

THE SNOOPS AND THE HIDDEN SWITCH

A Stage Play in One Act

**Written by
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Running time: Approx 45 - 50 mins

CAST LIST

Katie - Curious, bold and always ready to investigate.

Ben - Logical thinker, loves gadgets and clues.

Ella - Creative, enthusiastic, and good at spotting patterns.

Mrs Willow - A friendly teacher with a mysterious air.

Mr Hart - The caretaker who seems to know more than he lets on.

Narrator (optional) - Provides transitions or exposition, if required.

Additional schoolchildren may be added.

Roles may be doubled at the director's discretion.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Katie:

Determined, observant, brave. Often leads the group into adventure.

Ben:

Smart, calm, detail-focused. Helps the group solve practical problems and notices small details.

Ella:

Imaginative, energetic, and quick to make connections.

Mrs. Willow:

A warm but mysterious teacher who sometimes appears in unexpected places.

Mr. Hart:

The school caretaker with a suspicious streak and secretive behaviour.

Narrator (optional):

An optional voice to help with transitions, atmosphere, or exposition.

SCENE 1 - THE LIBRARY (AFTER SCHOOL)

Katie sits alone in the school library, curled up in a worn armchair beside a rattling radiator. The library is quiet. Dusty shelves surround her. Something glints behind the radiator.

KATIE

Strange... what are you doing back there?

Katie crouches down and brushes away the dust. A tiny metal switch is revealed, tucked behind the radiator, marked with a small oak leaf symbol.

KATIE

A hidden switch... in our library?

She hesitates, then flicks the switch.

A loud CLICK. The bookshelf beside her shudders and shifts a few inches, revealing a thin crack of darkness and a breath of cold air from behind it.

Katie stares, wide-eyed.

KATIE

(whispering)

I need the Snoops.

SCENE 2 - THE PLAYGROUND (AFTER SCHOOL)

Children spill across the playground as school finishes for the day. Footballs fly, coats flap, and the chatter of students echoes across the yard. Ben and Ella sit atop the monkey bars, deep in discussion.

BEN

(with excitement)

ELLA

Only if you stop eating it first.

Katie runs in from the school building, breathless.

KATIE

Ben! Ella! Code Red!

Ben instantly scrambles down
from the bars.

Ella slides down a moment
later, raising an eyebrow.

ELLA

This better be good. Last time you said "Code Red," we chased
a squeaky window for half an hour.

KATIE

This is real. Big real.

Ben pulls out a small,
battered notebook from his
pocket.

BEN

Alright - tell us everything.

Katie jerks her head toward
the bike shed.

KATIE

Not here. Come on.

The three of them hurry behind
the bike shed - their
unofficial Snoops HQ, hidden
from teachers and perfect for
secret conversations.

SCENE 3 - BEHIND THE BIKE SHED (MOMENTS LATER)

The bike shed is quiet, tucked
away from the main playground.
Old tyres and abandoned
helmets are piled in the
corner. Katie, Ben and Ella
huddle together, hidden from
view.

BEN

Alright, what's going on?

KATIE

There's a switch. In the library. Behind the radiator.
And when you press it... the bookshelf moves

Ella stares at her.

ELLA
Moves? As in... actually moves?

KATIE
(shaking her head in
disbelief)

Slides open. Like a secret
door.

Ben's eyes widen. He
immediately pulls out his
notebook.

BEN
Describe it: shape, size, symbol - anything.

KATIE
It has an oak leaf carved into it.

Ben freezes, notebook halfway
open.

BEN
Oak leaf? That's-.

he looks at Ella

BEN
That's our symbol.

Ella folds her arms, the
excitement creeping into her
voice.

ELLA
So this is real. A proper mystery.

KATIE
We have to go back. After
School. All of us.

Ben snaps his notebook shut,
ready.

BEN
Then it's official.
(beat)
Snoops HQ is open.

The trio exchanged determined
looks.

SCENE 4 - THE LIBRARY (AFTER SCHOOL)

The school building is quiet now, the corridors almost echoing. Katie leads Ben and Ella down the hallway, stopping outside the library door.

ELLA

Are you sure we won't get in trouble for this?

KATIE

Only if we get caught.

Katie pushes the library door open. The room is dim, lit only by the faint glow from the windows.

BEN

Okay... show us.

Katie heads straight to the radiator. She kneels and points.

