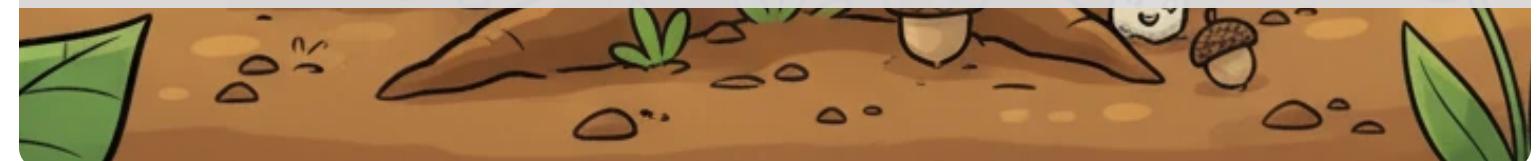




Pip's Spring Awakening

It's Maru





Under a grand old oak tree, a tiny garden gnome named Pip snuggled deep in his mossy bed. Outside, a thick blanket of sparkling snow covered the quiet garden. Icy winds whispered through the bare branches, but Pip stayed perfectly warm and cozy.



As winter slowly began to fade, the first gentle rays of sunlight peeked through the clouds. The snow started to melt in glistening puddles, revealing hints of green beneath. Pip, still deep in slumber, didn't stir just yet.



One bright morning, a golden sunbeam found its way to Pip's little nose. He twitched his nose, then let out a magnificent, rumbling yawn that stretched his whole tiny body. Pip slowly began to wake up from his long sleep.



Pip rubbed his sleepy eyes with his small, gloved hands, blinking slowly. He looked around his cozy moss bed, his little red hat slightly askew. A soft, happy smile began to spread across his face as he realized where he was.



With a joyful twinkle in his eye, Pip sat up quickly, his beard bouncing. "It's time to wake up!" he chirped, his voice full of excitement. He clapped his hands together, ready for the day.



Eagerly, Pip reached for his miniature notebook and a stubby pencil from beside his bed. He loved making lists, especially for important garden tasks. His eyes sparkled with purpose.



Pip carefully opened his notebook to a fresh page, ready to jot down his spring essentials. With a focused frown, he wrote down the first item: a shiny new watering can. He imagined it glistening in the sun.



Next, Pip thought about all the leaves and twigs that had fallen over winter. He neatly added the second item to his list: a sturdy little rake. He pictured himself tidying up the flower beds.



Finally, Pip remembered the hungry plants needing nourishment. He carefully wrote down the last item: a bag of rich, fresh soil. This would make all his garden friends grow big and strong.



Pip held up his completed shopping list with a triumphant grin. He had everything he needed to make his garden beautiful again. He couldn't wait to start his spring gardening adventure!