

The Best

Christmas  
Gift



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Ivan Parvov, The best Christmas gift

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The winter came and the snow covered the valley of the small fox Lulu. All the animals hid in their houses. Lulu didn't like much the winter, but there was one day, which he was anxiously waiting for...



Tomorrow was Christmas and Lulu was so excited that he could not fall asleep. What gift would Santa Claus have for him? A new ball? Or skates? Or may be a bicycle? Or may be...suddenly something flashed in the sky.



What is this? A falling star? A plane? Or may be a giant bird? Whatever it was it dropped beyond the Dark Forest. Lulu jumped from the bed and put his scarf on...





Brrr...it was really cold outside. Earlier in the day Lulu and his father had cleaned the snow around the house, but the valley was covered with deep snow.



The road ahead would be difficult and frightful...





He finally crossed the Dark Forest and started sniffing and looking around. Although he sniffled a bit, his nose could feel everything - there was a smell of something unknown.





And finally he found it! It was a big red sack.  
"Very strange" thought Lulu "How is it possible for a sack to fall from the sky?  
Sacks cannot fly..."  
Then he opened it and figured everything out...



This was Santa Claus sack! Here is the gift for the hedgehog, for the ducklings, for the squirrel...for everyone. Evidently the sack had fallen from the sledge, when Santa Claus flew above the valley.



"This is great" said Lulu. He got as many packets as possible and hurried up back to the valley.



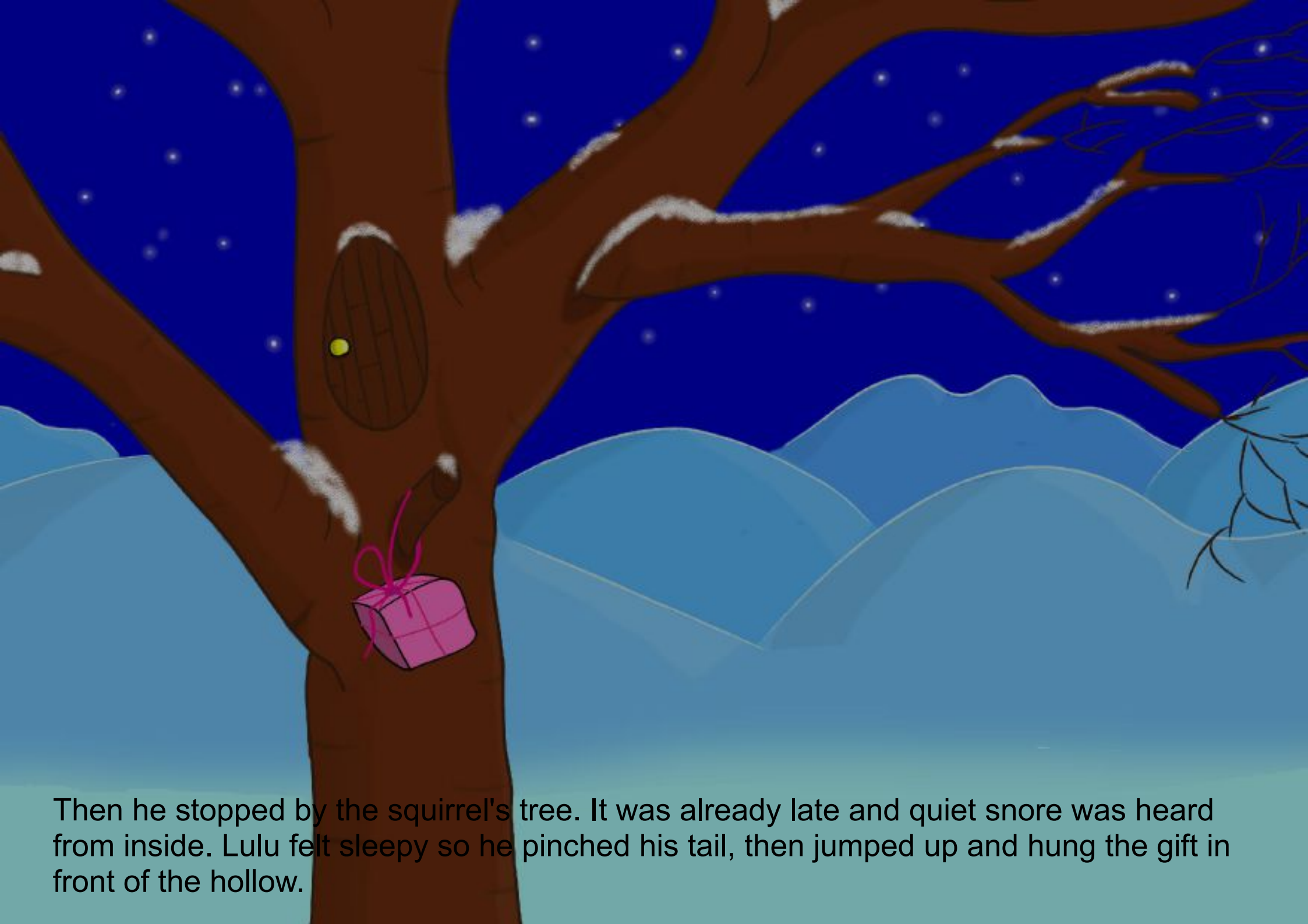


He first stopped at mole's house and looked through the window. It was so nice inside - the fire was burning in the fireplace and the Christmas tree glittered. Lulu felt like he wanted to go home, but there was no way - he placed the gift near the door and left quickly.





Then went to the house of the two rabbits and left their gifts. There was a laugh and scuffle inside the house. Lulu liked so much to play with the rabbits but this night he had an important task to do.



Then he stopped by the squirrel's tree. It was already late and quiet snore was heard from inside. Lulu felt sleepy so he pinched his tail, then jumped up and hung the gift in front of the hollow.



Lulu delivered gifts the whole night. It was becoming harder and harder to move forward, a strong wind appeared and soon a heavy snow storm started.





It was hard to go on in this snow storm. He couldn't see anything and only his sensitive nose helped him to keep the track.





But then the snow storm become so awful, and Lulu, scared, frozen and weakened hid in the sack. He wanted so much to be at home with mommy and daddy. Lulu rolled into a ball, wrapped himself with his tail and fell asleep.





The wind continued to blow even stronger. The snow was covering Lulu's footprints and Santa Claus' sack...



Lulu stretched his legs and woke up. He was covered with a thick blanket. It was warm and nice. He looked around surprised - he was at home, near the fireplace in the living room. "Am I dreaming?" wondered Lulu. "No, it is not a dream." he heard a familiar voice.





"Mommy! Daddy!" jumped Lulu filled with joy.

"You scared us so much, Lulu" - said his mommy - "all the animals were looking for you, but there were no footprints. We were lucky that your father's big nose finally sensed your smell and together with the moles we dug up the sack. The important thing is that you are safe and everyone got their christmas gifts."

"Not everybody" - said his father - "When we found you there was one gift left in the sack - your gift. Come on, open it. Let us see if it's nice."





Lulu smiled and said:

"I already got the best Christmas gift. This night I found out that the only thing I want for Christmas is to be home with you and mommy. This is better than a sack full of gifts."

# THE END

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