It is a warm bright summer day, the sun is brightly shining, the birds are chirping and the smell of cinnamon, vanilla, oatmeal, and fresh fruit.

Casey wakes up and is so excited.

“Good morning, guys” Casey excitedly exclaims.

“Good morning, Casey, why are you so excited?” Sealy asks.

“Because tomorrow is MY BIIRTHDAAAY!!”

All of Casey’ stuffed animals cheer with excitement!!

“I wonder what I’ll get for my birthday”, Casey said. Maybe I’ll get a rocket ship so we can explore space and have cupcakes on the moon.”

“Or maybe a pony” yelled Sealy.

“How about a racecar” exclaimed teddy.

“What about a book?” ask Mumbo.

They all stop and look at each other and burst into laughter.

“Well, I do like a good mystery book.” Caseys says.

Casey goes to eat his breakfast with mommy. He has warm oatmeal with fresh blueberries, strawberries with a sprinkle of cinnamon, just the way Casey likes it.

“Are you enjoying your breakfast Casey?” asks mommy. But Casey doesn’t answer her. He just continues to pick strawberries and blueberries and bop his head as if he is listening to music that only he can hear.

“SOOO are you excited about your birthday tomorrow? I have a surprise you’re going to love.” Casey doesn’t answer her, Mommy simply smiles at him.

Suddenly something caught Casey’s attention. He stops eating and stares down the hallway. “Are you okay Casey?” mom asks.

Casey gets up and makes a dash down the hallway. Why is Casey running? What did he see? The other animals run out in the hall when they hear the commotion. eHHhHHHhhhhuixhuihcnuigigggggggggggghjkjkhgjhh

“Did you see that?” asked Casey.

“See what? What happened Casey” asked Sealy.

“I saw a shadow run into mommy’s room”. “A SHADOW?” they all exclaimed.

“Let’s check it out guys, whatever it is we’ll be ready.” said Casey

“Mmmaybe we shouldn’t, we should tell your mommy.” said Mumbo nervously.

“Naaa, we’ll be okay.” said Casey.

So, Casey and his friends march into mommy’s room armed with a baseball bat, a toy sword, and a spray bottle filled with water.

“Let’s go get the bad guy”. Casey commanded.

Casey lets out a loud “CHARRGGGE”. They run for the closet door, and just as Casey is about to open the door, he feels someone behind him.

“ARRRRGHHHH!!!”

“What are you doing in here Casey? Come on, let’s go finish your breakfast.”

Fewh, it’s just Casey’s mommy.

Casey tries to wiggle out of mommy’s arm. He eats some of his breakfast but was still thinking about that shadowy figure.

Later that day, mom yells “CAAAASSEY!! She goes into his room. Mom is upset. “Did you go into my drawers and throw all my clothes on the floor? Is this why you were in the room earlier, to get into mischief?”

Casey is sad, Sealy said “Casey didn’t do it”

Mom says, “I know your trying to protect Casey Sealy, but who else could it be?”

Tears fills Casey’s eyes, because he knew he had not gone back into mommy’s room since breakfast. Then who could have done such a thing?

Casey blows a whistle, “gather around everyone, it’s time for a group meeting.”

All the animals and Casey gather around. “Something strange is going on. And I am getting into trouble for it. We must figure out this mystery and clear my name before my birthday party tomorrow.”

“So what are the facts? Can you write Mumbo?”, asked Casey.

“What are facts Casey?” asked Mumbo.

“Facts are things we know are true, so you can write either “facts” on the paper or “things that we know are true and underline it. Let’s call this notepad our “Clue Book”. Clues are facts that can help us solve the mystery.” Explained Casey.

“We know:

I saw a small shadow scurry across the hall. It was about your size Sealy.

It ran into mommy’s room

Mommy’s clothes were thrown on the floor”

(Mumbo writes the clues. a page in the book showing the note pad Mumbo is writing on with all the facts)

1. Small shadow Sealy’s size

2. it ran into Mommy’s room

3. Mommy ‘s clothes thrown on the floor

“Since the shadow was Sealy’s size, that means it can be anywhere, Sealy is small.

Let’s investigate small tight spaces, places where you can fit Sealy,” said Casey.

“Great idea,” said Sealy.

“Let’s everyone spread out and look in places where Sealy would fit.”

While everyone is looking for the mysterious figure, mommy just finished baking a chocolate cake with chocolate frosting for Casey’s birthday.

Sniff Sniff… “I smell “CHOCOLATE” cried Sealy, Casey & Mumbo. “Let’s check it out.” said Casey.

Off they went to the kitchen, but something is not right. The cake is all messed up, there is chocolate frosting everywhere.

