



The Power of the Truth

Ruth



During afternoon recess, Rue watched with wide eyes as a classmate played with an incredibly cool talking bear toy. The toy giggled and spoke, and Rue felt a sudden, overwhelming wish that it belonged to her instead.



Unable to resist the temptation, Rue waited until the playground grew busy, quietly slipped the talking bear into her own backpack, and zipped it shut. Her heart raced with a mixture of excitement and fear as she walked back to class.



At the end of the school day, Rue stood near the pick-up area and overheard the little girl crying to her parents because her beloved toy was missing. Rue felt a sharp pang of guilt in her stomach, but she stayed completely silent and looked away.



Later that evening, Rue sat on the stairs and listened to her dad talking on the phone with the little girl's parents, who were deeply upset. She learned that the missing bear was the very last gift the little girl had received from her uncle before he passed away.



Realizing how much pain her actions had caused, Rue looked at the stolen toy and began to cry, understanding that keeping a secret could hurt others deeply. Even though she knew she would be in trouble, she found the courage to hand the toy to her dad and confess the absolute truth.



The next day, Rue and her dad walked up to the little girl and her family to return the stolen bear. With tears in her eyes, Rue sincerely apologized and admitted she had taken it because she wished she had such a wonderful toy of her own.



The little girl smiled through her tears, hugged her precious bear, and immediately forgave Rue for her honesty. She introduced herself as Zoey, offered Rue a big hug, and suggested they become friends and share the toy together, prompting an excited Rue to invite Zoey to her upcoming birthday party.



A few days later, Zoey and her parents arrived at Rue's birthday party holding a beautifully wrapped gift box. Rue and Zoey cheered happily, running off into the backyard to play games and laugh with all the other children.



When it was finally time to open presents, Rue eagerly chose Zoey's gift to open first. As the wrapping paper tore away, Rue gasped in utter amazement to find the exact same talking bear toy looking back at her.



Rue leaped with pure excitement and threw her arms around Zoey in a massive hug. She realized that by choosing to tell the truth and doing the right thing, she had gained a brand-new favorite toy and a wonderful best friend to share it with.