MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

'Twas the Night Before Christmas: the Storybook



Two Stockings

It is the night before Christmas. Zoe's home is very quiet. Not one little creature stirs. Two stockings hang by the chimney, one for Zoe and one for Mum. Zoe pats hers gently. "Goodnight, stocking," she whispers.





Sugar-Plum Dreams

Now Zoe is snug in bed, her soft elephant tucked under her arm. Her eyes close. In her dream, round sugar-plums dance and twirl like tiny purple stars.

Such a Clatter

Clatter! Clatter! A noise outside! Zoe sits up in bed. Her eyes are wide open now. What can it be?





Moon on the Snow

Zoe tiptoes across the floor, very softly. She opens the curtains by the balcony door. The moon shines on the new-fallen snow. Everything outside glows silver, bright as day.

Eight Tiny Reindeer

And there in the sky, she sees a tiny sleigh pulled by eight tiny reindeer! A little old driver calls each reindeer by name. Up, up they fly, light as falling leaves.





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Down the Chimney

The sleigh lands on the roof. Tap, tap, go little hooves. Zoe hurries to hide behind the big armchair. Then, with a bound, down the chimney comes St. Nicholas!

A Little Round Belly

He is dressed all in fur, with a bundle of toys on his back. His eyes twinkle. His cheeks are rosy, and his nose is like a cherry. When he chuckles, his little round belly shakes. Zoe covers her giggle with her hand.





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The Wink

St. Nicholas does not say a word. He fills the two stockings, one, two. Then he turns and sees Zoe peeking. He gives a wink and lays a finger beside his nose. Zoe smiles. There is nothing to fear.

Away Over the Roofs

Up the chimney he goes. Zoe runs to the window. The sleigh flies away over the roofs, light as thistle-down. Far off, she hears him call, "Happy Christmas to all!"





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A Good-Night

Zoe climbs back into bed and pulls the blanket up high. Her elephant snuggles close. The moon glows on the snow. Her eyes slowly close. Happy Christmas, Zoe, and to all a good-night.

THE END

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