



The Midnight Steps Mystery

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Liam, a cheerful boy with wide, curious eyes, is snuggled in his cozy bed, surrounded by fun, brightly colored posters. Suddenly, his phone on the nightstand glows with a notification bubble: 'Steps detected.' He looks puzzled, a cartoon question mark floating above his head.



With a shrug and a little chuckle, Liam reaches over to his phone, his arm stretching comically long. He quickly swipes away the mysterious notification, dismissing it as a silly glitch. His face shows a mix of confusion and amusement, not a hint of worry.



The very next night, at the exact same time, Liam's phone lights up again, this time proudly displaying 'Steps detected: 14.' Liam bursts into laughter, his whole body shaking with glee, thinking it's the funniest bug he's ever seen. He imagines tiny digital sprites dancing inside his phone.



On the third night, the notification lingers, and a small gray line appears underneath: 'Location: Bedroom.' Liam's eyes pop wide open, and he sits bolt upright in bed, his heart thumping like a drum. His blanket is comically ruffled around him, showing his sudden surprise.



Liam, now looking determined and a little flustered, furiously taps away at his phone, checking all the app permissions. His brow is furrowed in thought, and his hair is playfully disheveled. He can't find any app that should be tracking his non-existent midnight strolls.



The fourth night finds Liam sitting on his bed like a statue, every single lamp in his room blazing with light. He's staring intently at his phone, held firmly in both hands, waiting for 11:17 to strike. A tiny bead of sweat comically rolls down his forehead.



Exactly at 11:17, the notification 'Steps detected: 6' pops up, followed immediately by 'User is not holding device.' Liam stares at his phone in disbelief, then back at his hands, which are clearly clutching the device. His mouth forms a perfect, cartoonish 'O' of confusion.



The steps counter begins to climb, slowly and deliberately: 7... 8... 9... Liam's eyes widen with each number, and a tiny shiver runs down his spine. He whispers a nervous, hopeful 'Stop' to his phone, his voice barely a squeak.



The steps freeze at 13, and then one final, chilling message appears: 'Steps detected: 1. Location: Behind you.' Liam's phone screen goes completely black, reflecting his terror-stricken face. His jaw drops, and his eyes are as big as saucers.



Suddenly, all the lights in Liam's room flicker out, plunging everything into inky darkness. A soft, playful 'Phewf!' sound is heard behind him, and Liam's silhouette is frozen in a moment of delightful fright, wondering what whimsical friend has finally arrived.