

The background of the image is a solid blue color with a fine, pebbled texture, resembling the cover of a hardcover book. The texture is consistent across the entire area.

CHRISTMAS MYSTERY STORIES

8.6 ENGLISH

LORENT MURATI

THE FORGOTTEN PRESENTS



Anni and Leo were siblings. It was Winter holidays, they were kind the whole year because their parents said, if they weren't kind they wouldn't get presents. Anni said to Leo: "I can't believe that tomorrow is Christmas." "Yeah me too, I hope we get nice presents," said Leo. It was the next day. "CHRISTMAS TIME!" screamed Leo. "Where are my presents? Anni, did you take my presents?" Leo asked. "No I didn't, you woke me up with your screaming. But wait, where are my presents? Haven't we been kind?" Anni said sadly. As time passed, Leo and Anni found a letter in the letterbox without a return address. They opened the letter immediately and they were shocked at what they saw in the letter. Santa Claus was kidnapped and they had to rescue Santa Claus with a password. The password was: "Pumpkin squish." The letter said that only they could save him and no one else.

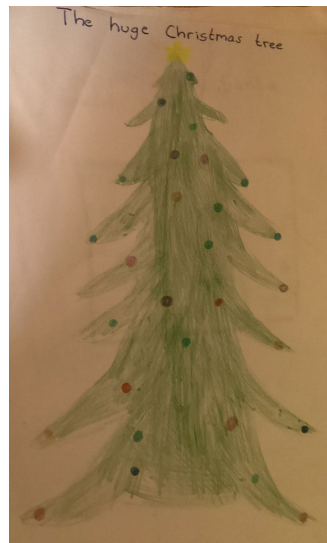
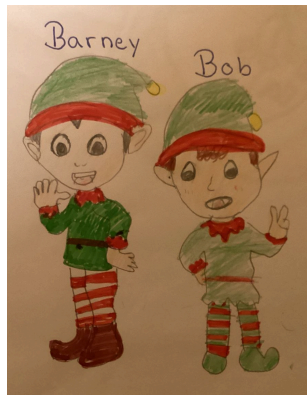


Leo and Anni knew that they had to rescue Santa immediately, because it was still Christmas and other children were waiting for their presents too. So they started to pack their suitcase, and left on the same night. They were waiting on a large main road and held up a poster saying that they had to visit the North Pole. There was a scary man in a big truck who stopped to take them with him, but they were too scared and let him drive on until they saw a family van with a nice family in it. The family also wanted to go to the North Pole. When Leo told them everything, they were sad, but continued to drive to the North Pole. When they arrived at the North Pole, after 6 hours, Leo and Anni immediately started looking for Santa Claus. When they were about to give up after 2 hours, they saw a decorated house with a Christmas tree in it. Then they checked to see if the door was locked but no, it was open. They looked to see if anyone was in the house but it was empty. Until they fell into a trap and fell a long way down. But when they saw it, they were shocked. It was Santa Claus who was locked up with a lock in front of him. When the two entered "Pumpkin squish" in the lock, he was free and Christmas was saved. Santa Claus thanked them a lot, and everyone had their presents.



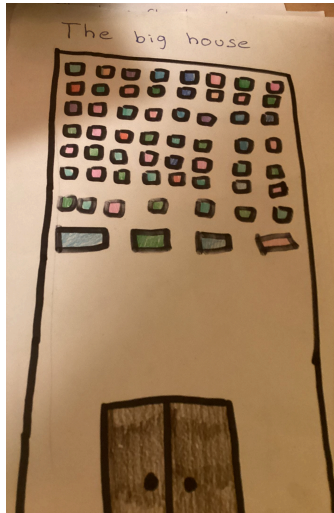
HELENA HASELHOFF

CHLOE & THE CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND



Chloe didn't believe in Santa Claus. She and her dog Charlie went for a walk to the forest. It was the 19th of December. They walked past many houses when Chloe said: "Santa doesn't exist. It's just a story." Suddenly Charlie ran away into the trees. Chloe ran after him and she shouted his name loudly. Eventually, Charlie stopped at a big tree. Suddenly a door appeared in the tree and Charlie jumped into the door. Chloe followed him quickly. She told him to wait and he finally stopped. When she turned around, she saw a Christmas village. The air smelled like candy and Charlie ran around happily.