KATIE

There. The switch.

Ben slides down beside her, eyes huge.

BEN

It's real. It's actually real.

Ella crouches on the other side, studying the tiny metal switch.

ELLA

Press it.

KATIE

Ready?

Ben and Ella both nod.

Katie flips the switch.

A heavy CLICK echoes through the silent library. The nearby bookshelf rumbles, then slowly slides open, revealing a narrow gap and a dark space beyond.

All three stare into the opening.

BEN

No way...

ELLA

That's not a cupboard.

KATIE

It's a passage.

The rumbling stops. Dust settles around the edges of the hidden doorway.

BEN

Well... Are we going in?
Katie looks at the others, heart pounding.

KATIE

We're Snoops. Of course we are.

They take a collective breath and step into

the darkness.

Lights fade.

SCENE 5 - THE HIDDEN PASSAGE

Darkness surrounds them. A faint echo hums from somewhere deep within the passage.

The only light spills from the narrow opening behind them, casting long shadows on the stone floor as Katie, Ben and Ella step inside.

Ben flicks on a small torch from his pocket.

The beam trembles slightly.

BEN

Please don't let there be spiders.

ELLA

Spiders don't bother me. Things with more than eight legs... maybe.

KATIE

Look at the walls.

They move closer. Strange markings cover the stone - carved lines, shapes and faint symbols that have been there for decades, maybe longer.

BEN

These aren't random. They line up... like arrows.

ELLA

Arrows pointing where?

A soft rumble echoes through
the passage.

Dust drifts from the ceiling.

All three freeze.

KATIE

(whispering)

Did the door just close?

Ben turns. The bookshelf door
is sliding shut behind them.

BEN

Yep. Definitely did.

The door thuds closed, leaving
them in near darkness.

Ella grips Katie's arm.

ELLA

So... we're trapped?

KATIE

Not trapped. Just... committed.

Ben sweeps the torch around.
The passage ahead bends gently
to the right.

BEN

There's something further up. Look - the markings get
clearer.

Katie takes a step forward,
trying to be brave.

KATIE

Then we follow them. The Snoops never back out of a mystery.

They walk slowly, their
footsteps echoing as they
disappear deeper into the
passageway.

Lights fade.

SCENE 6 - DEEPER INTO THE PASSAGE

The darkness deepens.

Ben's torch flickers nervously as The Snoops follow the curving passage. The stone walls narrow, then open again into a small chamber carved out of the rock.

Strange symbols cover the far wall, arranged in a careful pattern. A single metal lever sits beneath them, old and rusted but still intact.

ELLA

Okay... this is officially cooler than any school project ever.

BEN

(eyes shining)

Look at that. The symbols match the one on the switch upstairs.

KATIE

But what does it mean?

Ben steps forward and examines the wall.

BEN

These carvings... they line up with the paths we've taken. This symbol here.

(points)

That's the library. And this one looks like the bike shed.

ELLA

So the passage connects the school buildings?

KATIE

Or... it used to.

Katie's torch beam catches something at the base of the wall - dust disturbed by recent movement.

KATIE

Wait. Someone's been down here. Recently.
(Ben swallows.)

BEN

Recently, how recently?

A faint echo travels down the tunnel behind them. All three turn.

Silence.

ELLA

(nervous)

Maybe it was just our footsteps?

KATIE

Maybe.

She steps closer to the lever.

KATIE

What do you think this does?

BEN

Only one way to find out.

Ella tenses.

ELLA

Hold on - what if it's dangerous?

Ben grins

BEN

We're Snoops. Danger is like... ninety per cent of the job.

Katie takes a steadying
breath, places her hand on the
lever, and pulls.

A deep rumbling starts inside
the walls.

Dust shakes loose from the
ceiling. Slowly, a hidden
stone doorway begins grinding
open beside the chamber.

The three stare at the
widening gap.

ELLA

No way...

BEN

This is incredible.

KATIE

Let's go. Before it closes again.

They edge toward the dark
passage now revealed behind
the moving wall.

Lights fade.

SCENE 7 - THE MAP ROOM

The newly opened stone doorway reveals a dim chamber beyond. The Snoops step carefully inside, their footsteps echoing softly.

Ben lifts the torch, illuminating a wide space carved from the rock. Along the walls are shelves built from old wooden beams, crammed with rolled-up scrolls and dusty folders. At the centre stands a wooden table covered in old school blueprints, sketches and faded diagrams.

