

THE  
WIZARD  
AND  
US

FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN, ON CHRISTMAS, 1966

FROM WILLIAM ROTSLER

1899

W.A.

1899



## A PRESENT FOR THE WIZARD

It was the Wizard's birthday,  
but what can you give a wizard?

Someone suggested gold.  
Another suggested a flea circus.  
"Tiger's teeth," a small voice whispered.  
But no one knew where to find these things.

The fat boy from across town suggested a cake.  
Jennifer, the smallest girl, suggested a star.  
"Pebbles from a stream," Lisa said, "or maybe a rose."  
I suggested a tie, but no one heard me.

"We could gather stardust for him," Lexy said,  
"Only we haven't much time."

"He has stars and gold and all that stuff," Mark said.  
"Let's give him something practical."

"Like what? we all asked.  
"Oh...like a new wand..."  
"I'd love to give him a new hat," Lennox said.

"Love!" Lexy shouted.  
"That's it! Let's give him love!"

"Love, Love," we all cried. "Whose love? What love?"

"Why, our love, of course," Lexy said.

"But if we give him all our love," Mark said,  
"We won't have any more for him!"

"Silly," Lexy said.  
"The more love you give, the more you have!"

So that's what we gave the Wizard for his birthday,  
and you have never seen him so pleased.

## THE WIZARD'S APPRENTICE

It was time for the Wizard to choose an apprentice.

"What's an apprentice?" asked Jennifer.

"It's a kind of helper," Lexy said, who knew these things.

"A sort of assistant wizard?" asked Lisa.

"Even better," Lexy said, "because you can grow up to be a wizard!"

"A real wizard, with a wand and everything?" asked Mark.

"The very same," answered Lexy.

"Gee," said Lisa and Mark and Jennifer.

Who will he choose? we all wondered.

Will he choose me? wondered Lisa.

Will he choose me? wondered Mark.

Will he choose me? wondered Jennifer.

We all wondered. We wondered and wondered and wondered.

Soon it was time for dinner.

And right after that, it seemed, we were in bed.

We wondered right into sleep and out the other side.

"Is being a wizard hard?" I asked Lexy the next day.

"It isn't easy," she said.

"You have to know all about spells and chants and things--byheart!"

"Also mandrake root and Holloween," said Mark.

"Not to mention witches," shivered Cathy.

"Wizards know about the moon and stars and enchanted swords, and every ice cream flavor there is," said Jennifer.

Lisa said, "Wizards are very wise and know an awful lot."

That made us wonder...

Could any of us really be a wizard? we asked ourselves.

"Could any of us really be a wizard?" Cathy asked,

"I know what to say when I see a falling star," said Mark.

"Cross your heart and hope to die?" asked Jennifer.

"Something like that," murmured Mark, who was not at all sure.

Soon it was time for lunch.

There was peanut butter and jam and three flavors of ice cream.

"Please pass the strawberry," said Lisa.

"Please pass the chocolate," said Mark.

"I don't want any," said Cathy.

"Isn't there any neopolitan?" asked Lexy.

"No," I said, and sighed.



## A HOLIDAY FOR WIZARDS

They came from everywhere and everywhen.  
There were silver sorcerers and slinky witches,  
and warlocks, tall and dark.  
There were fairy queens, one big ogre,  
and golden knights galore.

It was a holiday for wizards,  
a day for laughter and the casting of happy spells.  
We laughed and looked and danced all around,  
for our Wizard was the host, you see,  
and very polite to everyone.

There was shop talk and trading of spells,  
and long chants until all hours of the night.  
Even past our bedtime!

Our mothers grew very impatient  
and complained of unicorns in the garden.  
Our fathers grumbled at all the scattered stardust  
and told us not to annoy the ogre.

We were very proud of our Wizard  
so we hung around and listened hard  
and hoped he'd show them all.

Merlin came and everyone bowed,  
while our Wizard magicked up bells and trumpets,  
and the little cakes he liked.

The boys bowed and the girls curtsied  
and Mr. Merlin smiled and shook our hands  
and said what a fine wizard our Wizard was.

Then,  
with a zippity-pow and a racketty-roo... everyone was gone!  
(Except the ogre, who left with a grunt.)

We sighed and looked at the mess.  
Our mommies sighed and looked at the mess.  
Our daddies sighed and looked at the mess.

We found a wand with a bent startip  
and the Wizard zipped it off to the owner.  
We found a small cauldron and a unicorn's shoe,  
which the Wizard said we could keep.

We found a frog and hurried to the Wizard,  
who looked up a jim-dandy spell breaker and used it right away.  
But it was just an ordinary frog and croaked very loudly.

"Well," said the Wizard, "that's all until next year."  
"Whew!" we said.

"Whew!" our mommies said.

"Whew!" our daddies said.

Do you know something?

It took a week before all the stardust  
was out of the flowerbeds.

### DR. WIZARD

"I hurt my knee," Lisa said, "can you help me?"

"Surely," said the Wizard, waving his wand.

"Thank you," said Lisa, "I feel better already."

"You're welcome," said the Wizard. "Come back anytime."  
And away she limped, a brand new Band-Aid on her knee.

"Oooooooh," said Mark, "I've banged my head."

"Let me see it," the Wizard said kindly.

"Oooooooh," said Mark, screwing up his face.

"It's not too bad," smiled the Wizard. "You'll live."

"Are you sure?" asked Mark.

"Very sure, but to be certain, I'll weave a spell."

"A chant, too," said Mark, looking brave.

"Oh, a very fine chant, one of the best," said the Wizard.

The spell and the chant took just a second or two,  
and the Wizard's touch was even quicker.

Mark smiled again and said, "Thank you, sir.

