

THE BIRTHDAY SURPRISE



BY **CHILDBOOK.AI**

Eva woke up smiling. Today was her birthday! She jumped out of bed, ready for hugs and cake. But downstairs, Mom just said, "Morning, Eva," and kept making toast. Dad waved and left for work. No balloons. No songs. Eva blinked. "Maybe they forgot," she whispered, feeling a tiny bubble of sadness grow inside her chest.



At school, Eva waited for her friend Mia to say "Happy Birthday!" But Mia just talked about spelling tests. Even the teacher didn't mention it. Eva sighed and doodled a cake on her paper. "Maybe everyone really forgot," she thought sadly. She tried to smile, but her heart felt heavy, like a balloon losing its air.



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Eva walked home slowly, kicking a pebble. Usually Mia walked with her, but today Mia had said, "I have somewhere to be!" and rushed off. Eva frowned. Did nobody care it was her birthday? She looked at the sky, hoping something happy would happen soon. Instead, clouds rolled in, gray and gloomy.



Eva reached her front door. The house looked dark and quiet. "Hello?" she called, stepping inside. No lights. No Mom. No Dad. Her voice echoed through the hallway. Eva's eyes filled with tears. "Nobody remembered my birthday," she whispered, sitting down on the cold floor, hugging her knees tightly.

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Suddenly, Eva heard giggling from the kitchen. "Hello?" she called again, standing up carefully. She tiptoed forward, her heart pounding. The giggling stopped. Then a whisper: "Shh, she's coming!" Eva's hand trembled on the doorknob. Was someone hiding inside her very own house?



Eva pushed open the door. Suddenly, lights flashed bright! "SURPRISE!" everyone shouted. Mom, Dad, and Mia jumped out, wearing party hats. Balloons floated everywhere. Eva gasped, her sadness melting away instantly. "You didn't forget?" she asked, eyes wide. Mom laughed. "Never, sweetheart! We were just planning this all along!"

Surprise!!



Mia grinned. "That's why I rushed home! I helped blow up balloons." Dad nodded. "And I hid the cake in the garage." Eva laughed, wiping happy tears away. "You really tricked me good!" she said. The whole room smelled like sweet frosting and fresh flowers, making Eva's tummy rumble with excitement.



Mom carried out a giant cake shaped like a rainbow unicorn. Seven candles glowed on top. "Make a wish, Eva!" Mia said, clapping her hands. Eva closed her eyes tight, wished quietly, then blew out every candle in one big breath. Everyone cheered loudly, clapping and singing happy birthday together joyfully.



After cake, they played musical chairs in the living room. Eva giggled, racing Mia around the circle. Dad played silly music on his phone, stopping it randomly. Eva plopped into the last chair, winning the game! "I'm the champion!" she cheered, raising her arms high while everyone clapped happily around her.



Mia handed Eva a small wrapped box. Inside was a friendship bracelet with tiny beads. "I made it myself," Mia said proudly. Eva hugged her tightly. "I love it! Best gift ever!" Mom then handed over a bigger box, wrapped in shiny paper, making Eva's eyes sparkle with curious excitement.



Eva tore open the paper. Inside was a bright red bicycle with a bell and basket! "It's beautiful!" Eva squealed, hugging Mom and Dad. "I've wanted this forever!" Dad grinned. "That's why we kept it secret, so you'd be extra surprised today, birthday girl!"



That evening, Eva rode her new bike around the yard while Mia cheered her on. The sky turned pink and gold above them. Eva smiled, remembering how sad she'd felt that morning. "This turned out to be the best birthday ever," she said happily, feeling loved, surprised, and completely, wonderfully happy.



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