

The Night Before Christmas

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The famous Christmas story follows along just as Clement Moore wrote it, accompanied by Jan Brett's glorious illustrations, in a beautiful edition in which antique toys and exquisite ornaments frame the borders.

Whose tiny faces are peeking out from Santa's golden sleigh? Yikes! It's two of Santa's elves who are Christmas Eve stowaways. Beloved illustrator Jan Brett's version of *The Night Before Christmas* lets these two mischievous elves add their rambunctious spirit to this familiar 1823 rhyming story. Here, Santa and his reindeer land on the snowy roof of a Victorian mansion in New England. While Santa delivers the toys inside, the elves and the reindeer frolic around the lawn, as a pig (earmarked for a girl named Jan) and a few alphabet blocks spill out of sacks into the snow. Santa swiftly reins in the mischief-makers and "away they all flew like the down on a thistle." Brett's richly illustrated borders are lavishly decorated with antique toys, ornaments, and sweet treats, all surrounded with twisting golden ribbons. They also give us a window on the mansion's inhabitants, including the children watching Santa's departure in awe. A sugarplum of a Christmas story, just right for a reading before "a long winter's nap." (Click to see a sample spread. Illustrations © 1998 by Jan Brett. Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.) (Ages 3 to 6) --Marcie Bovetz

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The Night Before Christmas in America. Inspired by Clement Moore's 1823 Poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" also known as- "Twas The Night Before Christmas," this special edition to the "Spirit of America" Patriotic Children's Book series offers another view.

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