

(1) Sally Makes Her Own Luck

It's Monday morning. Sally has no classes today, so she decides to clean her apartment. It takes a long time and it is almost 11:30am when she is finished. Next to the door are bags of bottles and jars and a pile of old magazines.

"I take those to the recycling station," she thinks. Sally ties some string around the magazines.

She puts on her jacket, and puts her keys and smartphone in her pocket. She picks up the bags and the bundle of magazines and leaves her apartment. The recycling station is at the local community center.

It is a cold windy day, and Sally hurries along the road to keep warm. Even though the weather is not good, there is a group of older people outside the community center. They are practicing Tai-chi.

Sally puts the magazines in the paper recycling crate, and walks along to the bins of different colored glass. There is a cage for clear glass, a cage for green glass and a cage for brown glass. She is careful to put the glass bottles into the correct cage, but she makes a mistake.

"Oh no! I have put a green wine bottle into the clear glass cage. I must take it out." She leans over the edge of the cage. "I've got it! Now I'll just put it in the green bottle cage and I can go home," she thinks.

Sally doesn't notice, but her smartphone has fallen out of her pocket. It is in the cage full of clear glass.

When Sally gets back to her apartment she thinks, "I'll call Vicky. She doesn't have classes today. Maybe we can meet for coffee."

She puts her hand in her pocket. "Where is my phone? It's not here. I have lost it! Where did I lose it?" Sally remembers leaning over the recycle cage. "Did it fall out of my pocket?"

She runs to the recycling station. “Oh no! The bins are empty! Someone has come and taken all the bottles and glass away!”

Sally wants to cry. “My phone! It has all my contacts! No one can call me. No one can text me! And it was so pretty!”

“Excuse me,” says an old woman standing next to her. “Are you looking for something?”

“Yes,” says Sally. “I have lost my smartphone. I think I dropped it in the recycling cage. And now they are empty! My phone has gone!”

The old woman smiles. “Today is your lucky day,” she says. “When I finished my Tai-chi class, I walked past the recycling station. I saw something pink in the cage for clear glass. I thought that’s not good and I must take it out. It was too difficult for me. So I called our Tai-chi instructor. He is taller and fitter than me. He rescued your smartphone.”

The old woman puts her hand in the pocket of her track suit. She takes out Sally’s smartphone and gives it to her.

“Oh, thank you!” says Sally. “I am so lucky.”

“You’re welcome,” says the old woman. “But maybe you made your own luck. Your phone is pink. That’s why I saw it. Maybe if it was silver or black I could not see it. I think pink is a good color for a smartphone. Maybe I will get a new one in pink, too.”