ELLA

What... is this place?

BEN

A map room. Or a planning room. Look - these are the school buildings.

He points to a large, faded blueprint pinned to the back wall. The edges are frayed, but the layout is recognisable.

KATIE

The library... The bike shed... the hall...
(beat)

These tunnels run underneath all of them.

Ben leans over the table, eyes scanning the scattered papers.

BEN

Someone was mapping everything. Not just the tunnels - the old foundations, the hidden walls... even the unused storerooms.

Ella picks up a dusty notebook bound with string.

ELLA

There's writing in here.

(trying to read)

It says... "If the switch is found, the first clue will reveal the Overseer's path."

BEN

(overexcited)

A clue! We found an actual clue!

Katie studies the blueprint.

KATIE

What does "Overseer" mean?

BEN

Someone important. Someone in charge.

Ella opens the notebook to another page.

ELLA

Listen to this - "Only those who follow the symbols will reach the Heart."

KATIE

The Heart?

Ben shines the torch deeper into the room.

On the wall, partly covered in dust, is a carved symbol: the same oak leaf they saw on the metal switch.

BEN

There. The leaf symbol again.

ELLA

So what's next? Do we... follow it?

Suddenly, a soft click echoes through the chamber. A narrow section of the wall slides open, revealing a dark passage lit faintly by small, flickering bulbs.

All three stare.

BEN

Okay... that definitely wasn't us.

KATIE

Someone set this up. They wanted it to be found.

ELLA

Then we keep going.

(steadying herself)

The Snoops don't quit halfway.

They step toward the newly revealed passage, nerves and excitement rising as they prepare to enter.

Lights fade.

SCENE 8 - THE COLLAPSING CORRIDOR

The newly revealed passage stretches ahead, lit by flickering bulbs mounted unevenly along the walls. The Snoops step cautiously inside.

Ben keeps the torch ahead of them as they move, illuminating a long corridor lined with old bricks and beams. Some look worn... others look newly replaced.

ELLA

Do you think the "Overseer" built all of this?

BEN

Maybe. Or maybe the Overseer just found it - the tunnels could be older than the school.

KATIE

Older than the school? How old are we talking?

Ben shrugs, though his eyes sparkle with mystery.

BEN

Hundreds of years? Thousands?

(beat)

Or last Tuesday. Who knows?

Ella nudges him, trying not to laugh.

A faint groaning sound echoes from above - wood straining, stone shifting.

The Snoops freeze.

ELLA

Um... that didn't sound friendly.

KATIE

Stay close. Carefully.

They continue forward. The corridor narrows until they must walk almost single file. The bulbs flicker more violently now.

Suddenly - a loud CRACK echoes overhead, followed by a shower of dust.

BEN

Okay! That's definitely not good!

A small chunk of stone drops from the ceiling and shatters near Ella's feet.

ELLA

(lurching back)

The ceiling's falling apart!

KATIE

Run! That way - go!

They spring down the corridor as dust and debris begin to fall around them. The ground vibrates slightly under their feet.

Ahead, Ben spots a doorway - a short archway leading into a slightly wider chamber.

BEN

There! In there!

They race through the arch just as another heavy beam cracks behind them. Dust fills the air.

Inside, the chamber is quiet... too quiet.

Katie coughs, brushing dust from her clothes.

KATIE

Everyone okay?

Ben nods breathlessly. Ella checks her arms, shaken but unharmed.

ELLA

I'm fine. I think.

The dust begins to settle. As it clears, they see something carved into the chamber wall:

A large symbol - the same oak leaf - circled by three smaller symbols they haven't seen before.

BEN

Whoa... that's new.

KATIE

The leaf... and three more symbols

(softly)

This must be the next clue.

Ella steps closer. The symbols glow faintly as the last bulb behind them flickers.

ELLA

This place... feels different.

Ben studies the symbols with awe.

BEN

Guys... I think we've reached the second stage of the tunnels.

They share a look - nervous, excited, breathless.

Lights fade.

SCENE 9 - THE THREE SYMBOLS

The chamber is dim, lit only by Ben's torch and the faint flicker of the dying bulbs from the corridor behind them. The dust continues settling around their feet as the three Snoops stare at the carved symbols on the wall.

Katie steps closer, tracing the largest symbol - the oak leaf - with her fingertips.

