


◆ Step 3 – "Look up! The mountain may seem high, but every journey starts with small steps." 

SUSIE. HUNTER. ADVENTURE!

## PART 003 - A Christmas Unlike Any Other

### Season 1, Episode 1 – Understanding Reality

Hunter pressed his nose against the icy window, watching the snow swirl outside. It looked like a snow globe, except no one was shaking it—except maybe the universe. Last year, he would have been out skiing with his dad. This year, the ski slopes were silent, the lifts frozen in place. The world felt different now—quieter, heavier.

Little Hunter, five years old, is as shy as his dad but endlessly curious. If curiosity were a sport, he'd have at least three gold medals by now. With his sparkling blue eyes and curly golden hair, Hunter loves exploring—whether it's skiing adventures or observing tiny insects like crickets and praying mantises. He dreams of traveling through space and wonders about ants, stars, and playful puppies.

Hunter's dad, Paul, is a talented carpenter who can turn any drawing into a beautiful piece of furniture. His mom, Susie, with her golden curls, works at a nearby supermarket, eagerly awaiting the arrival of Hunter's new sibling next month.

Their remote mountain town, has only a few thousand residents and is blanketed in snow for half the year. Although Hunter's grandparents live far away, they share a close bond, with visits during Christmas and occasional off-season trips when airfare is more affordable.

In 2020, news of the COVID-19 virus fills the air with worry. Hunter, trying to understand, sees ambulances rushing by and hears about doctors and nurses working tirelessly. The world seems big and a little scary from his small snowy town.

Each day, Hunter watches the snowflakes dance from his bay window, tracing patterns in the frost with his fingertip. He was convinced the snowflakes were

trying to tell him a secret—he just hadn't cracked the code yet. Inside, the air is warm, filled with the scent of his mom's cooking, while his dad sketches furniture designs at the kitchen table. His favorite? Creamy, cheesy mashed potatoes—the perfect comfort food that makes even the scariest news feel far away.

Life in their little town continues, with Hunter playing and dreaming. But one day, he hears something different—his mother's quiet tears. The world outside is changing, and even in their cozy home, the echoes of that change are beginning to whisper.

## Season 1, Episode 1 – Challenges and Changes

### Scene 1: At Home with Susie's Family

The winter of 2020 brought more than just snow to Susie's family. Paul, Hunter's dad, lost his job at the furniture company due to the pandemic. The family worried about how they would pay for their home and daily expenses.

Even more distressing news came—Hunter's

grandfather, living in a nursing home, caught the COVID-19 virus. Though he was receiving care, the family was deeply concerned for his health.

Susie, expecting a new baby, had to work longer hours at the supermarket to help make ends meet. Hunter missed his mom and couldn't understand why she had to be away so much. He even called his grandpa, seeking comfort in his reassuring words.

To keep himself busy, Hunter played with his toys and watched the snowfall. He had so many questions about the world around him, but for now, he found solace in the warmth of home and the bedtime stories his mom told to the little golden egg—his soon-to-arrive sibling.

## **Scene 2: A Changed Christmas at Ken's Store**

Christmas Eve 2020 at Ken's Store was unlike any other. The COVID-19 virus had changed everything. Hunter had planned to visit his grandparents for the holidays, but the heavy snowfall and worsening epidemic meant he had to stay home with his mom

and the baby growing inside her. He called it the **Little Golden Egg**, a nickname inspired by his mom's cozy golden sweaters.

As the new year approached, Susie worried about their finances—water, electricity, gas bills, car insurance, and Hunter's school tuition. With less than 500 euros in the bank and Paul working in the city, the weight of responsibility felt heavy on her shoulders.

Paul's new job in the city gave them a small sense of relief, but it wasn't enough to erase their struggles. Susie worked long shifts at Ken's store, doing her best to keep her family afloat while carrying the weight of an uncertain future.

### **Scene 3: Quiet Times at Ken's Store**

Ken's store smelled like old wood and freshly brewed coffee. **And maybe just a hint of "time standing still."** It was a quiet afternoon, the kind where time seemed to stretch and settle into the worn wooden

shelves. Susie had just finished her lunch, sorting through bills and listening to the local radio. The latest report mentioned a rise in COVID-19 cases in their small town. With limited medical resources available, a sense of fear settled in her chest.

As snowflakes gently fell outside on Christmas Eve, Susie thought about the baby she would soon welcome into the world. She whispered softly to the **Little Golden Egg**, trying to find courage in the midst of uncertainty.

Just a year ago, the holiday season had been filled with laughter for Susie, Paul, and Hunter. But this year was different. Business was slow, and kind-hearted Ken, the elderly shop owner, was thinking about retiring. Ken had always been like family to Susie, and now, more than ever, she needed the sense of support he had always given her.

Susie's worries felt endless—her family's health, Paul working far away, the financial strain. **And also,**

whether or not she'd ever get a full night's sleep again. These thoughts weighed heavily on her, but she knew she had to stay strong for her family and the Little Golden Egg growing inside her.

"Life is full of challenges," Susie thought. "But we have to face them bravely, just like we face a storm."