

BIG SISTER'S SNEAKERS – PART 2

One evening the phone rang, it was for my Megan. After a few moments she said “My friend has asked to help with stocktaking at the warehouse tomorrow. She asked if anyone else could help, do you want to help? We must leave at half past seven tomorrow and it should be finished by four. You will get paid.” Fancy my sister asking me if I wanted to help! She would not have several months ago. I would even get some money! “Yes, I will, thanks very much” I responded and she went back to the telephone. She said it could be dusty and I should wear my old clothes.

I made sure I had breakfast and was ready on time. I badly wanted to wear my Chucks and I hoped they would not get too dirty in the warehouse. She was wearing her ripple sneakers but I was too excited about the job to think of them too much. Her friend picked us up. She said “Now Julie is the boss there, she can be very sharp tongued, but just do as you are told and it will be OK.”

There was a boy waiting outside the locked door, but almost immediately we arrived this woman turned up, pulled some keys out of her bag and opened the door. She must be the horrid Julie I had heard about. She told the others to start at the end row and took me to another row to show me what to do. I heard her sneakers squelch on the floor just like my sister's, it sent a tingle up my back, but I could not look. After explaining things I got to work. Things were going fine until I had a little accident and spilt a box of fittings everywhere. I started picking them up and Julie came up and said “You must be more careful, or it will be a waste of time having you here” she said. I felt most embarrassed, I felt I was letting my sister down. I saw her sneakers while she went away, they had ripple soles like my sister's one, I felt awkward as not only was I red faced from the telling off, I was going all hard over those sneakers, in a way it was a horrid feeling. I thought she was a real dragon.

Things went smoothly after that. I got the hang of it quite quickly. I saw Julie counting things here and there where I had just counted and then came over with her clip board and compared her counts with mine. “You are spot on, you are doing a great job” she said and left me to continue as I progressively filled the spaces on the sheets. I felt much better. a bit later she walked past me leaving damp ripple footprints on the floor. What really got at me was the ripples left thin ridges of mud on the floor.

We stopped for about twenty minutes for lunch. I sat with Joe while the three females sat together and talked about girlie things. I overheard my sister Megan and Julie talking about their sneakers and how they were so comfortable because of the ripple soles. It seemed that Julie bought her pair after seeing my sister wearing them at the last stocktake. Mary, my sister's friend was also interested and Julie said they were going cheap in a sale. She would earn enough money for a pair. I felt funny hearing this and Joe asked if anything was wrong. Megan caught my eye and gave me a big grin and I grinned back. I wondered if I would get enough pay for a pair too.

We actually finished the stocktake earlier than Julie had thought, which pleased her as she wanted to be out of the place. She gave Joe and my sister a brown envelope each, there was not one for Mary as she worked full time and get her pay during the week. Julie came up to me with a brown envelope and said “Thanks very much for helping out. You did a good job, I hope you can come next time.” And she gave it to me. There was not quite enough money to buy those sneakers. Mary could not wait to buy her pair, she went straight to the shop holding the sale to buy a pair. She tried them on much to my excitement, and I was aching to buy a pair, but did not quite have enough money. It was terrible, but I had an idea. I asked my sister if she could lend a bit of money. “Of course she said, now go and ask to try a pair on.” I asked for my size and with great excitement tried a pair on and they felt great. Mary and I both left the shop carrying our new sneakers.

When we got home I immediately paid my sister back from a bit of pocket money I had saved. She gave me a big hug and deliberately stood on my Chucks with her ripple sole squeaking against the large smooth toe cap much to my delight, then put her whole weight on my feet, but the toe caps stopped the ripples digging into my skin. It hurt a bit but I was not complaining. “You did a good job today. Julie was very pleased and she is very hard to please. I am so proud of you”. I went to my room to admire my new shoes.

One day she said to me “I do not want those sneakers any more, they are too worn. I was going to throw them out, but I think you would miss them too much. You can have them.”

© Netking August 2017