



Cam Jansen

The Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball

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Chapter One

It was a Sunday afternoon at the end of May. Cam Jansen and her friend Eric Shelton were in the local community center. A hobby show was being held there, and Cam's parents had brought their collection of circus posters.

Cam's father fixed his bow tie. He looked at his watch and said, "It's almost time."

"You should go now, before you miss it," Cam's mother added.

Cam and Eric rushed to the clock corner, where there were more than twenty cuckoo

clocks hanging on the wall. It was almost four o'clock. Cam and Eric waited. Then the noise started. When the minute hand of each clock reached twelve, a tiny door opened and a small wooden bird popped out. "Cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo, cuckoo," it chirped.

All the birds seemed to be coming out of all the clocks at once. People in the large room turned to look at the clocks. Many of them looked at their watches to see if it really was four o'clock.

After the clock doors had closed, Cam and Eric looked at some of the other exhibits. They looked at needlepoint pillows, the Collins Coin Shop exhibit, a display of old toys, and at a large collection of baseball cards, yearbooks, and posters.

"Look here," Eric said. "There's a whole section about Babe Ruth."

There were a few Babe Ruth baseball cards, some photographs, a baseball the

Babe had autographed, and a large poster of Babe Ruth hitting a home run. The poster also listed his record as a player.





click!
click!

Can Cam use her
photographic memory
to crack the **case?**

**If Cam solves this crime,
she'll be batting 1000!**

When a baseball autographed by Babe Ruth disappears from the community hobby show, Cam and Eric are sure that it's been stolen. But the police aren't convinced, so it's up to Cam to find the valuable ball and catch the thief red-handed.

"A clever heroine, clear language, and a dash of humor make for a zestful mystery."

—School Library Journal

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