



RAKSHITHA M

Stinky the sock woke up with a start.

Something was terribly wrong! His soft, fluffy top, usually so cozy, was gone!

"Oh no!" he cried. Just then, Dwayne, his best friend and a very wise dust bunny, rolled over.



"My fluff! It's vanished!" Stinky wailed. Dwayne, who had seen many strange things under the sofa, nodded thoughtfully. "A mystery, indeed! We must investigate, Stinky. This calls for our best detective skills!"



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Their first stop was the grumpy old Rug, who had seen everything. "Excuse me, Mr. Rug," Dwayne squeaked, "have you seen Stinky's fluff?" The Rug grumbled, "Fluff? All I see is dust and crumbs! Now shoo, you two!"



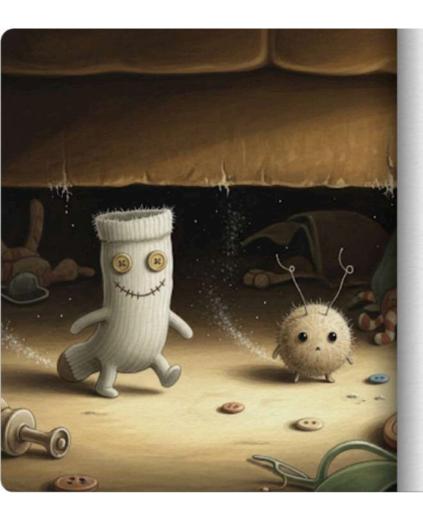
Next, they tiptoed into the kitchen to question the shiny Spoon, who loved to gossip. "Oh, fluff, you say?" chirped the Spoon. "I saw something soft and white being carried away by... a tiny breeze, perhaps? Or maybe a very small, very fluffy cloud?"

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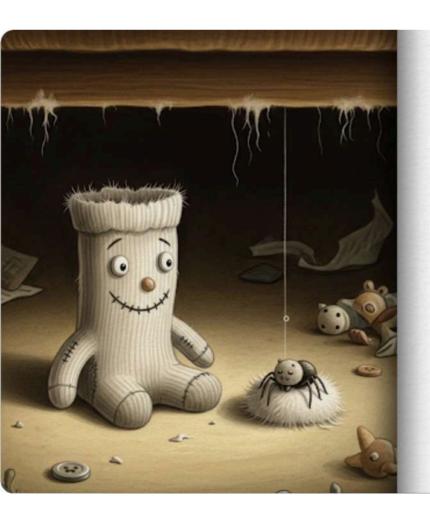
Dwayne, being an expert in under-thesofa expeditions, led the way. "Aha!" he whispered, pointing with a tiny antennae. "Look, Stinky! A trail of tiny,

fluffy fibers!"



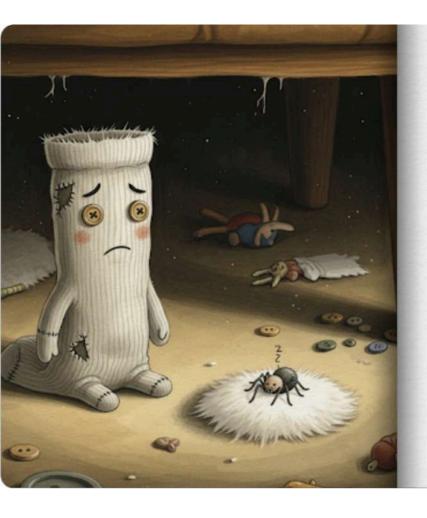
The trail led them deeper into the shadows, past forgotten toys and lost buttons. Stinky felt a shiver of excitement. They were getting closer!

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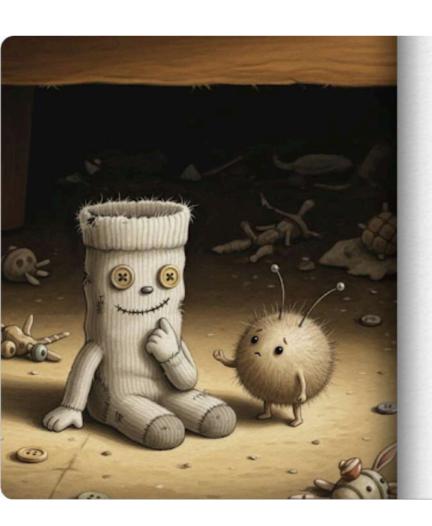


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And there, nestled in a cozy, fluffy bed, was a tiny, eight-legged creature. It was Linty, the little spider, fast asleep on Stinky's missing fluff!

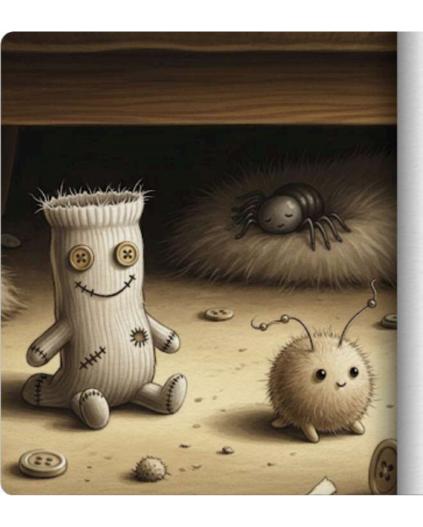


Stinky gasped. His fluff! He wanted to snatch it right back. But then he saw how peaceful Linty looked, snuggled deep in the softness.



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Dwayne gently nudged him. "It looks like Linty really needed that fluff, Stinky," he whispered. Stinky thought about their adventure, the fun they'd had, and his wonderful friendship with Dwayne.



A smile spread across Stinky's face. "You know what, Dwayne?" he said.
"Adventures and friendships are much more important than a little bit of fluff.
Linty can keep it!" And with that, the two best friends, one a little less fluffy but much happier, rolled off to find their next mystery.