

# Penny's Present

by Margo Atkinson

Narrator 1

Penny

Mama

Narrator 2

Elizabeth

Narrator 3

Peter

Narrator 1 The sun was shining when Penny woke up.

Narrator 2 Usually she hopped out of bed with a happy smile for the new day.

Narrator 3 But today she just lay there frowning.

Narrator 1 This was the day before Mother's Day, and Penny still had no present for Mama.

Narrator 2 She had forgotten about Mother's Day

Narrator 3 until she had heard her brother and sister talking last night.

Elizabeth I made Mama an apron in sewing class.

Peter What are you going to give Mama?

Narrator 1 Penny had not answered. She had ducked her head and run to her room, ashamed to admit that she had spent her allowance.

Narrator 2 She had nothing at all to give Mama on her special day.

Narrator 1 Penny got out of bed and dressed slowly.

Narrator 3 The bag of jelly beans she had bought yesterday reminded her of her terrible mistake.

Mama Well, here's our littlest sleepyhead.

Narrator 1 Penny walked into the kitchen.

Narrator 2 She gave her a good-morning hug, and the smell of cinnamon and baked apples floated up from her apron.

Narrator 3 In a way, that made Penny feel worse because it reminded her of all the good things Mama did for her.

Narrator 1 She remembered a hot day last summer when Mama had spent a whole afternoon making strawberry jam, because she knew Penny liked it.

Narrator 2 She thought about the beautiful pink dress that Mama had made for her to wear on Easter.

Narrator 3 Mama always had time to listen whenever something was troubling Penny.

Narrator 2 But Mama couldn't help her today.

Narrator 1 This was one time she'd have to figure out an answer for herself.

Mama Penny dear, can you eat a little faster?

Narrator 2 Mama was talking to her. With surprise Penny noticed that everyone else had finished breakfast.

Penny I'm sorry, Mama. I was thinking.

Mama Well, finish up. I have to visit old Mrs. Logan today, and go to a Red Cross meeting this afternoon. But first, I want to get this kitchen cleaned up.

Narrator 1 Penny ate her oatmeal as she watched her mother bustle about the kitchen.

Narrator 3 Mama was a very busy person.

Narrator 2 It seemed to Penny that sometimes Mama could use an extra pair of hands and two more feet.

Narrator 1 Suddenly she had an idea!

Narrator 2 There was a present she could give Mama, and it might be better than anything she could buy.

Narrator 3 The next morning Penny was at the break fast table bright and early. Elizabeth brought in a coffeecake she had baked for a surprise.

Everyone Happy Mother's Day, Mama!

Mama Oh! What a beautiful cake. And presents for me, too. What a lovely surprise!

Narrator 1 Penny waited until the other presents were unwrapped before she gave Mama her gift.

Penny Mama, I couldn't buy you anything, but I made you something instead. I hope you like it.

Narrator 2 Mama smiled as she opened the package.

Mama My, how pretty.

Narrator 3 She uncovered a small red flowerpot that held a large-petaled cardboard daisy. In the center of the flower Penny had printed

Mama For Mother with love.

Penny Read the petals of the Promise Posy, Mama.

Narrator 1 Mama picked up the flower and read:

Mama Wash the flowerpot saucers.  
Read to Mrs. Logan.  
Cut fresh flowers and arrange them.  
Polish Mama's shoes.  
Make labels for jam jars.  
Dust my room.

Mama Penny, this is a really lovely present.

Penny All I could give you was me.

Narrator 2 She hugged Mama.

Mama That's the best part.

Narrator 3 She hugged Penny back.