Miki and the New Neighbour

A story about making room



MimoMango
Little Adventures. A Kinder Tomorrow.



Someone new had moved into the house beside Miki's garden. Through the open gate, Miki saw a small hedgehog carrying a cushion almost as big as herself.



"Hello! I'm Miki! Want to play?" he called. The hedgehog smiled a little, then tucked her nose behind the cushion. Miki wondered whether she had heard him properly.



He almost called again, louder. Instead, he watched her settle the cushion on a chair. There were boxes everywhere. Perhaps a big noisy hello was too much today.



Miki sat on his side of the low garden wall. He took out a few smooth stones and lined them up. He rolled one gently between his paws.



After a while, the hedgehog looked up. "I'm Nell," she said so softly that Miki leaned closer to hear. "Hello, Nell," he answered, using his quietest friendly voice.



Miki placed a flat stone on the wall between them. "This one looks like a pancake." Nell looked at it. The corners of her mouth began to lift.



"A very hard pancake," she whispered. Miki laughed softly. He found a long thin stone. "What about this?" Nell tilted her head. "A spoon for a giant."



They kept looking at stones. Some became clouds, boats, or sleeping bears. Sometimes neither friend spoke at all. The quiet spaces felt comfortable, like shade on a warm day.



A ball bounced into Miki's garden. His friends called from the path, asking him to join. Miki looked at Nell. Her paws closed tightly around her little pancake stone.



"Would you like to watch from here?" he asked. Nell nodded. Miki told his friends he would join them later, then sat down again beside the low wall.



Soon, Nell chose a round stone and rolled it gently towards him. Miki rolled it back. Their tiny game needed no shouting, no chasing, and no instructions at all.



When evening came, Nell put the pancake stone beside her door. "Tomorrow?" she asked. "Tomorrow," said Miki. His new neighbour had brought a new kind of game, and he liked it.



The end

How did Miki help Nell feel comfortable?

What quiet game could you share with a friend?

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