

The most beautiful present

Darkness is falling on the small city covered by snow. Everything is stock- still and quiet like the beginning of the world, it's like a fairy-tale. But silence doesn't last much, the spirit of Christmas is in the air, groups of children are singing Christmas carols. Everything is full of joy, but somewhere in the city a little boy is sad. He wants to go to sing Christmas carols with the other children but his parents and grand-parents told him that he is too young, they said to him, '-Maybe next year, when you start school and you are taller.' But this is not the only reason for him to be sad, he has another one: a few days ago his grand-father disappeared just like he disappears every year at Christmas. He loves his grand-father very much and he doesn't understand why he always goes away at Christmas. Besides, now he has to go to bed and wait for Santa Claus.

Suddenly in the middle of the night, the little boy wakes up because he hears some strange noises in the backyard. He isn't scared at all, though it could be a thief or even a dragon, but he gets surprised, in a shaft of moonlight he sees a sledge full of red sacks and six reindeers' harness. 'It's Santa Claus' sledge', he thinks. Slowly the boy opens his room door and he hears a noise in the living room where the Christmas tree is. When he is going to open the door he sees through the door glass the figure of Santa, and he decides to hide between the coat stand clothes. Astonishment! Santa looks like his grand-father! The little boy recognizes his gentle eyes, his moustache and his beard. He doesn't understand how Santa can look like his grand-father. He puts on his coat and his boots and he goes out to see and ask Santa where his grand-father is. When Santa sees the little boy trembling in the snow he asks him '-Andy what are you doing here? You should be asleep; you know you can't see Santa Claus when he brings your Christmas present.'

Suddenly he understands that his grand-father is Santa Claus and that's why he disappears every year at Christmas. He feels his heart full of happiness' – My grand-father is Santa Claus! –My grand-father is Santa Claus! 'and he jumps in Santa`s arms.

Santa, confused, hugs him.

-Grand-dad, why didn't you tell me?

-Because no child can see me! answered Santa with a big smile. If a child sees me, the next year I can't be Santa anymore.

-Grand-dad, are you saying that next year we won't have Santa anymore? said Andy worried.

-Yes we'll have one, but it's going to be another grand-father.

Andy thought 'What a pity my grand-father won't be Santa any more', but then he remembers that his grand-father will be at home for the next Christmas and he is happy again.

-Grand-dad I have an idea, I would like to go with you and help you to deliver all the presents.

Santa grants the boy's wish and they start flying in the sledge and delivering the presents all over the world. The little boy is delighted seeing how his grand-father makes all the children in the world happy.

After some time he starts to feel his eyelids heavy and he falls in a deep sleep.

When he wakes up in the morning he hears his grand-father's voice, 'Wake up you sleepy boy aren't you curious to see your Christmas present?'

Andy doesn't understand how and when he got home last night, but he hugs his grand-father and he whispers in his ear, 'You know? I'm so sorry that you won't be Santa any more because I could help you again with the presents.'

-What Santa? What presents and sledge?

-Don't you remember? Last night I discovered that you are Santa Claus and I helped you to deliver all the presents all over the world?

-I think you had a very nice dream Andy.

What happened to my grand-father, he doesn't remember anything?

However, he has something to tell him, 'You know, delivering presents with you, Santa, was the most beautiful present I have ever had.'

The old man smiles and whispers to him too, 'That is going to be our little secret, don't you think so?'