops. There are only four minutes for go back our classroom.

"Dave, Caro, Dian!" I shouted. "There are only few minutes for class starting.

We have to be hurry!"

"Oh!" Dave saw the clock and cried. "Can I ask you question more after fifth class? It's emergency!"

"Yeah. It seems." Dian agreed and said, "Now, let's go!!"

Caro opened the door and she went out the room. Then, she stopped her foot.

"What' matter?" I asked.

"Hello!" Robert, Caro's father, said and got into our office, science room.

"Hello, teacher." Dave said.

"I think I'll buy a thing for your club. What do you want?" He said "Don't say 'I want cups' and 'I don't want any thing.'" And he smiled.

He said these question everyday in this week.

"Time." Dave said. "I want many, many time now because class start in few minutes!!" And he run through the door, pushed Robert away.

"Ooh, That's sorry." He said. "Please go to your class." And he moved away.

"I'll ask you later!" He shouted.

"Not today!" Dave shouted back. "We have case now!"

"Ooh..." Robert murmured again.

We run after Dave. When we followed him, Caro mumbled.

"Dad asked me that question every minute in my house...I was tired. I bet I'll become crazy in few more days."

SOMETHING GONE

There were only few time less than one minute for class started when we got into the class. We, Dave, Caro, Dian and I are in the same class. The teacher was already in the class. We sat in our seats in hurry.

Starting bell alarmed.

Class was starting.

The fifth class is Math. I put my text and notebook on the desk. Right of my desk is Caro's desk and second of front one is Dave's. I saw Dian's my third of right. Suddenly, I heard a screaming. It was Dian's voice.

"My pencil was gone!"

"What?" Teacher, Mr.Jake said. He seemed surprised.

"N...nothing. Please don't care about that." Dian said in fast voice and took out another pencil from her pen case.

"Er...Okay." Teacher said with worried face, "If you really had nothing." And he continued the class.

When class was half gone, I heard a knocking sounds. It's sure there're knocking sounds when students wrote by pencil. But this sounds was strange and crazy. Knocking sounds made the rhythm. It was heard from Dave's desk. Dave made that sounds.

Knock, knock.

Knock, knock, knock, knock.

First, I heard two knock then silent and second, four knock. I thought Dave want to talk with knock. So, I wrote a number of knock,

45233431253143431212145323341434133 3455143212113. I think it is a number code. I had heard from Dave about how to made a chart. I wrote the chart.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	K	L	M	N	O
4	P	Q	R	S	T
5	U	V	W	X	Y

There isn't Z in the chart, but it isn't matter. We can change the number to alphabet like 11 to A, 12 to B and other. So, I can read this number code like this:

THNKJKRRBBDWHNDNCMTURFFC.

I can't understand what it mean. Probably I wrote the chart in different.

This time, I saw Dave put his pen on his desk.

But there are another knocking sounds. these are strange, too.

Knock, knock...

These came from right, from Caro's desk.

Few seconds later, Caro's pen stopped and silent became again. Teacher seem didn't hear these sounds.

But about two or three seconds later, I heard another knocking sounds, from Dave. I'm sure that Dave and Caro talked by code and I couldn't understand what they talked. I'm alone in our.

Knock, knock.

That isn't sounds of pen. Caro tapped my shoulder.

Caro gave me a paper without anything word.

I saw a words on the paper. Caro had written what they talked by code on this paper. That said;

Dave: I think Joker (It is robber's name on the letter) robbed when when Dian came to our office.

I : I think so, too. Robber saw where Dian's special thing was when Dian saw a letter and search everything.

'I' in the letter mean 'Caro,' of course. I continued reading,

Dave: Yeah. We got in his trap.

I : ... (I said nothing.)

Dave: Please tell these talking to Eric. He probably still not understand this code.

And writing is ended. Dave is right. I still not understand.

We talked about Dian's pencil after class finished. After ten minutes, the sixth class will start.

"We were trapped." Dave said again.

"That is my favorite. "Dian cried, "I must get it back."

"So, we have a question for solving this case." Caro said to Dian. "Can I ask you that?"

"Of course! Why I say no? I want to back as soon as I can!"

"OK. So when you found a letter from Joker, did you checked your pencil which is stolen?" Dave asked.

"Yes, of course. That is my favorite."

"Oh. We were right, I think." Dave said and nodded to Caro. She nodded back.

