

The Button That Said DO NOT PUSH

The button was pink, perfectly round, and wearing a label that said DO NOT PUSH.

Little Professor adjusted her enormous glasses. Ancient Fat Wizard Cat lowered himself onto the nearest cushion. He seemed to know this might take a while.

“That’s a very interesting instruction,” LP said. “It tells you what not to do. But it doesn’t tell you why.”

The cat blinked slowly.

LP took a notebook from her teal backpack. She wrote: QUESTION ONE: WHY? Then: QUESTION TWO: WHO MADE THE LABEL? Then: QUESTION THREE: IS THIS A TRICK?

The cat sighed.

She inspected the button from the left. She inspected it from the right. She crouched to see whether there was anything underneath it. There was a crumb.

“That raises another question,” she said.

Eventually, LP noticed something the enormous label had almost covered: a tiny second label. She leaned close enough for her glasses to nearly touch the glass dome over the button.

The little label read: PLEASE RING BELL FOR ASSISTANCE.

Beside the button was a very small bell.

LP rang it.

From somewhere behind a wall came a mechanical click. A little drawer slid open. Inside was a cleaning cloth and a note: THANK YOU. PLEASE DUST THE BUTTON.

For a moment, nobody moved.

Then LP laughed so hard her glasses slipped down her nose. All that mystery. All those questions. And the button needed dusting.

She cleaned the glass dome carefully. Beneath it, the pink button shone like a tiny planet.

Ancient Fat Wizard Cat performed a small, dignified butt wiggle. A flicker of magic lifted the crumb and deposited it neatly in the drawer.

LP added one last line to her notebook: LOOK A LITTLE CLOSER.

The cat closed his eyes.

He had been supervising the whole time. It was exhausting work.

THE END. KEEP WONDERING.

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