"The spell was fine and the chant was pretty.

"But was the iodine really necessary?"

"Every good spell for hurts has just a touch of iodine,"  
the Wizard said. "Didn't you notice the skull and crossbones?"

"Oh," said Mark, "I guess you know your business."

The Wizard made a little laugh. "Of course," he said.

"All right," Mark said as he left, "I'll give you all my trade!"

"Thank you," said the Wizard, "that's what we are here for."



## A LESSON FROM THE WIZARD

"Fought a dragon today," said Mark. "Beat him, too."  
"Oooh!" we said.  
"It was touch and go, but naturally I won."  
"Oh, naturally," we said.

Not to be outdone Lexy spoke up. "My kitty can talk."  
"Oooh?" we said.

"I saw a butterfly as big as a kite," said Cathy.  
"Oooh!" we said.  
("Oh, my," said the Wizard to himself.)

"My father is the strongest man in the world," said Lennox.  
"My mother is the prettiest lady in the world," said Lisa.  
("Oh, my," said the Wizard to himself.)

"The dragon was very big," said Mark.

"STOP!" cried the Wizard. "Stop! Stop, stop, stop!"  
Naturally we all looked at him in amazement.  
"You must not lie," the Wizard said seriously.

"Lie?" we said, quite astounded.

"Yes, lie," the Wizard said. "It will only lead to trouble."  
"You'll lie to each other, then to me."  
"Then to your parents."  
"Then you'll start lying to the world..."  
"And then, worst of all--to yourselves!"  
"Oooh!" we said.

"I wouldn't want a liar for a friend," said Mark thoughtfully.  
"Especially if the liar was yourself," said Cathy thoughtfully.  
"That would be terrible," Lexy said thoughtfully.

"If you couldn't trust yourself, who could you trust?"  
We all thought about that for a long time.  
You think about it, too.

"I didn't really fight a dragon today," Mark said.  
"I was just fooling you," he added.

"My kitty talks all right," Lexy said, "but it's kitty talk."

"I've seen some very small kites," said Cathy.

"My daddy's strong," said Lennox.

"My mommy's pretty," said Lisa.

"If there had been a dragon I'd have fought him,"  
said Mark bravely.

"Oooh!" we said.

## A FLOWER FROM THE PARK

Lexy brought the Wizard a flower.

"Thank you," said the Wizard, who was very polite.

"It's very pretty. Where did you get it?"

"I picked it in the Park," she said.

"There were a lot of them growing there."

"Oh, my," said the Wizard, becoming very grave.

"Don't you like it?" asked Lexy.

She smiled brightly and said, "It was the prettiest one there."

"It is very pretty," the Wizard said, "and I thank you, but..."

"I looked a long time before I picked it," Lexy said.

"I wanted it to be just right."

"Um," said the Wizard. "But you stole it, Alexandra."

Lexy looked at him with her big dark eyes.

"I guess so," she said in a small voice.

"But I didn't think of it that way.

"I mean, there were so many."

The Wizard smiled softly. "I know you didn't."

"But what about all the other people, my dear,

"who won't see the flower now?"

"But there are so many left!" cried Lexy.

"You said this was the very best one," the Wizard said.

"Won't they miss this one particularly?"

"Oh," said Lexy in her smallest voice.

She looked very serious. "I guess I can't put it back...?"

"No," said the Wizard.

"I guess I should have thought of that first?"

"Yes," said the Wizard.

"Well," Lexy sighed, "I won't do it again. I promise."

"Good," the Wizard said approvingly.

"Would you like some water in the bud vase?" Lexy asked.



## THE LOVING DOESN'T STOP

"Do you love me?" asked Lisa.

"Yes," said the Wizard with a smile.

"Then magick me a lot of candy," Lisa said.

"That's blackmail!" said the Wizard with a frown.

"And I don't like it!"

"You're angry with me," she said.

"Yes, I am," said the Wizard.

"You hate me," Lisa said.

"No, I don't hate you," the Wizard said.

"You'll turn me into a toad!" Lisa cried.

The Wizard sighed.

"My love for you doesn't stop," he said.

"Oh...?" said Lisa.

"I can be angry with you for being nasty or bad,"  
the Wizard said. "Or petty or foolish.

"But the loving doesn't stop."

"Oh," said Lisa. "Are you sure?"

"Yes," said the Wizard.

"That is good to know," Lisa smiled.

"Make a magic," she said.

"What would you like?" the Wizard asked.

"Candy," Lisa said.

"Mumble, mumble," mumbled the Wizard.

"Oh, well," said Lisa, "I love you anyway."

The Wizard smiled to himself and waved his wand about.  
He said his best Candy Chant and turned thrice around.

All our mothers complained and two angry dentists called.  
But we didn't care.

It isn't often you get a roomful of candy.

## SCHOOL DAYS

The Wizard said, "It's time for school!"

"School?" we cried. "Oh, no, not school!"

"We want to stay with you!"

"Nonsense!" said the Wizard.

"You must go to school to learn."

"No!" we all shouted. "We learn much more from you!"

"Don't be silly," the Wizard said. "All you learn from me,  
"Is how to hone a unicorn's horn,  
"And how to make the flowers grow.  
"School teaches you useful things."  
"Awwwww," we said.

"Stay with me and you'll know about wishes and wands,  
"But not writing."  
"Awwwww," we said.

"Off to school with you!" the Wizard cried.  
With a huff and a puff and a wish and a wave--ZIP!  
We were in school!  
"Awwwww," we said.

The teacher sighed and we sighed.  
"A wizard's a wizard," we said,  
"And always up to sneaky tricks."

"Quiet," said the teacher. "You're back in school."  
("Awwwww," we said.)