"Joker robbed yours while you came our office and told as about the case."

Dave added.

"Ooh..." I murmured. Of course I knew that before in the letter, but I surprised about that maybe true.

"Joker..." Caro whispered.

"What?"

"Er...I think about what name of Joker means." Caro said.

"It mean 'I'll trick you,' of course." I said.

"Hmm..."Dave mumbled. "Is that truly answer?" He whispered.

"I think no." Caro answered.

"I don't know..." Dian and I murmured.

"If Joker means 'Joker in play cards?'" Dave asked himself.

"Joker is the strongest card in play cards. So, that Joker mean 'I'm the cleverest person in this school.'" He answered himself.

"Did you think joker is cleverer than you?" I asked.

"I don't know. But Joker must be cleverer than other people around him, or her."

Dave said.

"Oh?" Dave raised his eyebrow, "Why you know what I thought?"

"Hur? You whispered what you thought. Didn't you notice that?" I said.

"I thought I said that only in my mind..."

SOMEONE CAME, CAME AND CAME

"Where's Dave?" The boy shouted and came into our class room. He seemed came from other class.

"Here." I told him.

He came to us and looked at me, said. "Are you Dave?"

"No." I answered. "He is Dave." I pointed Dave, then pointed myself and announced.

"And I'm Eric."

"Please call me Caro." Caro said, "We're member of detective club."

"What her name?" The boy said and pointed Dian.

"She is our client." Dave explained. "So, what happened?"

"I was stolen something, maybe." The boy said. "There is letter from Joker, who stole my thing." He take a letter from his pocket and put on the desk.

It says,

For Reonald

I stole your important thing you thought.

It is same words by Dian's letter without name. And letter said same thing, like Dian's one. Reonald could be this boy's name, I thought.

"So, Reo." I asked, "Did you almost check your thing?"

"Yeah." Reo said, "I checked all my thing. But nothing was stolen. I don't know what happened."

"No." Dave said. "You were stolen, now."

"What did you mean?"

"Reo." I said to Reo, "There is Dian, another our client. She got a letter from Joker, too."

"And her thing was stolen when she came to our office and asked us about case."

Caro added.

"You mean...Joker is robbing my thing now?" Reo raised his eyebrow.

"I said that before." Dave said. "I think you should go back your classroom, your desk, and check your thing."

"Of course!" Reo shouted and ran out to our classroom.

Clock said there is only 4 minute for class starting.

Two minute later, Reo came back and our thought was right.

Joker had stole Reo's favorite ruler.

The chime ranged.

Dave asked them to meet after class and talking about case. Dian and Reo nodded and Reo went out our classroom.

Teacher is came in.

Class is starting.

And there're some knocking sounds again.

I can't what Dave and Caro are talking.

That's all right.

Caro sure give me a paper and tell me what they talked, after.

But I was wrong.

Caro gave me a nothing.

Only the knocking sounds are there.

I asked Dave with screaming after the class. "Why you didn't tell me what you talked?"

"Ah...are you still not understand code?" Dave asked me back with sad face, "I didn't think that..."

"Me, too." Caro said, "If I have number and writing, I can fit number in alphabet and get pattern of the code."

And she started to explain the code. "This code is..."Wait!"

But I let her mouth closing. "I'll try that later."

"Okay." Answered Dave. "You probably said that, I thought."

"So, let's ask Dian and Reo everything about case."

"Yeah."

"That's right."

Reo came into our classroom after few minute and we talked.

"When you found the letter?" I asked.

"At lunch time." Dian said.

"I found between fifth and sixth class." Reo answered.

"And you came to our office and our class room and stolen your ruler." Caro said. They nodded.

"E...excuse me?" A boy stand outside the class room, only his head is inside the class room.

"Who are you?" I asked. "Do you try to find Detective club?"

"Y...yes. I want to meet Dave." I think he is shy.

"I'm Dave." Dave said and pointed Caro and I. "And they're Caro and Eric. They're my partner."

"What happened?" Caro asked," Did you find a letter from Joker?" She laughed.

"Y...yes. There is it." A boy showed us a letter.

Caro stopped laughing.

"But...why you know that?"

"Because they found, too." I pointed Dian and Reo.

"Oh..." A boy gasped.

"I bet you found nothing stolen, like them." Dave said, "And I bet you was stolen by Joker, now. I said you should go to your class and check your thing, Mike."

