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THE
NIGHT
BEFORE
CHRISTMAS

STORY BY MARGARET FURUS WICK
SERIES BY ROBERT C. WOOD

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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

'T was the night before Christmas,
When all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung
By the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled
All snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums
Danced through their heads;



WHILE VISIONS OF SUGAR-PLUMS DANCED THROUGH THEIR HEADS.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

And Mamma in her kerchief,
And I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn
There arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters,
And threw up the sash.



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

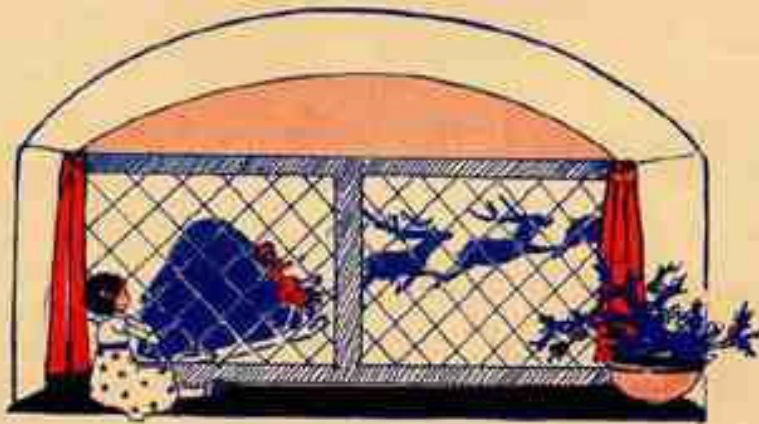


The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave a lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,
With a little old driver so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment
It must be St. Nick.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

More rapid than eagles,
His coursers they came,
And he whistled and shouted,
And called them by name;
"Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid!
On, Dunder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch, to the top of the wall,
Now, dash away, dash away,
Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before
The wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle,
Mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys,
And St. Nicholas too.



THE NIGHT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS



And then, in a twinkling,
I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



He was dressed all in fur
From his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished
With ashes and soot.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



A bundle of toys
He had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.
His eyes, how they twinkled!
His dimples, how merry!
His cheeks were like roses;
His nose like a cherry;

THE NIGHT
BEFORE CHRISTMAS

His droll little mouth
Was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard on his chin
Was as white as the snow.
The stump of a pipe
He held fast in his teeth,
And the smoke, it encircled his head
Like a wreath.
He had a broad face
And a little round belly
That shook, when he laughed,
Like a bowl full of jelly!



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



He was chubby and plump,—
A right jolly old elf;
And I laughed
When I saw him,
In spite of myself.
A wink of his eye,
And a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know
I had nothing to dread.

THE NIGGY HUGGON CHRISTMAS



He spoke not a word,
But went straight
To his work,
And filled all the stockings;
Then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger
Aside of his nose,
And giving a nod,
Up the chimney
He rose.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



He sprang to his sleigh,
To his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim,
As he drove out of sight,
"HAPPY CHRISTMAS to all,
And to all a Good-Night."





HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



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