

MAGIC IS IN THE AIR



# REUNION

— A —  
FESTIVE FANTASY



**Spiderweb Learning**  
by Missy Missy



*Hello*

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by Missy Missy

This story was written to inspire children to read stories with more challenging words.

Get the child to work out the meaning of the highlighted word from the context before letting them look it up in a dictionary.

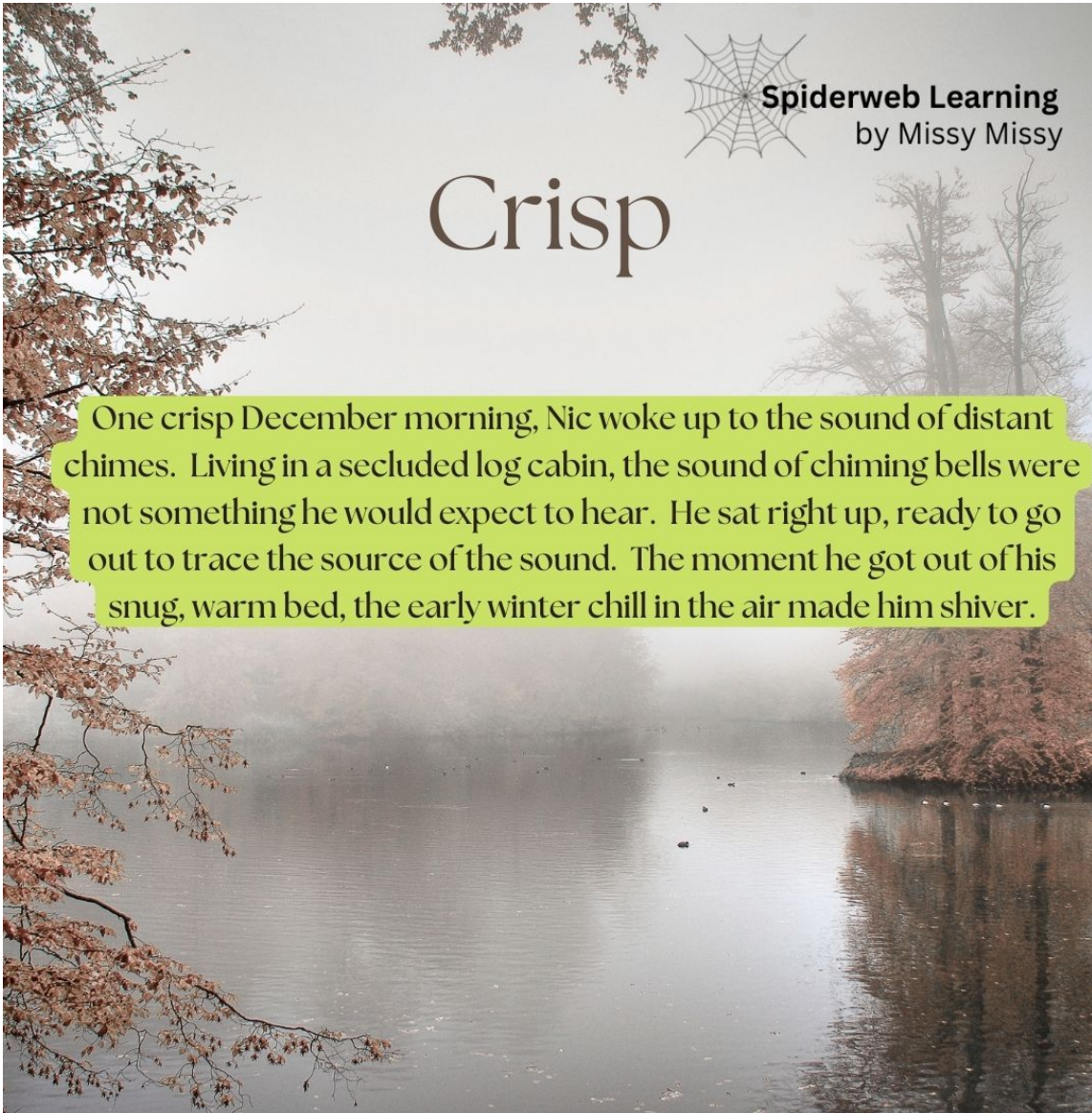




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# Crisp

One crisp December morning, Nic woke up to the sound of distant chimes. Living in a secluded log cabin, the sound of chiming bells were not something he would expect to hear. He sat right up, ready to go out to trace the source of the sound. The moment he got out of his snug, warm bed, the early winter chill in the air made him shiver.



## FALTERING

With a duffle coat over his pyjamas and a pair of black suede boots, he made his way out of the door into the frosty forest outside. As he got near the forest, the chimes got clearer and louder. The chimes had an undertone -- the faint sound of faltering steps.



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# Approaching

Tap, ding, crunch... tap,  
dong, crunch...

The sound drew closer and closer to Nic. Whatever  
it was, it was approaching him.



