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Opening extract from

The First Christmas

Written by

Jan Pienkowski

Published by

Penguin

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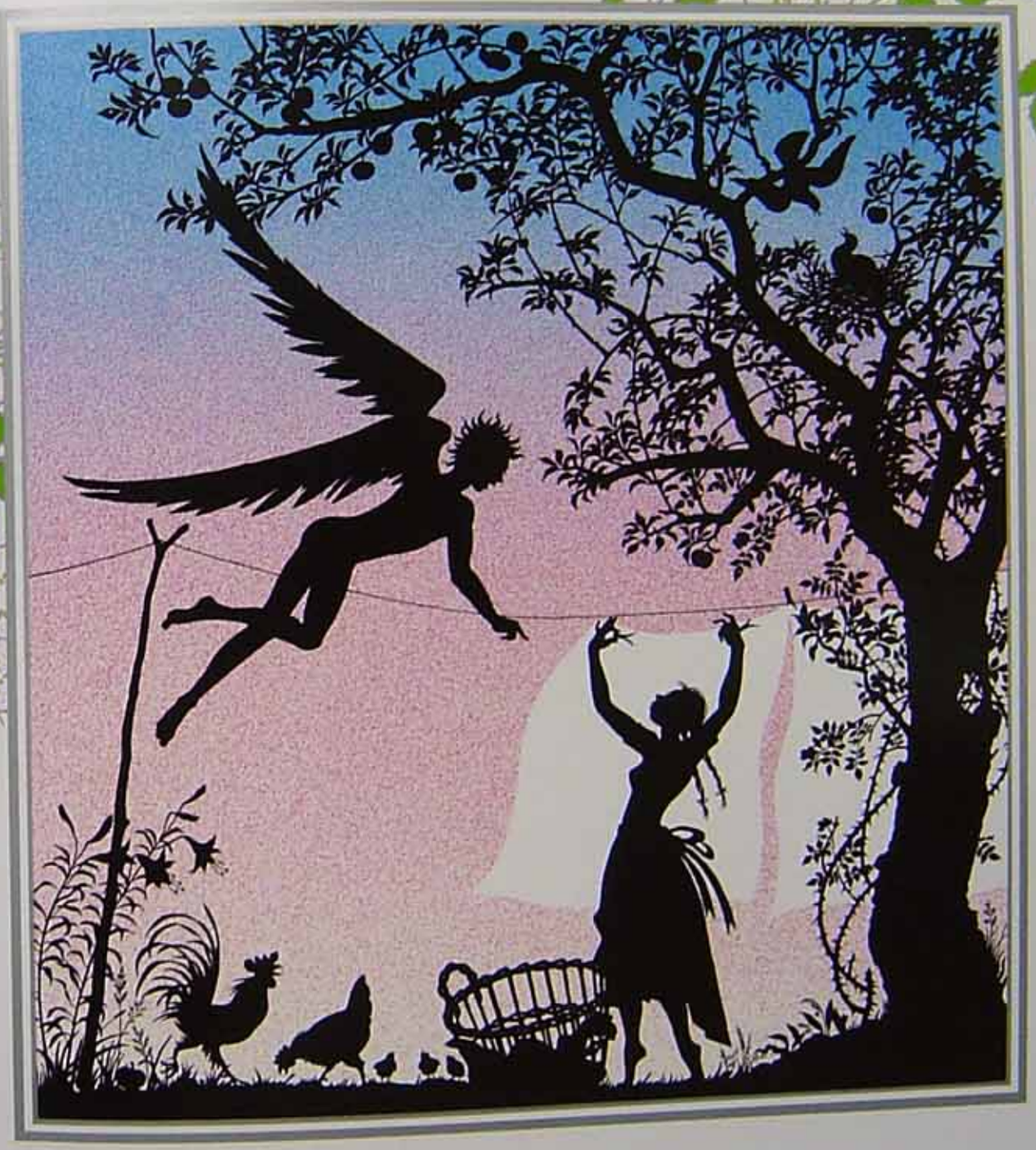
IN THE DAYS of Herod the King, the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph;