All of a sudden, two elves stood in front of her. "Hello. We are Bob and Barney. Welcome to the Christmas Wonderland!" they said. The elves told Chloe and Charlie that they would show them around a little bit. Chloe couldn't believe her eyes. At first the elves showed them the big Christmas tree. It was huge. The elves told them that the lights would be turned on on Christmas Eve. Chloe saw many friendly elves that looked at her with interest. She followed Bob and Barney to the elves that worked on Christmas presents. It was busy but interesting. The elves wrapped gifts and made toys. They were all very happy. "This is where all the Christmas presents come from," Bob said. There were presents everywhere. "We are all very busy getting ready for Christmas. We need to work fast so that everyone gets a present on Christmas," Barney said. Chloe was very interested in the elves, the presents and the toys.



Suddenly Barney asked Chloe why she didn't believe in Santa Claus. "It's just a story for kids. I don't think that he is a real person," Chloe said. "I think that he is real," Bob said. For a moment, it was quiet, but then Chloe asked: "Why are you asking me this?" Bob told her that she needed to wait because it was a present. Chloe didn't say anything because she was a little bit confused. Then Barney told her that they needed to go to a special person. Chloe and Charlie were excited. The next second, they walked to a big building. It was the biggest building Chloe had ever seen in her life. Wow, Chloe thought.

Suddenly she heard a loud noise. When she looked in the building, she saw Santa Claus. He was sitting in a big chair. He was holding his stomach. "Ho ho ho," he said. "Hello Chloe, I am Santa Claus. I heard that you don't believe in me. Is that right?" he asked. Chloe was speechless. But after a moment she said, "Yes. But now I do. I thought that it was just a story for kids. But now I know it's not. I'm sorry that I didn't believe in you." Then Santa said: "Thank you for believing in me. There are a lot of people that don't believe in me. But I am really thankful that you do." Chloe was really happy and even Charlie barked happily. Soon they were on their way home on a sleigh. They were really slow but it was fun for Chloe to talk to Santa. She didn't even think about what her family would say. She was really happy. Then Santa opened a door that only he could open. And soon Chloe and her dog Charlie were in the woods again.

JOSEPHINE ASIYEDU

THE MYSTERY OF THE BAKERY

It was snowing as Chiara was walking down the street. The colorful Christmas lights were twinkling around her, but Chiara was feeling cold. She was looking for a place to warm up when she suddenly noticed a delicious smell. It smelled like cinnamon, chocolate and freshly baked cookies. Chiara followed the delicious scent until she found a small bakery with an old sign. It said "The Enchanted Oven." Warm light was glowing from the windows and Chiara could see tiny shadows moving quickly inside. She hesitated for a moment, then carefully opened the old door.

Inside, it was cozy and magical. Small cheerful bakers were working busily all around. One of them was rolling out a dough, another was sprinkling sugar, and another was building a giant gingerbread house. But the strangest thing was that nobody noticed Chiara. It was as if she was invisible.

Chiara stepped closer to see the cookies and gingerbread houses better. They looked amazing. Stars were glowing, candy canes were sparkling, and tiny sugar figures were moving as if they were alive.

Suddenly a kind old woman with shiny eyes came out of the back room. She was carrying a tray of glittering cookies. "Welcome, Chiara," she said with a smile. "We were waiting for you." Chiara gasped. "But how did you know me?" she asked.



The woman smiled even more. "Oh, we know you. This bakery only shows itself to children who truly believe in the magic of Christmas." As Chiara was looking around, she noticed something strange. The little bakers were no longer moving. It was as if time had frozen.

The old woman leaned closer and whispered, "You have a choice. You can stay and help us to make more magical treats, or you can take this cookie and go back home. But if you leave, you might never find us again." Chiara stared at the cookie in her hand. It was sparkling like a little star. She was thinking hard what to do.

Finally, she made her decision. What Chiara chose, no one knows, but every year at Christmas as she was walking down the snowy streets, she kept her eyes and nose open. Maybe she thought the smell of cinnamon would lead her back to the little magical bakery someday.

KALTRINA RAMA

THE WISH CAME TRUE

One day, Olivia wrote a letter to Santa Claus. In the letter, she wrote: "Dear Santa Claus, I wished that my brother and my parents would believe in you." When she finished writing her letter, she went to her mother. "Mom, why don't you believe in Santa Claus?" she asked. Her mother answered, "Because I grew up and started to understand that Santa Claus was just a fun story." Olivia felt a little sad, but then she had an idea. She ran to her brother's room and knocked on the door. "Ryan, do you believe in Santa Claus?" she asked. Ryan looked at her and laughed, and said, "No, I don't believe in him." She felt sad and went to her room. She wished that Santa Claus could come to her and help her parents and her brother to finally believe in Santa Claus.

