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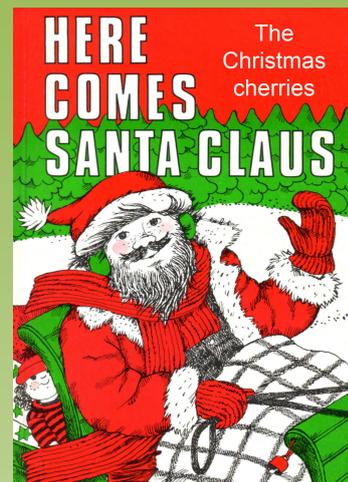
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## Auszug aus:

*The Christmas Cherries*

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## The Christmas cherries



In the days of King Arthur there lived a noble knight named Sir John. He owned a beautiful castle in Cornwall not far from the tiny village Clovelly. Sir John was a very rich man because he owned some farms, too. Everybody liked Sir John, as he helped the poor by giving them something to eat and drink whenever they came to his castle.

On Christmas Day he invited everyone to his castle, rich and poor. And they came. Everybody knew that Sir John's parties were the best. You could drink and eat as much as you wanted to. There were minstrels who told stories to the guests, such as the one I am telling you now.

For many years he lived happily with his wife and two children. There were always a lot of people in his castle staying there for some days. The knight liked to see the people's happy faces. So he didn't want to change his way of life. But as he was spending so much money, he grew poorer and poorer.

As soon as there was no money left, he started to sell his farms. In the end there was only one small farm left which was almost too small to keep him and his family. By that time all his servants had run away and had left him and his family. Sir John was as poor as the people he had helped when he was a rich man.

When Christmas came round again Sir John grew very sad, thinking of the parties he had given. He sat down on a rock and started to cry. His wife Mary, who heard him crying, went up to him, took him in her arms and said: "It will not help us to think of the past. We have to thank God for all his gifts. This is Christmas Eve. Come in to dinner and let us do our best to be happy together." Sir John smiled at her and they went in to their meal of bread and herbs.

On Christmas morning they all went to church and Sir John felt much happier. When he and his family came back to their little house, Sir John went into his garden.

When he looked at the cherry tree, he couldn't believe his eyes. Why? What had happened? The cherry tree was suddenly covered with green leaves and beautiful red cherries. He took a large red cherry and put it into his mouth. It was delicious. It was the best cherry he had ever tasted. He called his wife and his children: "Come and look at this! Our cherry tree is covered with fruit." They all stood in front of the tree and stared at the fine ripe cherries.

"This is a very good sign," said his wife. "Tomorrow morning we'll fill a large basket with these fine ripe cherries and you can set out to Tintagel Castle to give them to the King. He will



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