“OH NO!! cries Casey, “my birthday cake, it’s ruined”

What does ruin mean Casey?” asked Mumbo. It means that it’s all messed up, what are we gonna do?” Casey starts to cry and flap his arms.

“Uh Oh Mumbo, it’s happening? Yelled Sealy. “What’s happening?” asked Mumbo.

“Casey is about to have a meltdown. “Mumbo yells “Code M….Code M” and all the other animals come rushing out to meet them.

They all give Casey a big hug, gently squeezing him. Mumbo reminds me. him to take a deep breath. “Come on Casey, breath in through your nose and out through your mouth. Let’s do that 10x times.”

Casey follows Mumbo’s instructions. “That’s it, good job Casey”, said Mumbo.

Casey calms down. “Fewh! That was a close one!” exclaims Sealy.

After Casey dries his tears he notices something very puzzling amongst the chocolate chaos……. FOOTPRINTS?

“Hey guys check this out, it kind of looks like chocolate footprints, and they lead somewhere. Let’s get my magnify glass and my detective hat. I need to think.” Casey puts on his detective hat and uses the magnify glass to follow the footprints. “What’s the magnify glass for Casey?” asked teddy.

“The magnify glass makes things bigger, so you can see better.” Explained Casey. “You’re right Casey your eye is so big through glass (picture of Casey holding lens at his eyes).” The glass is called a lens and yeah your head us huge too Sealy” All the animals and Casey laughs at Sealy’s big head.

“Hey guys check this out, the chocolate footprints look like chocolate flippers? and they lead into MOMMY’S ROOM. (picture door of mommy’s room that looks really big somewhat intimidating to enter with a sigh that says Mommy’s room”)

CASEY!! Mom yells. “Uh Oh, she must have found the chocolate mess.” cried Casey.

“I baked this cake for your birthday and now it is ruined. Why would you do this? Look at this mess!”

“Breath Casey’s mommy, breath. In through your nose and out through your mouth. Let’s do it 10x” said Mumbo. Casey’s mommy followed Mumbo’s instructions, and she calms down.

“Thank you, Mumbo, sometimes I get so upset that I forget to breath.” said mom.

“It’s okay Casey’s mom you’re a person and sometimes people get upset, but if you can’t control your emotions how can we expect Casey to?”

Mom thought about what Mumbo said. “Thank you for that Mumbo, I guess you’re never too old to learn. Casey I’m so sorry baby; may I have a hug?”

Casey reaches out and hugs mommy. Casey says, “chocolate mess” with tears in his eyes.

“Yes, this is a chocolate mess, what happened baby?”

“We don’t know, but it wasn’t Casey, and he didn’t throw your clothes on the floor either.” explained Sealy.

As mommy gave Casey a hug she said “I’m so sorry I accused you of throwing my clothes on the floor, that was not the right thing to do. Mommy is not perfect, but I’m learning. So, if Casey and none of you didn’t throw my clothes on the floor or made this mess, then who did?”

“That what we’re trying to figure out, look at our clue book.” said Mumbo.

Mommy reads the clue book. “Now we have to add chocolate footprints that lead into your room.” said Sealy.

“Okay, let’s solve this mystery. Let’s give our lead detective back his hat and magnify glass.” said mommy.

Casey puts on his hat with a big smile and follows the footprints into mommy’s room as everyone else follows.

The footprints lead into mommy’s room into her closet. Casey is determined to close this case. He opens the door and in the back of mommy’s closet they find……. SEALY???

Everyone is shocked, Casey looks in the closet and looks beside him, but Sealy is right here, how can there be 2 Sealys?

“Oh dear!’ mommy exclaims. This is all my fault.” She reaches in and grabs the Sealy look-a-like.

“My name is not Sealy, it’s Bealy”

“It’s a good thing you look like me, because that name is awful.” scoffs Sealy. At least you look good, but naturally I look better.”

“Let me explain Casey. I brought Bealy as a surprise for your birthday. I know how much you love your stuffed animals. I had no idea he would get into everything.” Explains mommy. “Bealy, if you’re going to be here, there are some rules to follow.

Before mommy can finish the rules with Bealy, Casey grabs him gives him a big hug and says “Bealy”. Casey’s hug warms Bealy. He is now a part of the family.

The next day, they all get ready for Casey’s party.

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY CASEY!!” Mommy made a new chocolate cake, Bealy free. What made Casey’ birthday even better were his grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins came over to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Casey received many gifts, but the one he loved the most was his new friend Bealy.

Bealy looks into the hallway, “What was that?” Bealy said. “I thought I saw something in the hallway.” They all say “OH NO, NOT AGAIN”

GOTCHA!! JUST KIDDING