

9. ONE NIGHT IN THE PARK

Manga English Series Vol. 9

9. One Night in the Park



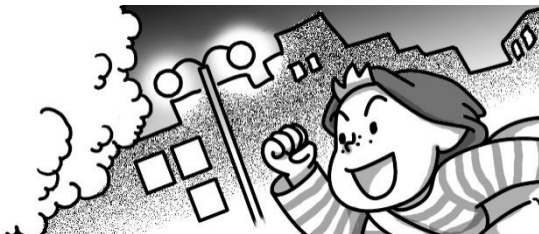
Linda, Nina, Sav,
and the Bradley twins
considered themselves
to be great adventurers.



Their problem was that
none of them were allowed
out of their homes unsupervised
after 8 o'clock at night.



This meant that
on the night
a great comet was scheduled
to pass over their city,
this group of friends
would not be allowed
to watch it
alone together in the park.



But on that night
no curfew would stop them.



Dean and Darcy Bradley
told their parents
they would be staying
at Sav's house
that night.

Sav said
he would be staying
with the Bradleys.

Nina and Linda
also played the same trick
on Nina's mother
and Linda's parents.

When they all met
in the park that night
they made a pile
that included a large-sized green tent,
two bunches of bananas,
a camera,
and Linda's father's telescope.

"My father will kill me,

if he finds out

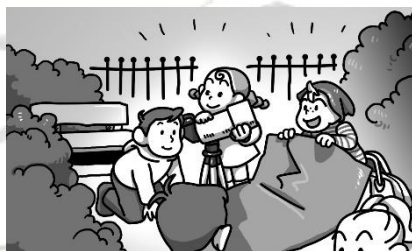
I took it,"

said Linda,

looking at the telescope.

The group decided

to set the tent up later.





At the moment
they were all too excited
to try the telescope.



Actually,
they were so excited that
the Bradley twins



got into a pushing fight
that resulted in Dean
lying on the ground,
the telescope pointing



towards the city,
and Darcy staring
at something across the park.



"A thief," he whispered.
"What?" asked his friends.



"I see a thief - look."

All five of them
took a turn
looking through the telescope



at the building
across the park
where a person dressed entirely in black
was climbing
as carefully as a cat
into a second story window.



He had climbed up a flight of stairs
that were supposed
to be used
only in the case of a fire.



"What should we do?"
asked Nina.



"C'mon, -
grab the things and follow me,"
said Sav.



It was a smart idea.
They ate all the bananas
while they crossed
to the other side of the park.



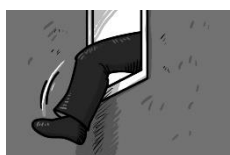
The Bradley twins opened the tent
and Nina warmed up
the flash on her camera.

When they reached the fire escape,
Sav placed

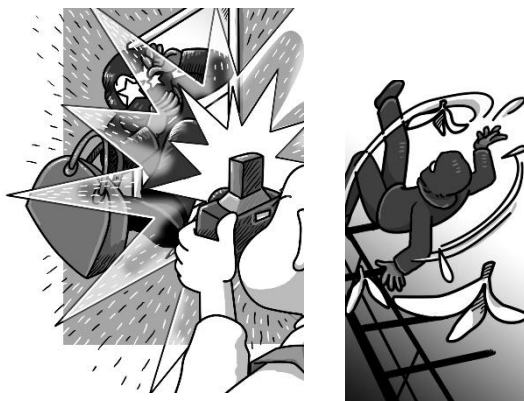


about a dozen banana peels
on the stairs

just below the open window
where the thief had entered the apartment.
Then they waited.



When the thief finally
came out of the window,



Nina flashed her camera
and the masked burglar was blinded
for a second or two.

He panicked,
slipped on the banana peels
and somersaulted
through the air
into the open tent.



"Caught you!"

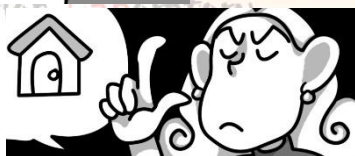
Sav yelled
and they all zipped up the tent
and sat on it,
except for Dean
who went to call the police.



Of course
all five of them
got in trouble
and were each grounded
for over a week,



but they were also heroes
and their five smiling faces
were on the front page
of the newspaper
the following morning.



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