

A Knock at the Door

Marit Kirsten Anti Gaup

Sára, Sunná, Ovllá og Jánoš are sleeping when they're woken by a sudden knock at the door. It turns out it's a policeman who asks if someone can go down and check if there's a stranger in their basement. Sunná and Janoš agree to go down to the basement together and Sunná takes a wooden bat with her – but there's no one there.

The old woman next door tells them about something strange that happened to her: She heard the sound of a car and someone coming up the stairs to the house – but when she went out to get the keys that were hanging in a mitten outside, they weren't there and she didn't see any tracks except those belonging to her neighbor, Kathrine.

Kathrine was so nervous that she didn't even have time to put on her other shoe, so she just ran off with only one shoe on! The old woman tied all of the doorknobs in the house with rope so the thief wouldn't be able to get in. She sat up all night until she heard the sound of a car, but it drove right past the house. After a while, she heard someone taking off their boots out on the stairs. Someone opened the front door, came inside and went into every room both upstairs and downstairs. The old woman had opened a window in the kitchen and was sitting on the window sill with one foot outside and one foot inside. When she heard the person approaching the kitchen door, she hopped out of the window and sprinted to the neighbors, where she woke up the neighbor boy and asked him to call the police. The police checked the old woman's house. All of the doorknobs were still bound tightly with rope. Who or what had the old woman heard that night?



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Author Marit Kirsten Anti Gaup wrote this illustrated children's book that describes what it's like to feel anxious or afraid. There are parallel tales interwoven throughout that all come together at the end. Sunna Kittilä illustrated the book, which was published in 2021 and is suitable for children ages 7-9.

Marit Kirsten Anti Gaup has also written the children's book *The Old Apron Woman*. Her next children's book, *The Orange Plane*, will be published in 2022.