

## A Christmas Story by Ethan C.

It was at the peak of Christmas day, and Ricky had set his alarm clock to 12:00 AM sharp. Last night, at the park, Ricky was dared by his friend Christine to stay up (or wake up) at 12:00 AM and wait for Santa Claus to arrive. It was a risky dare – he thought – “what if my parents wake up too? What if they ask me questions like “why is your alarm set to 12 o’clock AM?” Ricky accepted, but he would have to be careful – he couldn’t let Santa Claus know he was awake.

It was finally time, as Ricky’s alarm clock blared loudly in his room and right into his ear. Ricky jumped right out of his covers and quickly, but quietly switched his alarm switch off then back on. Ricky began to have second thoughts – “if Santa doesn’t come... how am I supposed to get sleep again?” These thoughts loomed over Ricky’s mind. He was beginning to think that Santa wasn’t coming. The clock turned to 12:01 as Ricky was about to shut his eyes once again.

Just as Ricky began to doze off, though – the clatter of hooves on the roof shook him right up. He thought to himself – “what could that noise be?” As he thought of all the possibilities, one thought hit him right in the head – “IT MUST BE SANTA CLAUS” He whispered as loudly as he could. “I must sneak downstairs and see him for myself.” He quickly thought as he swiped his camera and tip toed to the door.

Excited to see Santa Claus, he ripped the camera into its open state and started the film. Of course, he began by introducing himself and the time and why he was filming. He was excitedly filming the fireplace hoping to see a sign of Santa. He sat there for at least five minutes and began to think, “Maybe a goat or sheep got on our roof.” But this didn’t fit. “How could a goat get on our roof? Maybe it climbed a tree?” But this didn’t fit either. Disappointed, He sadly entered his room and trudged into his bed.

But as he crawled under the covers – he realized something – it was still 12:01. The idea haunted his mind. “How could I have been out there for five minutes and the clock stay the same?” He set the alarm for 12:01 and 59 seconds. He waited – but nothing happened. Furiously, he picked up the clock and shook as hard as possible, but as he was about to set it down, his hands slipped and he expected the clock to slam into the ground. But instead, the clock remained floating in midair.

Baffled by the idea of time freezing, he picked up his blankets and shaped a fort. Not surprisingly, it stayed in the shape of the fort. As he admired the fort he created, a loud slam rang throughout the house. Expecting it came from the living room, he tip toed once again to his bedroom door and quietly opened it. What he saw confused him even more. A man in a red coat, covered in ash, was brushing himself off in the living room. Carrying a sack, he searched through it until he found four gifts. He chuckled and said, “Good thing I freeze time, or I would’ve never made to this neighborhood!”