
GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**CHRISTMAS
BEDTIME STORIES**

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The nurse suggested a walk in the park.

The Christmas Bluebird

Long ago, in a kingdom far away, there lived a sweet little princess. It was Christmas Eve, and everyone in the palace, from the king down to the youngest servant, was busy with holiday tasks. To keep the little princess from getting in the way, her nurse suggested they take a walk in the park.

The little princess ran and jumped in the snow until she was quite red-cheeked. Her tiny gold crown slipped off, and she looked like any other happy child playing on a winter afternoon.

As she darted around the snow-capped hedges, a flash of color suddenly caught her

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eye. There, under the bushes, panted a little bluebird, shivering in the cold, worn out from flying against the strong winter winds.

"You poor little thing!" exclaimed the princess. "Nurse? Nurse, come help me, please. I've found a tiny frozen bird!"

But the nurse had met up with a friend and they were chatting on the other side of the park.

"Oh, what am I to do? I have nothing for you to eat, poor thing. You are so weak and so cold," the princess cried.

Just then, a boy's hand reached down and picked up the tiny trembling creature. It was young Robert, son of the village carpenter. He had been walking home through the park when he heard the princess talking to the bird.

"Let me help, little girl," he said. "I have some bread crumbs here in my pocket the bird can eat. We'll feed her and warm her up. Then maybe she will be able to go on with her journey to the southland."



“You poor thing! You are so cold!”