

The Magic of Christmas Snow—The day my doll came to life!



That one looks like a star...and that one looks like a crystal medallion...and that one..., “Alex, would you like to come away from the window long enough too have some hot chocolate and cookies?” With my knees snuggled deep into the plush green couch and my nose growing cold from being pressed up against the cold wintered glass of grandma’s window, I immediately sprung free of the couch and ran to the kitchen where I found grandma slowly pulling out another batch of steaming hot chocolate chip cookies from the top oven. Mmmm...the smell of chocolate was so thick in the air you could eat it! Grandma had her once blond hair pulled back neatly twisted with a Christmas comb. Her Christmas apron had bright imprints of hands all over it with big Xs and Os followed by my signature. “You still wear the apron I made for you?” I asked grinning with delight. “Oh yes, Alex, this is my special cookie-making apron” Grandma said with her blue eyes sparkling in a way that only grandma eyes do. “Come sit over here, I’ve poured you up some hot chocolate. It should be cool enough to drink now. Here are some banana flavored marshmallows to make it extra special for my extra special grand daughter.” “Grandma, I’m your only grand daughter!” I said. “That, among many other things, is what makes you extra special to me.” Grandma said with a hug and a wink. I love coming to Grandma’s house in the winter.

There is something special about the snow in Colorado. Sometimes it is so perfect, it does not look real. It had been snowing since we arrived two days ago so the blanket of snow over the farm looked like twinkling heavenly clouds kissing the Colorado blue sky. “Grandma, can I go out and play today? I’ll be careful and bundle-up well so I don’t catch a winter cold.” I promised. “I don’t see why not. It would do you good to run off some of that fidgeting energy you have been storing up! But stay close to the house just in case another storm blows in.” Grandma urged. Before she could finish her words I was halfway up the stairs to my room to put on my fur parka, black ski pants, mittens and boots. I miss my best friend Elena, but I brought my doll that looks like Elena with me to keep me company. She has a fur jacket, white mittens and black ski pants just like mine!

With my Elena doll carefully prepared we sprung out the back door and leaped into a big snow cloud. It caught us gently and made a crunching sound as we swung our hand and legs making our first snow angels. Elena, being just a doll, needed some help with her angle but I didn’t mind I like helping her; it makes me feel like a big sister. I was carefully moving her legs and then her arms thinking how wonderful it would be if she could talk to me. Do you think she would like making snow angles? Or maybe she’d rather stay inside and eat cookies with Grandma. I wonder what her favorite color is or if she likes the clothes I put on her or how I style her hair...Christmas is just around the corner and orange and pink

Via-E boxes were already wrapped just waiting to be put under the Christmas tree. It would be so cool if she could open the present up herself. I wonder if miracles ever really happen. You know, Pinocchio, Frosty, the Nutcracker....they all came to life—why not Elena? Yes, why not Elena!

“Well Miss Christmas Snow Angel, what do you think? A miracle for my doll Elena and me?” I placed Elena on her snow angel and then laid back down on mine and began swinging my hands and feet once again digging deeper and deeper into the lightly packed snow. My eyes were closed tight and with every inch of my being I wished. Then I opened my eyes and looked over at Elena...nothing. Her eyes were closed and her arms were still spread out as I last left them. I plopped back down atop of my angle, my hands falling behind me to catch my fall...what’s this?...Something stung my hand right through my winter gloves. I started to dig revealing a silver star strung onto a red ribbon. It had a clasp...it was a bracelet! As I slowly pulled it out of the snow it revealed another red ribbon! This one was longer. It had a clasp and....another star! It was a necklace! A set...one for me and one for Elena!

I put the necklace on and something wonderful happened. The snow lit up in a soft white light, and as if by magic, the snow angels rose from the ground and gracefully floated just above us. If it wasn’t for the warm feeling inside, I would have been really scared. Before I could utter a

single word the angel said, "Hello Alex, I am your Christmas Angel and I have come to grant your Christmas wish. Put the bracelet around Elena's neck and she will come to life." "To life? You mean really to life? Walking, talking, laughing...to life?" I said in disbelief. "Yes, Alex, walking, talking, laughing and loving, just as you wished. But only for you and only until midnight Christmas morning, at the stroke of exactly twelve Elena must come back home with us." "Elena is an Angel?" I could hardly believe the words coming out of my mouth. "Yes, Alex, Elena is your guardian angel. She asked to spend Christmas Eve with you. Quickly, put the bracelet on your doll as you don't have much time." I realized the angel was right so I quickly placed the bracelet forming a necklace for Elena and then moved back to watch the transformation.