Suddenly, Santa Claus was in front of her door. Olivia saw him and ran to him. "Are you really Santa Claus?" Olivia asked. "Yes, I am really Santa Claus," Santa Claus answered. Olivia said, "Santa, my parents and my brother don't believe in you."

Santa said, "Oh, this is not good. Do you want to come with me to the North Pole?" Olivia answered, "Yes, I do."

A moment later, they flew away with Santa's sleigh to the North Pole. When they arrived at the North Pole, Santa Claus showed Olivia his house. "Your house is very nice. I like it," said Olivia. Santa introduced his elf friends to Olivia. After Santa Claus showed her the whole North Pole, Olivia said, "Santa, it's getting late. I have to go home." Santa Claus brought Olivia home with the sleigh. Olivia said, "Thank you, Santa, for the beautiful day. Can you come tomorrow so I can introduce you to my family?" Santa answered, "Yes, of course I can come."



The next day while Olivia was eating, Santa Claus arrived. He knocked on the door and Olivia knew that it was Santa Claus. She ran to him and opened the door. "Hello Santa, how are you?" she asked. "I am fine, and you?" said Santa Claus. Olivia answered, "I am fine." Olivia's mother came to Olivia and asked her, "Who is that?" "Mom, this is Santa Claus," answered Olivia. "Hahaha is this a costume?" asked her mother. "No, Mom, this is the real Santa Claus. This is not a costume," said Olivia. "Santa Claus, did you want to have dinner with us tonight?" asked her mother. "Yes, I do," answered Santa Claus. Olivia showed her brother and her father Santa Claus too, and they all began to believe in him after all. Olivia's wish came true.



MILLER ADAMES ADAMES, TOHEEB
OWONIYI, RAYANE ADAMOU
ISMAEL, NELVIN NJENEH

A CHRISTMAS CRIME

It was Christmas Eve. Kids were happily dancing and singing. A couple of kids were having a sleepover. Their names were Toheeb, Nelvin, Rayane, and Miller. Such innocent kids, with dreams and hope.



Nelvin and Toheeb were eating while Miller and Rayane were playing. They eventually went to sleep while watching the Christmas tree getting darker and darker. When they woke up, they were at the North Pole.

Rayane asked, "Where are we?" and Toheeb said, "I think we're at the North Pole."

They saw a Christmaslike house and went in after walking in the freezing snow. In the house, they saw a man with a white beard and a red costume. It was Santa.



Nelvin screamed: "Santa!"

Santa was sad and stressed, but he said: "Ho ho ho, merry Christmas."

Toheeb asked, "What's wrong, Santa?" and Santa explained that the Grinch stole all the Christmas presents. The kids went on a trip to get the Christmas presents back.



The kids confronted the Grinch and chased him trying to get the gifts. "You'll never catch me alive!" yelled the Grinch. The kids were chasing him with the reindeer. All of a sudden the Grinch fell from a big mountain. He yelled for help and they grabbed his sleeves, got the gifts and helped the Grinch. The Grinch thanked the kids. After that, he suddenly disappeared. The kids then woke up. They heard a door opening. It was Toheeb's mom. They ran to his mom and told her everything that happened and that they saved Christmas. Toheeb's mom laughed.

TUBA AĞGÜL & SILAN BAYKA

SIBLING HEROES OF CHRISTMAS

Once upon a time on a Christmas evening, Oskar the oldest child, Georgea the middle child and Christopher the youngest child were having fun in their rooms when their mom called for dinner. They ran down the stairs and sat down on the chairs and ate quickly. Then Christopher spoke up. "Mom, is Santa real?" he asked. "Oh yes, he is," she answered in a nervous tone. A few hours later, Georgea and Christopher were playing in Oskar's room. Suddenly Oskar came back to his room and saw that his room was very dusty and very expensive stuff was on the floor and destroyed. He yelled at Christopher and Georgea. "Santa isn't real at all, Mom and Dad got you those gifts!" he yelled. They were very hurt by what Oskar said. Christopher even started crying. "You're the Christmas destroyer!" he said. Christopher ran downstairs and locked himself into his room.

Oldest



Middle



Youngest



Oskar sighed. "Why did you say that to him?" Georgea said. "Now he's sad. I know Santa isn't real, but you don't need to tell him that. He's just nine years old." Oskar ignored her, and the next morning, he was looking for Christopher. He felt bad about what he did yesterday. He searched everywhere but Christopher was nowhere to be found. He got a bit concerned about where Christopher was. He asked Georgea about him. "I don't know where he is, but his room is open now," she said.

