

HARRY HORSE

In the
LAND OF ODD SOCKS

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HARRY HORSE and the Land of Odd Socks.

Nancy and Bethan lived with their Mummy and Daddy. In their house was a very special person. His name was HARRY HORSE.

HARRY HORSE was red. He had bright blue eyes, and a long blue tail. On his back was a white saddle. He lived in Nancy's bedroom. All through the day, he slept on the floor by the window.

If you looked at him, you would think that he was just a toy. A VERY BIG toy. HARRY HORSE would never wake up when anyone else was awake....

But every night, as soon as Nancy and Bethan were asleep, HARRY HORSE would wake, and fly them to strange lands.

One night, they climbed onto HARRY HORSE's back. They flew around the room once. They flew around the room twice.

They flew up into the sky. HARRY HORSE can do that. HARRY HORSE is magic.

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"Tonight I will take you to the
Land of Odd Socks" said HARRY HORSE.

Nancy felt something tickling
her feet.

Bethan felt something tickling
her feet.

"Don't tickle" said Nancy to
her slippers.

"Sorry" said Nancy's slippers,
"but we like socks."

"So do we" said Bethan's
slippers.

"Oh," said Nancy. "Please don't
tickle too much then."

Bethan just laughed. Her
slippers were still tickling her.

They flew higher than the
clouds.

Soon they saw a big shiny gate.
The gate was open. They flew through
the open gateway.

They landed in a big laundry
basket. It was so big that they
couldn't see the sides.

The sun was shining. It was
hot. Nancy and Bethan took their
dressing gowns off.

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"Can we go and play?" asked the
slippers.

"All right" said Nancy, "but
don't get lost. Be good."

Nancy and Bethan took their
slippers off. They wriggled their toes
in the grass.

"This grass feels funny" said
Nancy.

"This grass feels very funny"
said Bethan.

"The grass is made of soap
suds" said HARRY HORSE.

"Oh," said Nancy.

"Oh," said Bethan. They wiggled
their toes again.

"Where is everyone?" asked
Nancy.

"We'll take a walk and see"
said HARRY HORSE.

They walked through the fields.
HARRY HORSE has no legs. HARRY HORSE
does not need legs. HARRY HORSE is
magic. He can fly.

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Soon they came to a funny town.
All the houses were large washing
machines. Each washing machine had a
big round window at the front. The
window was also a door.

Out of each round door came
socks. Big socks, little socks, green
socks, red socks, patterned socks,
stripey socks.

"Hello HARRY HORSE" said all
the socks. Everyone knows HARRY HORSE.

"Hello" said HARRY HORSE. "This
is Nancy and Bethan."

"We know" said all the socks.
"We have been playing with their
slippers. We have been playing 'Hunt
the Slipper'. Hello Nancy. Hello
Bethan."

"Hello" said Nancy.

"Hello" said Bethan.

"Let's have a story" said all
the socks. Socks like listening to
stories. Socks like telling stories
best of all. Socks are not very good
at telling stories.

"Lets call the Story Wool" said
HARRY HORSE. He had heard sock stories
before.

Nancy sat down,
Bethan sat down,
HARRY HORSE sat down,
The socks all curled up into
themselves.

"Lets blow" said HARRY HORSE.

Nancy blew,
Bethan blew hard,
HARRY HORSE blew hardest of
all.

The socks tried to blow. Socks
are not very good at blowing.

A very large ball of wool
rolled up to them. It was grey.

"Hello HARRY HORSE" said the
ball of wool.

"Hello Story Wool" said HARRY
HORSE. "Will you tell us a story?"

"Certainly" said the Story
Wool.

"I think that we should move"
said HARRY HORSE.

"Why?" said Nancy.

"Why?" said Bethan.

"Wait and see" said HARRY
HORSE.

They all moved from where they
had been sitting. They made a large
ring.

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Suddenly, Nancy saw a small dot in the sky. It was a green dot. It was flying towards them. It was getting bigger. Bethan saw some smoke coming from the green dot. It was getting bigger...

The green thing landed in the middle of the ring with a loud BANG.

It was the Green Dragon. Green Dragon is HARRY HORSE's best friend.

"Hello everybody" said Green Dragon. "Am I late for the story?"

"No" said everyone.

"I think that it was a good idea to move" said Nancy.

"What story would you like to hear?" asked the Story Wool.

Nancy looked around. She saw all the socks. Every sock was an *odd* sock.

"Could you tell us why all the socks are in ONES?" asked Nancy.

"That is easy" said the Story Wool. "It is because all sock stories start '*ONCE upon a time*' and not '*TWICE upon a time*'."

"Oh" said Nancy.

"Tell us the story of the odd sock" said HARRY HORSE.

"Which Odd Sock?" asked the wool.

"Every odd sock" said HARRY HORSE.

They all sat down again.

"Once upon a time" said the Story Wool, "there was a pair of green socks. They lived happily in a pair of shoes. They had a friendly pair of feet inside them. They liked walking.

"One day, they were put into a pile of clothes. A shirt told them that they were going to be washed. A vest told them to make sure that they stayed together. Everyone told them not to get lost.

"But one sock wanted to explore. He left his pair and set out on his travels. He fell out of the laundry basket onto the stairs.

"Mummy found him and put him back into the basket. Everyone told him to be careful. They all told him not to get lost.

"He jumped out of the basket in the kitchen, and hid under a chair. All the washing was put into the washing machine.

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"He began to feel lonely. He sat under the chair. Mummy saw him and picked him up. She put him into the machine.

"He tried to find his other sock. But all the washing was going around and around. He couldn't find the other sock.

"When the washing was taken out, Mummy didn't see him on his own. He was forgotten and left in the machine.

"The shirt said 'I told you so'. The vest said 'We warned you'.

"Left on his own, the sock came to the Land of Odd Socks. And here they all are" said the Story Wool.

He pointed to all the socks who were crying until their colours ran back and forth.

"Because they are homesick, they all live in washing machines. They hope that their other half will find them so they can go home together.

"So, if you lose a sock in the washing machine, you just need to wait, and you may find both socks when they come home."

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"That was a lovely story" said Nancy.

"Yes" said Bethan. "Thank you for telling it."

"The Story Wool tells the best yarn around here" said HARRY HORSE. "I think that we should go home soon, It is almost morning."

"Goodbye everyone," said Nancy and Bethan.

"Goodbye" said all the socks.

"Goodbye" said the Story Wool.

"Goodbye," said Green Dragon.

"See you soon."

Nancy and Bethan put on their dressing gowns. They climbed onto HARRY HORSE's back.

"Wait for us" said a voice. Nancy and Bethan saw their slippers running to them. They put them on.

"No more tickling" said HARRY HORSE, and they flew into the sky. HARRY HORSE can do that. He is magic.

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Soon they arrived at Bethan's bedroom. Bethan took off her dressing gown and climbed into bed. She was asleep.

They flew to Nancy's bedroom. Nancy took her dressing gown off. She climbed into bed. She was asleep.

HARRY HORSE flew to the floor by the window. He was asleep.

Mummy woke up, and said that it was time to get up. HARRY HORSE was asleep.

If you looked at him, you would think that he was just a toy. A *VERY BIG* toy.

HARRY HORSE would never wake up when anyone else was awake....

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