

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

By Lorelei Pepe

It was a few days after the Christmas holidays when my mother and I were sitting in the Barnes & Noble bookstore coffee shop. We were sitting and sipping our Latte's and chatting away. We were a little sad and nostalgic that another Christmas had just slipped by away so fast and was kind of sad for us this year. With our family in New York, we were alone for the holidays and it was always hard, and with mom aging it was even worse for her. She missed her grandchildren too.

Sitting right next to us was an attractive, mature “motherly” type woman, dressed in black from head to toe. Her shoulder length blonde hair complimented her soft, round face and sparkling blue eyes. A real warmth seem to emanate from her. She was browsing through some books while keeping an eye on her little girl, sitting next to her. The little girl looked about 3 or 4 years old and was striking with a head of full blonde curls, fair skin, and blue eyes. I thought she certainly resembled her mother. I was impressed how quiet and well behaved she was.

When they glanced our way, we just smiled and then I got up to go browsing through the bookstore, while mom finished her latte. I headed for the piles of books marked “clearance”. I was thrilled when I discovered they were 50% off. I especially loved the kid's books and toys too. They would make great gifts for presents for my nieces and nephews for next year, up north, I thought. I also found a charming little keyboard book with a dozen or so Christmas tunes and sheet music. I picked it up along with my other “finds” to show mom. As I showed her the keyboard book she was excited about it and the other woman looked up and commented too. We started to play it, like 2 kids! She asked me where I got it and I showed her all my “sale” items. Mom came too as her interest was peaked as well. The little girl was left at the table with the woman's husband who had just returned to the table.

While we were rummaging through all the books, both Mom and I remarked to the woman how well behaved her little girl was! She then proceeded to tell us a remarkable story. Her little girl was an orphan who lived in a children's orphanage for the first year of her life. “This is our second Christmas together” and I am truly

blessed! She said she is truly our “miracle child”. Not being able to have children of their own, she and her husband decided to “adopt”. However when they arrived in Russia after many months of waiting and praying, there were no babies available. There was a “screw-up” with the child they were expecting. After spending more time there and waiting longer, and going through all the red tape again, they met the little baby they were supposed to have.

When she had her first look at her, she fell in love instantly, with the little girl, barely dressed was in a sparse crib. She had spent the first full year of her life here in the orphanage. Her only toy was a small cup, which she was clinging too. This woman’s eyes were filled with tears as she relayed the story to us. It is now two years later since she has been here in America. We remarked how similar that she looked so much like her mom, it was uncanny. The woman nodded her head and smiled and agreed with us. We were truly blessed, she said. We then said our good-byes and wished them a Happy New Year, with tears in our eyes, but our hearts were uplifted. We felt like at that moment we knew the true meaning of Christmas because God sent a little child to save this family and save the world too. **Yes, Love came down at Christmas!**