

CEDRIC

Cedric (Jansson, 1962) is about a boy named Sniff who has a stuffed animal named Cedric, who has topaz eyes and a moonstone on his collar. The text says, "Possibly the moonstones were more important to Sniff than the dog's inimitable expressions." Sniff gives Cedric away because a character in the story told Sniff that, "if you give something away that you really love, you'll get it back 10 times over." Sniff immediately regrets giving Cedric away "to desperation." Sniff visits Sniffkin, who tells him a story about a woman who had beautiful things that she collected and takes care of, to the exclusion of friends or travel. She gets a bone stuck in her stomach and thinks she has only a few weeks to live. She has the idea to give all her stuff away (because she's suffering), sending just the right things to different people in anonymous parcels. She starts to feel better and gets nicer. Friends start to visit, and one day she laughs so hard that the bone comes out. She's changed, has friends, and goes off to travel the world. Eventually, Sniff finds Cedric, but the topaz eyes have been removed and made into eardrops, and the moonstone on the collar has been lost. But, as the story says. Sniff loves Cedric "all the same," but now "only for love's sake."