

Santa and the kitty

In an old town close to the sea, an old man named Papageeno and his kitty Sasha lived together. Papageeno was a skilled toymaker, but after retiring, he lived alone and his only companion was Sasha.

Before Papageeno found her, Sasha was abandoned in the streets and was shivering from cold and hunger inside a cardboard box. But nobody cared to look at the poor kitty. And then Papageeno, who was passing by, took pity on her and wrapped her in his coat and took her home. At home, he dried Sasha with a towel and fed her warm milk.

“Oh Sasha, I worked hard all my life, but I never had a wife or children” Papageeno said. “If only you were my daughter,”

Papageeno would frequently say this to Sasha while stroking her head. When the freezing wind blew in, Papageeno caught a cold and had a high fever. Sasha tried to take care of him, but as a cat, all she could do was keep him company and try to lift his spirits.

And on a powdery snowing night, Santa came out of the sky like a comet, leaving a trail of light in his wake. And he stopped his sled on top of Papageeno’s house and entered down the chimney.

However, when he got inside, he noticed that Papageeno was sleeping all alone and no kids were inside the house.

“Hmm, looks like this man’s living all by himself. What a pity.” Santa sighed.

And at that moment, he heard a small “nyyah”, and, when looking down, saw that there was a small kitty looking up at him.

The kitty looked like it was trying very hard to say something, so Santa bent over and spoke to her in the language of cats.

“Here sweetie, is something wrong?” he asked.

“I want you to turn me into a human” Sasha replied. “Papageeno was alone for most of his life and is very lonely.”

“Hmm, that’s going to be tough.” Santa mused. “I can only grant wishes to human children.”

“Papageeno is very ill” Sasha pleaded. “Please make me able to take care of him.”

Santa was listening to Sasha and had a small smile. “Ok, ok, you’re an impressive kitty, your love for him is just like a family member’s” he said. “Even though you’re not a human, you have a warm heart and I’ll grant your wish.”

Santa was thinking for a while, and then he pulled a red dress from the bag and put it next to Papageeno.

“For tonight, I want you to sleep like this.” And then he picked up Sasha and laid her down on the dress. After Santa was gone, Sasha fell asleep. The next morning, she woke up and saw herself in the mirror and was astonished at how she looked. When Papageeno woke up after being shaken by Sasha, he saw a little girl as pretty as a flower in a red dress smiling at him.

“Papageeno, do you remember me?” asked Sasha. “It’s me, Sasha.”

Sasha quickly told him all that happened the night before.

“Oh, the gods finally answered my prayer after all.” Papageeno whispered to himself. The two hugged tightly, and then lived happily ever after.