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# Majestic



Before long, it was standing right in front of Nic -- a real reindeer! It was the most magnificent, majestic creature Nic had ever seen.



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# Wobbly



Its walk was wobbly. Nic looked down at the snow. No blood stain. "Maybe a sprained ankle?" he thought.



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# Alert



"The bells! They will alert its predators to it," Nic walked up to the reindeer quietly and cautiously. The reindeer stood oddly still as Nic approached it. It was like it knew and trusted Nic.

Nic reached out his hands to take off the bells. It tried to wriggle off Nic's hands. It seemed to be rather attached to the bells. "Steady! You can't have these on when you are so weak." The reindeer seemed to understand his words and let him take the bells off. Putting them in the pocket of his duffle coat, he said, "I will return them to you one day. Promise."







The reindeer turned away and started walking away.

For a moment, Nic thought it wanted to leave him. After all, it would be unusual for a reindeer to want a stranger's company. But then, it paused. It turned around, looked at Nic and gave off a soft bleat.

"You want me to follow you?"

Nic asked,

# Company



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# Retracing

Nic walked behind the reindeer as it made its way to the forest. "I cannot call you deer forever. You need a name... How about Walker? You are such a walker, aren't you?" Nic reached down to touch his now rather sore calves.

As he reached down, he noticed something -- Walker was following a set of footprints. It was retracing its steps!



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Ran  
Riot

"The marking... The two lines on the side... It has to be a sleigh!" Nic screamed in his heart. He did not want to startle Walker.

*Reindeer... Sleigh... December...*  
Imaginations ran riot in Nic's head.



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# Clearing

After a rather long walk, they reached a snow-covered clearing. Nic could not believe his eyes -- there were three other reindeer!

*But where is the sleigh?*



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# Spotted



With that question whirling in his head, Nic looked and looked until he spotted it -- a reindeer with a sleigh! The sleigh looked like it had seen better days though.

*Where is Santa then?*





Walker and its mates seemed to be getting weak. There was no visible wounds on them, so Nic gathered that they were probably hungry.

Nic started gathering fallen branches for them. It was December -- the leaves were all withered but they did not seem to mind at all. They looked famished.

Famished

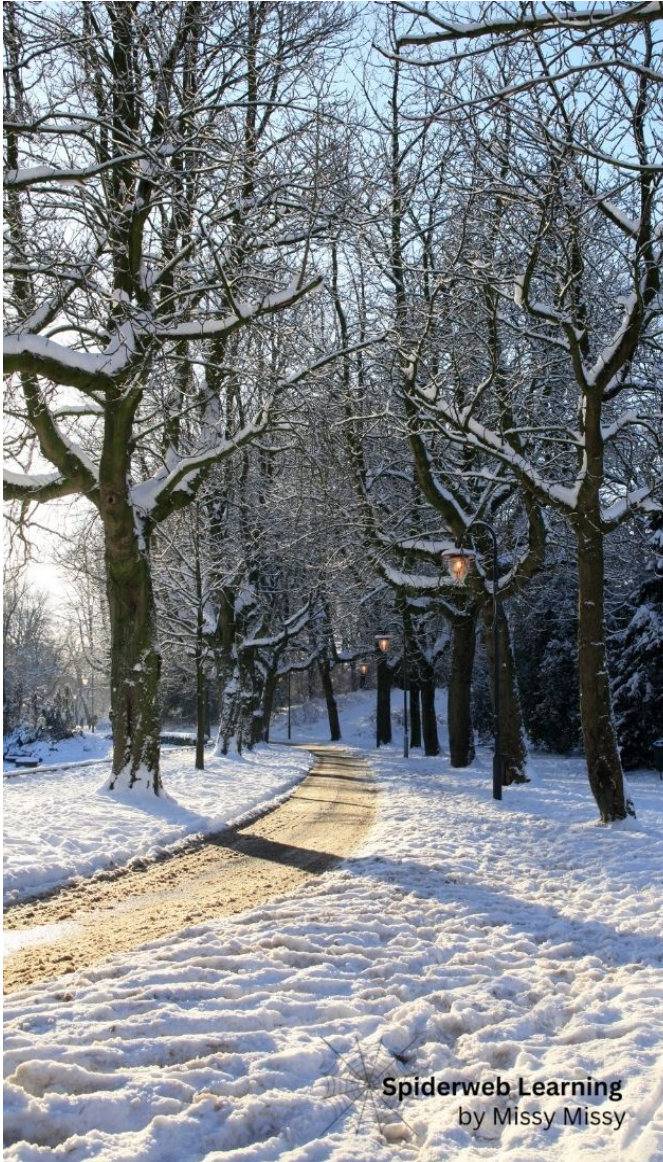




After the reindeer had regained their strength, they started playing with Nic. It was a game most bizarre. They formed a circle around Nic and would not let him out of that circle. If he tried to break out of the circle, one of them would run towards him and nudged him back into the middle.



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# Tint

Nic soon gave up running. Being surrounded by such majestic creatures was not a bad way to pass crisp wintry day anyway. So he just sat there in the clearing, surrounded by reindeer.

