

Sweeties Candy Shop

By Shannon Friello

It's a brisk Sunday morning, the birds are chirping, and the time is ticking. Sundays are Betty Sweetie's busiest days. She's awake bright and early to start stacking the shelves, opening the ice cream, and, of course, displaying the fresh batches of her Sunday special--a lemon cake donut. Sweeties Candy Shop is a vintage one of a kind candy shop. The light pastel pink walls and the smell of sugar surround you as you decide what candy you want to take home. Sweeties Candy Shop has been around for as long as anyone can remember; it has passed down through three generations of Sweeties. Some people would even say Sweeties shop might be known as the only good part of town.

As for Betty Sweetie, she's an older lady with a rating of 10. Something unique about Betty is that she's always had a 10 rating; she is quite the people pleaser. Betty was born deaf and uses sign language to communicate with others. Betty Sweetie is a hardworking, 74-year-old lady. Her happiness revolves around three things: her candy shop, her cat Sugar and the happiness of her customers. Betty's brother Ben stays with her and helps run the candy shop. In a town full of evil, the candy shop brings out the sweet in people.

Lately Betty has been feeling some type of way, but she can't seem to put a finger on what it could be. *Something is not right*. Betty is very in touch with all her other senses since she's deaf. She believes she's psychic and can predict the future. When people are in her shop she really just smiles and waves. Not many people in Whittier Alaska know sign language, but that's okay with Betty. She's convinced she already knows what they are thinking. Not only is she known for her candy shop, but some people say she's the town witch. Maybe that's why her rating has always been 10; no one wants to get *cursed* by her.

Just like any other Sunday, there's a line out the door of Sweeties Candy Shop. Everyone is ready to get their morning coffee and lemon cake doughnut. In a small town when

there's something as good as Sweeties lemon cake sunday special donuts, everyone knows about it.

Betty greets everyone with a genuine smile, and everyone does the same back. Sundays are usually Betty's favorite days, but for some reason, in the back of her head, she keeps thinking, *Something's not right*.

When Betty is restocking the shelves that night, she knocks over a bucket of Nerds. Hundreds of Nerds candies go bouncing all over the candy shop floor. One thing Betty hates more than anything is a mess. She spends the next hour cleaning it up, every last tiny ball of sugar. At this point, it is way past Betty's bedtime.

After a long hard day at work, Betty is completely exhausted; at times Betty can be forgetful even more so when she's tired. She heads up the stairs of her candy shop to her home. Betty has lived in a room above the candy shop since she was 18. Betty is so tired, but for some reason she can't fall asleep. Her mind is racing, and she feels like something is wrong.

All a sudden she starts to smell smoke. She shoots up from her bed and runs as fast as her old legs can down the stairs. She opens the door and a gush of heat hits her. Her candy shop is up in flames. The fire alarm has been going off for over five minutes now, but obviously Betty can't hear and had no idea. Betty is stuck; the only way she can get out is through the upstairs window. She goes up the stairs and jumps out the window. She falls, hits the concrete, and dies.

Betty always said when her candy shop died, so would she. She goes from a rating of 10 to now a 0. Betty Sweetie and her candy shop were the only good part of the town. Now what will be good about Whittier, Alaska?