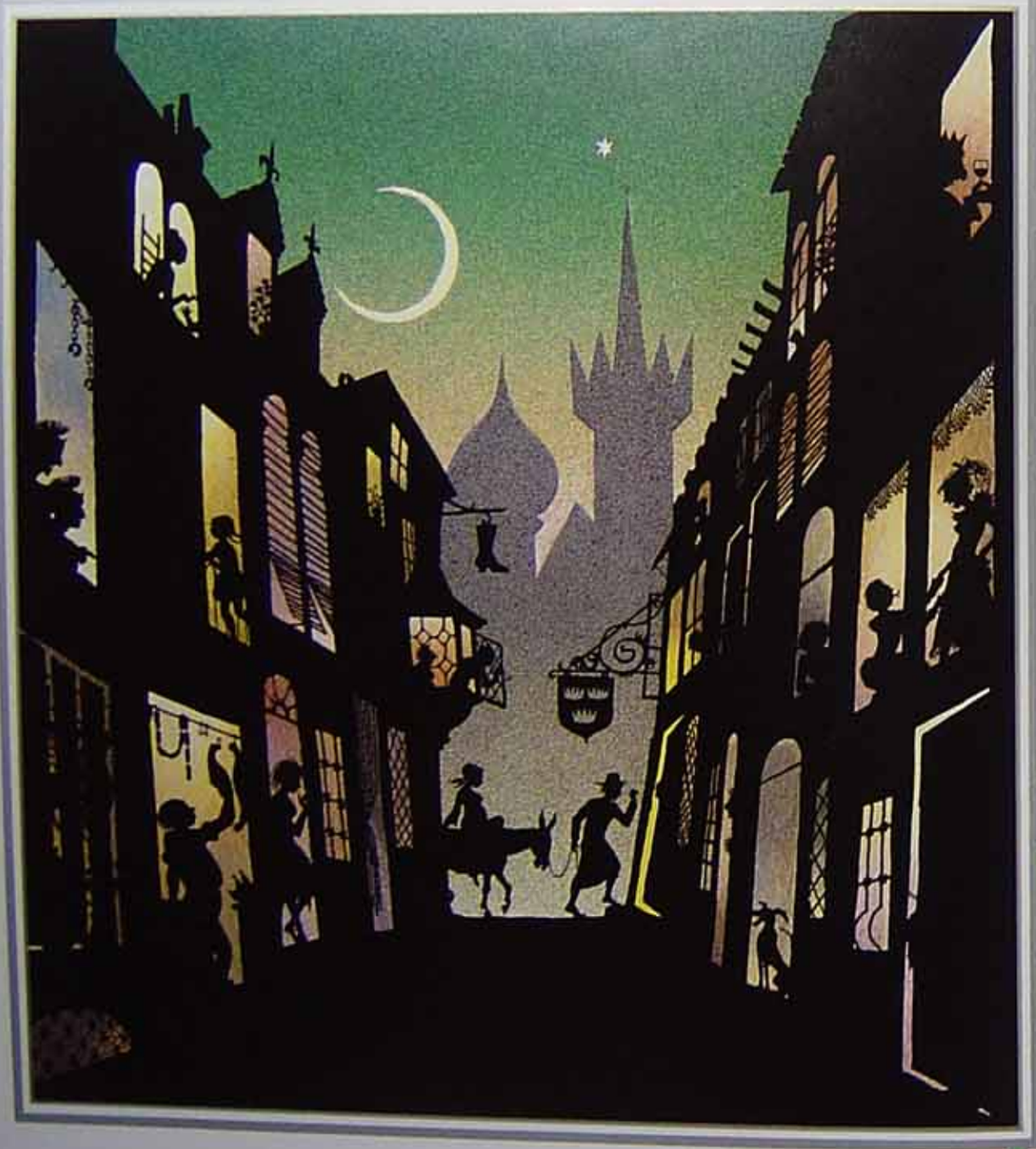
and the virgin's name was Mary.



AND THE ANGEL said,
Thou shalt bring forth a son,
and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be called
the Son of the Highest: and of his kingdom
there shall be no end.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the
Lord. And the angel departed from her.





IT CAME to pass that there went out a decree that all the world should be taxed, every one in his own city. And Joseph went up from Nazareth to the city called Bethlehem, to be taxed with Mary his wife, being great with child.