The Worn Cuff

The wool sweater Celia wore around the house had a worn right cuff. She turned it inside out so her mother wouldn't see it on video calls. It had been a gift from her mother, who asked every time whether it was still any use.

One snowy afternoon she made herself some cocoa. When she took the mug out of the microwave, a thread from the cuff caught on the handle. This time it left a hole big enough to put her thumb through.

When her mother called, Celia showed her the hole. She thought her mother would offer to knit her another one. Instead, her mother lifted her hand to the camera. The cuff of her own sweater had been mended in a different color.

They spent a while comparing colors. Later, when she was washing her mug, Celia found some pink thread in the drawer with the dish towels.