

How to Make Things Appear

At the end of a small path in Washington there is a charity shop. There are tall towering trees around it, there are small smooth pebbles around it, and some books new and old inside and on every shelf. On the shelves are copies of every book that has ever been written. But one book is missing. Two hundred years ago, someone hid its description card in the bottom draw of a filing cabinet and the book quietly vanished. The book is called How to Make Things Appear.

At night when the shop keeper is sleeping in bed the books come to life. The moon light slowly drifts from the sky coming in from the windows; the smell of cakes baking slowly, quietly comes under the kitchen door into the living room; the sound of baby birds chirping ready for worms can be heard. On a shelf of food books, in a book called 'Pizza Toppings' a boy called Tony lived. Tony was the only person who knew about the books. One night, when he was chasing his cat Quazi who was chasing a mouse but Quazi chased it under the filing cabinet, when Tony squeezed in behind him he found the description card. Tony decided there and then that no matter what he would find the book. "If we can find that book," he said to Quazi "we can get everything we ever wanted."

Every night for a year, Tony and Quazi searched for the book. Tony searched for it in the dusty, packed with stuff basement tripping over things covered in fluff, he looked everywhere; the cold, dark, creepy corridor; the empty entrance which was as empty as the streets when everyone is asleep. Then, one night, they came across three bold and wrinkly men. Surely they didn't know about the book? The first man said "Welcome." "Would you like two have a cup of tea?" said the second. "You've came for this haven't you?" asked the third. He held out a large book with the words How to Make Things Appear on the cover. "But..." stuttered Tony. "But why are we so old?" said the old man. "Follow me." He turned around and Tony and Quazi followed him.

The old man led Tony though a book and into the forest full of red foxes, tall trees and insects. The man strode on with Tony following behind him. "Where are we going?" asked Tony. "To see the Object Man" replied the man. Finally they came to an opening. There on a large chair sat the Object Man. Tony asked him about the book. "You must not read it" shouted the Object Man "I am the only person who has read it and not gone mad. I thought I could help people; I thought I could have more friends. But all that happened was I got teased for not being able to make things appear and people threatened to make things they appear but if I could not make it they would hit me and that is not fun at all."

Tony thought long and hard. "I'm not going to read it" said Tony in a sorrowful way. "My friends and family are too important to me" said Tony. "You're clever than I was" said the Object Man. He led Tony home.