

# The Mystery of the Missing Socks

A New Year's Day Story



by Linda Asato

## Chapter One: The Same Strange Thing

Every New Year's morning, something strange happened in Sam's house.

Socks went missing.

Not toys.

Not books.

Not even cookies.

Just socks.

Sam stood in the laundry room, staring into the basket.

Yesterday, there had been six pairs. Today, only three remained.

"That's weird," Sam said.

Mom laughed. "The dryer probably ate them."

But Sam wasn't so sure. He had looked in the dryer and there was no sign of the sock.

This happened every year.

And Sam decided this year would be different.

This year, he would solve the mystery.





## Chapter Two: A Sock Detective

Sam became a detective.

He checked under the couch.

Behind the washing machine.

Inside his boots.

But there were no signs of his missing socks.

Then Sam noticed something new.

Right by the back door were tiny footprints in the snow.

They weren't shoe prints.

They weren't boot prints.

They were small and round... and led toward the garden.

Sam grabbed his coat and followed them outside in the snow



## Chapter Three: The Trail in the Snow

The footprints went past the garden beds, around the old oak tree, and toward the small wooden shed.

Sam's heart thumped.

"What if it's a monster?" he whispered. That might be scary. But Sam didn't believe in monsters and, besides, the footprints were too tiny for a monster.

Sam slowly opened the shed door and peeked, shining his lantern light into the dark shed.



## Chapter Four: The Sock Surprise

Inside the shed, curled into a soft bundle, was a little brown rabbit.

And around the rabbit?

Socks.

Sam's socks.

The rabbit twitched its nose and peeked up at Sam with shiny black eyes.

The socks were warm.

They were soft.

They made the perfect bed.

"Oh," Sam whispered. "That's where they went."

The rabbit snuggled deeper into the pile.





## Chapter Five: A Quiet Decision

Sam closed the shed door quietly.

He didn't tell anyone right away.

Instead, he went back inside and found old socks that no one wore anymore. He placed them neatly in a basket.

That night, Sam tiptoed outside and set the basket near the shed.

"Happy New Year," he whispered.

From inside, the rabbit twitched its nose again.



## Chapter Six: A New Tradition

The following year on New Year's morning, socks were missing again.

But this time, Sam smiled. He knew where they had gone

Now his family has a New Year's tradition.

They set aside socks for animals who might be cold. They call it the **Sock Share**.

And every year, when socks disappear, Sam knows exactly where they go.

Some mysteries aren't meant to be solved.

They're meant to be shared.

