

Honorable Mention – Children's Fiction

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Mama Blue Loves Cassie Sue

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Cassie Sue and her mom lived far away from her grandma, Mama Blue. Cassie and Mama Blue lived in the same house until Cassie's mom got a new job and they moved to a different town.

Mama Blue loved everything blue, but she especially loved her granddaughter, Cassie Sue Blue. Mama Blue and Cassie Sue missed each other.

One morning, before the sun rose, Cassie Sue called Mama Blue on the phone. She was sad. Cassie Sue was missing Mama Blue!

She did not want to go to school today. "I miss you so much!" Cassie Sue cried.

Mama Blue thought and thought. "You know I'll always be with you, sweetie, in your heart."

"But I still miss you," Cassie Sue wailed.

"If you go to school, you will have a surprise when you get home." Mama Blue smiled. She had an idea!

"What is the surprise?" Cassie begged.

"Wait and see!" said Mama Blue.

Excited, Cassie hung up the phone, ready to get to school. She couldn't wait to get thru school and back home again.

When Cassie Sue's mother picked her up from school, Cassie was so excited!

"Did my surprise show up?" she asked.

“Yes,” her mother said. “Right after lunch. You can open it when we get home.”

Cassie Sue ran inside. On the table set a bright blue box with a blue ribbon. Cassie Sue ran and shook it. No noise?

“Go ahead! Open it,” her mother encouraged her.

Cassie Sue untied the bow and ripped the paper from the box. Inside lay a beautiful, soft pair of socks. Best of all, they were blue! Rows of blue in various shades went from the toes to the tiptop.

“Can we call Mama Blue on the computer?” Cassie Sue asked as she hopped from one foot to the other.

“Of course,” her mother smiled.

When Mama Blue popped on the screen, Cassie Sue squealed and held her foot up. “Thank you, Mama Blue! I love them.”

Mama Blue grinned, and with a bit of effort, she pulled and tugged her foot in front of the screen. “See, I have some too!”

Cassie Sue spun around and danced on her toes!

“They are magic!! I love you, Mama Blue.”

“I love you, too,” Mama Blue said with teary eyes.

“When I’m sad and missing you, I’ll wear my socks and think of you.”

“I’ll never take them off,” Cassie Sue promised.

“Only to wash them,” Mama Blue teased.

The next morning, Cassie Sue went to get the new socks from her sock drawer. There was only one! She ran to her mother. “I can’t find my sock! “

“Did you check the laundry basket?” her mother asked, taking her hand as they walked to the laundry room. Laying on top of the basket of clean clothes was the missing sock! Happily, Cassie Sue pulled on the sock and finished getting dressed.

A few days later, Cassie Sue woke up, ran to the sock drawer, and threw it open. Her new socks were not there!

She ran to her mother. They looked high, and they looked low. They searched and searched. Cassie Sue pulled everything from her sock drawer. But no luck!

Tearfully, she called Mama Blue to tell her. "I can't go to school. I've lost my socks," she cried. Mama Blue was quiet for a minute. "Do you remember how you felt when you wore the socks?"

"Yes," Cassie Sue sniffled.

"And how did you feel?" Mama Blue asked.

"I felt warm and special." Cassie Sue replied.

"And how do you feel when I give you a hug?"
Mama Blue asked.

"Like I'm eating a warm chocolate chip cookie with fudge frosting," Cassie Sue closed her eyes and imagined a tasty cookie melting in her mouth, warm from the oven.

Well, I'm not sure I can compete with that cookie, but now close your eyes and imagine we are together baking warm cookies and then we are eating them!

Eyes closed; a huge grin spread across Cassie Sue's face. Happiness beamed from her, a halo around her.

“See, it wasn't the socks; it was our memories that made you happy!” Mama Blue whispered. “If you feel lonely, just close your eyes and remember how much I love you!”

And they both closed their eyes and drifted off to daydream of warm cookies and hugs....

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