"Oh...I'll go to...huh? Why you know my name?" Mike is seemed surprise.

"There's your name." Dave raised a letter from Joker and said that's easy.

"Writing in letters showed me your name. Here, it said 'For Mike.'"

Mike run out our class room.

"And writing is completely same." Dave said after Mike left.

Caro wrote everything happen in the case.

Mike came back in few minutes.

We were right.

Mike's favorite red marker is gone...

SOMETHING IS STRAINGE

We came back our office for sorting our clue and asked wore thing to three crients. "Hello, again." Robert said to us and gave us six tea cups. "It's good that I brought a lot of tea cups for situation like that." He said with big smile.

We didn't know that Robert brought so many cups.

"T...thank you..." I gasped.

I made four cups of tea. I gave Dian a green cup, Reo a red one and gave Mike a white one. Dave, Caro and I made ourselves.

"So, Mike. When you find a letter?" Dave drunk his tea and asked.

Mike said he saw it in his desk after sixth class.

"So, which club is you member of?" Dave asked.

"Why?" Dian asked and Dave answered, "I want to find why you stolen. I have to search same things in yours."

"Okay." Dian said, "I'm member of tennis club, you know."

"How about you, Reo, Mike?" Caro asked two boys.

"I'm member of basket club." Reo answered.

"...I'm not member of any club..." Mike said.

"Hmm...this seems bad question..." Dave mumbled. "Who did the class before you found a letter?"

"Ah...hm...Ms. Frony, I think." Reo said.

"Oh." Cried Dian. "Ms. Frony did our class, too."

We, Dave, Caro and I turned our face to Mike.

"Me...too..." Mike whispered.

We know Ms. Frony did a forth class room, next did fifth class in Reo's and then, sixth in the Mike's.

This time, We know Ms. Frony was all class before they found Joker's letters.

"Let's ask Ms. Frony." Dave said.

"Yeah." Everyone in the class thought same thing.

We run out our class room and went to the teacher's room.

Ms. Frony isn't there.

Noone is in the room.

"Where is she?" Dian asked. All our clients followed us for their thing.

"Probably she is in gym. She is coach of hang ball club." Caro said.

"Why you know that." When I asked, she raised her note, and said,

"In my note, there are all club name, coach's name, all subject and teacher's name. I wrote these two day's ago like Dave asked me."

"Nice work, Caro." Dave said.

I didn't heard about that, I think. But I tried to seemed I wasn't surprised. I didn't want the school gym. Gym's door is opened.

"I know," Caro said, "Today is practicing day of hand ball club. The basket ball club used gym at usual, but there is oneday for for the hand ball club in every week. Today is."

"Wow." I cried.

We get into the gym and called Ms. Frony. She came toward us. She asked us.

"Why all you are there? Something problem?"

“Yeah. I have a question we have to ask you.” Dave said.

“Oh, you worked in club, I believe. Okay. Please ask me anything you want.” She said.

“So, what kind of a man do you like?” Dave asked and raised his eyebrow.

“Bad joke.” Ms. Flony said with a laugh. “Please ask me about the case you had.”

“I knew it. It's a joke.” Dave laughed back. “There're so many sounds, I ask you talk with us outside the gym.”

And we went out the gym.

“Ms. Flony, did you see anyone strange before or after your class?” Dave asked.

“Why? Please explain.” Ms. Flony asked back.

“I'm scared that I can't tell you the reason. But please ask nothing. That is top secret.”

“Ooh...OK. I understand that.” Ms. Flony said. “So, you want to know who is in the class...
hmm...” And she closed her eyes.

One minute past.

She opened her eyes and mouth. “I think I didn't see anyone strange. There were just that class's student.”

We said Ms. Flony thank you and left the gym.

“Er...I just noticed that now, but...” I said to three clients, “You have to go to the club? I know you can go to the club while we solve the case.”

“...you know, I'm not a member of any club.” Mike said.

“I can't just wait you solve.” Reo said.

“Yeah.” Dian agreed. “Joker robbed our thing. We want to find these ourselves.”

“Great.” Dave said, “Now, I'll ask more questions. Who was the teacher of the class after you were stolen?”

“Ms. Lee was.” Reo answered first.

“...Mr. Vector...I think.” Second is second.

Dian said at last, “Mr. Jake, you know.”

“OK. So, we can ask them. Let's ask them by three teams.” Dave said and got to step for Mike. “I'll make by Mike. And we ask to Mr. Jake.”

