

AN EASTER STORY FOR ANYONE WHO HAS EVER BEEN A CHILD – by Nancy Cramer

The day before Easter Little Bear and Mama Bear were busy in the kitchen boiling eggs and decorating them. By supper time they had about six or seven dozen eggs lying on plates and platters. “This is the best job we’ve ever done,” commented Mama Bear. “Little Bear you are a big help this year. Remember last year when you couldn’t hold onto the egg and kept dropping them. The shells were so cracked we couldn’t use them. But this year...” she leaned over Little Bear’s shoulders and kissed him on the forehead.

Little Bear was busy trying to dye one half of an egg in blue and the other half in red leaving a white stripe in between. Happily, he held up the egg for Mama Bear to see.

“Lookee, Mama Bear, what I did. It looks like our flag- well, kinda.” He put the egg on a plate and wiped his hands on his apron. He looked at Mama Bear and said,

“Guess that is the last one we have to do, so I will go to bed now. I want to get up early when the Easter Bunny comes to hide our eggs. Maybe this year I will catch him doing it, and can talk to him to see if he is a real bunny or something else. I’m not sure about Santa either, but if I find out they are somebody pretending, will I still get presents and Easter candy?” Just then Papa Bear came in from work. He explained, “We had to work overtime because of this virus pandemic. Is there any supper left?” and he looked at the pots and pans on the stove. Mama Bear started to fix him a plate after she kissed Little Bear “good night. “I will be up soon to say your prayers. Be sure to brush your teeth, Little Bear.” And so the Bear family settled down for the evening.

However, early next morning there was a loud knocking at the front door, and the door bell rang and rang. In his pajamas, Papa Bear rushed to see who was making the racket. When he opened the door, he almost fell back. He called Mama and Little Bear to come quickly. When they opened the door again, they almost fell over. There was a giant Easter Bunny standing there with a huge basket of eggs. He explained,

“I am sorry to wake you folks up so early, but I need some help. You see, I am assigned your block to hide the Easter eggs in your yards, but unfortunately I overslept, and I am late now. I need someone to help me before all the children in the block wake up. They aren’t supposed to actually see me, they are just to believe I was there. And they would be so disappointed.” Papa Bear looked puzzled at Mama Bear who was in her housecoat and slippers. Little Bear looked at them both, then at the giant Easter Bunny. So there was a Bunny after all. “Let’s help him, Mama and Papa, then I will keep the secret from all the neighborhood children, he begged.”

Papa Bear answered sleepily, “Well, I guess we can, Mr. Bunny. Just give me some time to get my robe and slippers. Little Bear, put your shoes on,” he ordered. The Bear family hurriedly got ready while the Easter Bunny divided up his eggs into six baskets for the six families on the block. In the Bears’ basket he put a special shiny egg. Soon the Bears and the Easter Bunny were spread out over the neighborhood hiding eggs under bushes, in flower pots, behind window shutters, and under flat patio rocks. Any place that would hide an egg got one.

Finally, their baskets were empty, and the Bear family turned to go home to their house. The Easter Bunny thanked them again several times and turned to go. But he vanished instead. Mama Bear looked at Papa Bear and laughed. He thought it was funny, so he laughed, and Little Bear- what did he do? He laughed also. Isn't that what all bears do?