

# Rug Mysteries

By AS

Pchhhhhhhh! It was a shrill sound when the lamp fell off the coffee table. “Phil?!” Sarah yelled.

“What! What is it?” replied Phil.

“Something broke in the living room!”

The pair of them ran into the room. Their beautiful china lamp was shattered on the floor. Under the thin brown carpet was a lump, bobbing up and down. As quick as a flash, Phil picked up a chair and took a good swing at the unidentified object. Angrily, it popped his two furry arms out of the carpet, grabbed the chair, and threw it back at Phil. Crack!

“OOOOOOOOOOOOOwwwwwwwwwhhhhhhhhhhh! My back!”

Phil was hunched over. As Sarah raced over to help him up, the Bump disappeared.

In the middle of their clean-up, Sarah and Phil find a hole in their flooring near the piano. “Wow, we should cover this with cardboard so that creature does not come back through,” Phil said. Sarah bought a new lamp and they went on like everything was normal.

Two weeks later, it happened again. This time, Phil used plywood to cover the hole and was sure it wouldn't get back through to break a third lamp. Especially since this time Sarah found a perfect match for their living room.

Two weeks later, it happened again. "This is crazy. I'm going to use bricks," Phil exclaims.

Two weeks later, it happened again. Sarah was exasperated, "We need to try heavy metal."

"I don't have that type of music. All I have is 60's classics." Phil replied.

"Not that type of heavy metal. I mean metal that is thick!"

Two weeks later, it happened again. The metal was drilled open and a fifth lamp was broken. "That's it!" Sarah threw her arms up in the air. "What are we going to do?"

Phil had an idea. "We should set up a trap. That's what we used to do as kids to trap the mice. Get me some springs, cages, ropes, pulleys and all my neckties!"

Phil worked very hard on his trap for 13 days. Sarah came in to replace her plug-in air freshener and complemented Phil on his ingenious plan.

The 14<sup>th</sup> day arrived and the couple was crouched behind the couch waiting for the creature. They were feeling anxious and Phil whispered to Sarah, “How long is this going to take?”

Suddenly, the carpet popped up and they could see the bump run towards the lamp. The trap captured the creature and Phil and Sarah jumped up with a cheer. They leaped over the couch and peered into the cage only to see a groundhog. The pair was shocked when the groundhog whimpered, “Don’t hurt me.”

Phil interrogated the groundhog, “Why do you keep breaking into our house?!”

“I keep smelling crisp apple pie and I’m hungry,” whined the groundhog.

Sarah laughed. “That’s my air freshener you smell! I replace it twice a month. So that must be why you come every two weeks.”

Phil asked, “Would you like some real apple pie?”

“Yes, thank you,” the groundhog said and they ate real apple pie together.

And with that, Phil and Sarah said, “Visit us anytime you want. We’ll make a pie for you!”