



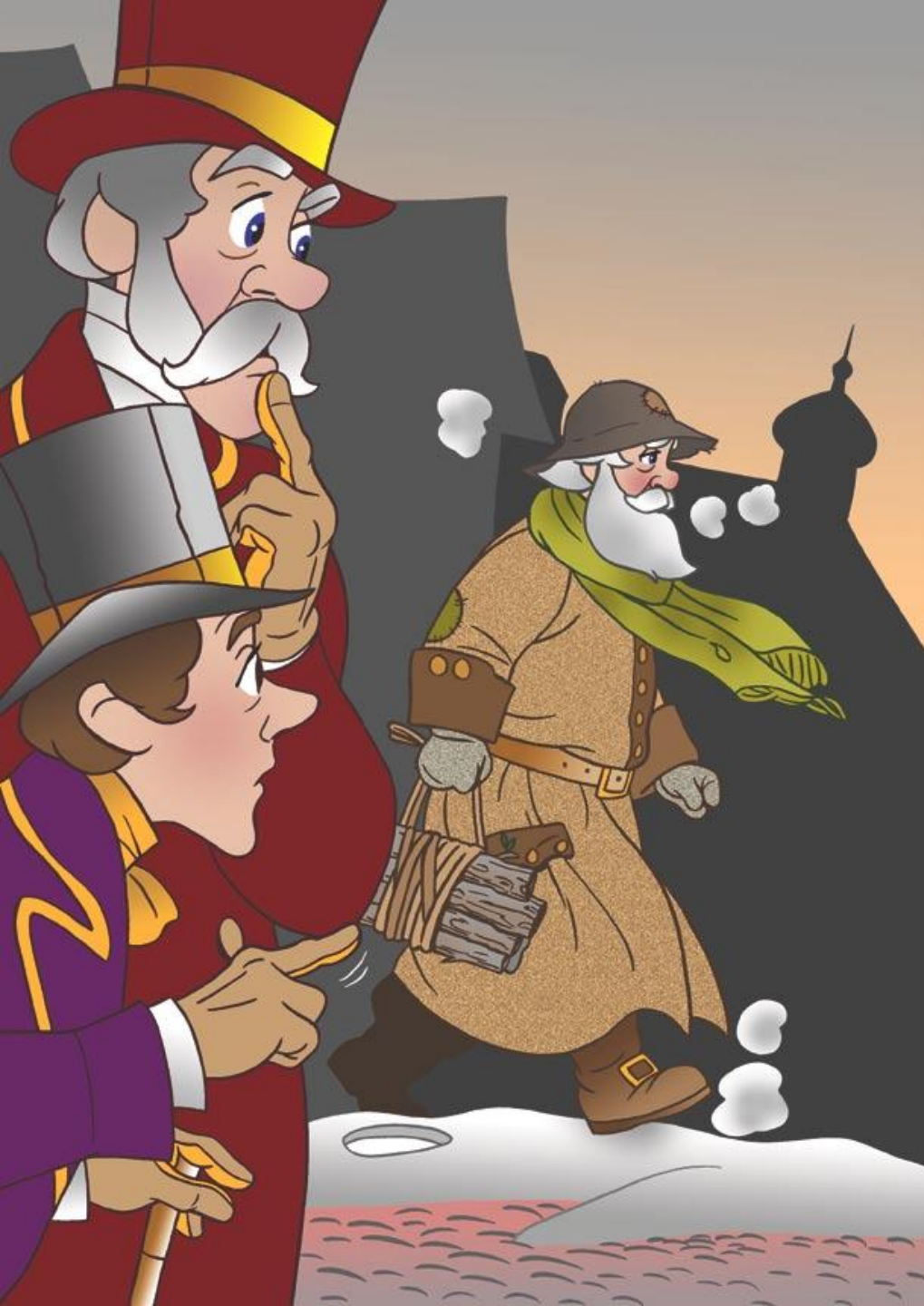
圣诞老人的 故事

*The Story of Santa
Claus*



克罗斯和他的妻子为了逃避在他们家乡的战争和混乱的情况，已经搬到北方的芬兰去。过了不久，他便在他的新家乡成为了一个成功的裁缝师。

Klaus and his wife had moved north to Finland to escape the war and turmoil in their homeland. In time and in his new home he became a successful tailor.



但是，后来发生了一场可怕的传染病，克罗斯的太太和他的两个孩子都死掉了，只剩下克罗斯一个人；这件事使得克罗斯非常伤心，他觉得活着好像也没有什么目的了。克罗斯不再做裁缝的工作。他的衣服破烂不堪，他的头低低的，走起路来也是慢吞吞的。他现在已经变白的头发和胡须长得凌乱而缠结在一起。以前认识他的人现在几乎都认不出他来了！

Then the flu epidemic came and took the lives of his wife and two children. No longer the happy, cheerful soul he had once been, Klaus no longer did tailor work. His clothes were tattered, his head hung low, and his feet dragged. His hair and beard, had grown wild and tangled. Those who had known him before could now hardly recognize him!



