

**Andy the little Rat**  
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Andy was born in a poor rat family. "Andy, you are big enough, you can go out and find the food by yourself"; one day the mother of small rat said.

"Really?" Andy was happy. After his birth, he has been inside the hole, never played out.

"Tonight, I will take you out, first I will show you around and then you can go out by yourself", said her mother while grinding her teeth.

Andy nodded his head while grinding his teeth like his mommy.

Andy is always hungry and like eating delicious food. Every time his mother brought back food to him he gobbled up all and still felt not having enough.

At night, Andy followed his mommy and came out from the hole he stayed since he was born.

"A big house!" Andy screamed with surprise and joy.

"Keep quite!" Mom warned Andy. Then, mom led Andy and showed him around the room. She told him where the human bed is, where the chair is, where the desk is, where the computer is. Andy' eyes opened very wide He was very excited about the new world he just discovered.

"This kitchen closet is most useful. There are many delicious food stored here." Andy's mother led him to a smaller room in the kitchen. "The door to this closet is usually closed; you need to look for a chance to get in. Now, since the door is open, let us get in and get some Peanuts. "

Hearing about Peanuts, Andy's saliva flew out, and he climbed up to reach the metal bar holding the Peanut bag with his mother. Sure enough, he found a big bag of Peanut amongst other bags of chocolate, candy bar, and bread.

Andy and his mother were very busy eating the peanuts.

"Hi, thief! You should not steal other people's food!", came a voice in the darkness. Andy jumped up with fear, he was really scared. "Don't you feel shamed of stealing" The same voice from the same location.

By the moonlight, Andy saw a small wooden dog and a small stuffed cat. The voice comes from one of them.

Andy never heard anyone called him as "thief". His face turned red. He looked at his mother and saw her mother seemed hearing nothing and continued eating.

"You are no longer hungry?" Mother saw that Andy stopped eating and asked.

"Mama, why they are calling us thieves?" Andy asked with very low voice.

"Silly children, don't listen to them. We have been doing this from generation to generation. This is our essential survival skill. We are not thieves. Let them do the talk and you should concentrate to eat."

Andy continued to eat two more peanuts. He did not feel they are as good as he has tasted before.

The next night, Andy came out for the food by himself. He was lucky to find out that the kitchen closet is still open. He climbed up but he did not find the peanuts bag. Andy tried to open the bread bag when he heard a voice. "No shame! No shame! The thief comes again."

"You are like your mommy, you are shameless!" The stuffed cat cried.

Other stuffed animals all echoed what stuffed cat has said.

"Nonsense! my mother said, we are not thieves!" Andy was ready for the debate. He raised his voice to the stuffed animal.

"Did you earn the food from your work?" the stuffed cat asked Andy. "This....." Andy has remained speechless.

"If the food is not what you earned through work then it is called stealing!" the stuffed cat continued.

"Your mother not only steals the food, she also carries out sabotage. Do you see the hole in that nice clothes upstairs? That was her big bad bite!", said the stuffed cat with a high pitched voice.

Andy was really shocked.

Andy never thought that rat's reputation was so bad. He is very worried and was sorry for being born as a rat. Andy sobbed and went home.

When Andy was back home. Her mommy looks very eager to know what had had happened to Andy. "Did you find anything good to eat". Andy did not answer. "You look very upset", asked mommy. Andy looked at mommy and then told his mommy what happened. "Don't worry, son, you will be OK. It is also a shock for me when I first started. Then I learn how to focus on what I have to do. You know we are the rat, not like other creatures. We have to do what we have to do. Otherwise, we cannot survive", said the mommy very patiently.

Andy was very happy at the end and become a very good food hunter. He even became the friend of the stuffed cat. The stuffed cat has stopped scream at him since it was useless.