

## I'll give you my Wish

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On a dreary winter eve many, many years ago a young boy clothed in ragged clothes was wandering the streets in search of a Christmas tree. He couldn't buy one because he didn't have any money; but it was late Christmas Eve and he thought surely there would be an old extra tree somewhere. It was important that he find a tree soon as the evening was passing by and he knew that his mother would be

very worried. You see, he only had his mother who was not very well. They lived in a cold old apartment and had very little, but they had each other. "I must find a tree soon", he thought. There must be a tree somewhere in this big city that nobody wanted! He wandered about in that cold windy and snowy eve looking everywhere for a tree for their little apartment. It may not seem like much to most people but to this young lad, and his mother, it was all they needed to make Christmas perfect. You see, they never had very much. It wasn't because they didn't try, but his mother had been ill for so many years and they were just able to get by.

The snow and wind were getting worse, and it was bitter cold. "Oh, I wish I could find a tree" he said to himself. "Mom would be so very happy if only I could find a tree." The evening wore on and the weather continued to worsen. Finally, in the light of a nearby lamp post he saw an abandoned Christmas tree lot. He ran hoping that there would be just one tree. It didn't matter if it was missing branches or was small, or even a little wilted from age. All that mattered was that it was a Christmas tree. He approached the lot hoping, but very much afraid that there would be nothing left. "Dear God, I pray there is a Christmas tree," he said to himself. As he approached he saw branches and pine needles but no tree. He was so sad and tired, but most of all worried about his dear mother. He knew she would be very worried about him now as it had been some time since he left her.

He dropped in the snow from sadness and because he was so exhausted. "I wish, I wish," he said to himself. Then a light appeared. He was startled and really a bit frightened. "What is it that you wish for?" He glanced towards

the voice and he saw an angel. "Am I in heaven?" he asked. "No you are not in heaven", the angel replied. "So, tell me what is it that you wish for"? " I would like a Christmas tree for our apartment" he replied. "I am going to grant you one wish and you can decide later what you want to wish for as long as you make your wish before Christmas". "Can I wish for anything, or must I wish for a Christmas tree"? He asked. "You can wish for whatever you want and do whatever you wish with your wish", the angel replied, and with that disappeared into the night.

He got up and brushed himself off, while thinking of all the things he could wish for and all the things his mother and he so badly needed. What a wonderful gift he thought as he ran through the snow towards home thinking of wishes and picturing the joy on his mother's face when he tells her of their good fortune. What a night this has been. The cold doesn't seem cold, and the snow is wonderful. The wind, well, it's nice to. Everything is perfect! "I'm almost home, I'm almost home," he said to himself as he ran through the snow.

He ran past the grocery store and jumped over the wet cartons that lay outside. He looked at the Christmas lights and the little electric candles that lighted the windows in his poor neighborhood. Yes, he would be home soon. Then he heard a little voice singing. He stopped and searched for the voice. Through a cracked taped window he saw a little girl. She was singing a little song she had made up. He listened and this is what he heard...

Dear God, I wish, I wish, I had a Christmas tree with branches full and green,

With lights that blinked, and a teddy that winked, and a beautiful Nativity Scene.

Dear God, I wish I had a daddy and a mother, sister and a brother, to say, I love you.

Dear God, I wish, I wish, I had just a mother, if there's nothing else you can do,

I would study so hard, and do my homework, and be such a perfect little girl for you.

Dear God, I wish I had just a little heat on this cold and bitter Christmas night

I wish, I wish, that you could make it all come true, before the morning's light.

Dear God, I pray to baby Jesus that he will make just one of my wishes come true.

Then she began to hum her little song and every now and then she would repeat, I wish, I wish.

Even though she was singing he could see the sadness in those little eyes.

"There must be something I can do he thought". Then he remembered. I do have a wish, but I want so much to use that one wish for our Christmas. He turned and started home again, but something wouldn't let him continue. He turned back and went to the window and gently tapped on it so that it wouldn't break. The little girl looked around when she heard the noise. At first she was startled, but then she saw his wonderful young face just outside the cracked window. "I'm sorry but I can't open the window", she said. "What is it that you want"? He hesitated for just a moment, and then said, "I'll give you my Wish, I'll give you my Wish", he shouted. "You can give me a wish," she shouted back! "Yes, I can give you my wish but you must use it before Christmas" So, he gave his wish away and turned for home.

As he approached home he thought, "I have no Christmas tree, I'm so cold, and I have no wish". His mother was waiting anxiously, "Where have you been, I was so worried. All I could do is wish that you were not hurt, or lost in the storm. Thank God my wish came true"! With that he smiled, because he knew that a wish did come true for his wonderful mother.

Well, they spent a nice evening talking about his effort to find a Christmas tree. They laughed and he was so happy he had a mother. Time passed and off to bed he went. He was just about to doze off for the night when he heard, " I wish, I wish I had a Christmas tree with branches full and green".

It was the song the little girl was singing, but where was it coming from. He looked outside his window and a little girl appeared. It was the same little girl. He looked once again and in front of his eyes she became the angel that had granted him his wish. The angel saw that he was very puzzled and startled as well. "You are such a kind boy", she said. "I granted you a wish and you gave it away. I must tell you that you have more than you thought. You have a kind and generous heart and I am going to give you your wish back." With that she vanished but the little song could still be heard,

"I wish, I wish, I had a Christmas tree with branches full and green"

And downstairs a beautiful Christmas tree appeared with "lights that blinked and a teddy that winked, and a beautiful Nativity Scene".