

## \*\*Deepika and the Case of the Missing Bird Food\*\*

Deepika was no ordinary girl. Dressed in her favorite tracksuit and always carrying her old magnifying glass, she was known as the best detective in her town. Although she lived in America, her accent puzzled everyone—sometimes it sounded British, other times it was a hint of something else. But no one cared much about where it came from; they just loved her knack for solving mysteries!

One sunny afternoon, Deepika was tucked away in her cozy reading nook, completely engrossed in a thrilling detective story about a clever cat named Inspector Whiskers. Just as Inspector Whiskers was about to uncover the secret of the missing fish, the doorbell rang. "Ding-dong! Ding-dong!"

With a sigh, Deepika put down her book. "I wonder who that could be?" she muttered as she made her way to the door.

It was her friend Sam, the local zookeeper, and he looked very worried. "Deepika! You've got to help us! The bird food has disappeared from the zoo!"

"Missing bird food? This sounds like a case for me!" Deepika exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with excitement. "Let's go!"

In a flash, Deepika grabbed her magnifying glass, threw on her sneakers, and raced to the internationally famous zoo. When she arrived beside the big lake, the zoo keepers were gathered around, scratching their heads.

"Can you believe it?" one keeper said. "All the bird food is gone! And the birds are getting hungry!"

Deepika listened carefully to their chatter, then said, "Let's investigate!" She began to examine the area with her magnifying glass. Suddenly, she spotted something strange on the ground.

"Look over here!" she called out, kneeling down to inspect the ground. There were tiny crumbs scattered everywhere, leading away from the bird enclosure.

"Crumbs? That's odd," one of the keepers said. "Birds don't eat crumbs!"

Deepika stood up and smiled. "Exactly! It looks like our thief might not be a bird at all." She followed the trail of crumbs, her detective instincts kicking in.

The trail led her around the big lake and toward the park area of the zoo. Deepika's heart raced with excitement. "This way!" she shouted to the zookeepers as she hurried along the path.

Just a few steps later, Deepika spotted a bush that was rustling slightly. She crouched down, peering through the branches, and gasped. "Look!" she whispered, pointing with her magnifying glass.

There, sitting on its hind legs, was a little squirrel. But this wasn't just any squirrel. This squirrel was munching on a giant pile of bird food!

"Hey, you little thief!" Deepika called, and the squirrel paused, its cheeks stuffed with sunflower seeds. It looked at her with big, innocent eyes as if to say, "What? This is my snack now!"

"Looks like we've found our culprit!" Sam laughed, shaking his head. "That cheeky squirrel must have taken all the bird food while we were busy!"

Deepika approached the squirrel slowly, holding out her hand. "Don't worry, little guy. We're not mad. We just want the bird food back!" The squirrel twitched its nose, dropped a few crumbs, and scampered off into the bushes, returning with a tiny pouch tied with a leaf.

"It seems like he's giving us the bird food back!" one of the zookeepers exclaimed as the squirrel dropped the pouch at Deepika's feet.

After a few moments of confusion, Deepika carefully opened the pouch and smiled. "The bird food is all here!"

The zookeepers cheered and thanked Deepika for her clever detective work. "As a reward for solving this mystery, we want to give our little friend here some special snacks too!" one of the zookeepers said, tossing some nuts and seeds toward the bush.

Deepika laughed as the squirrel came back to join the party, happily munching on its tasty treats. "Just another day of detective work!" she said, looking at her friends.

From that day on, Deepika became the zoo's official detective, solving all sorts of mysteries, and always wearing her trusty tracksuit and magnifying glass. And no one ever forgot the day the squirrel stole the bird food!