

Copyrighted Material

## Max Hollywood Detective Series

### Book 1 –The Buried Secrets of Echo Ridge

**Starring: Max Hollywood and his three detective friends, Bobby, Emily, and Roger**

All proceeds from this book support the animals at Canine Friends Foundation. By purchasing this book, you are contributing to the welfare of animals at risk of euthanasia. Thank you so much.

<https://www.caninefriendsfoundation.org/MaxHollywoodBook1>

Cover Artwork by Max Hollywood

This is a work of fiction; names, characters, organizations, historical events, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination.

HOWEVER: Max Hollywood is real.

Copyright 2026 by Max Hollywood

All rights reserved.

This book cannot be copied or reproduced in any format, whether electronic or mechanical, including information storage and retrieval systems, without the author's permission.

# Contents

Max Hollywood Detective Series

Book 1 –The Buried Secrets of Echo Ridge

Starring: Max Hollywood and his three detective friends, Bobby, Emily, and Roger

Introduction

Chapter 1: The Unexpected Discovery

Chapter 2: Strange Messages

Chapter 3: Tracking the Clues

Chapter 4: Danger at the Old Warehouse

Chapter 5: The Secret Room

Chapter 6: Caught in the Act

Chapter 7: Max to the Rescue

Chapter 8: Piecing the Puzzle

Chapter 9: Race Against Time

Chapter 10: The Final Showdown

Chapter 11: Heroes of Echo Ridge

# Introduction

In the small town of Echo Ridge, three 12-year-old friends, Emily, the brave and confident leader; Roger, the effortlessly cool adventurer; and Bobby, the tech-savvy nerd, team up with their incredibly smart pit bull, Max Hollywood, to form an unbeatable detective team. When strange happenings shake their quiet neighborhood, the young detectives find themselves drawn into a dangerous mystery involving cryptic messages, hidden rooms, and sinister plots. Equipped with high-tech gear such as Apple Watches, GPS trackers, and advanced communication devices, they embark on a thrilling adventure filled with action, humor, and suspense. With Max Hollywood's sharp instincts and their own determination, Emily, Roger, and Bobby must race against time to unravel the mystery before it is too late.

# Echo Ridge: A Picturesque Town Full of Charm and Mystery



Nestled gently among rolling green hills and shaded by thick forests, Echo Ridge was the kind of town that instantly felt like home. With its winding streets lined by immaculately kept houses painted in cheerful colors of soft blues, sunny yellows, and pastel greens, it seemed to sparkle under the warm glow of the sun. Each yard was carefully tended to, bursting with vibrant flowers, and freshly painted white picket fences.

At the heart of Echo Ridge was Main Street, a lively center filled with quaint shops and friendly faces. Residents gathered at Mabel's Diner, a cozy restaurant known for its famous pancakes and fresh-baked pies, or they browsed through Echo Books, where old and new adventures waited patiently on neatly stocked shelves. Right across the street, the Gadget Garage buzzed with excitement, a favorite spot for young inventors and tech enthusiasts like Bobby.

Echo Ridge Park sat at the town's center, featuring green spaces, winding paths, bright flowers, and shaded old oaks. The park's focal point was a grand stone fountain, surrounded by benches where neighbors often sat chatting or sharing a laugh. Nearby stood the historic

Echo Ridge Town Hall, its majestic clock tower, a beloved landmark affectionately known as "The Guardian of Time," keeping watch over the town through the passing years.

Toward the edge of town, hidden among tall oak trees and whispering pines, the Bennett family's old, creepy Victorian mansion stood. Once magnificent but now slightly weathered, its ivy-covered walls and mysterious aura were constant reminders of Echo Ridge's deep-rooted history and its hidden secrets. Just beyond stood the old brick warehouse, long abandoned and partly reclaimed by nature, yet still a focal point for mystery and intrigue.

Children rode bikes safely along quiet streets, neighbors greeted each other warmly, and the air often carried the tempting scent of backyard barbecues or freshly cut grass. But beneath Echo Ridge's picture-perfect charm ran a thread of mystery secrets waiting beneath the surface, hinting at adventures yet to unfold.

It was a place where the past and present intertwined beautifully, where friendships thrived, and where young detectives and their brave dog, Max Hollywood,

discovered courage, loyalty, and countless unforgettable adventures. Echo Ridge was not just a town; it was home, with a heartbeat as steady as its guardian clock tower, and stories as deep as the woods surrounding it.

Yet Echo Ridge kept many secrets, and it was not the perfect town it seemed. This is where the young detectives and brave dog come in.

# Chapter 1: The Unexpected Discovery



Emily sprinted down Main Street, her ponytail bouncing rhythmically behind her as she passed rows of picturesque houses painted in soft pastel shades. Each home was bordered by neatly trimmed lawns and colorful flower gardens, proudly displaying Echo Ridge's reputation as the town where everyone knew everyone. Towering oak trees, their leaves lush and green, formed a protective canopy overhead, filtering sunlight into playful patterns along the sidewalks.

