



It's Christmas!



~ Jelly Leung L9

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It was cold, still and tense. Hugo was in the exam hall still struggling with his last question. He had 10 minutes left, and soon he would be done and able to head home for Christmas. All of a sudden, music filled the hall and...

the white lights in the ceiling changed into colourful fairy lights. All Hugo's classmates got up from their seats and started to dance in circles. "What's happening?" thought Hugo. Puzzled, he went over to his friend, Fred, and asked, "Isn't it the mathematics exam? What's happening??" "What exam? It's Christmas! Let's enjoy and dance!" Fred yelled above the joyous music and continued to dance. "Never mind, since everyone is dancing, I shall dance with them too!" Hugo decided and joined in dancing with the rest of his peers.

As they were dancing round in circles, the dull examination hall was transformed into a warm and cosy house, with squashy armchairs and blazing fireplace. Suddenly, bells rang out and the huge doors thrust open. In marched a huge, red guy. "Ho, ho, ho!" He laughed crazily. "You're Santa, aren't you? But doesn't Santa have a beard?" Hugo asked. The huge, red guy's face dropped a little and said, "Santa has retired, and I am Shanta, his son." "If you're his son, you must know what's happening here." "Ho, ho, of course I know. This is the Christmas present I'm giving to all students in the world!" A loud cheer erupted from the crowd behind, but Hugo sensed something's not quite right, and frowned. "Isn't it requisite for us to be good kids in order to get presents from Santa?" "How many times have I to repeat? I am Shanta, not Santa, and I'm not following my stubborn father! Now, let's move over to the mall and get each of you a Christmas present!" "Yay!" shouted the students and all rushed through the doors.

Hugo and the rest of the students arrived in the hall in no time, but Hugo had a cold feeling. As they were walking through the place, Hugo suddenly noticed something and nearly screamed, "Why is everyone else frozen except us?" Shanta replied nonchalantly, "It's your time to choose your presents, just get whatever you want!" The kids were overjoyed and rushed to grab their presents, all but Hugo stayed motionless behind. "Hey, what are you waiting for? Go get your present!" "I'm not getting anything, this is stealing!" Hugo exclaimed. Shanta was irritated, "Why do you bother? Just get your gifts. My job is to make children happy." Hugo became really furious, "Well, I'm not at all happy and I totally disagree with you." "You're the most annoying child I've ever met, you had better be a reindeer!"

At that, green lights began to swirl around and circled Hugo. Another huge, red guy with a thick bushy beard rushed in, "Oh, my! Shanta, what're you doing? I'm so disappointed in you, you're not Father Christmas anymore. You are fired!" In split seconds, Shanta disappeared in a puff of smoke.

The real Santa walked towards Hugo and said, "Hugo, you've been a good boy and deserves a present." Santa handed Hugo a green package before vanishing in a reindeer-shaped puff of smoke.

Hugo was curious and wondered what was inside. He opened it and saw a music box. He wound the knob eagerly and the music box sounded "ding, dong, ding, dong, ding dong, ding dong..." "This is a weird song for a music box," thought Hugo.

Suddenly, the mall began to swirl again and the exam hall reappeared. "My last question!" Hugo quickly picked his pen up, but it's too late. "Pens down," announced the invigilator. "Oh my, how could I have fallen asleep at such an important moment!?" gaped Hugo.