Rosa and the Toy-Swap Day

Some things can go. Some things can stay.





Rosa put three things in her basket: a ball, a puzzle, and a little red car. Today was toy-swap day. Perhaps she would bring home something new.



Mum looked into the basket. "Choose things you're ready to give to someone else," she said. Rosa nodded. She had played with her puzzle many, many times.



But the red car felt different. Its wheels fitted perfectly beneath her fingers. It had travelled across every cushion in the house. Rosa put it in the basket anyway.



The community hall was full of toys. There were dolls, games, and animals with soft, floppy ears. Then Rosa saw a bright blue hoop. She imagined rolling it across the grass.



Eli, the boy beside the hoop, noticed her car. "Would you like to swap?" he asked. Rosa lifted the red car from her basket. Her fingers closed around it.



She pictured someone else taking it home. Her tummy felt tight. She wanted the hoop, but she wasn't ready to say goodbye to the car. "I'm not sure," she whispered.



Mum crouched beside her. "You can keep a favourite," she said. "A swap should feel right for both people." Rosa took a breath. She didn't have to hurry.



"I'd like to keep my car," she told Eli. He nodded. Then Rosa remembered the puzzle beneath her ball. "Would you like to see this instead?" she asked.



They opened the green box together. The picture showed a busy farm. Eli loved tractors. Rosa helped him check that all the big pieces were there. Nothing was missing.



Eli showed her the hoop. It was smooth and sturdy, with no broken parts. They each thought for a moment. Then both smiled. This swap felt right.



Rosa handed over the puzzle. Eli passed her the hoop. Mum held the basket while they thanked each other. The little red car stayed safely in Rosa's pocket.



Before they left, Rosa stood the hoop between two cushions. Her red car drove through a wonderful blue tunnel. She had found something new without giving away something she still loved.



The end

How did Rosa know she wasn't ready to swap the car?

What made the second swap feel right?

What favourite thing would you like to keep?

Little adventures. A kinder tomorrow.

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