

Mother's Christmas Story

By Alice B. Palmer

IT WAS Christmas eve and the children had gathered about the snow white Christmas tree, a glistening mass of iridescent lights and icicles, to listen to that long promised story of the Prince and Princess.

"Once upon a time," began Mother, "there was a tall handsome prince who loved a beautiful princess. They were to be married on Christmas eve—another Christmas eve, long ago.

"The gorgeous castle on the hillside was ablaze with Christmas lights. The Yule log was burning and crackling delightfully and the huge Christmas tree was sparkling gaily. But there were candles, tiny colored candles, children, instead of electric lights. They were lovely! Everything was most beautiful!"

"Oh, Mother," whispered little Rosebud, "I wish I was in that castle right now, looking at all the pretty things."

"Hurry up, Mother! Then what?" interrupted Danny, impatiently. "What happened next?"

"Well, the prince and princess were married and then they all sat down to the wedding feast. Let me see," mused Mother, "they were all there—all of them, my dears. Right in the center of the table stood the most wonderful wedding cake you ever saw—a gold cake frosted with silver, and because it was Christmas the whole top was decorated with lovely little bells. You see, nothing was too good for the prince and princess, for every one loved them and wanted them to be happy, and they were happy—so happy, children."

"Well, then, did they live happy forever and ever, Mother?" Rosebud wanted to know.

"Why, of course they did," shouted Danny, indignantly. "Did you ever hear of a prince and princess who did not?"

"Only a story," pondered Mother. "Would that I, too, could be made to believe that 'was only a story."

"The prince," wilyly shouted the children, as a tall man stood in the doorway. They felt sure they had found the real prince as they clamored for explanation.



"The Prince!" Shouted the Children. A Tall Man in the Doorway.

"Oh, look, Mother!" cried Rosebud. "Look what the prince brought—boys and dolls and everything—and—add a gold cake trimmed with silver with bells on it, too, just like the one in the story."

"Oh, boy!" shouted Danny. "This is the best Christmas we ever had. Isn't it, Mother?"

Mother whispered, "Yes, dear," and then rushed into the outstretched arms of her loving husband, the really true prince who was waiting with a great big Christmas kiss. "And they all lived happily forever after," whispered Mother, through tears of Christmas joy.



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Set Out Cuttings To Start New Shrubbery

Winter and spring months offer the home gardener a good opportunity to enhance the beauty of the home grounds by propagating more shrubs and flowering plants.

One of the most popular ways of propagating deciduous shrubs is setting out cuttings of stems six to eight inches long, said J. C. Weaver, floriculturist at State College.

The wood of last season's growth should be taken during the fall, winter, or spring months, he said. Be sure that all twigs taken are alive, and do not cut too close to a bud.

When the cuttings are made in winter, Weaver advised that they be stored in a cool cellar in damp sand or peat. Or they may be buried outdoors in well drained sand.

As soon as the soil is in good workable condition in the spring, the cuttings may be set out in the garden in rows 15 inches apart, with the cuttings four inches apart in the row.

This next fall, after the cuttings have grown a little, transplant them to a place where the spacing is wider, so they may develop into a good shape before they are set around the house.

Evergreen shrubs are a little harder to propagate, but the home gardener can do it with a little care, Weaver said.

In the fall, or early winter where the climate is mild, set out evergreen cuttings five to seven inches long. Do not remove any more foliage than necessary to insert the lower end into the sand bed.

Set them in rows four inches apart, with the twigs two to row four inches apart in the row. Shade them with laths or burlap during the following summer. They often require 12 to 18 months to develop roots so they can be transplanted.

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