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Opening extract from

The Nights Before Christmas

Written & Illustrated by

Tony Ross

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Contents

A Message from the Illustrator 1

1 A Visit from St Nicholas 3
By Clement Clarke Moore

2 The Christmas Fairy of Strasbourg 9
Retold by J. Stirling Coyne

3 The Fir Tree 15
By Hans Christian Andersen

4 The Nativity 27
From the King James Bible

5 Papa Panov's Special Christmas 31
Retold by Leo Tolstoy

6 Good King Wenceslas 39
By John Mason Neale

7 The Elves and the Shoemaker 43
By the Brothers Grimm

8 *An extract from* A Christmas Carol 47
By Charles Dickens

9 Why the Evergreen Trees Never Lose their Leaves 53
By Florence Holbrook

10 *An extract from* The Wind in the Willows 57
By Kenneth Grahame

11 The Snow Queen 71
By Hans Christian Andersen

12 The Twelve Days of Christmas 111
Traditional

13 Old Fezziwig's Party 117
By Charles Dickens

14 Professor Branestawm's Christmas Tree 123
By Norman Hunter

15 In the Bleak Midwinter 131
By Christina Rossetti

16 The Selfish Giant 135
By Oscar Wilde

17 *An extract from* Little Women 143
By Louisa May Alcott

18 The Christmas Truce 165
From the *New York Times*

19 In the Week When Christmas Comes 169
By Eleanor Farjeon

20 Letter to Susy 173
By Mark Twain

21 A Kidnapped Santa Claus 177
By L. Frank Baum

22 Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus 195
By Francis Pharcellus Church

23 The Little Match-Seller 199
By Hans Christian Andersen

24 The Story of the Christ-Child 205
By Elizabeth Harrison

About the Authors and Stories 214

NIGHT

1

A Visit from St Nicholas

By Clement Clarke Moore

A Visit from St Nicholas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas 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 in their heads.
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 the 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 moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of midday 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.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!