

# A Bedtime Story

Sean and the



Shiny Shyness Shoes

from Drynites®



# Sean and the Shiny Shyness Shoes



Sean was so shy that when the postman came to deliver a letter to him, he was too shy to say hello. Sean liked the postman. He wanted to talk to him. He just couldn't bring himself to do it.

**“Good morning Sean!”**

said Pete the postman as he strolled up the path towards him with a brightly coloured envelope. What Sean wanted to say was:

**“Good morning Pete.”**

But all he could manage was a shy little smile, and then he ran, blushing, back into the house.



## “Mum!”

called out Sean. ‘Mum’ was one of his favourite words as he could say it without having to open his mouth, which was important, as opening his mouth to talk made him even shyer.

## “I’ve got a letter!”

Sean and his mum read the letter together. It said:

*Dear Sean, please come to my birthday party tomorrow  
(if you’re not too shy).*

*I really hope to see you there.  
Love Sam. x*



Sean's mum turned to him and asked

**“Well Sean, what do you think?”**

“Hmmm”, (*which was another closed mouth word*),

**“I think I would like to go to Sam's party...and.....”**

**“Yes, Sean?”**

**“...and I would like to stop feeling so shy.”**

**“Well, darling,”** said Sean's mum, stroking his hair,

**“why don't we put our coats on, and go find your friend Sam a birthday present? Maybe you can practise not being shy along the way.”**



The first place they visited was Mrs Flour-Power's bakery. Mrs Flour-Power was a huge lady who always seemed to move in a cloud of flour.

**“Well, hello there, young man!”**

she called, moving out from behind the counter to greet Sean and offering him some freshly baked gingerbread men.

**“No thank you”,**

whispered Sean, too shy to reach out and take one, which was very annoying, as they smelled delicious.

**“Is there anything else you would like?”**

But Sean was silent as he hid his face behind his mum's legs and just couldn't bring himself to say that he wanted a birthday cake for his friend Sam.







Out on the street Sean was disappointed at being so shy,  
and for not yet having a present for Sam.

**“Don’t worry Sean,”** his mother said.

**“These things take time, let’s try somewhere else.”**



The next shop they tried was Noisy Norman's toyshop. This was not a place to lose your shyness either. Full of clutter and noise, it was stacked with books and toys so high that if they fell you would surely be buried in them. Every time Sean shyly shook his head at one of the toys suggested by Norman, the shopkeeper would say in his booming voice:

**“Well how about  
a train set  
then?”**

or

**“Would Sam  
like a jigsaw,  
Do you think?”**

Sean just couldn't make up his mind in all the noise and eventually Sean and his mum left, still with no present for Sam, and with Sean still feeling that he hadn't got over his terrible shyness at all...





...By now it was growing late. All the shops were beginning to close and as Sean and his mum walked around in the fading daylight Sean began to fear that they wouldn't find a birthday present for Sam at all.

**The further they walked the less places were open until, finally, only one shop remained.**

Leathernail Larry's shoe shop glowed orange from the outside like a Halloween lantern and smelled of leather and nails. Being a bit deaf, it took the old man a little while to look up from his work and notice he had customers.

Sean wondered if he was called Leathernail Larry because he made shoes from leather and nails or because his face looked like it was made from leather and nails! It was the oldest, wrinkliest face Sean had ever seen.





As he peered through his mother's legs, he hoped that Leathernail Larry would have some good news.

**“You look like a boy in need of some new shiny shoes ...”**

was what Leathernail Larry said. But to Sean, with his ears muffled between his mother's knees, it sounded slightly different.

**“YES!”** shouted Sean, bursting out from under his mum's legs.

**“SHYNESS SHOES!  
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED!”**

Sean and the old man smiled at one another, and Sean, hardly able to believe his luck asked:

**“Do you really think they'll make me less shy?”**

Leathernail Larry thought about this unusual question for a second, and replied,

**“Well, Sean, everyone feels their best in a new pair of shoes.”**



By the time Sean had tried them on and walked around the shop a few times, he was convinced. **“These are amazing!”** he said. And then he asked his mum,

**“Do you think Sam would like a pair for his birthday?”**

**“I’m sure he would,”** Sean’s mum replied, and so they bought two pairs.

**“Thank you very much Mr Larry,”**

Sean said in a not very shy way at all as they left.



As Sean and his mum walked home that night, Sean wore one pair of shiny shyness shoes on his feet and carried the other pair under his arm. And all next day at Sam’s party, he didn’t feel shy in the slightest.

