

Lotta



and the Panda Mask



This is Lotta. Lotta is eight years old. She lives together with her mum, dad and dog Pippo in a small house.

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Lotta likes going to school. There she prefers to play catch with her friends during the break.



After school Lotta often visits her grandmother. She lives near the school. Lotta's grandmother bakes the world's best apple pie.

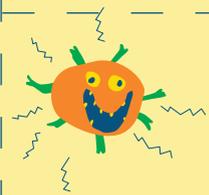


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However, Lotta hasn't been able to go to school for several weeks now. She can't visit grandma either. Lotta is also not supposed to play with her friends at the moment. Why? Because of Corona.

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Corona is a virus that can make some people very sick. It's all about Corona lately. Everybody is talking about Corona - on TV, on the radio, mum and dad talk about it all day long. Lotta can't hear it anymore.



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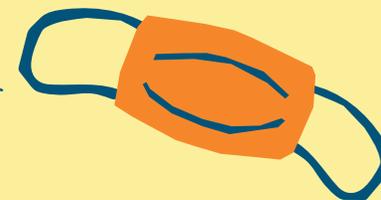
Lotta hates Corona. She wants to be able to hug her grandma again, eat the world's best apple pie, go to school and play with her friends. Now Lotta is supposed to wear a mask when she goes shopping with mum.



But Lotta hates the mask. "I don't want to wear something like that!" yells Lotta and throws the mask into a corner.



Mum sighs. "Then you can't go shopping. You know that, Lotta. Everyone wears a mask in the supermarket or on the bus to cover their mouth and nose. That way we can protect each other from the virus", mum replies.



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"If you're not wearing the mask, you can't go to the supermarket. You won't be able to choose an ice cream there," says Lotta's mum. Now Lotta's mum is angry too. She turns around and leaves. Lotta stays sitting in her room angry. "Corona is so stupid", says Lotta.



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Lotta is so angry that she doesn't even notice that Pippo is coming to her room. Pippo is Lotta's best friend. Pippo always notices immediately when Lotta isn't feeling well. Pippo gently nudges Lotta and puts his head on Lotta's arm and looks at her with his big doggy eyes.

Then Pippo suddenly jumps up and runs to the mask. He pulls the mask on the tape to Lotta and nudges her with it. "You too, Pippo," Lotta says and starts laughing. "Okay, if that's what you want, I'll put the mask on."



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Lotta goes to the kitchen and hopes that mum hasn't gone to the supermarket without her yet. There she sees mum sitting at the kitchen table. She's doing something... but what?



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When Lotta is standing at the table, she sees what her mum is doing: mum is painting one of her self-sewn fabric masks. But not with anything, but with Lotta's favourite animal: a panda bear.

"Wow, it's beautiful!" Lotta is amazed. "This one's for you," mum says, smiling. Lotta smiles too. "I'll put this on right away," says Lotta, looking at herself in the mirror. "It's beautiful..."



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From now on Lotta always wears her panda mask when she is in the supermarket or on the bus. It's not so bad to wear the mask anymore, Lotta thinks. It only felt strange at first. Now the mask is always with her when Lotta goes to the store. Because she knows this way she can protect others from the virus.



Lotta can now visit her grandmother again, but with distance. Lotta loves to visit grandma in her garden and tell her how the day was. Grandma tells her what she did all day.



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Just like grandma and Lotta used to do before Corona. And on particularly good days, grandma puts a piece of the world's best apple pie on the garden wall for Lotta.



Imprint

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