I stopped for Reo. “I see. That's faster. But why would you ask to Mr. Jake?”

Mike said there was Mr. Vector.

I asked to Dave but Caro answered, “So, I'll go with Dian, Eric. We mustn't be noticed this case by the teacher. Mr. Jake saw Dian surprised and worried in his class. Perhaps, other, too. We should change the teachers because of that.”

“I see.” Dian said, “So, we'll ask to Ms. Lee.”

They made Reo and I will ask to Mr. Vector. And we will.

“Dave. Mr. Jake is in the tennis court.” Caro announced, “And Eric. You must go to the teacher's room first. He isn't in the club today.” Caro turned her face to Dian.

“we'll go to the playground. Ms. Lee is in the foot ball club.”

Dave, Mike, Caro and Dian went to the playground. Tennis court is over the playground.

“So, let's go.” Reo said to me.

Reo and I walked into the school and went to the teacher's room. I knocked the door.

Knock, knock.

“Please come in.” And we got into the room...

SOME TIME STRANGE THING HAPPEN

“What do you want?” Mr. Jake asked us.

“Er...did you...” I ready to ask but I frozen. I remembered one important thing.

We can't ask him so straight. We made teacher answered our asking without any thing.

But why? Like this question came into my brain. Why we can't tell teachers about case?

Perhaps, Dave don't want to made a robber from our school. Perhaps, he thought he want to help everyone from cases, expect the robber.

I smiled in my heart. Dave is too kindly to other people.

“Eric?” When I noticed, Mr. Jake was front of me and looked me in worried face.

“What matter?” He asked.

“Nothing.” I answered. I must do the thing what I should do.

I said to him. “I had a question about today's class.”

“Oh, that sounds easy to me. Can I help?”

“You came our room in today's class, remember?”

“Yes. You came just few second before started. Why do I forget that?”

“I want to hear about before we came. Perhaps, you said something important, like where exam came from.”

“Why I said that before you came?” Mr. Jake said with laugh.

“For let me studying a lot?” I murmured.

“Oh, that's nice idea.” Mr. Jake said, “Next time, I'll do that.”

“Ooh...I'll try I'm not late. So, there were only our classmate without us when you came in our class? Only Dave, Caro, Dian and I were late?”

“You were not late. You came in few before.” Mr. Jake smiled, “You weren't late. And everyone wasn't late, in my class.”

I noticed little thing. “In your class? What did it mean?”

“Er... I just think that girl must be late her class.”

“A girl?” Reo asked, “You saw a girl from another class at just before class started?”

Ooh. That is my work. I lost it.

“Yes. She nearly hit me.” Mr. Jake said in unhappy face.

“So, she probably be late. Who was she?” That time, I asked.

“I don't know.” He said. “I saw only her back style when I saw her. I came in when she just went out.”

Maybe, she is Joker. I thought. I said thank you to Mr. Jake and went toward detective club's office, science room.

Other members already in the room. When I came into the office, I saw a box on the door. I noticed that but I had important fact, so I came into without more looking on the box.

“Do you want tea?” Dave asked.

“Yeah,” I answered, “But I had big information. I bet you'll be surprised.”

“That's interesting.” Dave said. “Please tell me. I'll make two cups of tea for you while you tell me.”

Reo and I told everyone what happened. After we told, Caro opened her mouth.

“I'm glad to hear you didn't ask so straight”

“What? You didn't believe me? I'm member of this club.” I said in angry voice.

“But you nearly asked straight at first. I hear your murmured.”

Ooh, Reo heard that I forget he was there.

“Nice work, Eric...If you weren't murmured.” And Dave laughed a little.

“But it is too late. We must went out in thirty minute.”

The clock said it is 17:30.

“We can't be there so long. So, I felt said about that but we should continued that tomorrow.” Dave said in deep, low voice.

All three clients went back to their class room.

We took our cups and their cups ad washed these. I took the dishes which cups on and washed these. Dave take off half the right of room. Caro took her note and put in her bag. Dave and I put our bags on our shoulders. Caro took off the right and took off the breaker. We went out the office. This time, I looked the box again.

I looked carefully. A letter on the card above the box said: 'POST BOX for the DETECTIVE CLUB! Please put in the letter when everyone isn't in the office. We will take your case and we promise we solve your case.' Probably, Robert put it.

