

Snow Wishes

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All Ella and Owen could dream of were snow wishes
and cozy days filled with grandparent kisses.

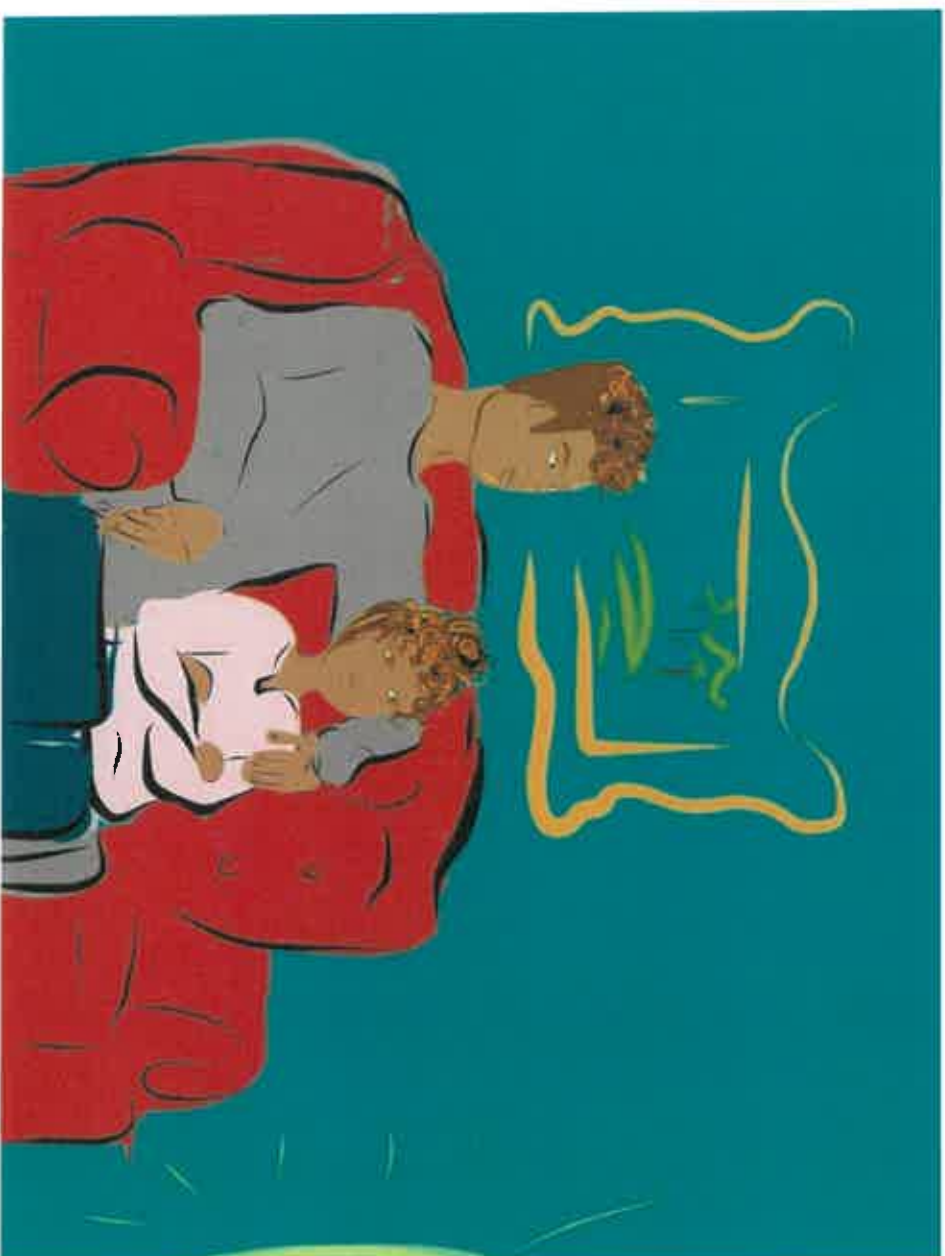


To their grandparents' cozy home they wanted to go,
To bake cookies, do puzzles, and play in the snow.



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Old Man Winter was absent, it seemed, as days went by,
and absolutely zero snowflakes fell from the sky.



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One night at dinner Grandpop asked, "Ella Bean, why do you look so blue?"

