

Sneaky Pete
A Sister Rose Mary story

A family had lived
In a house for six years
It was nice and quiet
They didn't have any fears

The mom and dad's names
Were Alice and Al
Their kids were Melissa
Jack, Mary, and Hal.

They all loved their house
Even though it was old
Unlike some big houses
It was not drafty or cold.

But late one October
Just before Halloween
They began to hear noises
Though nothing was seen.

It started one evening
In Melissa's bed room
She was listening to music
And whistling a tune.

She suddenly stopped
When she heard a faint sound
As if something light
Had moved 'cross the ground.

When she jumped from her chair
She bumped her left knee
As she looked 'round the room
There was nothing to see.

She told mom and dad
That it made her scared
They said "Don't you worry,
We're sure nothing is there."

Then the very next night
When Jack went to bed
He heard and he felt
Something next to his head.

When he let out a yell
All the family came running
Just like with Melissa
They looked but saw nothing

The next day it was mom
While down in the basement
When a light bulb burned out
Went to get a replacement

She was very sure
That she heard an odd sound
But when she turned on the light
There was nothing around.

Hal thought it was funny
To see them all worry
'Till that night while in bed
When he heard something scurry.

Both Mary and Jack
Didn't know what to think
But they got very scared
Of noises under the sink.

While cleaning the attic
Dad heard something too
But when asked to describe it
Said he hadn't a clue.

They were all thinking
That a ghost had moved in
But to drive him back out
Didn't know where to begin.

They even agreed
On a name for the ghost
As if he were a guest
And they were his host.

Because the ghost seemed
To walk 'round with no feet
From one room to another
They called him Sneaky Pete.

For two weeks they tried
To put up with Pete's ways
But he shuffled around
At night and all day.

The next night when Hal
Woke up with a yelp
Mom and Dad figured
They needed some help.

It was Sister Rose Mary
Who was known by many
To help people with problems
Without charging a penny.

So early next evening
As Sneaky Pete roamed
Mom and dad agreed
To call her on the phone.

In less than an hour
Sister Rose Mary came
In black habit and veil
Leaning on her strong cane.

They'd never have guessed
As she walked up their drive
That the sturdy little lady
Was a hundred and five.

"Good evening Sister,"
They said to the nun
"There's a ghost in our house,
And it's really not fun."

"Sneaky Pete makes scary noises
In the day and all night
He keeps us awake
And gives us a fright.

"Have you seen Sneaky Pete?"
Sister asked of her hosts.
"Never once," they replied,
"We've not seen this ghost."

"But I felt him one night,"
Ten-year-old Jack said,
"I was almost asleep,
When he brushed past my head."

"I now understand,"
Said the nun's quiet voice,
"You don't see this ghost,
But you hear him make noise.

"The sounds that he makes
Are soft as a trickle
And when he touched you, Jack,
It felt like a tickle.

"If I'm to see Sneaky Pete
I must spend the night
And stay awake 'till he comes
I hope you don't mind."

"That's so kind of you, Sister,"
Mom said to the nun,
"Staying up all night long,
Is not very fun."

"I don't mind," Sister said,
"If you'll just bring to me
A cheese sandwich with mustard
And a cup of hot tea."

So they brought her the tea
And the sandwich to eat
Then they said their goodnights
And went off to sleep.

Sister sat in a chair
In the kitchen alone
She didn't need a TV
Or to talk on the phone.

If the family had seen
What sister did then
They would be quite surprised
And wonder what was her plan.

She put down on the floor
A small piece of her cheese
Then sat back to watch
Just as calm as you please.

Then half an hour later
Came the sound of small feet
And into the kitchen
Walked the ghost, Sneaky Pete.

As sister had guessed
There was no ghost in the house
For little Sneaky Pete
Was only a mouse.

He sat down and ate
The cheese on the floor
Sister broke up her sandwich
And gave him some more.

The mouse was so tame
He didn't mind very much
When Sister bent over
And picked him right up.

With Pete in one hand
And some cheese in the other
She called to the parents
And sisters and brothers

"Wake up everyone
Come and see Sneaky Pete."
To the kitchen came running
Their six pairs of feet.

As they got to the kitchen
What did they all see
But Sister Rose Mary
And the mouse eating cheese.

"This solves the mystery
Of the ghost," Sister said,
"But we have one last problem
Before we all go to bed.

"What do you think
We should do with this mouse?
Should he now live outside
Or stay in your house?"

"I want to keep him,"
Jack right away said
"I think he likes me
'Cause he tickled my head."

"We have an aquarium
In the attic," Mom said
"Sneaky Pete can live in it
If Jack keeps him fed."

They put paper in it
And a small water bowl
A small piece of cheese
And half a dinner roll.

Then they put in the mouse
And after he'd fed
He rearranged the paper
To use for his bed.

"Thank you so much,"
They said to the nun
"Instead of being scary
Sneaky Pete is quite fun."

Sister got in their car
And Mom gave her a ride
Brought her back to her home
Where they said their goodbyes.

She went to her chapel
For prayers before bed
On her knees, with hands folded,
"Good night, God," she said.