The Girl and the Piglet

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In a little town with a big red barn, there lived a girl named Lina. She had warm brown skin, curly black hair in two puffy buns, and a few freckles across her nose. Every morning she pulled on her mustard yellow t-shirt, green overall shorts, and red rubber boots. She loved animals more than anything in the world.

One sunny day, Lina heard exciting news. A rescued piglet was coming to live in the barn down the road. The piglet was small and plump, with soft pink skin, floppy ears, and a curly tail. Lina ran all the way there, her red boots splashing through the puddles. She could not wait to meet the new little pig.

The piglet peeked out from behind a hay bale. Her amber eyes were bright, and a tiny white patch showed on one shoulder. She wore a soft blue harness with a small brass tag shaped like a clover. "Hello," Lina whispered softly. "My name is Lina." The piglet sniffed her hand, then wiggled her whole body with joy.

"Her name is Poppy," said the farmer with a smile. "She is clever and playful, and she loves food more than anything." Lina sat down slowly on the straw so she would not scare the little piglet. Poppy trotted over, nudged Lina's knee, and made a happy little snort. Right then, a friendship began.

Every day after school, Lina visited the barn. She clipped on her canvas treat pouch, filled with crunchy snacks, and walked down the dusty path in her red boots. Poppy would hear her coming and race to the gate, floppy ears bouncing. "Poppy!" Lina called. The piglet squealed with delight and spun in a happy circle.

One afternoon, Lina brought a special toy for Poppy to try. It was a puzzle feeder, a round toy with little doors and hidden holes. You had to nudge and flip it to find the treats inside. Lina set it gently on the straw. Poppy sniffed it once, twice, and then her bright amber eyes went wide.

Poppy pushed the puzzle feeder with her snout. A little door slid open, and a crunchy treat tumbled out. Pop! Poppy gobbled it up and snorted with joy. She pushed again, flipped another flap, and found another treat. Lina clapped her hands. "You are so clever, Poppy!" she laughed. The little piglet wiggled her curly tail with pride.

After that, Lina noticed something important. Poppy liked her ball and her soft blanket, but she loved puzzle feeders most of all. When Lina brought the round toy out, Poppy squealed and trotted right over. She ignored everything else. "You really love puzzles, don't you?" Lina said, watching the clever piglet nudge and flip.

Lina had a wonderful idea. "I will build you a fun game," she told Poppy. "A game full of little puzzles for you to solve!" That evening, she gathered boxes, cups, and smooth wooden blocks. She painted them bright colors and cut small holes in the sides. Her canvas treat pouch jingled as she worked.

The next morning, Lina set up the game in the barn. She placed cups upside down with treats hiding beneath them. She stacked soft blocks for Poppy to nudge over. She hung a little rope with a treat at the end. Poppy stood at the edge of the straw, her snout twitching with excitement. "Ready?" Lina asked.

Poppy hurried to the first cup and flipped it with her snout. A treat rolled out, and she gobbled it happily. Then she nudged the block tower until it toppled. She tugged the rope and found a crunchy snack. With every puzzle she solved, her curly tail wiggled faster. Lina cheered and laughed. "You did it, Poppy!"

Lina noticed something wonderful. Poppy did not solve every puzzle the same way. She sniffed, thought, and tried her own clever tricks. Some puzzles she flipped. Some she pushed. Some she solved in ways Lina had never imagined. "You are one smart piglet," Lina said. "And you have your very own way of doing things."

Lina made the game a little harder each week. She hid treats under cups, inside boxes, and behind little doors. Poppy solved every puzzle with happy snorts. Sometimes she got stuck, so Lina waited patiently and cheered her on. Together they made a great team. The game was fun for both of them, every single day.

One afternoon, Lina's friends came to watch. They laughed as Poppy flipped a cup and found a treat. "She is so clever!" they said. Lina smiled proudly. "Every animal is special," she told them. "Poppy has her own likes and her own clever ways. We just have to watch and learn what makes each one happy."

Poppy and Lina played their puzzle game every day. In the morning, Poppy waited by the gate, her blue harness shining in the sun. In the afternoon, Lina filled her treat pouch and hurried down the path. Their friendship grew stronger and stronger, one little puzzle at a time. The barn was full of happy snorts and cheerful cheers.

And so Lina learned a gentle lesson. Every animal is an individual, with its own preferences and its own special spark. Poppy loved puzzle feeders more than anything, and Lina loved helping her solve them. They were best friends, a girl and a piglet, playing happily together in the warm golden light of the barn.