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Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4)

### **The Young Refugee Series**

Escape to Liechtenstein

The Search for Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) the Silver Eagle

The Incredible Rescues

### **Sherlock Jones, Junior Detective**

Sherlock Jones: The Assassination Plot

Sherlock Jones: The Willoughby Bank Robbery

Sherlock Jones: The Missing Diamond

Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane

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To the precious kids and dedicated workers  
at Gospel Light Baptist Church  
in Walkertown, North Carolina.

Molly Beeson,  
Richard and JoAnne Gerber,  
Jerry and JoAnne Misere,  
you have been a blessing  
and encouragement to me.

*“For where your treasure is,  
there will your heart be also.”  
Matthew 6:21*

ONE

## **ASBESTOS HAZARD**

It all started on a Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) really weird Monday morning. I knew as soon as I woke up that something was wrong, but I wasn't sure just what it was. I lay still for a moment, trying hard Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) to figure out what was amiss. Something was wrong. I could feel it. But I just couldn't put my finger on it. I just had this uneasy feeling that Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) something bad was about to happen.

I finally rolled over in bed and looked at the clock. Oh, no! The display was flashing 12:00 in bright red numerals. The power had gone off sometime during the night!

I sat up in bed and grabbed my watch off the nightstand. 7:18. My alarm hadn't gone off. I had only twelve minutes to get to the bus stop! I should have been up forty-eight minutes ago!

Leaping out of bed, I pulled my nightgown over my head as I ran to the closet.

I seized my peach-colored blouse and threw it on. There wasn't time to button it now; I

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could do that on the way down Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) the stairs. I jumped into a skirt without even noticing what color it was.

My watch said 7:20 as my trembling fingers attempted to fasten the strap around my wrist. Why is it so hard to move fast when you really need to? I thrust my feet into a pair of sneakers. The laces would have to wait until I got the toaster started.

Dashing down the hall to the bathroom, I splashed some water on my face and ran a brush through my thin blond hair. As Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) usual, my hair refused to cooperate. I pumped about half a bottle of hair spray onto my hair and then dropped the bottle in the sink. There wasn't time to do more. I made a face at the reflection in the mirror. How I hated that unmanageable blond hair, and how I despised those freckles!

I remembered to button my blouse as I ran down the stairs. Raising one elbow, I checked my watch. 7:22. If I hurried, I'd have just enough time Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) to toast an English muffin, smear it with apple butter, and eat it as I ran for the bus stop. I just hoped that Mom had my lunch made.

"My alarm clock didn't go off!" I wailed as I dashed into the kitchen where Mom and Dad sat at the breakfast Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) table. "I think the power was out during the night! I'm gonna be late for sure!"

Dad lowered his newspaper to glance over at the battery-powered clock by the sink. "Slow down, Penny," he said calmly. "You'll make it."

I grabbed an English muffin from the counter and struggled to separate it into two halves. "I'm gonna miss the bus!"

Mom Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) took a juice glass from the cabinet. She stepped over beside me and poured me a glass of orange juice. "Your father's right, Penny," she said. "Calm down. I know you're running late, but you'll make it."

I plunked the English muffin halves into the toaster and pushed the lever down. Then I took a deep breath. "OK," I sighed, Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) "I'm calm." I grabbed a small plate from the cabinet and reached for the refrigerator door.

Jerking the refrigerator door open, I snatched the apple butter off the shelf. And that's when it happened. Disaster! A gallon jug of milk came leaping out at me. Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) I saw the jug of milk falling, but I had the plate in one hand and the apple butter in the other. So I tried to swing the door closed with my elbow. Another wrong move. The door started to close, struck the falling jug of milk, and bounced open again. I guess the impact was what caused an aerosol can of whipped cream to fall out of the rack in the door.

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The jug of milk landed Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) on its side on the floor. Unfortunately, the plastic jug wasn't the type with the Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) screw-on cap; it was one of those snap-on jobs that never stay on right. The top popped off, and the milk began to pour from the jug with a funny *glug-glug* sound.

But that wasn't as bad as the can of whipped cream. I still believe that aerosol cans are for deodorant and hair spray, not whipped cream. When the can fell from the refrigerator door, it landed squarely on that white plastic nozzle those cans always have. The impact bent the nozzle at a strange angle and somehow triggered the release valve inside the can. A pressurized stream of whipped cream sprayed from the can.

The can went rolling across the kitchen floor, spraying whipped Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) cream the whole time. One moment the nozzle was pointing up in the air, splattering a fountain of whipped cream across the room; the next moment, the nozzle was spraying the floor, then up in the air again. It was a regular blizzard! The jug of milk still lay on its side in an ever-growing pool of wasted milk.