KATIE

The leaf has shown up twice now. It must be important.

BEN

Yeah. But what about these three?

(pointing)

They're all different.

Ella leans closer, examining each small symbol in turn.

ELLA

This one looks like... a wave? Or a spiral?

This one's a triangle.

And this one... maybe a key?

Ben fishes his battered notebook from his pocket and starts sketching.

BEN

Whatever they mean, someone wanted them found together.

(beat)

Leaf in the centre. Three symbols around it. Like steps. Or stages.

Katie turns to the rest of the chamber. Along the far wall, half hidden in shadow, are three stone archways - each with one of the symbols carved above it.

KATIE

Guys... look.

They move toward the arches.

ELLA

No way...

Above the left arch: the wave-like symbol.

Above the middle: the triangle.

Above the right: the key-shaped mark.

Ben's eyes widen with excitement.

BEN

It's a choice. The symbols match the doorways.

KATIE

A test? A puzzle?

ELLA

Or... a warning.

A low humming sound begins: soft, rhythmic, pulsing faintly through the rock floor beneath them.

BEN

That's new.

KATIE

We need to choose one. The Overseer set this up for a reason.

Ella wraps her arms around herself.

ELLA

But which one? We don't even know what they mean.

Katie steps back, thinking.
Her eyes return to the oak leaf symbol on the wall.

KATIE

The leaf connects to everything we've found so far. It's at the library switch... the map room... and now here. Ben checks his notebook again.

BEN

So maybe the leaf tells us which path to follow?

They look at the three arches again. The humming grows slightly louder.

ELLA

We have to pick. Now.

Ben shines the torch across the chamber.

The beam passes quickly across the symbols before stopping on the middle arch - the one marked with the triangle.

BEN

That one.

KATIE

Why?

Ben points. Under the triangle symbol is a smaller marking, almost missed beneath the dust. A tiny carved oak leaf.

Katie's breath catches.

KATIE

The leaf... It's pointing us that way.

Ella nods, steadying herself.

ELLA

Then... middle arch it is.

They gather together, standing before the entrance - nervous but determined.

Ready?
KATIE

Born ready.
BEN

Not born ready. But... ready now.
ELLA

They step into the triangular
marked archway.

Lights fade.

SCENE 10 - THE HEART OF THE TUNNELS

The triangular marked passage narrows, then opens suddenly into a vast chamber carved from ancient stone. A soft golden glow pulses from a pedestal at the centre, illuminating swirling patterns on the floor.

Ben, Katie and Ella step
inside slowly, their footsteps
echoing.

What... is this?
ELLA

The centre. The "Heart" the clue mentioned.
BEN

Look.
KATIE
(points)
There's something on the pedestal.

They move closer. A metal
plate is embedded in the top,
engraved with the oak-leaf
symbol.

This symbol again. It has to mean something more than just a
clue.
BEN

Maybe it's... a button?
ELLA

Or a test.
KATIE

They exchange a look - scared,
excited, determined.

Only one way to find out.
BEN

Katie places her hand gently
on the engraved leaf.

The chamber responds: a low
hum rises, and the floor
markings glow faintly to life,
spreading outward like ripples
of light.

ELLA
(whispering)

It's... beautiful.

BEN
I think it's scanning something.
(beat)
Us?

KATIE
No.
(smiles)
It's recognising us. The oak leaf... it must have been a
symbol for the original explorers. Whoever built this wanted
their path found again - but only by people brave enough to
follow it.

The glow brightens. A hidden
mechanism shifts above, and a
stone doorway opens on the far
wall, revealing a staircase
leading upwards - faint
daylight shines at the top.

ELLA
That leads back to the school.

BEN
So the tunnels were never a prison...
(awed)
They were a secret walkway.

KATIE
A message. A reminder.
(softly)
Curiosity isn't dangerous - as long as you stick together.

The chamber begins to dim, the
light retreating gently back
into the pedestal.

ELLA
Guess that's our cue to leave.

BEN
Before something collapses again.

KATIE

Come on. Snoops move out.

They head toward the
staircase. At the base, Ben
looks back one last time.

BEN

We have to tell someone. This isn't just a mystery...
(grinning)
It's our biggest discovery yet.

ELLA

And we made it.

KATIE

Together.

They climb the stairs. Light
surrounds them.

As they step into it

LIGHTS FADE.