

# BOOKRAPT



THE BAY OF PLENTY CHILDREN'S LITERATURE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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## ***The first case by Ulf Nilsson - illustrated by Gitte Spee***

**Publisher: Gecko Press**

**RRP \$19.99**

An enjoyable chapter book for junior readers. Detective Gordon is a mild-mannered toad who prefers to sit in his warm police station eating cakes and stamping important papers.

Unfortunately, someone is stealing Squirrel's nuts - so the policeman plods out into the cold snow to inspect the crime scene. While investigating the robbery, Detective Gordon meets a small, starving mouse who needs his help.

The pair trudge back to the police station where the kind-hearted detective shares his tea and cakes. This is the beginning of a crime-solving partnership to rival the renowned Holmes and Watson duo.

The interaction and dialogue between the detective and his small assistant is a delight to read. The little mouse is full of bright ideas yet respectful of the older detective who has given her an identity and a home. It's a wise, amusing tale with a gentle moral.

Delicately-coloured illustrations complement the characters' personalities and add to the humour of the storyline. Woodland creatures and wintery locations are portrayed against blue-shaded backgrounds and contrasted with cosy indoor scenes.

A durable cover, sturdy paper, and stitched binding show this is another quality publication from Wellington publishers, Gecko Press.

**Author's website:**

<http://tinyurl.com/nmvh5xk>

**Illustrator's website:**

<http://www.gittespee.nl/en/home-2>

**Reviewed by children's book author,  
Jean Bennett**

