



The New Neighbor

Gran Nellie is looking for a new roommate. Who will be the right fit for Gran Nellie?



The New Neighbor
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Let's Read

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When Granny Nel's children grew up and moved away, she felt lonely. She missed the sounds of them playing in the river. So she decided to rent a room in her house. Who would be her new neighbor?



It wasn't long before she received a knock at the door. "Hello," said a large rat, when Granny opened the door. "I've brought you a gift. I would love to live here!"



Granny Nel took the basket and thanked the rat. "May I ask, how do you spend your days?" The rat replied proudly, "I like to hang out at the sewer plant next to the river. I gather my food from the strainer. You can find all kinds of tasty things that are filtered out of the water!"



Granny Nel could not imagine the food was very tasty. But she kindly replied to the rat, "Well, that's lovely dear. But I'll have to think about it." After he left, she wondered, "Is the rat the right choice? Should he be my new neighbor?"



That evening, Granny Nel had another visitor. It was a laboratory mouse, carrying a bottle of perfume. "Good day, dear lady," he said with a smile. "Please accept this small gift. What a lovely place this would be to live!"



Granny Nel didn't use perfume, but she took it anyway. "Tell me mouse, where do you spend your time each day?" The mouse replied, "I spend my day next to a pool at the sewer plant where bacteria and chemicals dissolve the organic material that passes through. I love to collect the scents that rise from the basin. Here, try my favorite perfume!"



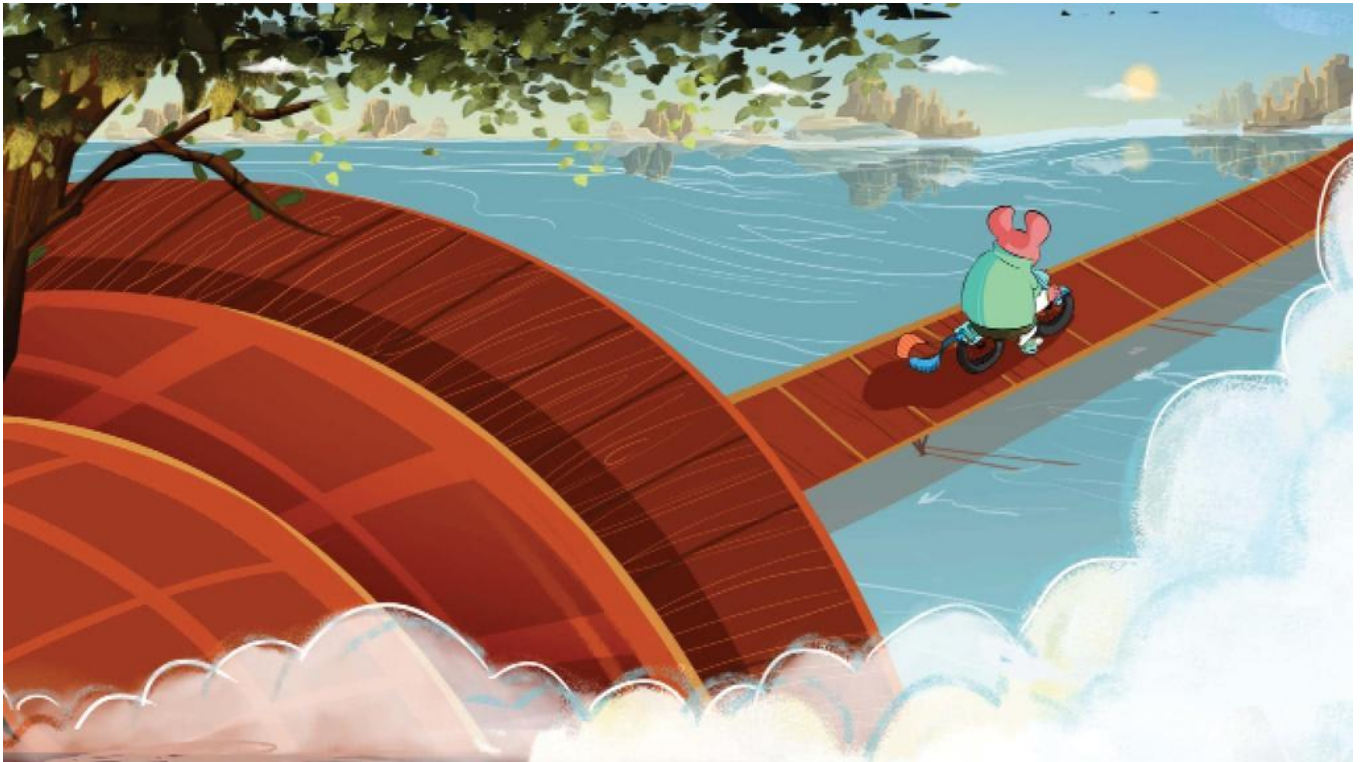
"Oh, I've never smelled anything quite like this before," said Granny Nel as she stepped away from the stinky cloud. "I'll have to think about it." After he left, she wondered, "Is the mouse the right choice? Should he be my new neighbor?"



The next morning, Granny heard another knock. She opened the door to find a rather fat hamster. He held out a lollipop for her. "Hello, Granny Nel! Would you like some candy? I would love to move here any time if you will let me."



Granny smiled politely, and said, "Thank you. First, please tell me where you go every day?" "I go to the ejection basins at the sewer plant," the hamster replied. "I swim all day long as it spins the fats and oils out of the water."



"That sounds nice dear," Granny Nel said. But she thought the hamster looked a little shiny from swimming in grease all day. "I will make a decision soon. Thank you for stopping by!" After he left, she wondered, "Is the hamster the right choice? Should he be my new neighbor?"



It was time for Granny Nel to choose her new neighbor. She decided to take a walk to think about it. But she slipped and fell into the roaring river!"Help! Help!" she cried.



The large rat came running when he heard Granny Nel call from the filtering pool. But he was afraid to jump into the water. He quickly ran away before anyone could see him.



Granny continued shouting for help. The laboratory mouse heard her cries, and came to see what he could do. "It is too bad that she is down in the water," he said. "If I jump in, my perfume will be washed off." The laboratory mouse quietly snuck away.



As Granny Nel floated into the ejection pool, the hamster noticed her reaching for help. But she was slippery from the oils. He was sure he would not be able to hold on to her. "Sorry I can't help!" he called as she spun around and around.



Finally, Granny Nel washed out into the river. She managed to crawl onto a log and make it back to shore.



When Granny Nel saw the selfish rodents on the bank of the river, she chased them away. "I did not need your help to escape the sewer plant, so I do not need your gifts or your companionship! I think living alone will be much better indeed." Granny Nel went back to her home by the river, and enjoyed the peace and quiet.



The End

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