Pushing around her peas, she sadly replied, "My snow wishes haven't come true."

Grandpop thought, then asked, "Have you tried sleeping with your pajamas inside-out?"

Ella looked at her brother, then Grandpop, and an idea began to sprout!

The siblings reversed their pjs, and the next morning, Ella peered at the outside world.

A single frosty flake of snow stuck to the window—She jumped with joy as the chance of a snow day unfurled.

She grabbed her brother Owen and they began to spin, singing “Snow day, snow day! A last!”

Their mother stopped them,

“Sorry, children, not so fast—

A single flake won’t cancel school,” she said.

But the children’s hopes of a snow day weren’t yet dead.



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Ella told her whole class about their pajama trick.

Ms. Hopkins said, "I have an idea to bring snow that will stick! Under your pillow, place a single spoon.

If you do it mightly, your snow will come soon!"

Ella couldn't wait to tell Owen the news.

With two tricks up their sleeves, they had nothing to lose!

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That night, they placed spoons under their pillows and went to sleep fast, hoping and dreaming of a white wintry blast.



Just at sunrise, Ella opened her eyes, and saw ... a frost covering the ground!

She yanked Owen from bed, and again they started spinning around.

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“Snow day, snow day! Is there school?
No way, no way!”

Dad interrupted their cheering and said:

“Kids, I’m afraid you’ll have to go to school
today.”

Ella and Owen stopped in their tracks,
and with their sad faces they accepted the facts:

It would take piles of snow to request
a cozy snow day at their grandparents’ nest.



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Later, Ella returned a basket of books to her school library.

Mr. Read was holding as many books as he could carry.

As she dropped the books off and started to go,

Ella suddenly wondered aloud:

“Are there any books about *how to make it snow?*”

Mr. Read said sadly, “I’m afraid not.”

Then added: “I do know a *trick* for making it snow *a lot.*”

“Flush ice cubes down the toilet, one for each inch,” he said with delight.

Ella couldn’t wait to try the new trick that might!

With their inside-out Pjs and pillows with spoons,

and hopes that their snow wishes would soon come true,

They set to flushing ice cubes, two by two.

“Will four be enough to get the white fluffy stuff?” Owen asked as he dumped them all in.

“Let’s do four more, just to be sure,”

Ella said, then watched the flushing begin.

The door flew open, and Ella and Owen looked up at their mom in surprise.

“What’s going on in here?” She couldn’t believe her eyes.

Mom sent the two to their beds, where visions of snow flurries danced in their heads.



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The next morning, Ella looked up
to the skies and down at the yard
below...

She couldn't believe what she
saw: not a single flake of snow!

Ella and Owen moped all day,
their snow wishes having all melted
away.

The following night while being tucked into bed,

Ella's mom sat next to her and said,

“Why are your pajamas on right?”

No spoon under your pillow? No ice cubes in sight?!”

“The tricks don't work like we thought they would.

Snow tricks are just silly superstitions--no good.”

Mom thought for a moment, then two,

and finally said, “I have one more snow trick for you.

We used to eat ice cream for dinner when we wanted snow.

We'll try it tomorrow, but you must also eat veggies, you know.”

Ella giggled then snuggled down in her bed, with snow and ice cream wishes filling her head.





Ella's family had ice cream for dinner the next night, with a large mound of broccoli to make everything right.

The two siblings turned their pajamas inside-out, put spoons under their pillows, believing without a doubt:

Doing ALL the tricks would certainly bring lots of snow, then to their grandparents' they would joyously go!

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The next morning when Ella awoke in a puddle of drool, she realized her alarm hadn't gone off—she was late for school!

She jumped from her bed and yelled, "Mom, I'm gonna be late!"

Mom peeked into her room and said, "Ella, just wait—"

Ella dashed to the window as fast as can be—there was snow as far as the eye could see!







“Go ahead and get dressed, but school is out. You’ll be at your grandparents’ for days, without a doubt.”

Ella and Owen danced their dance fast, singing “Snow day, snow day, a snow day at last!”



From that day on,

when the children wished for snow,

they tried different tricks,

like paper snowflakes on the

window.

Grandma once said, "We put

white crayons in the freezer, when I

was a kid."

Sometimes the tricks didn't

work, but sometimes, they did!



The End