

SUSIE'S FAMILY STORY

by June.w



Christmas Eve of 2020.

A book was born to be,

Inspired by the warmth of Christmas cheer,

Susie's family came to me.

I hope this story spreads joy and light,

To children far and near,

Bringing love and warmth to every heart,

A gift throughout the year.

-June W



SEASON 1, EPISODE 2- FINDING HOPE IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Christmas Eve at Ken's Store

On Christmas Eve, Ken's store was quiet, with festive music playing in the background. The shelves were filled with holiday treats, but very few customers visited. Susie, pregnant and feeling overwhelmed, listened to the radio announcing new COVID-19 cases, feeling a deep sense of fear for her family's safety.

Susie reflected on how different this Christmas was. With Paul away and their financial struggles, she felt alone and scared. She worried about her unborn child, whom she affectionately called the Little Golden Egg, and her husband's job security. The pandemic had brought many changes, and Susie longed for the joy of past Christmases.

Amidst her worries, an unexpected visitor, Tanya, the Eggshell Lawyer, entered the store. Dressed in a unique costume, Tanya offered free legal advice for families and presented Susie with information about a special program for children and parents - the On-Air Matrix Kids CARDS Museum. This initiative offered a range of classes to support families during the pandemic, all for free.

Susie's spirits lifted as she realized there was still kindness and support in the world. She felt a glimmer of hope, thinking that maybe, just maybe, Santa Claus had brought her a special gift after all.

A Lonely Christmas Eve

In the little store, it's a special day - Christmas Eve. The cheerful tune of "Santa is Coming to Town" plays again and again, filling the room with festive spirit. Shelves are decked with tiny Christmas gifts, candies, biscuits, and cakes, spreading colors of joy. But outside, the world is different - it's 4 p.m., and the sky is dark, with no guests or children's laughter in sight.

"Why is it so quiet?" Susie wonders, her heart sinking a little. "What a deserted Christmas!"

As she stands there, feeling a bit sleepy, Susie imagines her baby, snug in her belly, whispering, "Mom, I'm afraid!" It sounds like her own fear echoing. Susie, too, is filled with worry.

Her husband Paul couldn't come home for Christmas because of the high costs of travel and gas. It's their first Christmas apart since they got married. Her own parents, in their 60s, are also facing tough times because of the epidemic, making life harder.

And then, there's Paul's parents. His father, Neil, got sick with COVID-19 in November. Thankfully, he's better now, but it's been hard for his mother, Linda, who's taking care of him.

Standing in the small store, listening to the same song for the 180th time, Susie gazes out at the falling snow, feeling overwhelmed. She longs for a shoulder to lean on, but knows she has to stay strong for her baby and herself.

Her emotions are like a rollercoaster - sometimes happy, sometimes sad, and often afraid. Afraid for her little one, afraid of being alone, and scared that Paul might lose his job or her parents might get sick. These fears wrap around her like a dark cloud.

Susie wishes she could find a quiet corner to let her tears out, but she must greet her customers with a smile, no matter what. As the song plays on, she wonders, "Will Santa really come to our town this year?"

