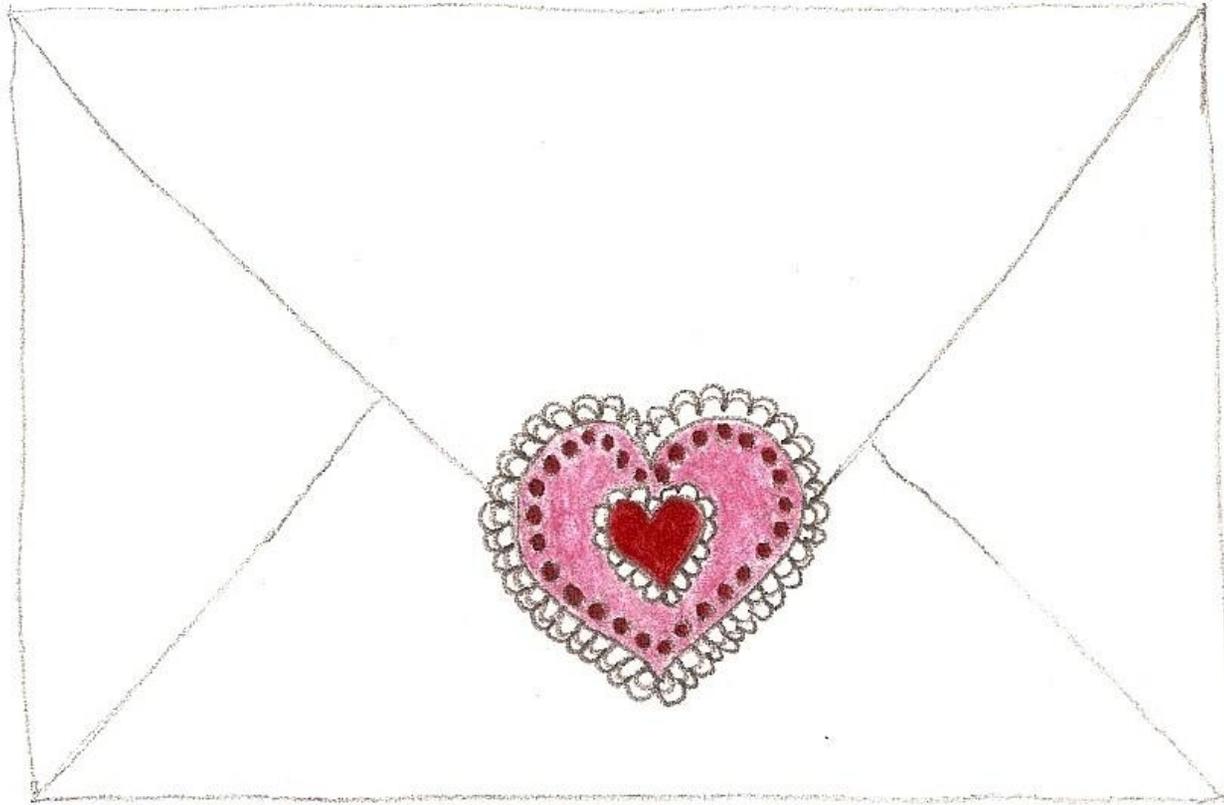


A Valentine for Mrs. Fenwick



Heather L. Lore

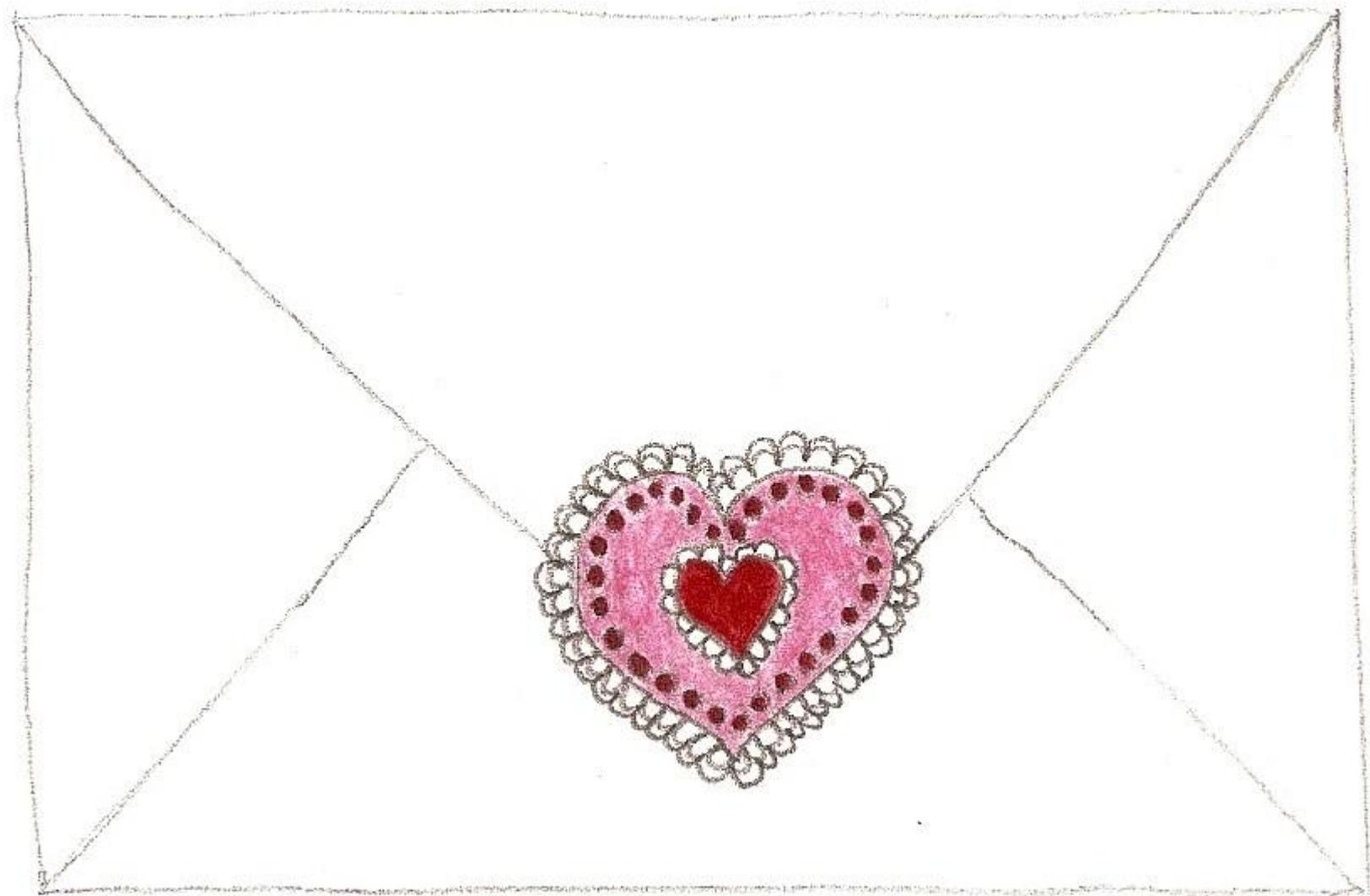
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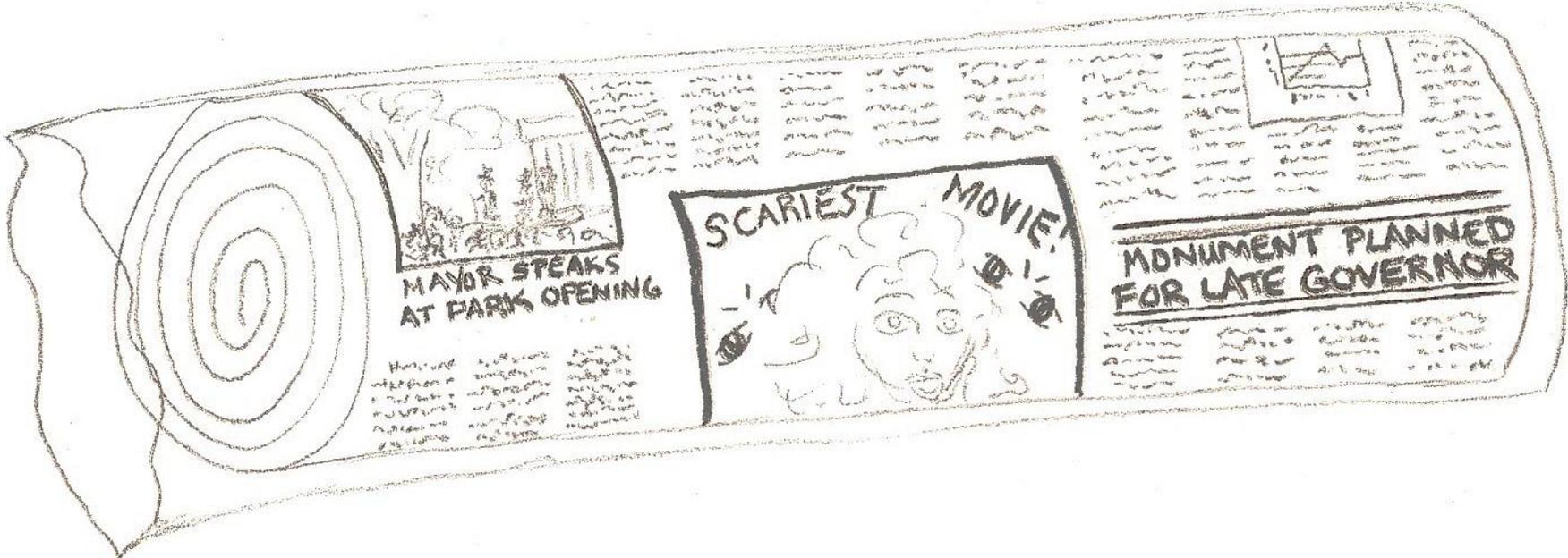
On Monday morning, Mrs. Fenwick left the house; she was holding a non-harmful cage-trap containing a field mouse who was sitting atop a cracker in her right hand and a Valentine's Day letter in her left hand. Mrs. Fenwick put the thing she was carrying in her right hand in the mailbox and raised the red flag. Then, she dashed across the street to the neighborhood field to release what was in her left hand.