Elena's face softened, and her perfectly pink lips spread into the warmest smile, then she stretched out her legs and arms as if waking up from a long winter's nap. Her eyes opened revealing her deep brown eyes, so warm and beautiful the kindness enveloped my very being. "Elena?" I said softly. "Hi Alex!" jumping up giggling and plopping back down Elena started to make her very own snow angel! "Don't you love the snow at Grandma's house? I love the snow! My favorite color is blue, I love the clothes you put on me...especially the Fashion Kitty T-shirt! I love to have my hair brushed, braided, put in pony tails, barrettes, you name it! I like that you play with me all the time even though I can't talk back and most of all I'm sooooo excited to see what you got me for Christmas!"

Elena said in her very own voice! “Cool” I said in astonishment. “Tag, you’re it!” Elena reached over and pressed her hand against mine—it was soft and warm...just like mine. “If you don’t get up, you’ll never catch me even with those long legs of yours!” Elena giggled and scampered through the snow.

We played for hours, we built snowmen, had a snowball fight, sang Christmas carols, braided each other’s hair, talked about our favorite movies and music...best girl friend things all day long. It was my best day ever! Aaaaaleeeex, beaweeet! “That’s grandma’s signal to come home!” I explained to a confused Elena. “Beaweeet?” questioned Elena. Laughingly I explained the history of the strange call grandma used. “It has been handed down from generation to generation. Because it is so unique and the sound carries so far, our family uses it to call each other to come back to the house when out on the farm. Come, let’s hurry so grandma doesn’t worry---I’ll race you back!” And with that we laughed and giggled all the way to the back door. Grandma was busy juggling pots and pans on the stove for dinner, so I yelled Hi to grandma and we quickly made it up the stairs to my room. “Are you hungry? Do you eat?” I asked Elena. “I’m so hungry I could eat a house!” said Elena. “O.K. I’ll ask grandma if I can have dinner and a movie in my room.” Off I went to the kitchen to negotiate what would become my special Christmas Eve dinner with Elena.

Grandma always understood me. She fixed a plate of candied ham, mashed potatoes, a vegetable medley and a big piece of Christmas pie. “Grandma?” I said taking the tray from her hands “do you think I could have just a little bit more?” “Really?” asked Grandma. “Yes, I played really hard outside so I’m a bit more hungry than usual.” I smiled in my best *grandma I love you way*. “Of course sweetie, Grandma loves a girl with a good appetite!” Grandma added one more scoop of everything and then I was off to share with Elena.

We climbed into our jammies, brushed our hair and teeth and then snuggled in bed to watch my new DVD of the movie “Up.” “Elena?” “Yes, Alex” Elena said, “Will you open your Christmas present early so I can see if you like it? With excitement Elena leaped out of bed and said, “Go get it! Go get it!” I quickly threw open my closet, pulled out some shoes, then stuffed animals, then the dirty clothes hamper and finally....”Here it is!” I announced. Emerging from the depths of the closet I placed two small boxes in Elena’s lap. “For you. Merry Christmas Elena.” Kissing her cheek I stepped back to watch Elena’s every move, every expression. I didn’t want to miss anything. She tore into the red and green Christmas wrapping exposing the pink and orange Via-E boxes—one for shoes and the other for clothes. “Open the bigger one first!” I said. Nodding, Elena opened up the box and pulled out a crisp pink dress. “Now the other box!” I urged Elena onward. The box contained sparkling Cinderella shoes to match the exquisitely girly pink dress. “Oh Alex!”

Elena said, and as I looked at her she had tears coming out of her eyes. “It couldn’t be more perfect. And you couldn’t be a more perfect best friend” Elena whispered. She is real, I thought to myself, and she does love me.

We watched the movie until neither one of us could keep our eyes open any longer. “Elena?” I said with my eyes heavy and mind ever so sleepy, “I want you to know that I will always take care of you and keep you by my side forever and I will never forget the day you came alive.” Elena smiled and then her warm brown eyes slowly closed as she snuggled against me. She didn’t need to say anything because we both knew whether she could talk or not, we would be best friends forever.