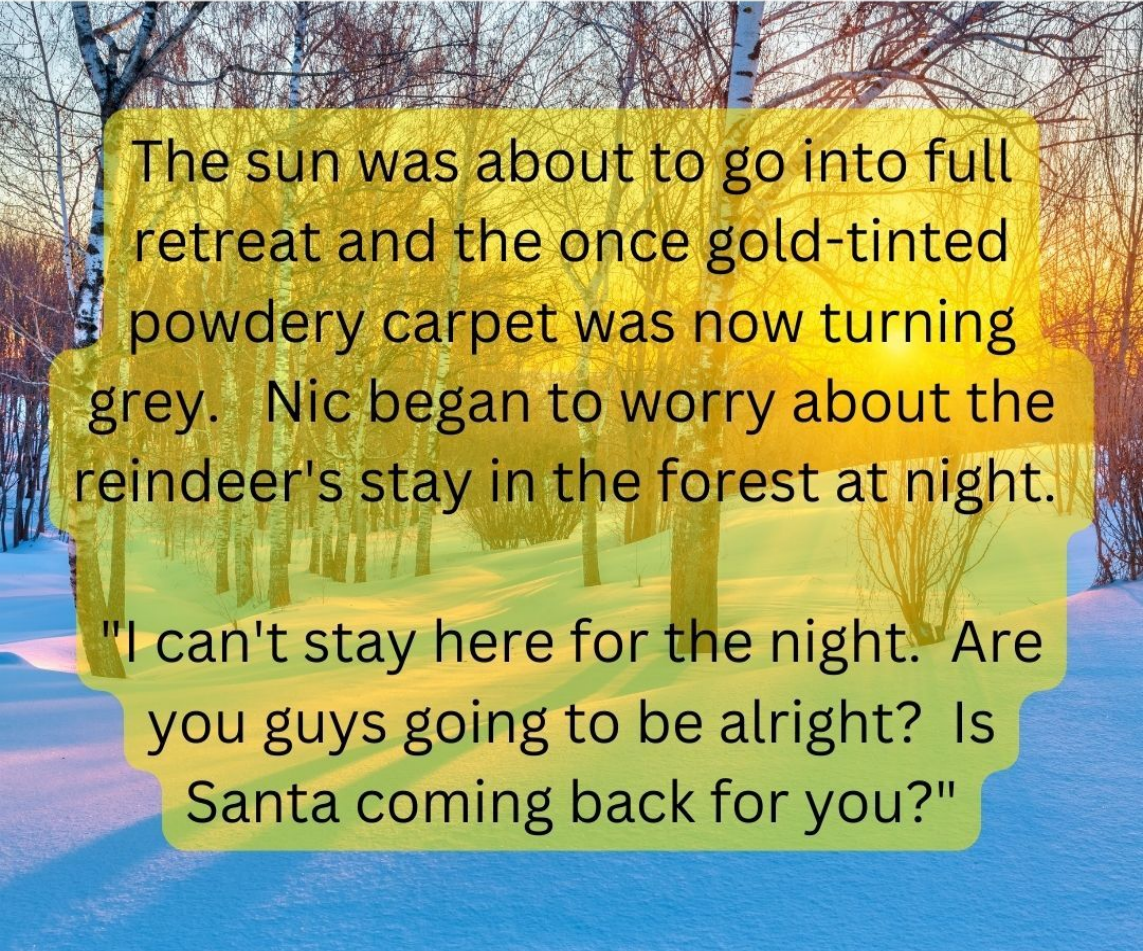
As the sun began to set, the snow adopted a golden tint and the shadow cast by the reindeer grew longer.



# Retreat



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The sun was about to go into full retreat and the once gold-tinted powdery carpet was now turning grey. Nic began to worry about the reindeer's stay in the forest at night.

"I can't stay here for the night. Are you guys going to be alright? Is Santa coming back for you?"





# Iridescent

It was then Nic held the now familiar chimes coming from the bells in his pocket. He looked inside the pocket, he saw something most magical -- the bells were glowing like stars with an iridescent glow around it.

# Scattered

**That iridescent glow soon  
turned into hundreds and  
hundreds of fairy dust  
floating in the air. Magic was  
now scattered in the air.**



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Marvelled

It was not just the bells in Nic's pocket that were ringing, but all the bells on each of the reindeer there.

Nic marvelled at the wonders surrounding him.



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All the reindeer stood up at once and ran to the abandoned sleigh. The sleigh looked beaten before, but now it was covered with vibrant red felt. It looked festive.



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Abandoned







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# Dispersed

The fairy dust started to form a pattern, whirling around Nic's feet first and then going all the way up to his head before it took off into the sky, getting dispersed.



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# Inkling

**Nic looked down at his feet and finally got an inkling of what the whirlwind of fairy dust was about -- it cloaked him with Santa's outfit!**





A reindeer parked the sleigh  
right next to Nic. It looked up  
at Nic with a knowing glint in  
its eye.

GLINT



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