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## Auszug aus:

*The elves and the shoemaker*

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## The elves and the shoemaker



You know boys and girls, no matter where you are from and no matter where you may now live: Christmas is a time for good cheer and happiness for all. And mothers and fathers throughout the ages have told their children special stories. And these stories have gone from one family to another and from one country to another. Now they are known all over the world. One of these stories is *The elves and the shoemaker*, which was first told hundreds of years ago in Germany. But nowadays it's known in every corner of the earth.

There was once a shoemaker who, through no fault of his own, had become so poor that, at last, he had only enough leather left to make one pair of shoes. That evening he cut out the shoes so he could work upon them the next morning. Then he lay down quietly, said his prayers and fell asleep.

In the morning he went into his shop to work upon the shoes. But what did he see? Why! The shoes were standing on the table all sewn and polished. The shoemaker was amazed. And he did not know what to think. Who could have done them for him? He picked the shoes up in his hand and examined them more closely. They were so neatly sewn that not a stitch was out of place. They had been done by a master hand.

Later that day a rich man came into the shoemaker's shop. He was so pleased with the pair of shoes that he paid twice the price for them. Now the shoemaker had enough money to buy leather for two pairs of shoes.



He cut them out in the evening and the next morning went into his shop to work upon them. But he had no need to. For when he got there, the shoes were already finished. Both pairs were so handsomely done that they were quickly sold. And then the shoemaker had enough money to buy leather for four pairs of shoes.

Again he cut the leather out in the evening, and again he found the shoes all finished the following day. And so it went on. What he cut out in the evening was finished in the morning. Soon the shoemaker was a rich man.





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