

The clever shoemaker

by Donald dallas · Language: EN

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Overview

"The Clever Shoemaker" by Donald Dallas retells the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale, presenting the heartwarming story of a poor shoemaker and his kind wife. Facing utter ruin, the shoemaker cuts his last piece of leather, intending to finish the shoes the next morning, hoping for a miracle. To their astonishment, each morning they find beautifully crafted shoes ready for sale, perfectly stitched and polished, allowing them to prosper once more as customers eagerly buy the exquisite footwear. This mysterious help continues night after night, transforming their fortunes from destitution to comfort and stability, leaving the couple bewildered but immensely grateful for their newfound success.

Driven by an overwhelming sense of curiosity and a deep desire to express their gratitude, the couple decides to stay awake one night to discover the identity of their benevolent benefactors. Hidden in the shadows, they observe two tiny, naked elves diligently working on the shoes with incredible speed and skill, their nimble fingers transforming the leather with magical precision. Overwhelmed with appreciation and pity for the elves' lack of clothing, the shoemaker's wife decides to sew tiny, warm clothes and shoes for them, while the shoemaker himself crafts miniature tools. They leave these heartfelt gifts out, and the elves, delighted with their new attire, dance away with joy, never to return. The shoemaker and his wife continue to thrive, always remembering the kindness of their magical helpers and living a life of contentment, having learned the profound value of hard work, generosity, and the unexpected rewards of a good heart.

Key Takeaways

- Even in dire circumstances, perseverance and hard work can lead to unexpected solutions.
- Kindness and generosity are often rewarded, sometimes in surprising ways.
- Appreciate the help you receive, even if its source is mysterious.
- A small act of gratitude can bring joy to others and a sense of closure.
- Good deeds, whether from humans or magical creatures, can lead to lasting prosperity.

Chapter Summaries

The Shoemaker's Plight

A once-skilled shoemaker and his compassionate wife find themselves in dire poverty, on the brink of financial ruin. Despite their hard work and honesty, they have very little left, with only a single piece of leather remaining to make one last pair of shoes. The shoemaker cuts the leather, planning to finish the work in the morning, filled with despair but holding onto a faint hope for a change in their fortunes.

Mysterious Morning Miracles

To their utter astonishment, the next morning, the shoemaker discovers that the piece of leather has been perfectly transformed into a finished pair of shoes. The craftsmanship is exquisite, far beyond his own skill. A customer quickly buys them for a good price, providing much-needed funds. This miraculous event repeats itself the following night, bringing more beautifully made shoes and more sales.

Growing Prosperity

Night after night, the shoemaker leaves out cut leather, only to find it meticulously crafted into magnificent shoes by morning. With each successful sale, their financial situation steadily improves. The couple moves from poverty to a comfortable living, able to buy more leather and provide for themselves, all thanks to the mysterious, unseen helpers who work while they sleep.

The Midnight Discovery

Overwhelmed by curiosity and a deep sense of gratitude, the shoemaker and his wife decide to uncover the identity of their secret benefactors. They hide themselves in the workshop one evening, staying awake past midnight. To their amazement, they witness two tiny, naked elves enter, swiftly and skillfully crafting the shoes with incredible speed and precision before disappearing into the night.

A Gift of Gratitude

Moved by the sight of the hardworking, unclothed elves, the shoemaker's wife feels a strong desire to repay their kindness. She decides to sew tiny, warm clothes for them, including shirts, jackets, trousers, and caps. Simultaneously, the shoemaker, equally grateful, crafts two miniature pairs of shoes, ensuring their helpers will be warm and comfortable.

The Elves' Departure

The couple leaves their handmade gifts on the workbench. That night, the elves return, find the clothes and shoes, and are overcome with joy. They quickly put on their new garments, dancing with delight and singing a cheerful song about their new attire. After their joyful celebration, the elves dance out of the workshop and are never seen again.

Lasting Happiness

Although the elves never return to help with the shoemaking, the shoemaker and his wife continue to prosper. Their business remains successful, and they live a comfortable and happy

life, always remembering the magical assistance they received. They continue to work diligently, cherishing the memory of their tiny, generous helpers.

Themes

- Kindness and generosity
- Hard work
- Gratitude
- Poverty to prosperity
- Magic and mystery

Frequently Asked Questions

What is *The clever shoemaker* about?

It's a retelling of a classic fairy tale about a poor but kind shoemaker and his wife who receive mysterious help from two tiny elves. The elves secretly make beautiful shoes for them, transforming their fortunes, until the couple shows their gratitude with gifts, leading to the elves' departure and the couple's continued prosperity.

Is *The clever shoemaker* worth reading?

Yes, especially for young children. It's a charming and timeless story that teaches valuable lessons about hard work, kindness, and gratitude. Its simple narrative and positive message make it an enjoyable read-aloud experience.

How does *The clever shoemaker* end?

Spoiler: The shoemaker and his wife, having discovered their helpers are tiny, naked elves, craft them clothes and shoes as a token of gratitude. The elves are delighted, dance away, and never return, but the shoemaker and his wife remain prosperous and happy, always remembering their magical benefactors.

Who should read *The clever shoemaker*?

This book is ideal for young children, typically ages 3-7, and their parents or educators. It's a perfect bedtime story or an early reader that introduces themes of generosity, perseverance, and the rewards of a good heart in an accessible way.

How long does it take to read *The clever shoemaker*?

As a short children's picture book, it typically takes about 5 to 10 minutes to read aloud, depending on the reader's pace and whether there are pauses for discussion.