

Deep and Shallows

The Red Bird

by E. B.

He found her the day before Christmas, late in the afternoon, as he stood poised to take off from the gray storm cloud. "You are very beautiful," he said.

"Am I?"

He smiled at the demure acceptance of his praise. In it he seemed to recognize a vague memory on her part.

He was the largest snowflake to be crystallized as the cold wind passed over, chilling the vapor on the dust points of the already saturated cloud. She was the smallest.

"I must leave you now," he said.

"Don't go. I am so lonely. What will happen to me?"

"You will fall to the earth later."

"Why can't you stay with me?"

"Because of the Law. I am larger and heavier and must go first, but I will know you again . . . and again."

As he left the cloud he whispered, "Merry Christmas. To me you will always be beautiful. Try to remember."

Her cry followed him, "Oh, come back, come back. I am so afraid without you."

But he was caught in the rhythm of the snowflake dance. Gaily he waltzed with other large flakes, trying to forget her weeping.

The Law had continually separated them, but still if one remembered, as he did, the Law continually brought them together again.

There was less wind near the earth, and the atmosphere was marked by the mystic softness of falling crystals.

He hoped the wind would remain gentle, then perhaps she could fall close to him. He wanted the pleasure of comforting her. The beauty of the dance deepened his desire to be near her again. He would not forget her, ever.

His descent lasted brief minutes. Soon he looked upon a winter garden, pushing his way through the swirling flakes toward a blue spruce that sent out a perfumed welcome to the snow.

On a needled branch he found a retreat where he could watch for her and call out to guide her to his resting place.

He settled himself securely and waited.

The ground was fast becoming

blanketed with crystal stars. The branches above him were heavy with their whiteness. Through the mist of falling flakes he glimpsed the sky.

The cloud from which he had fallen had passed, and a brisker wind was clearing the heavens. The flakes were getting smaller and smaller.

"When will you come?" he breathed. "This way! This way!"

He remembered she was always timid at venturing into a new life and then delighted with the enchantment of living it.

Her changing moods were her greatest charm. He wanted her to be merry in the dance from cloud to earth, and wished he might see her descend—a ballerina unmatched in iridescent grace.

How beautiful she was as a snowflake, he reflected, her pattern in intricate lace, designed by the Law that also fashions the stars of the night, her diminutive rainbow planes held to their axis by a crystal promise.

The storm ceased. The cleared sky held only a hint of day, a ribbon of sunset color close to the horizon. The twilight lingered.

In vain he called to her. Sadly he looked about the garden, in search of her.

He watched birds feeding happily at a shelter. Chickadees and sparrows chirped contentedly. A crested cardinal perched upon the shelf and exulted in song.

Suppose she had been carried miles away by the cadence of the dance to earth, or lay covered completely by millions of other flakes. Perhaps she had already melted into another form and had forgotten him.

He rebelled at the Law that gave her to him for so short a time. If he could teach her to remember, too, their life together might seem longer.

"Oh, why, just at Christmas, must I be parted from my snowflake star?" he sighed.

His mood seemed to interrupt the song of the red bird. There was a flash of brilliant wings as it flew from the ledge to the blue spruce tree.

As it swayed and teetered on the snow-scented bough calling melodiously to its mate, a shower of crystal stars was scattered through the needled branches.

A small snowflake fell . . . and rested . . . close to him.

"Merry Christmas!" she said, "Am I beautiful?"

DAR Makes Plans For Christmas

On Thursday, December 9, Mrs. F. J. Friedli, State Chairman of Ellis Island will speak at a meeting of the North Shore Chapter of the DAR at two o'clock at the home of Mrs. Roy H. Olson, 2731 South Deere Park Drive, Highland Park. The DAR is the only organization allowed to do rehabilitation work on Ellis Island; this work being done at the U. S. Marine Hospital there. Members are requested to bring a silver offering for Ellis Island.

Members are reminded to bring Christmas gifts for the children of the DAR schools who are of grammar and high school age to this meeting or to the home of the Regent, Mrs. William F. Einbecker, 325 East Park Avenue, Highland Park on or before December 9. These are to be personal gifts, individually wrapped and marked for a boy or a girl.

Hostesses assisting Mrs. Olson for the afternoon are Mrs. Sidney Frisch, Mrs. Hamilton Winton, Mrs. Richard Pritchard and Mrs. John R. Dolan. Please call Mrs. Dolan, H. P. 1291 if you need transportation to the meeting.

C.A.R. To Wrap Gifts For Indian Children

On Saturday, December 4 from 3 to 5 p.m., the Junior Group of the Blackhawk Society, Children of the American Revolution, will meet at the home of Mrs. Sidney Frisch, 144 Ravinia St. to wrap Christmas gifts for the Indian children at the hospital at Bethel, Alaska.

The Senior Group is also sending gifts to the same hospital and the proceeds from their "Snow-Ball," which will be held December 23 at the Ravinia Village House, will be used for the Indian Scholarship Fund.

Girl Scout Friendship Kits Joyfully Received

The program included activities in the recently dedicated new gymnasium, a movie on baseball in the auditorium, followed by a short talk and question and answer period by Andy Pafko of the Chicago Cubs. Door prizes were given in the form of a baseball glove and several baseballs autographed by Pafko. The grand prize for fathers was a live turkey won by Mr. Diehl.

Highlights of the sports activities in the gym which were put on by boys in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades were a radio skit acquainting fathers with the after-school program, a demonstration of a regular class period in badminton and table tennis, followed by a tumbling show and demonstration of rope climbing.

The script for the radio skit written by Mr. Al Danakas, Director of Physical Education at Elm Place described in an interesting manner the after-school program.

Following is, in part, a report of a worker for the American Friends Service Committee in Vienna, after the kits arrived:

"By 8:30 the next morning a line of people was waiting, when the doors opened at nine the distributing room was immediately filled. The children were all barefooted. The smallest, a girl of three, had a bad case of rickets. All had faces much older than their years, faces that knew no tenderness.

It was evident that the recipients of the kits were very, very happy. They will not forget this day when they were showered with such richness, having been Cinderellas so long and being turned so suddenly into princesses."

Approximately 200 fathers and sons enjoyed the Sports Night program at the Arthur H. Swanson gymnasium on Monday evening, November 22. This annual event is sponsored by the Elm Place P.T.A. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall A. Levy, Co-Chairmen of the Activities Committee, made arrangements for the program.

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The Other Children's Christmas

by Rebecca Anthony

I think the children up in heaven Must have a Christmas, too, Or they would be very lonesome For that holiday they knew.

So once a year to celebrate The Christ-Child's day of birth, They gather and they sing The Christmas songs they learned on earth.

In the still of Christmas morning When the bells begin to ring, If you will listen with me You will hear the children sing.

For the chorus up in heaven Is a jubilee affair, As the music peals out blithely On the snowy Christmas air.

They have a children's party And a tree all lit with stars No doubt it's far more brilliant Than any tree of ours.

We remember that the Christ said "Suffer little ones to me," So they're truly knowing Christmas Gathered 'round His Christmas tree.

Miss Highwood Chosen At Thanksgiving Dance

Miss Edna Bruder, 122 Prairie avenue, was honored Thanksgiving eve at the Highwood Legion dance, held in the Labor Temple, with the title of "Miss Highwood." Miss Bruder, 19, is an employee of the Illinois Bell Telephone company. The queen was crowned by Mayor Mussatto in the presence of 600 guests.

Also honored as ladies-in-waiting were Marian Preti and Arlen Bartiluzzi, of Highwood.

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