

## The Most Precious Present



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There is an atmosphere of Christmas in this small town in England. Christmas is coming again. All the shops were closed very early in town on Christmas Eve, people all went home and prepare the fantastic dinner, and to spend time with their families.

Christmas is Arthur's favourite holiday. The Christmas decorations are all over his house. There is a big Christmas tree in front of the spring in his garden with a lot of presents around it, bells and other kinds of decoration are garnished around his house. After a delicious Christmas dinner with his family members he was so excited



that he got lots of presents from his family. But he didn't know there was something really sad happening on the other side of the town while they celebrating a wonderful Christmas in his beautiful big house.

On Christmas, Arthur woke up in the early morning. He was looking forwards to opening all his presents. He got a new phone from his parents, a model ship from his grandparents and a couple of other things from his brother, his uncle and aunt. He was so pleased that he got almost all the things he wanted in this year. While he was eating his breakfast and reading newspaper, something had happened in town last night shocked him. A fire evoked last night! A little boy named John and his father survived, but his mother unfortunately died. This fire on Christmas ruined his life. All their belongings in his house were burned. They had nowhere to stay except for the refugee camp. At the end of the news, the reporter left their contact information and encouraged people in town to donate some money and necessities to help them rebuild their family.

After reading the news, Arthur finished his first meal of Christmas quickly; he went back into his room and got changed. He put some money in the envelope and brought the newspaper with the contact information with him on his way out. While he walking on the street, there were more people than yesterday, and most of the people were towards the same direction. They were going to the refugee camp where John and his father stayed. When he arrived in the refugee camp, a little girl and her mother caught Arthur's attention.



Apparently, they also came here to donate necessities for poor John and his father. They stood outside the camp and they seemed they were not ready to go inside. This situation made Arthur curious. The mother squatted down, talking endless chatter to her five-year-old daughter. However, the little girl looked very unhappy. A brand new quilt, some clothes looked quite new were folded very tidy and a frazzled toy bear were sitting on the floor beside them. Arthur guessed, the mother must bring her daughter's favourite things to donate. That was probably the reason why the little girl was so unhappy and unwilling. As Arthur walked by, he found he was wrong. The mother was pointing the things on the floor beside them and talking to the little girl: "Dear, look at this quilt it is my best quilt, and look, the clothes, it's your dad's brand new clothes, he just bought them yesterday for his Christmas present, they are the best clothes in our home. Look around; all the people here bring their best things to donate to

John's family. Therefore, why you can't bring your best toy and give it to John. You have so many toys, but why did you just gave this frazzled toy bear to John?" The Little girl looked around, as well as Arthur, as her mother said, almost all the things that people brought here were brand new. She looked at her mother with a reluctant face.

"I still like the other toys very much, but I don't want this toy bear anymore." The little girl said unhappily.

"Do you think is it make sense that you give the things you don't like to others?"

"Why do we need to give our best things to other, why does it have to be the best thing?" The little girl asked her mother in a low voice.

"I think so," the mother said. Her daughter was quiet for a while, and she asked again, "Do you have something that is the best? Maybe we are not going to give this frazzled toy bear to little John, but we can give other good things to him. We can give him something you really like."

The little girl looked up her mother. Arthur could tell she didn't know what she should do from her eyes. Therefore, she spoke in a low voice "I...I...I...I am reluctant."

Her mother felt disappointed towards her daughter, she said: "I am not going to compel you to give your best toy to John, but could you please consider it carefully again?"

"If I give my most precious things to John, will he give it back to me?"

Arthur as a person who passed by the mother and the little girl, he could not believe it, because when the little girl asked her mother, she was so cute. He answered

her question instead of her mother, "Certainly not. It is unreasonable that we asked for our things back when we donated them to others."

The little girl looked like she did not want to trust Arthur's words. She looked up her mother. Her mother nodded her head to show she agreed with Arthur's answer to the little girl's question. The little girl hung her head thoughtfully. She knew she needed to give her most precious thing to John.

Arthur walked in to the refugee camp with the little girl and her mother. They saw little John and his father in the corner, they looked very sad from their eyes. Little John looked like have been cried for a whole night, his eyes were as red as a rabbit's eyes. Certainly, no one would be happy after a fire, which burned all the things in their house and destroyed their happy family on Christmas Eve, especially losing John's mother and his father's wife. Arthur gave the envelope, which with some money inside and said, "I believe you can rebuild your family, to be strong, life is good."

When the mother gave the necessities to John, the little girl seemed like she was trying to say something. She held John's hand then held her mother's hand seriously and carefully. She put their hands together, all the people around felt curious about what she was doing. Her face looked pale, tears were filled with her eyes, she made up her mind and said, "John, my mother said, I should give my most precious things to you. Now, I give my mother to you, you will have mother from now on." Everyone was shocked at her words. After saying these words, the tears rushed out her eyes, she started crying then ran out of the camp.

Everything made sense now the most precious thing to the little girl is her mother. If she gives her precious mother to John, he will has mother, but she won't have her own mother anymore.

Arthur ran out the camp and followed the little girl with her mother. She looked up her mother with a pair of eyes full of tears and said carefully, "Mom, no, John's mom, I am not going to ask you back, but... but...but... but I really want to kiss you one more time. Just one time please... And do not tell John I kiss you please."

The mother kissed her and pulled the little girl into her arms. Arthur saw the mother's eyes fill with tears, but the tears in her eyes were proud. She felt honored

that because her daughter considers her as the most precious things in the world and her education on her daughter is worth, because her daughter knows how to share.

Arthur's eyes are full of tears



because of the little girl and her mother. It is the noblest donation he ever saw. As an adult, face to the calamity, all they did was show their sympathy, but the little girl gave all her life. He guessed that the mother needed lots of time to explain that she is a person not an object, which can't give other as a present. Arthur left quietly, he did not want to ruin the touching moment between the mother and her five-year-old daughter.

On the way home, Arthur tasted the sweet air and the sunshine made him feel warm on a cold crisp Christmas.

**THE END**