

Madeleine's Christmas Wish

- extract -

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Small five year-old Madeleine McDarwish lives in Newbridge Cottages near Clifden in Galway / Ireland. She has only one big heart-felt wish for Christmas. She would like to visit Christmas Land and help Santa Claus preparing the Christmas gifts.

Advent season has begun, and Madeleine has asked her guardian angel to get this wish to Santa Claus. She wishes the trip to Christmas Land so much that she doesn't want to think of anything else anymore. So she looks out of the window into the sky where she supposes Christmas Land each evening before going to bed. Then she asks every time: "Santa, are you already packing the presents. May I help you?" Then she goes to bed hoping and dreaming.

Now it's 4th Advent and also Christmas Eve. Her house has been decorated festively for quite a while and the Christmas tree has been set up. Madeleine gets her stocking, which she has embroidered in the kindergarten during the Advent season, by the fire. After dinner she sings her favorite Christmas carols with her parents, then she's kissed good night. She's looking forward to tomorrow.

But the girl is too excited to fall asleep now. She gets out of her bed, takes a chair and sits down at the window. Again she looks into the sky hoping that she can see Santa Claus riding along the sky with his sleigh. But sometime she grows tired and falls asleep at the window...

As soon as she starts dreaming she hears a soft peal of bells coming closer and closer. This, however, doesn't wake her up, but it's a wonderful accompaniment of her sweet dream instead. Even the falling silent of the bells directly in front of her window and the steps coming towards her don't make her wake up. They accompany her dream perfectly so that she smiles while sleeping and then starts laughing. What is she dreaming? Well, we'll never be told. Now a hand is stroking softly through her blond shoulder-length hair and goes down her back...

Now Madeleine opens her eyes and looks directly into Santa's friendly face. Immediately she's all smiles. "Santa Claus!" she shouts and rushes directly into his arms. She squeezes him overjoyed. Then she asks: "May I come along with you to Christmas Land and help you with the Christmas presents?" - "Of course you may come with me now", Santa says. "I've brought an extra warm sleeping bag for the journey. Look, it even has a hood fixed to it. You have to put it on so that you'll be nicely warm and won't freeze. It's very cold outside here." Keenly the little girl gets into the sleeping bag on and lets Santa carry her onto his sleigh. After he has put her at his side and seat-belted her on the sleigh he also puts her hood on her small head and starts the sleigh ride. [...]