

The Tale of Curious Caitlin

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Curious Caitlin *loves* to learn new things. She's often been found researching random facts for fun when she's *supposed* to be doing background checks on crime suspects for New Scotland Yard. One day her boss had had enough. He fired Caitlin, saying "I don't pay you to sit around and do NOTHING!" but no one understood. Caitlin didn't want to sit around convicting criminals, she wanted to expand her knowledge of the world around her. She attempted to find a new job, but no one would take her after looking at her past faults.

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Then, on a chilly autumn afternoon, she was taking a walk in the park when she came across a woman wearing a detective outfit observing something lying on the ground. She approached her, curiosity kicking in. "Do you work for New Scotland Yard?" Caitlin asked, hoping to get her job back. The woman laughed and shook her head. "No, I'm Inquisitive Indu of the Round Square League of Heroes of Discovery." Said Indu. Suddenly her eyes widened with recognition. "Are you *Caitlin*?" she asked. "Yes, how did you know?" replied Curious Caitlin. "I'm a detective, honey. And you've been *all over* the news." Indu answered. Then, her facial expression changed like one of those characters from a cartoon when a light bulb turns on in their head, showing that they had an idea. "You seem like a very curious girl, Caitlin," she said slyly. "would you like to join us at the League as my sidekick? Since you *are* quite curious, and since curiosity is a synonym of inquisitiveness, we could be a pretty *dynamic duo*. So? What do you say?" Indu asked hopefully. "Well, what's it all about?" asked Caitlin. "We go around to the different Round Square schools around the world to teach them about the different values and I.D.E.A.L.S. that they should embody as being part of a Round Square school," said Indu. "After all, being part of a Round Square school does make whichever university or college they apply for more likely to accept them because of the values that were supposed to be instilled in them as schoolchildren." Caitlin considered this. "You know what," said Caitlin. "Why not? My superhero name could be Curious Caitlin and I could wear a cape and everything!" Caitlin was so excited that she could barely contain herself.

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But then she noticed that Indu wasn't paying attention to her and her outbreak of excitement, but was instead staring intently at something shiny that was lying on the ground next to the bench that they were standing next to. It must have been what Indu had been observing when Caitlin had interrupted her. She reached out to touch it when Indu grabbed her arm. Caitlin let out a cry of shock. "What are you doing?" asked Caitlin, recovering from the unexpected surprise. "That's 2 millilitres of pure mercury." Indu explained. "If that gets into your bloodstream, me grabbing your arm will be the least of your worries." Caitlin gasped, noticing the liquid-like, metallic sheen. She should've known! Mercury is the only metal that would stay in a liquid form at room temperature. It would also expand if one were to heat it up, making it useful in

thermometers, and would poison one's blood if it one was to touch it. She had researched this fact once when she was supposed to be doing a background check on someone who'd allegedly stolen all the inner mechanisms of the Big Ben. "How did it get here?" enquired Caitlin. "That's what I am trying to figure out." Indu replied, seeming slightly annoyed. "How are you supposed to figure it out?" Caitlin asked. "And why do you need to find out?" Indu sighed. "Caitlin, you must understand that it's not okay for someone to just leave dangerous poison lying around in a public park," answered Indu. "Do you think birds and dogs and insects are aware of the dangers that this little, shiny blob on the floor?" "Why do you need to figure out how it got here?" Caitlin wondered. "Why can't you just scoop it up with a test tube or something and get rid of it? It's that simple, crisis averted." Indu thought long and hard about this, and then finally, after about half an hour later, she said: "I knew I chose you for a reason." And smiled, taking a test tube from out of her bag and and scraping the silver liquid into it with a flat stone. "Come on, let's go," she said, walking towards the entrance where her sleek, black BMW X3 was waiting. As she approached the car, Caitlin felt like a huge burden had been lifted off her shoulders. She finally felt like everything was going to be alright.

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The End