那时是冬天，赫尔辛基跟往常一样地寒冷，每天的白昼只有几个小时而已。似乎只有小孩子们才会离开他们温暖的家到街道上玩耍。但是不论他们住在哪里也好，似乎都不会跑离“儿童街”太远，因为那是镇上有名的制造儿童玩具的地方。在“儿童街”上，橱窗接着橱窗，全都摆设着使孩子们悦目、心情快乐的玩具！

It was winter, and as usual Helsinki was very cold. Only the children seemed to venture more than a few blocks from home. Wherever they lived, it never seemed too far to walk to "Children's Lane," where the town's renowned toy makers worked their magic. Along "Children's Lane," window after window was filled with toys which delighted the children's eyes and set their minds awirl!



有一天，克罗斯注意到一个和他一样衣衫褴褛的小男孩，正在看着橱窗里的玩具。从他脸上表露出来的无奈及失望的神情，克罗斯可以看得出他内心在想的事情：我永远也不会知道拥有这些玩具的滋味！

One day Klaus noticed a small boy in clothes nearly as tattered as his own, gazing at the toys in a shop window. The look of hopelessness and disappointment on the boy's face told Klaus just what the boy was thinking: "I'll never know what it's like to have such fine toys as those!"



当他继续往前走时，那个小男孩的面貌停留在克罗斯的脑海中。克罗斯漫无目的的走着，他发现他竟然走到了镇边缘的一个小峡谷旁。镇里的人把垃圾都丢在这里。

The image of the small boy lingered in Klaus' mind as he went on his way. Scarcely thinking about where his feet were taking him, Klaus eventually found himself at a small ravine on the edge of town, where people dumped their junk and trash.



一个刚被丢弃的洋娃娃，肢体破碎地被放置在尚未被雪掩盖的垃圾堆上；克罗斯弯下身捡起它来和把那个洋娃娃破碎的肢体放在一起。究竟是克罗斯的想像力、还是那个洋娃娃真的打开她的眼睛，就好像她是有生命一样的呢？那洋娃娃似乎在对他说：“谢谢您使我复生了！”

A newly discarded doll lay lifeless and in pieces on one of the trash heaps still not covered with snow. Klaus bent over, picked up the pieces and put the doll back together. Was it Klaus' imagination, or did the doll open her eyes and look at him as if she was alive? "Thank you for giving me back my life!" she seemed to say.



然后他从另一堆垃圾里捡出一个没有手臂的玩具熊。克罗斯想：“如果这些破玩具可以被修理好、送给那些穷人家的孩子们，那岂不是很好吗？那些孩子们将会是多么快乐啊！一个新的主意开始掠过他的脑海（他开始想，）。“假如……假如我尽力收集我可以找得到的破玩具，修补它们，并且把它们送给穷人的孩子们作为圣诞礼物，这不是很好吗？”

Then he pulled an armless teddy bear from another pile of trash. "How nice it would be if these broken toys could be repaired and given to the children of poor families. How happy they all would be!" Klaus thought. "What if...? What if I collect all the broken toys I can find and I fix them and give them to poor children for Christmas?"



克罗斯没有浪费任何时间，在以后的几天里，他收集破旧的玩具，并且特别注意或是不动声色地询问市镇内每个穷苦孩子的住处。他把这些资料全都写在一个小本子里。然后克罗斯花了许多天的功夫来修补、黏贴和填满那些玩具。

Klaus didn't waste a minute. For the next few days he collected broken toys, and took special notice or quietly asked where each needy child in town lived. This information he wrote down in a small book. Klaus then spent many days repairing, mending, gluing and stuffing toys.

