



A not so marvellous Christmas ...

We were so close to Christmas.

The Fingles family was quietly preparing the Holidays.

It was the first year they were going to celebrate Christmas normally.

Joe and Kristen had enormously financial problems.

This year was the first year since the birth of Catherine they did not have money problems anymore.

Joe and Kristen were in their thirties, they were merchants.

Catherine was an only child, she was six at the time.

They lived in a small Californian town, near San Francisco.

Joe and Kristen decided to take Catherine to the Christmas market in their town.

Once on the main place, Catherine was amazed by the shops, by the amount of toys and of candies.

Joe and Kristen were so happy to see their daughter amazed once anew that they let her wander around.

Suddenly, an old man approached Catherine.

First she jumped, but she calmed down and looked at him with surprise.

The man took from under his coat a beautiful wooden box; seeing the amazed eyes of the little girl, he decided to open the box, which was double--locked.

Inside the box was a magnificent doll.

Kristen and Joe then saw the old man and came closer to Catherine and the old man with suspicion.

The old man offered the wooden box to Catherine, advising her to double-lock it every day at nightfall.

Kristen and Joe, though surprised by the advice of the old man, nonetheless accepted the gift.

Catherine was over the moon, she waited for Christmas with impatience.

While waiting for Christmas, the wooden box was double-locked in the cupboard.

Catherine dreamed of it every night because she was so anxious to open the box and play with the doll.

At last, Christmas morning came, Catherine was very excited and went down the stairs to see her gifts which were under the Christmas tree.

Kristen and Joe, hardly awake, went to see their daughter who was impatiently waiting for them before opening her presents.

She kept the wooden box last.

It was by far the most beautiful present she ever had.

After opening the wooden box, she took the doll and left her parents to play with her.

They did not see her again the whole day, she had been waiting for so long for her doll.

In the evening, she remembered the advice of the old man and double-locked the doll inside the wooden box. It had been days, she continued to follow the advice of the old man literally.

But, one day, after playing the whole day with her doll, Catherine forgot to double-lock her doll before going to bed. Kristen and Joe, without noticing the oversight of their daughter, went also to bed.

Several years later, people around still talk about the mysterious disappearance of the whole Fingles family, without really knowing the true reason.

I only know the truth... Guess who I am..

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