

THE SNOWMAN

The young boy awoke at sunrise, a feeling of enthusiasm running through his small frame. Jeremy's excitement grew as he looked out his bedroom window. Large flakes of snow drifted aimlessly downward through the grey sky. As the boy's vision adjusted to the morning light, his eyes beheld a winter wonderland, created by nature overnight. A magical covering had renewed the beauty of the surrounding landscape, adorning the trees in white splendor for Christmas.

The new snow delighted Jeremy, as all his plans for the day could now be executed. The ten inches of wet snow would allow Jeremy and his father to build an amazing snowman today, just in time for the Christmas Eve gathering with family and friends planned for later. Jeremy dressed in warm clothing, knowing most of his day would be spent outside. He walked downstairs, petting the family dog, Peanuts, who was waiting for him at the top of the stairway.

As he entered the kitchen, Jeremy's mom was cooking porridge and dished out a bowlful for him from the pot sitting on the stove. Remembering his promise to his son, Jeremy's dad had risen early, joining his wife in the kitchen. After eating their hot oatmeal, father and son donned their coats, gloves, and hats, walking outside into a wonderland of snow.

The clouds had cleared, revealing a brilliant sun, its rays of light reflecting off the beautiful white landscape. Within a short time, a large snowman stood on the lawn, complete with a face made from items Jeremy's mother had brought out to them. Tonight, Jeremy's family and friends would enjoy a bonfire and a sleigh ride around the farm to celebrate Christmas Eve, an adventure the young boy was looking forward to.

The snow, left by the storm the night before, shone brightly in the moonlight. A bonfire, started by Jeremy's father, cast a warm glow among the family and friends who were sitting around enjoying the ambience of the evening. Earlier in the day, Jeremy had helped his father haul wooden blocks, cut from large hardwood tree trunks, for their company to sit on. These self-made chairs were stored in the barn to be used for this annual event.

Ringling bells and a barking dog soon caught the attention of the revelers. Jeremy's father was arriving with his team of horses, pulling a sleigh. The excited children rushed to it once it stopped and climbed aboard. With Peanuts running alongside, Jeremy's father steered the horses down the trail he had made for this event. Their journey took them through farm fields, meadows, and treed forest. The moon shone down brightly, lighting the way for the horses pulling the happy children.

After a half hour ride, Jeremy's father returned the children to the farm house, where steaming mugs of hot chocolate, prepared by the parents, were waiting for them. The celebration continued indoors, with Christmas carols being sung together. Loving hugs were exchanged by the partygoers, with wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

Once their company had departed, the old farmhouse became quiet, with only Jeremy awake waiting for Christmas morning. The full moon shone a beacon of light through his bedroom window, illuminating the dark room. Shadows danced across the walls, as the moon's light was briefly obscured by wispy clouds. Jeremy's rest was unsettled, as the howling and barking of coyotes kept the young boy from falling into a peaceful sleep.

Jeremy awoke to the sound of his mother working in the kitchen. Bright sunshine streamed in through his window, as he rose from his bed, excited Christmas was finally here. Gazing out his window, the sun's reflection off the white snow was dazzling, making the evergreen trees sparkle as if adorned with diamonds.

Racing downstairs, Jeremy greeted his parents who were sitting at the kitchen table drinking coffee. He asked permission to go into the living room, where the Christmas tree stood, anxious to see what Santa had brought. His parents followed him into the room, where the first thing Jeremy noticed was the cookies he left for Santa were gone and the glass of milk was empty. Standing next to the tree was his new bike, complete with training wheels, just what he had asked Santa to bring. He would be five in the spring, a fine time to learn how to ride a bicycle.

Once the excitement over the bike died down, Jeremy's parents handed him the other presents under the tree. The first gifts he opened contained a new pair of ice skates and a hockey stick, making Jeremy's dreams of becoming a hockey player now possible. The remaining packages held a new winter jacket and boots, as well as new toys.

After the gift opening, the trio retired to the kitchen for breakfast, with Peanuts tagging along behind them. The morning sky had turned dark, with clouds promising snow, adding to the peace and serenity felt on this special day.

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