

# a heartwarmer: Bags of Goodies

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- Date: Mon, 28 Oct 2002 22:47:50 -0500
  - From: Heartwarmers <[moderator@heartwarmers.com](mailto:moderator@heartwarmers.com)>
  - Subject: a heartwarmer: Bags of Goodies
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The best thing to happen to mornings since the Sun!

Your morning thought for the day:

Gratitude is the most exquisite form  
of courtesy.

-- Jacques Maritain

Yes, it's getting darker earlier and the smell of autumn is in the air. The little ghosts and goblins will be out soon begging for candy. You'll find out today who has bragging rights for being candy corn's No. #1 fan. Thanks Betty!

UPDATE: If you signed up to be an Angel Pal sponsor, you should get Roger's free email newsletter, providing you current information and updates. To get on his list, just send an email by clicking here: <mailto:warmers-on@mail-list.com> Or you can cut and paste this email address: warmers-on @ mail-list.com (be sure to remove the spaces before and after the @ symbol.)

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## BAGS OF GOODIES

by Betty King

I love candy corn.

I'm what the world calls a senior citizen, but I still love candy corn. It's been my favorite since I was a little girl and I still crave its sugary sweetness. I eat it all year round but October brings about increased cravings.

As a young girl, the fall season signaled the return to school. It also meant chilly mornings, warm sunny afternoons and damp cool evenings. The change in the weather caused an adjustment in my wardrobe as raincoats and boots were dragged from the back of the closet. Sweaters, wool skirts and winter coats were retrieved from the cedar chest, hung on the line to rid them of the strong scent of mothballs, freshening them for another season.

Fall opened my eyes to God's beauty as it presented the world as a beautiful canvas of color. Before the trees released their leaves, they displayed jewels of gold, orange, brown, green and crimson red. Oh, what fun we had raking, piling, and wallowing in those ornaments of nature.

There were hayrides and wiener roasts, candy apples and cider. The air drifting through the neighborhood carried with it lingering scents of smoldering wood fires and leaf burning blazes. People curled up in front of their fireplaces as the days grew shorter and the evenings arrived sooner. Whirls of smoke with bits of soot settled on the whole of the city

as it escaped from chimneys all over town. Piles of logs where stacked high near porches as people prepared for the winter soon to arrive. Hot chocolate simmered on stoves, waiting to warm the innards of children as they arrived home from school.

The best thing of all about the arrival of fall and the month of October to me as a young girl though, was the arrival of Halloween.

I couldn't wait until the very last day of the month that ushered in the approaching of winter. It meant I got to join the throngs of other youngsters as we converged on neighborhoods all over the community, searching out the best treats being distributed. Candy corn was the treat I desired!

The best part of Halloween was returning home with our bags of goodies. I always found a spot in the middle of the floor, emptied my bag and searched frantically through my haul, looking for any and every piece of candy corn. I ordinarily was not a selfish child, but when it came to my candy corn, "Lay off, it's mine!"

As years have accumulated and time has brought changes, so too has candy corn and the size of my anatomy. Candy corn appears on the store shelves year round these days, and has experienced some transformations.

There have been marketing tricks. It now comes with chocolate tips. However, in my opinion, they will never take the place of the original white, yellow and orange kernels.

The biggest and best changes have been in their promotional packaging. There are not only small cellophane packages that once caught my eye, but now there are large round plastic containers with replaceable lids. I must admit these hold enough sweet morsels even for me.

The love affair I started many years ago with that great, sweet, wonderful kernel of goodness is a life long affair I do not see ending anytime soon. As a matter of fact, it is no longer a twosome relationship. My husband has made it a threesome. I get extremely jealous when I find a half eaten container hidden under the seat of his car. He's become almost as selfish with his candy corn as I am with mine.

Our grandson is also a lover of this great supplier of satisfaction. It's good to know that after the monarchs of the family have savored their last morsel of goodness, there will be someone else to carry on the tradition.

In the meantime, bring on the candy corn!

-- Betty King <baking2 @ charter.net>

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Betty King has lived with MS for 36 years and writes of her daily blessings and enjoyments in life. She has a book that will be released soon entitled, It Takes Two Mountains to Make a Valley. It's a book filled with humors and inspirational real life stories of one woman's everyday walk with Multiple Sclerosis and her mountaintop discoveries. If you would like

to know when the book is available, you can email Betty by clicking here:  
<mailto:baking2@charter.net>

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## OVERSEAS TROOPS

Would you like to send a postcard, card or letter to our troops? eMail Our Military is kicking off our Mail Our Military (MOM) "Holiday Love" Campaign. Please send your cards, letters or notes to eMail Our Military and we will send it out with our holiday mailings. We welcome everyone to Participate! Please visit the Holiday Love Project Website for all the details: <http://www.emailourmilitary.com/holidaylove.htm>

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## FROM OUR MAILBAG

(in response to last weeks story, Life Is What You Make It)

Dear Heartwarmers:

As a college student, I worked summers at the Shipbottom Island Pharmacy on LBI, New Jersey.

I came from a family of dentists, but I also sold pounds of candy every day. So, I decided I could make a difference by making a simple request. Whenever a customer, young or old, bought candy, I would politely ask them to brush their teeth after eating the candy.

During my last summer there, a young boy about five years old came up to the counter with candy and money in hand. Before I gave him back his change, I gently asked him to please brush his teeth after eating his candy. He nodded in agreement and zoomed out the door.

A few days later a mother came in and asked if I was the blonde lady who told her son to brush his teeth. I told her yes, and that I tell everyone who buys candy the same thing.

She smiled and said, "I just wanted to thank you, because as soon as my son had finished his candy bar, he said, 'Mom, the lady at the drugstore said I have to go brush my teeth now.'"

And hopefully, everyone still does!

-- Cat <cat @ safari.net>

Dear Heartwarmers:

Hi. You are providing an excellent service by sending out these nice stories. We come to work a little early so we can read the stories and

start our day full of joy. Thanks!

-- Renu, United Arab Emirates <renooahuja @ dubal.co.ae>

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#### ADORABLE GOBLIN

Answering his doorbell, Jack looks down and sees the cutest sight ever. It's the world's most adorable goblin.

The little boy opens his goodie bag and says, "trwick aw tweet".

Jim smiles at the boy and yells to his wife, "Sally, you just gotta see this."

His wife enters the room and immediately falls in love. She picks the boy up, gives him a hug and a kiss, sets him down and says, "Please wait one minute."

She goes to the refrigerator, takes out a big, red, ripe delicious apple, washes and dries it and drops it in the goblin's sack, smiling all the time.

"What do you say?" Sally asks.

The kid looks up and says, "You're bwusting my cookies."

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#### AMAZING HOTEL DEALS

Believe it or not, people are flocking to the Internet to get deals for plane, hotel, cruise, and car reservations. Because the travel business is soft right now, hotels are offering some incredible deals. If you're traveling or looking for a place to stay, this is the system to use to save money. Go to: <http://www.dealdetector.com/459>

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Publishers Pipeline Deal of the Day: <http://www.dealdetector.com/458>

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Grace says: Sally, 3, asked, "If we don't believe in ghosts, Mommy, why are they all in the stores at Halloween?" Her mother tried to find the right words, but before she could explain, Sally said, "Don't worry, Mommy, these ghosts only laugh. They can't hurt anyone." Sally also mentioned that she would like to use her Jack-O-Lantern for a "sunken pie" after Halloween!

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