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extracts from

Tales from Christmas Wood

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A Christmas Eve Adventure

Fidgety Fox was looking for adventure: a special Christmas Eve sort of adventure.
He was wearing his best adventuring scarf, and singing his best adventuring song.
Now he just needed something exciting to happen.



He looked inside the hollow tree.
No adventure there – just beetles.

He checked under the holly bushes.
No adventure there – just prickles.





He peeked into the barn. No adventure there – just…

… a huge brown MONSTER with massive KNOBBLY KNEES! He backed away quickly. That was the wrong kind of exciting.

Tiny Mouse and the Gingerbread Mystery

It was Christmas Eve in Christmas Wood. Tiny Mouse was bored. Everyone was too busy to play, and tomorrow seemed like AGES away.

"Why not make gingerbread?" suggested Mama Mouse. She tied a huge apron around Tiny's neck. Then she gave him a big wooden spoon.

"Now, be very careful," she said, "and mix everything together."

Tiny Mouse stirred carefully until his little paws were tired. Then (just to check it was nice) he ate a blob of the mixture. It WAS nice… but maybe it needed a pinch more sugar? That was better. He tasted a little more. It WAS nice… but maybe a pinch more ginger? Even better. He tasted a little more… then a little more. Yes! Now it was just right. His friends were going to love this gingerbread.





Very carefully, Tiny scooped out some dough and squashed it flat. He cut it into a star-shaped cookie.

Tiny grinned. That looked great.

But when he scooped again, nothing came out! He peered carefully into the bowl.

"Oh!" he gasped.

The bowl was completely empty.

"Mama!" he squeaked. "Where has all the mixture gone?"



Badger Finds a Friend

Badger wasn't looking for Christmas Wood. She was just passing by. She turned a corner, crossed a bumpy bridge – and there it was!

Badger was wonderstruck. "I'm going to live here!" she decided.

She started work on a tunnel and quickly settled in. Everything was perfect… until Badger tried to make some friends.

First, Rosie Rabbit hopped by with her brothers.

"Good morning," yawned Badger.

The rabbits froze. "Look at those TEETH!" squealed Rosie, and the rabbits shot into the bushes.



Later, some wood mice were having a picnic.

"Lovely day," called Badger.

Tiny Mouse grabbed his Mama's paw and a slice of Grandma's cake. "A stripy monster!" he cried, and the mice dived under a log.

The next day was just the same. EVERYONE seemed to be frightened of Badger.

A Very Busy Barn

Tiny Mouse poked his head out of the mousehole in the barn wall. His whiskers twitched with excitement. His gingerbread cookies were finally ready, and he couldn't wait to give them out.

Just outside he saw EVERYONE: Daddy Rabbit and the little Rabbits, Fidgety Fox, Badger, Robin, and Owl.

"Happy Christmas Eve!" cried Tiny. "Come in and get warm!"

Everyone looked at the mousehole. It looked a bit of a squeeze.

"No – in here!" laughed Tiny. He led them right inside the barn. And what did they see…?

A big glowing star hung from the rafters. Underneath were some sheep and a donkey… and a tall, brown camel *with knobbly knees*.

But strangest of all, there was a baby boy and his family. He was all tucked up in the manger. Three men in fancy clothes carried beautiful gifts for the baby. "Don't worry," said Tiny. "They're all made of wood." He gave the donkey a poke to prove it. "THAT's a Nativity scene," he said importantly. "It's all about what happened on the very first Christmas night. People come here and remember why they're celebrating. Everybody loves to see the special baby. They all sing songs and sometimes they bring gifts for each other too!"

