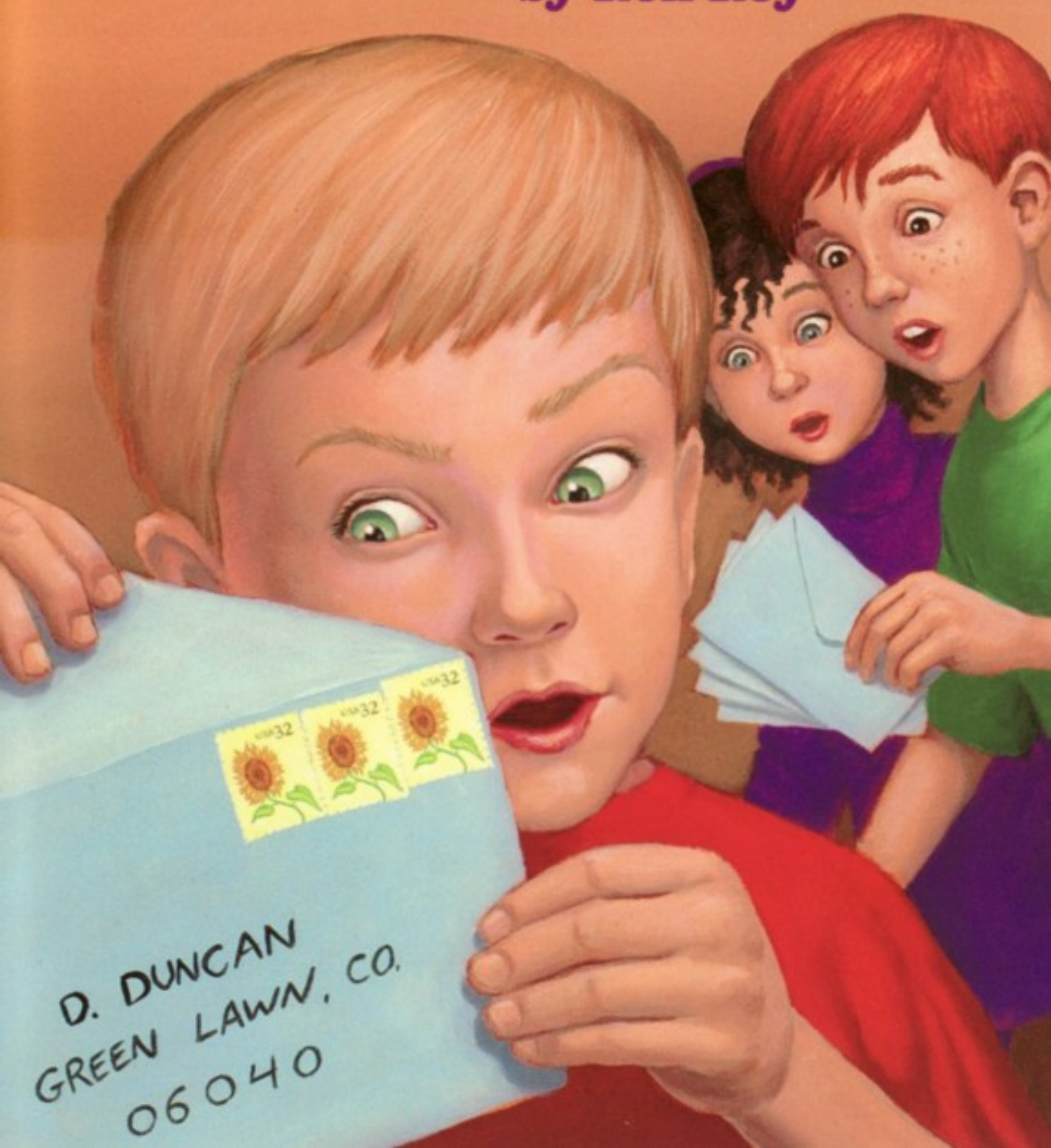


A to Z Mysteries®

The Empty Envelope

by Ron Roy





Chapter 1

"I got it! I got it!" Josh yelled as he raced across Dink's backyard. He leaped into the air, missed the volleyball, and fell in a heap.

Dink laughed. "You got it, all right!"

"Way to go, Natie!" Ruth Rose cried. She gave her four-year-old brother, Nate, a high five. "You just scored us another point!"

Nate blushed and smiled shyly at his big sister.

O. Bird listed in Brooklyn."

"Well," Josh said, grabbing a sandwich, "you're the only D. Duncan in Green Lawn."

