

# All About Christmas



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It is deliciously nostalgic to look back on all our Christmases. No two are ever the same and all of us have memories as uniquely different as our own thumbprints.

I remember a year when I was completely, and entirely happily, alone the night before Christmas, living where I am now, in a brownstone in Manhattan. It had begun to snow gently. Big, flat, lazy flakes swirled softly down from the dark sky, settling on the pavement,

white beneath the street lights. I got up from my armchair by the fire a few times to draw

back the curtains and watch the snow, glad to be inside in the warm, cozy room. Though it

was still quite early in the evening, there was hardly anyone about and the street outside

was still, in that arrested, echoless silence snow brings with it.

I heard singing without, for a moment, being consciously aware of the music. Then,

jumping up from my chair, I opened the curtains. There were nine or ten young people in

the deserted street, singing carols together to the night sky, not even knowing anyone

could hear them. They waved up at me as I stood watching them from the window. I felt as

though we were all frozen in space and time. They finished singing and called up, asking

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