

The Boy and the Golden Deer



Ebru Mina TOMURCUK

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Once upon a time, in a small village at the edge of a big forest, there lived a boy named Sam. He was eight years old, with messy chestnut-brown hair that always stuck up in a cowlick. His cheeks were rosy, and he had large round hazel eyes that sparkled with curiosity. Every day, he wore his thick red wool coat with wooden toggles and his blue knitted scarf, ready for adventure.



One cold winter morning, Sam put on his brown mittens and sturdy snow boots. He stepped outside and took a deep breath of crisp, frosty air. The world was white and quiet, and the trees stood still like frozen giants. Sam loved winter, but he also missed the warm days of spring. He wondered if spring would ever come again.



Sam walked toward the forest, his boots crunching on the snow. Suddenly, a warm golden glow caught his eye. Behind a tall pine tree stood a deer, but not just any deer. Its fur shimmered like sunlight, and small silver antlers sparkled on its head. The deer had large amber eyes that looked at Sam with shy hope. Sam's heart beat fast with wonder.



The golden deer turned and trotted deeper into the forest, its glow lighting the snow like a lantern. Sam hesitated for a moment, then followed. He felt brave and curious. The deer moved gracefully, and its light made the dark woods feel friendly. Sam's blue knitted scarf flapped as he hurried to keep up. He didn't want to lose sight of the magical creature.



The deer led Sam through tall trees and over small snowdrifts. The forest was silent except for the crunch of Sam's boots and the soft patter of the deer's delicate hooves. Sam noticed that the deer kept looking back, as if making sure he was still there. Its amber eyes were gentle, and Sam felt a strange connection to the glowing animal.



After a while, they came to a clearing. In the middle was a small spring, but it was completely frozen over. Thick ice covered the water, and no bubbles rose from below. The deer stopped and looked at Sam with sad eyes. It pawed at the ice gently, but it was too hard to break. The deer seemed to be asking for help.



Sam knelt beside the frozen spring and touched the ice. It was cold and slippery. He could see the deer's reflection in the ice, its glow making the surface shine. The deer nudged Sam's shoulder softly and let out a small, hopeful sound. Sam knew he had to do something. He didn't want the spring to stay frozen forever.



Sam took off his brown mittens and put his warm hands on the ice. It was freezing! But he didn't pull away. He looked at the deer and said, 'Don't worry, I'll help you.' The deer's amber eyes widened with surprise. No one had ever offered to help before. The deer stepped closer, its golden glow warming Sam's back.



Sam found a sturdy stick and began to tap the ice. Tap, tap, tap! Small cracks appeared. The deer watched eagerly. Sam tapped harder, and a little piece of ice broke off. Water bubbled up, dark and cold. The deer stamped its delicate hooves happily. Sam smiled his gap-toothed smile and kept working. He was determined to free the spring.



Together, Sam and the deer worked on the ice. Sam used the stick to break the edges, and the deer used its hooves to crack the center. Slowly, the frozen surface began to give way. Water started to flow, first in a trickle, then in a happy stream. The deer's glow grew brighter, and Sam felt warm inside despite the cold.



As the water flowed, something magical happened. The deer stepped close to Sam and nuzzled his cheek. Its amber eyes were full of trust. Sam laughed and hugged the deer's neck. 'We did it!' he cheered. The deer's golden fur shimmered, and Sam knew they were friends now. The kindness had made the deer trust him completely.



The deer led Sam around the spring, and wherever the water touched the ground, small green shoots began to appear. The ice melted away, and the air grew warmer. The deer's glow spread like sunshine, and the snow around the spring started to melt. Sam could hardly believe his eyes. Spring was coming back to life!



The deer gave a joyful leap, and Sam laughed. They danced around the spring as the water bubbled and sparkled. The deer's silver antlers glowed brighter than ever. 'Thank you for helping me,' the deer seemed to say with its eyes. Sam felt proud and happy. He had made a difference by being kind, and he had found a wonderful friend.



As they celebrated, the forest began to change. Buds appeared on the bare branches, and birds started to sing. The warm glow of the deer spread through the trees, melting the snow and waking the earth. Sam took off his blue knitted scarf and mittens. The air was soft and gentle. Spring had truly arrived, thanks to their teamwork.



The deer walked with Sam to the edge of the forest. It nuzzled him gently, and Sam hugged it one last time. 'Will I see you again?' Sam asked. The deer nodded and touched its silver antlers to Sam's hand. Then it turned and disappeared among the green trees, leaving a trail of golden light. Sam knew he would never forget his magical friend.



Sam walked home through the greening forest, his heart full of joy. He had learned that kindness encourages trust and can make wonderful things happen. When he told his family about the golden deer, they smiled and believed him. From that day on, Sam always looked for ways to be kind, knowing that even small acts can bring big changes.