

Twas the Night Before Christmas  
by Clement C. Moore  
Season 1 Episode 22

[opening theme music and strapline]

Nanny Bea: Hello there, today is my last visit this year from my neighbour Jules who said she'll be here with a surprise any...

[knock sfx]

Nanny Bea: minute now.

Nanny Bea: Hello, who is it?

Jules: It's your neighbour Jules and... my family?

Nanny Bea: Oh what a delight!

[bark]

Sons: Happy Christmas!

Nanny Bea: Hello, Happy Christmas, my how you've grown.

Jules: That's why I am now 'Little Mummy'. They've all come with me today for an audio Christmas card for you and all those we know and love. Are you ready for our message?

Nanny Bea: Yes please

Jules: Okay then, Twas the Night Before Christmas-A Visit from St. Nicholas, By Clement C. Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care  
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her kerchief, and I in my cap,  
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow  
Gave a lustre of mid-day to objects below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles his courses they came,  
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

"Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!  
On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donner and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!  
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;  
So up to the house-top the courses they flew,  
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.  
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,  
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes--how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,  
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;  
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

[sleigh bells]

Nanny Bea: Thank you, and you, and you and you. May I add to that message a Happy or as you would say Merry Christmas from all of us at Tales and Tea with me, Nanny Bea.

Jules: This is our last episode for this season but after a little break we'll be back in the new year.

Thomas: Go to [NannyBea.com](http://NannyBea.com)

Jules: Go there to find out more. On [NannyBea.com](http://NannyBea.com) there's our entire collection of stories to listen to and to read along. As well as how you can be part of the show like my lovely husband and gorgeous boys.

[Be on the Show jingle]

Mr Announcer: This has been a Toad in the Hole production for [NannyBea.com](http://NannyBea.com).