

Genevieve

Santa's Tiniest Elf



Genevieve was Santa's tiniest elf. She loved living at the North Pole with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the other elves. Everyone was so busy preparing for Christmas and Genevieve wanted to help. She decided to look for ways to give her **heartfelt** love to others by assisting with their Christmas preparations.

For her first job, Genevieve was responsible for carrying paint cans to the tables so the bigger elves could decorate the toys. She tried to help, but she just was not strong enough to carry the paint cans to the table. The job was too hard and Genevieve was too tiny.

Genevieve's next job was to care for Santa's big red coat. She was so excited to help Santa! Genevieve found it easy work to brush off the cookie crumbs from Santa's coat, but when she tried to pick up the coat to hang it on Santa's chair, the coat fell on top of her. It took all Genevieve's strength to move it so she could escape. She was just too tiny.

Discouraged, Genevieve went outside for a walk. "I can at least help feed the reindeer," she thought. Rocco, the Elf in charge of the reindeer, was inside the barn busily adding clean straw to the stalls. Genevieve knew she was too small to hold a pitchfork so she tried dragging a bucket of oats over to the reindeer. The bucket was almost as big as she was! It began to tip and teeter and finally tipped over, covering Genevieve with oats. Rocco heard the noise and hurried over to offer her a hand. Once again, Genevieve was just too tiny to help.

Genevieve was very sad because she desperately wanted to help others. Tears started to drip down her face and freeze into tiny snowflakes. After a while, Genevieve went to visit sweet Mrs. Claus. Mrs. Claus always had plenty of love and comfort to give . . . along with hot cocoa and cookies!

Mrs. Claus was so happy to see Genevieve, but she quickly noticed Genevieve did not have her usual happy smile on her face. Over cookies and hot cocoa, Genevieve told her how she had tried so hard to help others prepare for Christmas Eve but soon discovered she was just too tiny.

"Genevieve, you are simply thinking too BIG," Mrs. Claus lovingly explained. "You need to look for small and simple ways to give **heartfelt** love and service." Then Mrs. Claus had an idea. "Genevieve, your tiny hands are the perfect size to add magic sprinkles to the elves' cookies!" Adding magic sprinkles to the cookies was an important job because the sprinkles gave the elves extra energy to work quickly!

Because her fingers were so tiny, Genevieve was fantastic at adding magic sprinkles to the cookies – maybe even better than Mrs. Claus! Genevieve left the kitchen with a smile on her face. She returned to the reindeer's barn to find something small and simple she could do and noticed a box of apples next to the large buckets of oats. She was just big enough to carry two apples at a time and made four trips back and forth until she fed each of the eight reindeer. The reindeer were so happy to receive their favorite treat. (As you well know, apples make reindeer fly faster.) They snorted and bobbed their heads to thank tiny Genevieve.

During the elves' cookie break, Genevieve snuck into their workroom and looked around for some way to help. The place was a disaster – paint cans left open and paint spills on the table. Santa would not be happy with such a mess! Genevieve quickly climbed onto the table, put the lids back on the cans and wiped up the paint spills. She left just before the elves returned to their workroom. They could not believe their eyes! Who had cleaned up while they had been away?

Genevieve's heart was full; she had found many ways to help the elves prepare for Christmas. "But what about Santa?" she sighed. Genevieve still wanted to do something special for Santa but had no idea what to do. Then she remembered what Mrs. Claus had said about looking for small and simple ways to give **heartfelt** love and service.

Genevieve skipped back to Santa and Mrs. Claus' house and walked into the kitchen. She knew if she looked hard enough, she would find a tiny way she could help Santa. Then she saw Santa's big red coat hanging on the back of his chair ready for his Christmas Eve flight. "I've got it! I can shine the black buttons and comb the fur trim on Santa's coat!" Genevieve pulled a tiny comb out of her pocket and quickly brushed the fur trim so it was smooth and fluffy. She found a small cloth and began buffing and rubbing the buttons until they shone like stars.

Genevieve was exhausted after tidying Santa's coat and giving **heartfelt** love and service all day. With a smile on her face, she snuggled down on Santa's chair by the fireplace and fell fast asleep.

Later that evening Santa arrived after a long day of preparing and checking lists for Christmas Eve. He noticed his special red coat hanging on the back of his favorite chair, ready for the big night. Suddenly something caught his eye. The buttons on his coat were extra shiny and the fur trim neatly combed. Someone knew his big red coat needed those extra touches so everything would be perfect for his very important trip.

Santa turned to Mrs. Claus and said, "Thank you for shining my buttons and combing my fur trim. What a wonderful gift you have given me!" Mrs. Claus shook her head and pointed to tiny Genevieve who was still asleep in Santa's chair.

Genevieve woke up to the sound of Santa's happy chuckle. He picked her up and gave her a big hug and a soft pat on the back. All of a sudden, Genevieve felt her back tingle where Santa had touched it. She turned her head to look over her shoulder and there she saw a tiny, sparkling heart! It was a very special, very **heartfelt** thank-you from Santa to tiny Genevieve.

Genevieve joined Santa and Mrs. Claus outside by Santa's sleigh. Everyone who lived and worked at the North Pole was there and they all noticed the shiny gold heart on Genevieve's back. At that moment, they knew who had truly helped them get ready for Christmas Eve. They gave Genevieve what seemed like a million hugs for her tiny **heartfelt** acts of service.

Since that special Christmas Eve, tiny Genevieve does not let a day go by without finding small and simple ways to give **heartfelt** love to others.

