The Star Under the Stairs

A dark corner has a sparkling secret.



A short story for reading aloud

AGES 4-7 • Take your time. Enjoy the sounds.

The Star Under the Stairs

Eevening, something sparkled beneath Badger's stairs.

In the morning, it vanished.

Badger put his nose to the gap.

"Hello?"

No answer.

He brought a lamp. The sparkle disappeared.

He turned the lamp off. There it was again.

"A shy star," he whispered.

He told Mouse, who was small enough to look underneath.

Mouse took a little torch and crawled into the dusty space.

She found a button, a leaf and an old raisin.

No star.

"Perhaps it only comes out when nobody is looking," said Badger.

That evening, they sat quietly on the floor and waited.

The room grew dark. A golden light appeared beneath the step.

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Mouse switched on her torch.

The golden light vanished, but something small moved beside the button.

"There you are!" she said.

A glow-worm rested on the wood.

Badger lay flat so he could see.

"You're not a star."

"I should hope not," said the glow-worm. "That sounds hot."

She had wandered through a crack by the door.

"It's comfortable," she said, "but there are no leaves."

Mouse brought a broad leaf and set it beside her. The glow-worm climbed aboard.

They carried her into the garden and placed the leaf beneath a bush.

A little light glimmered among the stems.

"Much better," said the glow-worm.

Badger sat on the doorstep.

Above him, the real stars began to shine. Below him, the garden light shone too.

He waved goodnight to both.

Then he went inside and swept the raisin out from under the stairs.

THE END

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