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Chester, Kent & Co., Windsor, Canada

## HOW CHRISTMAS CAME TO NINA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42)

You know it almost seems like a dream (stage grows brighter) but it isn't a dream for I can feel you (kisses CHILD) And my locket isn't here—it's there in your hands. So I'll know by that, that it isn't a dream. Come, you shall have my coat to wear home.

(The CHILD slips Nina's locket into Nina's pocket in view of the audience, but without Nina's knowledge.)

Child.—(happily) You will really give me a home?

Nina.—Indeed yes—You shall be my sister—Listen—

(Soft music off stage. Nina goes slowly to foot of tree and takes paper from doll's trunk as though to give it to child, sits down and looks dreamily out into audience. CHILD slips out of door R. A pause until music dies away. Then stamping heard at door R. and Mrs. S. calling off-stage.)

Nina! Nina!

Enter Mrs. Scott, arms full of parcels.

Mrs. Scott.—Good heavens, child. You all alone? Didn't you hear me calling you to open the door? You must have been asleep. (dumps parcels on table.)

Nina.—(staring round) Why, mother—no, I wasn't asleep—why, where is she?

Mrs. S.—Who?

Nina.—The CHILD—the poor little Spirit of Christmas—I promised to take her home—

Mrs. S.—Fiddlesticks, Nina! You can take some of this stuff home. I bought your precious kitchen outfit, and a pretty penny it cost me, too. But the desk was a real bargain—12 pieces for twenty dollars! Won't it look lovely in my room? Glory, how my arms ache—hurry, now, and get into your things. You have been dreaming long enough.

Nina.—(putting on wraps) No, I haven't been dreaming—see my locket is gone . . . that is the way I can tell—

Mrs. S.—(shaking her) Nina Scott, if you have lost your locket, I'll punish you well, so you'd better make a good search for it. Now pick up that stove and come on—I'm just about dead.

(She picks up a number of parcels and goes to door. Nina very slowly takes stove and other parcels and carries them to foot of tree, where she lays them with the other toys.)

Nina.—It feels so nice and sort of happy in here—(touching her heart) and doesn't the tree look beautiful? (goes to center of stage to admire it.)

Enter the CHILD from door L. She is dressed in white, like an angel. She glides in and stands beside the tree, smiling at Nina. Music.

Nina.—Oh, mother, mother, look, there she is—did she die, after all?

Mrs. S.—(turning from door R.) There who is? Don't be an idiot, Nina. Collect your wits and your parcels and COME ON! (Goes out of Door R. without seeing CHILD.)

Nina.—(listening to music and watching the CHILD) It surely isn't a dream—I know that the Spirit of Christmas is here—with me.

I can—see—

(She starts slowly across the stage toward the CHILD but when about centre, her hand strays to her pocket and she pulls out the locket. She stops and a look of wonderment spreads over her face. She looks from the CHILD to the locket mystified.)

Re-enter Mrs. Scott.

Mrs. S.—(speaking very crossly and dragging Nina by arm toward door R. Will you come on, or must I carry you—you ungrateful girl? I tell you I'm tired and I'll drop dead before your eyes, if I don't get my boots off—Come—

CURTAIN.

### THE GAME OF FINANCE

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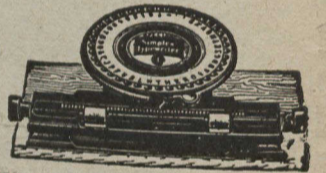
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