"Come on, Bobby! We are almost there!" Emily shouted, glancing back at her friend who lagged, breathing heavily. Bobby was a bit lazy, to say the least.

Emily is calm, focused, and always thinking. She does not jump to conclusions. She studies situations, looks for patterns, and asks the right questions. Even when things get intense, she stays steady. She is also protective of her group. If something feels off, she is the first to step in and take control.

"You...know...I hate...running!" Bobby gasped, his glasses fogging up. His oversized backpack swung awkwardly from side to side, stuffed with gadgets and homemade tech contraptions.

Bobby is the brains behind the tech for the kid detectives—a 13-year-old who is a little nerdy, but in the best way possible. He has always got some gadget in his hands, whether it is hacking into security systems (the legal kind... mostly), tracking clues on his laptop, or rigging up homemade tools to help crack a case.

He is not the loudest in the group, but when things get complicated, everyone turns to Bobby. His quick thinking has saved the team more than once. Behind the glasses and quiet personality is a kid who absolutely loves a challenge—and secretly enjoys proving that being the “nerdy one” is actually pretty awesome.

Emily slowed just enough to let him catch up. "Adventure waits for no one, especially not slowpokes!" she teased, smiling warmly to soften her playful jab.

They finally arrived at Echo Ridge Park, a sprawling, open space filled with winding stone pathways and large patches of soft grass, shaded by huge, spreading willow trees whose branches brushed gently against the ground. At the park's center stood the town's beloved fountain, a once-grand marble structure now covered in moss, its waters long dried up but still cherished by locals.

Roger was already there, leaning casually against the old oak tree that marked their usual meeting spot, flipping his skateboard effortlessly under one foot. Beside him sat Max Hollywood, their pit bull, his muscular frame alert, and his ears pricked. Max barked joyfully, his tail wagging furiously when he spotted Emily and Bobby. Max loved going on adventures with his two other best friends.

Roger is the muscle of the kid detectives—a 12-year-old who is bigger, stronger, and more athletic than most kids his age. He is the one climbing fences, chasing suspects, and stepping in when things get a little too intense.

But what really makes Roger stand out is not his strength, but his genuine kindness. He is the type of kid who looks out for everyone, always ready to help, and never throws his weight around. Loyal to the core, Roger has his team's back no matter what, and you can always count on him when things get tough.

"Took you guys forever," Roger grinned, tossing his skateboard to the side. "Thought maybe you got lost."

"Very funny," Bobby muttered, still trying to catch his breath. He adjusted his glasses, pulled a tablet from his backpack, and began tapping the screen eagerly.

"Today's the day we find that Centennial capsule," Emily declared, her eyes gleaming with excitement. "They buried it here exactly a hundred years ago. It is practically a legend around town." A time capsule had been placed in the ground from the old western days, just waiting for someone to dig it up.

"Well, let's see what Bobby's genius tech has cooked up," Roger said, leaning over Bobby's shoulder.

Bobby proudly displayed his tablet. "I built an app that scans underground for metal objects. If the capsule is anywhere near the fountain, we'll find it."

"Great," Emily nodded. "Let's start searching near the base."

They approached the fountain, Max leading the way. The dog sniffed intently, then stopped suddenly and pawed at the grass. He barked sharply and began to dig, dirt flying everywhere.

Max Hollywood was their best friend and went on with all their adventures. Max was a big dog, around eighty pounds, but he was also an extremely intelligent dog. They had all helped train Max and Max loved them for it. With Max by their side, they always felt safe. Max had an amazing sense of smell, as most dogs do.

Max found a spot before Bobby could even start his search using the app, which he was so proud of.

"Looks like Max found something," Roger said, jumping in to help. "Good boy, Max!" They all started digging with the small camping shovels in Bobby's backpack.

Emily knelt beside Max, pushing dirt aside until she felt the edge of a rusty metal box. Her heart raced with excitement. "We got it! Bobby, bring your tools!"

Bobby quickly opened his pack, producing a small screwdriver. With careful precision, he worked on the box's ancient lock until it finally snapped open. Inside, nestled beneath layers of crumbling paper, they discovered old documents, faded photographs, and an intricately carved brass key.

"This is incredible," Roger whispered, holding up the key, examining the strange symbols etched on its surface. "What do you think it opens?"

Emily took the key, turning it gently in her hands. "It must lead to something hidden, a thing the town has forgotten."

"And we are going to find out exactly what," Bobby said, snapping photos of everything with his cell phone and uploading them for further study.

Emily stood, determination filling her voice. "Echo Ridge has kept this secret for a century. It is time we solved the mystery. Are we ready?"

Roger flashed his trademark confident smile. "Ready as ever."

Bobby nodded, carefully stowing their discoveries back into his pack. "Definitely ready."

Max barked energetically, bounding around them, eager for the next adventure. His tail was waving so hard that his butt moved back and forth.

With that, the team set off from the park, excitement buzzing around them, unaware of the dangers and incredible discoveries awaiting them in Echo Ridge.



[CanineFriendsFoundation.org](http://CanineFriendsFoundation.org)