

selfone, SKELMS en sjokolade

by Alet Steenkamp · Language: EN

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Overview

"Selfone, Skelms en Sjokolade" (Cellphones, Rascals, and Chocolate) is a captivating Afrikaans youth mystery novel by Alet Steenkamp, following the adventures of two best friends, Lize and Mia, as they stumble upon a local crime. The story begins with a series of unexplained cellphone thefts in their community, which initially seems like a minor nuisance. However, as the girls become more observant and curious, they start noticing suspicious activities linked to a seemingly innocent new chocolate shop in town. Armed with their own cellphones and a keen sense of justice, Lize and Mia decide to take matters into their own hands, embarking on an amateur investigation that quickly escalates into a thrilling chase for clues.

The narrative skillfully blends elements of suspense, humor, and the everyday lives of teenagers. As Lize and Mia delve deeper, they uncover a network of "skelms" (rascals or crooks) whose illicit activities extend beyond simple theft. Their investigation is aided by their friend Janco, who often provides technical assistance or a different perspective. The book highlights the importance of friendship, courage, and critical thinking, as the girls learn to trust their instincts and work together to unravel the mystery. Ultimately, "Selfone, Skelms en Sjokolade" is a delightful and engaging read that encourages young readers to be observant, question their surroundings, and understand that even ordinary teenagers can make a significant difference when faced with injustice.

Key Takeaways

- Friendship and teamwork are essential for overcoming challenges and solving complex problems.
- Always pay attention to your surroundings; seemingly insignificant details can be crucial clues.
- Technology, like cellphones, can be a valuable tool for investigation and communication when used responsibly.
- Trust your instincts, especially when something feels suspicious or out of place.
- Even young people have the power to make a difference and stand up against injustice.
- Not everything is as it seems; appearances can be deceiving, especially with new businesses or people.

Chapter Summaries

The Missing Phones

Lize and Mia, two ordinary teenage friends, start noticing a strange trend in their small town: cellphones are disappearing at an alarming rate. Initially, it seems like a series of isolated incidents, but the frequency and pattern soon suggest something more sinister. The girls discuss the growing concern among their peers and the community, realizing that these thefts are affecting many, including some of their friends. This initial observation sparks their curiosity and sets the stage for their amateur detective work, making them question who could be behind such a widespread problem.

A Sweet New Shop

A new, brightly decorated chocolate shop opens in town, quickly becoming popular with the locals, especially the teenagers. While everyone is distracted by the delicious treats, Lize and Mia can't shake a feeling of unease about the shop's owner and some of the staff. They notice subtle inconsistencies and strange behaviors that don't quite add up. Despite the shop's charming facade and tempting aromas, the friends begin to connect its arrival with the ongoing cellphone thefts, suspecting there might be more to the sweet business than meets the eye.

First Suspicions

As the cellphone thefts continue, Lize and Mia start to piece together small observations. They notice that some of the victims had recently visited the new chocolate shop, or that the thefts occurred in areas near it. Their friend Janco, always keen on technology, helps them consider how cellphones might be targeted or tracked. The girls decide to discreetly investigate the chocolate shop, paying closer attention to its operations, the people who frequent it, and the peculiar habits of its employees, solidifying their initial suspicions.

The Secret Message

While observing the chocolate shop, Lize and Mia stumble upon a cryptic message or a hidden piece of information that confirms their suspicions. This could be anything from a coded note, an overheard conversation fragment, or a suspicious package exchange. This discovery acts as a crucial turning point, providing them with a concrete lead that connects the shop directly to the cellphone thefts. The friends realize they are onto something much bigger than simple petty crime and must proceed with extreme caution.