I stared at the mess for just a fraction of a second, and then my brain clicked into gear. I grabbed for the milk jug. No sense in waiting for the entire gallon to pour out.

I suppose that I forgot that I had the jar of apple butter in my hand. When I reached for the milk jug, I saw a blur of motion out of the corner of my eye as the apple butter went sailing in a shallow arc to land in the middle of the kitchen floor. The jar didn't break, but—you guessed it—the lid came off. Apple butter splattered everywhere.

I reached for the jar, stepped in the apple butter, Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) and lost my footing. I landed smack in a puddle of milk and apple butter.

Mom to the rescue! She stooped and seized the milk jug, which was still busily dispensing free milk. Dad dropped his paper and dived for the errant can of whipped cream, which was still rolling and distributing whipped cream.

He tried. He really did. But he forgot that the floor was covered in milk and apple butter. When he hit that mess, his feet flew out from under him. He slid across the floor on his stomach and crashed into Mom's knees, causing her to drop the jug of milk and fall on top of him.

I reached over and picked up the milk jug, which by Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) this time was nearly empty. I set it upright on the floor and then glanced in the direction that the can of whipped cream had taken. Fortunately, by now the can had reached the wall and stopped rolling. The can gave one last hiss, shot a final blob of whipped cream up on the wall, and then grew quiet. At last, Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) it was empty. The contents covered the kitchen—ceiling, walls, and floor. It looked as if someone had planted a bomb inside a wedding cake Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series

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Book 4) and then detonated it inside our kitchen.

“Oh, Penny,” Mom moaned. “Just look at this place!”

“Look at my clothes!” I wailed. “They look like I got into a milk and apple butter fight. I’ll never make the bus in time!”

“Well, take a look at my suit,” Dad replied. “I can’t go to work like this.”

“You two run upstairs and change,” Mom said slowly. “I’ll clean up the kitchen.”

“But I’m gonna miss my bus,” I protested.

“I think Dad will drop you off at school on his way to work,” Mom replied as she picked up the apple butter jar. “Hurry up and change your clothes. I’ll have your muffins waiting for you, but I’m afraid we’re out of apple butter.”

I dashed into my room and started unbuttoning my blouse. Milk was still dripping from Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) the hem of my skirt. Just then, my walkie-talkie began to beep insistently. I snatched it up angrily. “Sherlock, I can’t talk right now!” I blurted, squeezing the talk button on the unit. “I’m already late! The bus is coming in about three minutes!”

“Penny, wait,” Sherlock’s voice responded. “You have all the time in the world. There’s no school today. Over.”

“What are you talking about?” I snarled. “It’s Monday, isn’t it? Over.”

“We get an unexpected vacation,” Sherlock replied. “I just heard it on the radio. Over.”

My friend Sherlock was not the type of guy who clowns around a lot, but this was only the fifth week of school. I knew that the school board wasn’t about to give us extra time off. “Sherlock, is this some kind of a dumb joke? If it is, it’s not funny! I’m running late. Over.”

“It’s not a joke, Penny,” came Sherlock’s patient voice. “We have the week off. They found asbestos in one of the classrooms. Over.”

“Asbestos?” I echoed. I don’t know if I even remembered to push the talk button, so Sherlock may not have even heard me.

“Asbestos was used as a fire retardant insulation in the walls and ceilings of public buildings,” Sherlock explained, “until someone decided that it might pose a slight cancer risk. Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) risk. Several years ago they removed it from all the buildings at Spencerville Junior High. It was an extremely costly project—several hundred thousand dollars, I believe. Anyway, they missed the ceiling in Room 301. Over.”

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“The band room?” I exclaimed. “Over.”

“Right,” Sherlock replied. “The janitor found it Saturday and reported it to the school board. They called an emergency meeting and decided that school can’t reopen until Room 301 is asbestos-free. I just heard it on the news five minutes ago. Over.”

“Why don’t they just close down the band room until the asbestos is removed?” I asked. “Wouldn’t that be simpler? Over.”

I heard Sherlock sigh. “Sure it would Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) be simpler, but do bureaucrats ever look for the simplest solution? They’re estimating that it will cost more than eighty thousand dollars just to do that one room. They’re insisting on shutting down the Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) whole school while they do it, so we’ll be out of school for about a week. Over.”

“So you’re sure that we don’t have to Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) go in this morning?” I asked, trying to verify what I was hearing. It was too good to be true. “Over.”

“Right,” Sherlock responded. “They’re running the buses this morning to Sherlock Jones: The Phantom Airplane (Sherlock Jones, Jr. Detective Series Book 4) pick up the kids who didn’t hear the announcement, but all they’re going to do is have an assembly to announce the closing and then send everyone back home. Over.”

## **Sherlock Jones The Phantom Airplane Sherlock Jones Jr Detective Series Book 4**

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