Mrs. Fenwick went home and drank a cup of coffee. She sat drinking and thinking at the kitchen table. Mrs. Fenwick thought about what had been in her right hand and what had been in her left hand. She went outside to check the mailbox; the postal carrier had come, and the mailbox was empty. The newspaper had been left on the porch, so she brought it into the house with her.



Mrs. Fenwick returned to the kitchen. She picked up her coffee cup in her right hand and the newspaper in her left hand. She put what was in her left hand in the sink. She put what was in her right hand in the recycling bin.



**MAYOR SPEAKS
AT PARK OPENING**

Handwritten text columns under the "MAYOR SPEAKS AT PARK OPENING" headline.

SCARIEST MOVIE!



**MONUMENT PLANNED
FOR LATE GOVERNOR**

Handwritten text columns under the "MONUMENT PLANNED FOR LATE GOVERNOR" headline.



The cat was howling at its bowl for food. Sarah and John, Mrs. Fenwick's children, were sitting at the kitchen table waiting for their cereal. Mrs. Fenwick picked up the cereal box in her right hand and the cat food in her left hand. She poured what was in her left hand into the children's bowls and what was in her right hand into the cat's bowl.

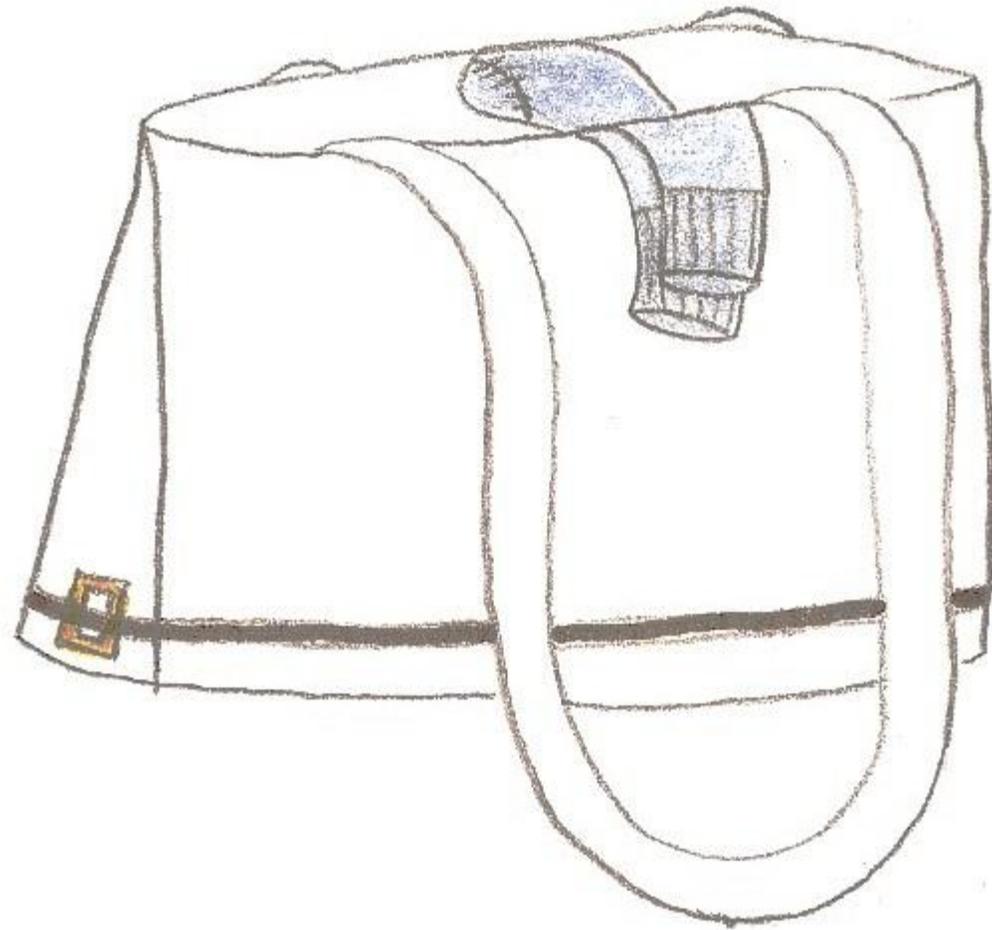


NEW

Marshmallow
Flower Choco-
ball Cereal

 KITTY

Mrs. Fenwick rushed upstairs to take a shower. She picked up a pair of socks from the bedroom floor with her left hand and a twenty dollar bill from the dresser top with her right hand. She put what was in her left hand in her purse and what was in her right hand in the hamper.



Mrs. Fenwick came downstairs after her shower. She picked up the cat with her left arm and scooped up Sarah and John into a hug with her right arm. Mrs. Fenwick kissed what was cuddled in her left arm and said, “Have a nice day at school.” She patted what was in her right arm and said, “Please don't climb the curtains or shred the sofa.”

BUS
STOP



On her way out the door to go to work, Mrs. Fenwick remembered that the ivy needed watering. She picked up the ivy in her right hand. She had her coat in her left hand, but she decided that she didn't need it as it was a warm day. She hung what was in her right hand in the coat closet. She put what was in her left hand in the sink and turned on the tap. She switched off the tap and left the thing in the sink to drain.



Mrs. Fenwick went to work.

When Mrs. Fenwick came home from work, she saw something that looked like a metal box sitting on the front porch. She went over to see it; she thought it might be a Valentine's Day present for her or for the children. On the porch, the mouse—having finished eating its cracker--was sitting in the cage with a note attached to the lid: “Returned...Insufficient Postage.”

Happy Valentine's Day!