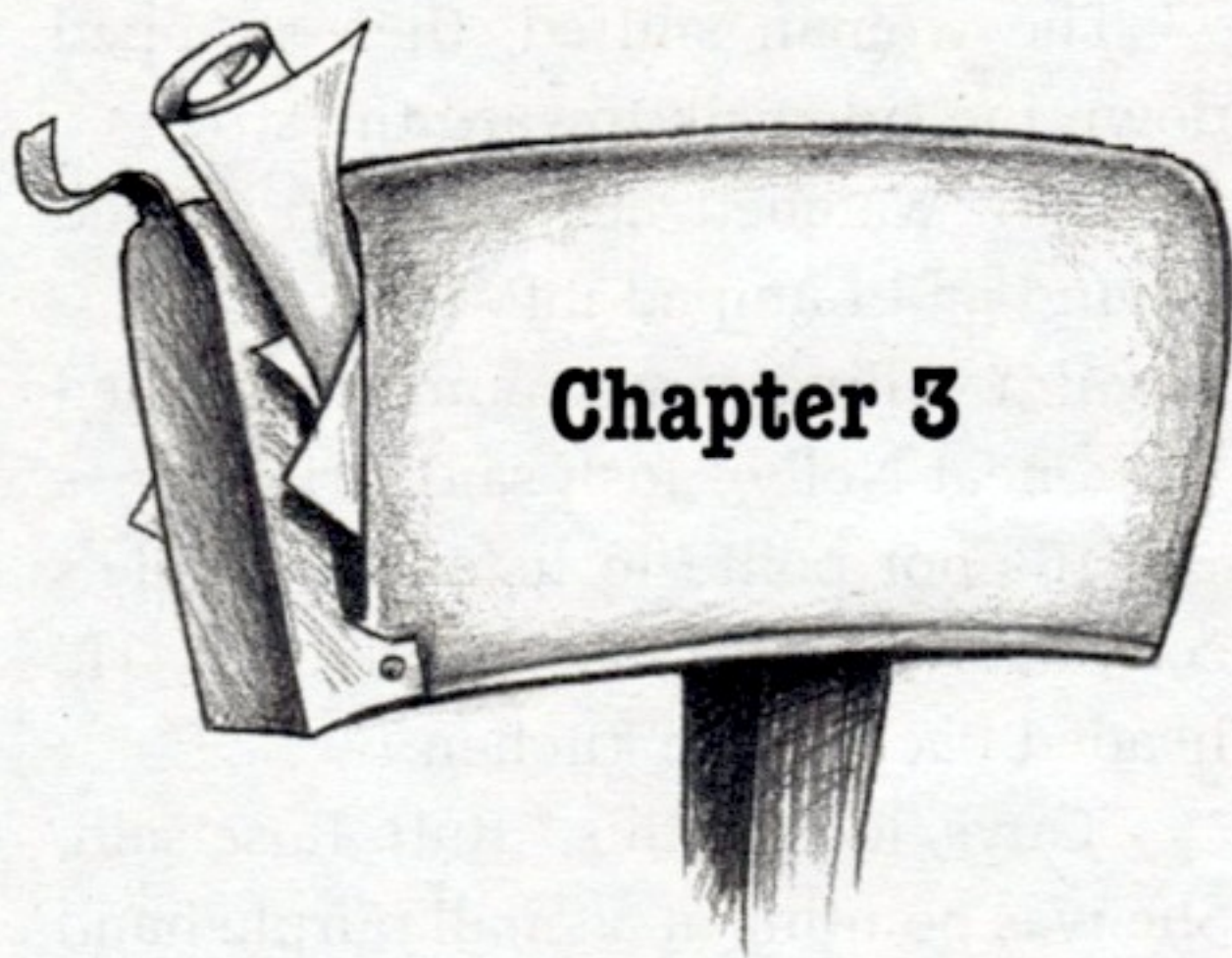
"In Green Lawn, *Connecticut*," Dink said.

Josh sighed. "Anyway, let's eat."

They wolfed down the peanut butter

JULY 1
 DEAR DORIS,
 I SAW JENNY LAST WEEK. SHE
 LOOKS SO PRETTY AND SENDS HER
 LOVE. I BROKE MY GLASSES, BUT
 I'M HAVING THEM FIXED.
 SEE YOU SOON,
 MOTHER

JULY 3
 DEAR DORIS
 THE KIDS CAME FOR SUNDAY
 LUNCH. THEY WERE SO CUTE. SALLY
 HID IN THE DEN AND MADE THE
 REST OF US SEARCH FOR HER.
 MORE LATER,
 LOVE, MOTHER



The kids marched next door to Ruth Rose's house. They found Nate in the living room watching a video. His fingers and mouth were stained purple.

"Natie, did you take Dink's letters?" Ruth Rose asked.

Nate looked at his sister with big blue eyes. He shook his head. "Nope."

Ruth Rose glanced at Dink and Josh. She rolled her eyes. "Okay, then who

The clock above Mrs. Mackleroy's desk ticked the minutes away.

"My eyes are getting blurry," Josh said. "There sure is a lot of stolen stuff in New York! Some guy even stole a chimpanzee from the zoo!"

Dink's back was hurting from bending over the table. His head ached, too, and his fingers were smudged gray from ink.

And then he found it.

"Here it is!" Dink said. He pointed to a headline and read:



SENIOR CITIZEN FINDS, THEN LOSES, FORTUNE

JUNE 20. Miss Clementine Painter, 73, was rich for a short time, but now she's poor again. While emptying her vacuum cleaner, she found a rare stamp among the dust. The stamp, worth more than \$50,000, was later stolen from her room. New York City police are investigating.

Grades
2-4

E is for ENVELOPE . . .



Dink keeps getting letters addressed to "D. Duncan." But when he opens them, they all start "Dear Doris" and don't make any sense! Josh and Ruth Rose think someone's playing a trick on Dink. But Dink is *sure* there's more to it than that—especially after Doris Duncan shows up and demands her letters!

**Don't miss the next book in the *A to Z Mysteries®* series—
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