Postbox wasn't there before.

I turned my body and saw all three client came back. They smiled and raised their hand and showed us what they hung.

“My pencil!” “My ruler!” “My red marker!” They shouted at same time.

“What?” I cried.

“why?” Asked Dave. “Why these came back?”

“What is Joker thinking?” Caro whispered.

No one knew the answer, of course.

“Er...” Dave murmured. “I'm glad about that.”

“Yeah, thanks.” Reo said.

“But who is Joker?” Dian asked. “I want to know.”

“...me, too.” Mike said. “Why these came back?” And he asked.

“Maybe, Joker didn't need these now.” Dian said.

“Or, the game was finished.” Dave said.

“Game?” I and Reo asked.

“Yes. Maybe Joker played the game. And Joker thought 'I won.' and gave back all thing...”

“You mean Joker played the game with us through the case?” Caro asked.

“Maybe.” Dave said. “We couldn't catch Joker today.” Dave turned back, and we can't saw him face. “Those letter was need to join us a lot of fact and not fact.

Joker is a smart. I must say that now. We lost.”

“No.” I said, “Joker isn't smart because we'll catch.”

“...that's right.” Caro whispered. “Game isn't finished. We'll solve this case tomorrow. We can't give up before we solve.”

Chime ranged. It is time for leave.

“Dian, Reo, Mike.” Dave said. “It's too late. Please go back home today.” He still put show us his face.

“...” Three clients leave the office without saying...

“Hello! You still be here!” Robert came.

We said back nothing. He kept talked.

“I know this club need the post box when Robert came in here and asked about yours. How about that? Dave.”

“That's nice. Good work, teacher...” Dave's voice was weaker than usual.
“I'm glad to hear that!” Robert's voice was stronger than usual. “But it not worked!”
He said and showed us a letter. “A girl gave this for you. She said that is important.”
“A girl?” Dave asked.
“Yeah. I said please put into the post box. But she put it into my hand and went away!”
Dave turned to us. “Give me.” He said.
Robert gave him in silent.
Dave saw a letter.
And that happened suddenly.
Dave's eye's opened widely and he run.
Without any word, he run. Caro and I run after him.
Robert followed us.

I WONDER

“Why he run?” Robert asked us.
“I want to know, too.” I said.
Dave run faster than I ever seen. I surprised about that. What happened him?
I wondered. What that letter said?
He run faster than usual, that is true. But I can run faster than Dave, too.
“I'll talk to Dave. You can come after.” I said to Caro and Robert. And I run faster than before.
“Wait!” I heard Caro's voice, but I didn't stop my foot.
Finally, I got Dave's back.
“What's on the letter?” I asked.
“...” Dave said nothing and looked tired.
“You seems you can't talked.” I said, “When I take your bag and bring, can you talked?”
Dave gave me his bag without any thing word.
“You're too fast!” Caro got us back.
“You, too.” I whispered. “...where's Robert?”
“He'll come later.” She said.

Soon, we came to front of the gate. Not, I carried three bags, Dave's, Caro's and mine.
The girl stood near the gate. “Hell.” She said.
“H...h...” Dave still not talk.
“Hello.” I said.
“Where Dave wanted to go?” Caro asked me.
“He didn't tell me.” I answered “Where do you want? Dave.” I asked Dave.
“H...here.” Dave looks tired.
“Here? Why?” Caro asked.
“Because I'm waiting here.”
“You waited?”
“Yes. So, that is question. Who am I?” The girl said and laughed.
“I am Joker.” She answered herself.
“You're Joker!” I cried.

"I wonder why you said that." Caro said, "If you don't say that, maybe we can't find you."

"This is the game, maybe you know." Joker said. "The game continued forever if I don't tell you."

"What do you want?" Dave could speak now. "You wrote in this letter you want ask me something."

"Yeah, I wrote. I want get prize for I won this game."

"Wha..." Don't say any thing in a minute, please." I couldn't say anything because Dave covered my word. He want to talked with Joker. He seem.

"So, what you want?"

"I want to be member of your club."

"Can't. You're thief."

"I just borrowed for the game." Joker said. "I promise I don't do more."

"But you did." Dave said," They were worried."

"I see." She said. "I gave up. It seems impossible you allow me today." And she started walking away.

"What's your name?" Dave asked.

She turn back to us. "My name is Alice." And Alice is gone.

"In the wonder land." I whispered myself.