

# The Mysterious Gift

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Winter break had just begun and instead of playing with my friends in school, I was busy hanging Christmassy wreaths at home. When I was happy with my decorations, I started writing a letter to Santa: "Dear Santa, this year for Christmas--". I heard some strange footsteps outside. I looked out of the window and saw a dash of red and white. I ran after it! "Hey! Stop!" – I yelled at the top of my voice. As soon as I got outside, I saw a tiny box wrapped in shiny purple paper with a silver ribbon glistening in the moonlight!

I curiously opened it... inside was a small rock. "What am I supposed to do with this useless rock?" - I sighed disappointedly. Suddenly, the rock began to roll. That's when I noticed a small tag – it said: "To the one who believes in wonder". My heart started beating faster and faster. I ran after the rock, my heart still pounding! When the rock came to a stop, I was stunned by what stood in front of me. Whoa! A majestic portal!! Cautiously, I peeked inside. What I saw was a whole another world. Suddenly with a big "whoosh", the portal pulled me in. There were so many dazzling colors swirling around me; I felt a bit dizzy. Finally, with a big thud I found myself on the ground, right next to the rock.

Right there, I saw Santa standing in front of me! He said, "Hello and welcome to the North Pole. I have three very important tasks for you". I was amazed. Was the one and only Santa Clause talking to me?!! "Ahem!" – he cleared his throat, "Task number one is to help my reindeer. He broke his leg and is being very grumpy". "Oh!" I said, "and you want me to make him grumpy's opposite, right?".

“Precisely”, said Santa. So, I started singing my favorite song and dancing. The rock joined in too. He also called his rock-friends and soon we had a dance party with many colorful rocks. The reindeer was captivated, and while he was laughing, Santa managed to put crutches on his broken leg! He was fixed, and began to dance along with his bells jingling happily! “That was pretty fun”, I said.

“Ok”, said Santa cheerfully. “Next up, climb the tallest glacier you see and bring me the star that glows the brightest for my Christmas tree!”. “Aye aye!”, I said. I climbed and climbed and fell a few times. But I would NOT give up. With that said, I made it to the top. I saw thousands and thousands of twinkling stars and stood with my mouth wide open. Then I saw the one that was dazzling brighter than any! I grabbed it and Santa appeared magically in front of me. He said with a smile – “I knew you could do it!”

“Shhh!”, he whispered. “The polar bear is in a bad mood, it hasn’t got to eat in days”. Suddenly, I heard a noise coming from the rock. I could barely make up what he was saying. Santa explained, “He’s saying I’ll help”. “I’ll get some fish for you to feed the polar bear”, said the rock. “Oh!” I said, in wonder. The polar bear was captivated to see the fish, and started chomping hungrily. Yay! I had finished all the tasks!

Santa snapped his fingers, and we were back to the portal. Then he casually threw a cookie at the rock, and it turned into... an adorable, black and white Goldendoodle puppy! “You deserve it! Thank you for believing in magic! You can visit anytime again”, Santa said. Back at home I had many questions to answer to mom and dad. Then, I was busy playing with my new friend Oreo! This was the most magical Christmas ever.