Oldest



Oskar ran downstairs and opened the door, but Christopher wasn't there. A few seconds later, Oskar saw a note on his desk. He looked at it. "I will find Santa and prove to all of you that he is real," the note said. Oskar was shocked at what he read. He ran outside calling for Christopher but Christopher was nowhere to be found. Three hours later, Christopher didn't even come for dinner.

"Where is Christopher?" his mom asked. "Ummm, he's just at his friends' place," Oskar said. Oskar was scared that his mom would ground him, so at night, he snuck out. He packed up warm clothes and scarves and snuck out of the house, but suddenly Georgea popped up behind him. He let out a small scream. "Omg what the heck - you scared me! Why are you here? You are supposed to be in bed," he said. Georgea said, "Christopher is in the tree!"

They ran to the tree where Christopher was and saw him up in the tree. Oskar was panicking trying to think what to do. Then he started climbing up the tree. Georgea was calling the police to bring Christopher and Oskar back down. Time was passing and Oskar was in the tree next to Christopher. "Christopher, please, I am sorry. Please, let's go down." Christopher nodded and they tried to get back down. The police arrived and made a platform for Christopher and Oskar to land on safely. Oskar tried to get down slowly, but suddenly they fell. Christopher landed safely, but Oskar's arm got stuck in a branch. Oskar let out a loud scream. His pain was endless. Oskar hung there screaming in pain.

Oldest



The people underneath the tree were panicking and running around, not knowing what to do. After hanging there for half an hour, Oskar finally fell. But when the police ran up to him, they froze, seeing a horrifying scene: a pool of blood under Oskar and his one arm gone. The police looked up and saw Oskar's arm still stuck dangling from the branch.

Five days later, Oskar was still recovering from the pain. His family showed up to visit him. He was happy to see Christopher and Georgea. They hugged and lived happily ever after.



ALESIA-MARIA ISTODORESCU

CURSED ON CHRISTMAS

A long time ago, there was a handsome prince called Ethan Toothstain. He was the most charming in the whole land, although his looks were deceiving. His heart was as black as coal. He was cruel to everyone that wasn't equal to his beauty, and so one day he was cruel to the wrong person - Dorian, a young maiden who did witchcraft. On a cold Yule day, while Dorian was celebrating her pagan holiday, the prince ordered his men to destroy every single decoration, every single artifact and everything that had to do with her, all because she didn't clean his mirror properly. He took this as an insult to his beauty. The witch wept out of sorrow and grief, while the prince stared into his reflection in the broken artifact. The prince left the sad woman's house, and in the heart of the woman grew hatred and spite.

The prince ordered his men to decorate his palace for Christmas and sent invitations all over the kingdom. He had one rule: "You must dress extravagantly or you will be banished from the kingdom."

And so on that Christmas Day, all men and women came, dressed in their finest silk dresses and suits adorned with numerous crystals. He was sitting on his throne laughing and enjoying his goblet of wine, eating roasted Christmas swine, not caring about the snowstorm outside.

Suddenly the witch herself, Dorian, dressed in her best gown and carrying an ugly green hairy creature which looked like an insult to Mother Nature herself, arrived. She came closer and closer, saying that she brought justice and that with this sacrifice, the prince will never get his beauty back, for up to twenty generations to come. The creature began to rapidly rot and decay, and the prince felt as if he was the one decaying. His heart was rotting and his head was throbbing and he turned into this green hairy ugly creature. With no remorse, the witch laughed and shouted, "Now his inside matches his outside!"

The prince, shocked by his new appearance, fled his own kingdom. He came across a small village named Whoville. He was shocked by the ugliness of the villagers, how unbothered they were by their looks. Weak and tired, the prince passed out. He woke up and was surrounded by the villagers of Whoville pointing at him and laughing at him. He stood up and ran away. He came across a big mountain and climbed to the top of it, found an entrance and went inside. That mountain was his new home.

Twenty generations later, the prince died and got reincarnated into the same ugly creature every single time. As time flew, the villagers named him the Grinch. He remembered that the witch Dorian said that the curse would lift after twenty generations. The prince became a better man by having the curse on him. He helped old people cross the street and didn't judge other people by their looks anymore. It made him realize that he wasn't the best person at the time, but now he had learned his lesson and changed for the better. The curse was lifted and the Grinch smiled, knowing that it doesn't matter what he looks like. He will always be there for people and he will never judge anyone ever again.