

Surprise Party

When Sue woke up, she knew it was bright and sunny outside. The room she shared with twenty other girls had no windows, but she knew anyway, because it was her birthday. She also knew that the girls were downstairs preparing the great room for her surprise birthday party. They were putting up streamers and hiding presents. They couldn't do this without Sister Agatha knowing, so she must be involved too.

This is as good a time as any to note that the orphanage had never in its existence had a surprise birthday party. Or a birthday party. Or a party.

Sue wondered if she should stay in bed longer to give them more time. No! This was long enough! She sprang out of bed, put on her uniform, and ran down the stairs. Entering the great room, she saw all the girls seated at the long table, with Sister Agatha standing over them. Sue looked back at the door – no streamers. She saw no presents,... but they would be hidden, wouldn't they. She looked under the table and finally could contain herself no longer, wailing "Where are the presents?!? "Silence, child," said Sister Agatha. "Sit at the table so we can begin the morning prayers." Sue looked more carefully at the nun and realized that she hadn't moved. Her habit reached to the floor and was certainly large enough to hide several presents. Sue stepped towards her, stretching out her hand to look under her habit. But her hand was snatched away by her best friend Marilyn. "What are you doing? Are you trying to get us all in trouble? Look, there are no streamers over the door. There are no presents under the table. You're just going to have to accept the facts: There is nothing, Sue, under the nun."

