

Sad tale gone well

# 'The Little Match Girl'

The weather was frosty and cold. It was growing dark, and a heavy snow began to fall. It was Christmas Eve. A little girl wandered in the darkening streets. She wore ragged clothes, and she carried a bundle of matches in her hand.

All day, the Little Match Girl was trying to sell her matches. "A penny for a match!" she called in a small voice to the passers-by on the streets. But nobody bought a single match.



Now it was almost night. It was growing late, and the Little Match Girl was very cold. To keep warm, she decided to light one of her matches. She struck the match, and the light flared. In the bright glow of the match, she imagined herself sitting at a table eating a Christmas feast. The Little Match Girl was eating Christmas goose, with pudding and fruit and cake and pie. How warm and full and happy she was!



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Just then, the match went out. The bright light was gone, and the Little Match Girl was alone again in the dark. She shivered with cold.

The Little Match Girl decided to light a second match to try to get warm again. In the light from this match, she saw herself with the boys and girls around the Christmas tree. She was about to open a Christmas gift wrapped in red paper and tied with a gold ribbon. She was anxious to see what might be inside.



When she struck all her matches, the whole world suddenly seemed to light up. Stars shot down from the sky. The Little Match Girl felt warm and wonderful. As she looked around, the Little Match Girl had an amazing vision. She saw her dead grandma dressed all in white. Her grandma was smiling and coming toward her with outstretched arms.

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The grandmother started to walk, carrying the Little Match Girl. "Where are we going?" asked the girl. "I am taking you to a place where you will never be cold. It is a place always filled with light and warmth. We will go where there are only laughter and smiles, and where you will never be hungry again."