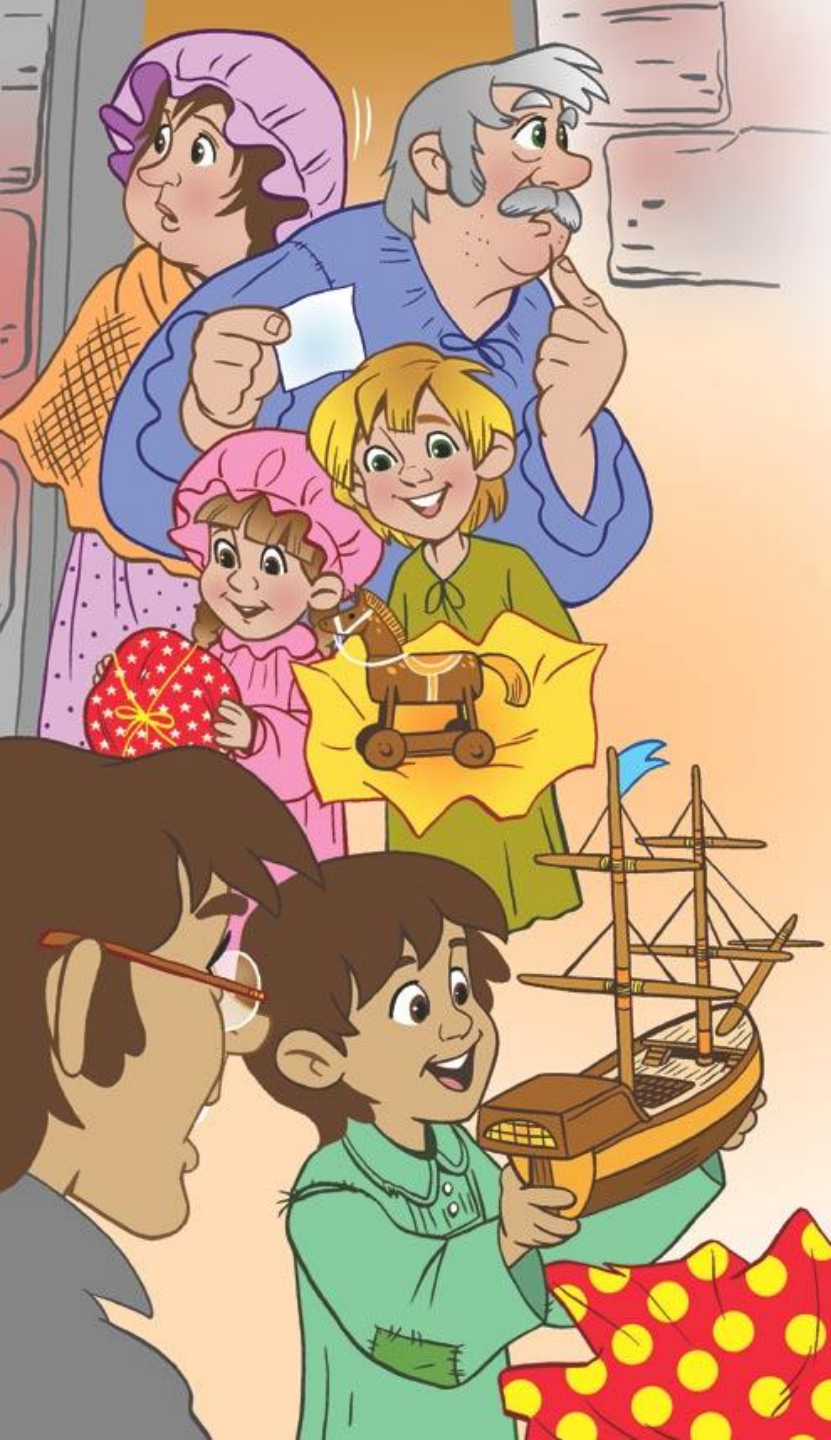


圣诞夜非常寒冷，又刮着大风。就在午夜之前，克罗斯把那几袋玩具装在雪橇上。他从一条街拉到另一条街，在那些穷人家的门口留下一个或是几个包裹，在每件玩具上有一张小条子，上面写着：

“以爱来送给你。”

Christmas Eve was cold and blustery. Just before midnight, Klaus loaded the bags of toys onto a big sled. From street to street he went, leaving a package, or a few packages on the doorstep of each house where a poor family lived. In each package was a toy for some child in the house, and on each toy was a little note that said,

“To you with love.”



在圣诞节早晨，镇上穷人区的家庭醒来时看到那份奇妙的惊喜。有些人感谢上帝送给他们那些奇迹般的礼物；有些人则不知该如何想才对，但是他们都很高兴看到他们的孩子如此快乐。有人说他们看见一个满身被雪覆盖的老人在到处分发那些包裹。又有人说他们曾看见一个神秘的雪橇，载满了许多大袋子。这个故事被人传说，最后说那雪橇是由驯鹿所拉、从天堂而来的！

On Christmas morning the poor of the town awoke to the wonderful surprise. Some thanked God for what seemed to be a miracle; some didn't know what to think, but were glad to see their children happy. Some said they had seen an old man covered with snow distribute the packages. Others said they had seen a mysterious sleigh loaded with many big bags. The story grew until finally it was said that the sleigh was pulled by reindeer, and had come down from Heaven!



克罗斯在第二年继续安静地收集和修补破玩具。当圣诞节又来临时，克罗斯再次秘密地将玩具送给所有穷人家的孩子们。克罗斯心中所感受的喜悦是言语所无法形容的！

Klaus spent the next year quietly collecting and fixing broken toys. And when Christmas came again, Klaus once more made his secret rounds to deliver toys to all the poor children. Klaus was happier than he ever thought possible.