



The History of pOckets

Maria Marchese Steele, known affectionately as Mia Dolce (meaning my sweet in Italian) to her family and friends is the creator of this adorable and loveable bear she fondly named pOckets. Mia was the fifth child born to Francesco and Antonia Marchese, in a small town in Italy called Cerenzia.



The story of pOckets' early beginnings started when Mia, as a little girl at the tender age of three, was given a bear by her mother in order to comfort her youngest daughter through the journey she was to experience when emigrating from Italy in the summer of 1964 to experience and explore the wonders of America.



This fuzzy little teddy bear, which Mia originally had named Tesoro, meaning treasure in Italian, became her very best friend right from the start, and would grow to comfort her through all the stages of her life.

Mia and Tesoro had a very special and unique friendship. They rarely ever parted, and wherever she went, Tesoro was sure to follow.

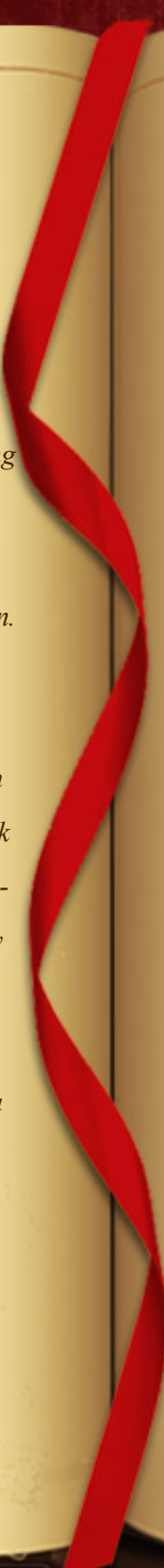


Many years had passed since emigrating from Italy with her family, and although a child no longer, Mia remained true to her cuddly best friend, and shared all her joyous and also some not so joyful sentiments with him.



Inevitably, the day came when Mia noticed that the back seam of her old and true friend Tesoro started to fray. Although this wear and tear was to be expected, for after all, so many years of hugs and embraces would eventually lead to his little body being worn out from all the love he had received throughout the years. Nevertheless, this filled Mia's heart with sorrow, for it pained her to think of her best friend having a punctured wound on his soft and precious little frame. However, oddly instead of mending the tattered area, she proceeded to remove

continued






the stuffing that had once filled the core of her beloved teddy bear. Tesoro, who always had a special place in Mia's heart, was now perched upon her bed slouching and looking rather lonely and very sad. He was yearning to be held once again by the little girl who had nurtured him throughout her youth, and remained true to their friendship as she grew into a warm and caring young woman.



Mia's devotion to Tesoro never diminished, for she had continued to shower him with love and affection through all her growing years. Like two peas in a pod, they stuck together through thick and thin. Nevertheless, for no apparent reason, she neglected to stuff the little bear's now empty pocket...until many years later.



On a frightfully frigid and snowy night in February, Mia retired to her inviting bedroom quarters looking to find warmth from the day's bone chilling temperature, and also the darkness that had consumed and haunted the depths of her soul. For you see, she had lost her dear



mother earlier that year and was feeling the sadness settle deep within the core of her being.




Tossing and turning and not able to free herself of the grief that had intoxicated the very air she breathed, she rose from her cold, lonely bed only to find her true and loveable teddy bear looking tenderly at her. She lifted his soothing, furry little body looking to find solace in his familiar embrace. She then snuggled him in close, remembering fondly her mother's love, and the thoughtful gift that was given to comfort her when leaving the little town in Italy and all her familiar surroundings to make new friends in a country that was to become their new home.



Mia was moved by her mother's gentle memory and yearned to embrace and feel her loving warmth once again. Then to her surprise, she unconsciously placed some of her mother's treasures inside the teddy bear's empty back pocket where he had been frayed and left limp for some time.



continued



Once she had filled his hungry little belly with timeless treasures of her mother's memory, she slipped herself back into bed and snuggled up close with her beloved old friend, who now was delightfully holding cherished sentiments of her dear mother's treasures, the very woman who had given this promising bear to her youngest daughter many years ago, when anticipating her little girl's need of a comforting friend.



Yes, time had come full circle, and the very same bear that had befriended her and gave Mia hope in her youth was now by her side comforting his cherished friend once more. How befitting she thought, that this bear that was given to me by my beloved mother so many years ago would now hold in him sacred treasures of her very memory to comfort me through her loss.



Mia hugged her teddy bear with all the might and love her heart had to give, for she knew from this day forward her once upon a time cuddly best friend named Tesoro would now hold a pocket full of all her sacred

sentiments, and would remain a part of her life forever.

How magical she thought, that this little bear's secret pocket would now be the caretaker of many priceless memories to be shared with generations to come, and their meaningful stories will be inherited heirlooms that shall live on and on in our hearts forever.



She gave him a long and loving embrace, and while kissing him gently whispered, I love you so much my little pOckets.

Yes, my treasured Tesoro, I will now name you pOckets, with a heart for a hug, and an X for a kiss, and I will forever trust you with all my loving treasures, and you in return will safely hold for me a pOcket full of all my most beloved and treasured sentiments.



This is the very beginning of how the story of pOckets The Sentimental Bear came to be.



Ps. A pOcket Full of Love Sentiments

Best Friends Forever

