

Chapter One

A Call for Help



Detective Reed and Glissando, his house key, were fast asleep when the call came in.

BLING BLING

They woke up in a flash. Glissando picked up the phone receiver, slid across the room and put the receiver into the detective's hand.

"Here's the phone, microtone," he said.



Reed threw on his white shirt and pink and grey-striped slacks. He slipped a black suspender over one shoulder, and then he put the phone receiver to his ear. A high-pitched voice sang out:

*“There once was a note that was new,
But he left and away he flew.
Without saying goodbye,
If we only knew why,
But you see, we haven’t a clue!”*

Detective Reed felt sleepy, as half rests often do, but he had trained himself to become instantly alert for calls such as this.

“This is Detective Reed. How can I help you?” he said, his voice firm.

“The note next to me took off and I can’t find him anywhere! Can you please help, Detective Reed?”

The caller sounded young and desperate. “Must be a newly written note,” he thought to himself.

“Where are you?” the detective asked, now fully awake and ready for action.

The voice on the phone hummed the melody of the music she was in so that Detective Reed would know exactly where to go.

Glissando crawled back into bed as Reed uttered the words, “OOM PAH PAH,” and thin red lines appeared in the air.

“Time to go, arpeggio,” Reed said as he pulled up his hanging suspender and winked at his house key.

“You bet, clarinet,” Glissando answered, his eyes twinkling.

Reed pocketed his notebook and pencil, put on his hat and hummed the music exactly as he’d heard it. Then he stepped through the open portal. Once through, he found himself perched on the ledge of a music stand that held sheet

music with notes penciled in and erasure marks all over it.



Reed took out his notebook and pencil and checked to make sure his shirt was buttoned and his hat was on straight. Then he turned to face the page of musical notes.

“Who called me?” he asked in his most commanding voice.