

by: Samantha McCracken (Age 11)

The Tip of a Christmas Tree

This story starts with a huge wildfire and a little information about me. I am a Canaan Fir from Canada, Bonjour! I am a whopping 200 pounds at 12 feet long and 20 feet in height. I am pretty big for my age of 8. Now, for the story of the fire. My home is a magical place and we trees had suffered quite big fires before... but none had been like this one. We had more than 100 trees burn. None that lived knew how the fire started but the fire was not so terrible it's what stopped it!

They saw our beauty at its best and one of the monsters grumbled "Joy.... Do you think?" The monster named Joy interrupted with a sly smile "That they could be Christmas trees?" These words angered the spirits of the Magical Grove, but the sinister humans did what they wanted. And all I could do is watch in thought, what was I thinking! Just a moment ago I was watching a chipmunk eat and listening to bird sing! I should have been trying to prevent the fire! But then again this must be my destiny. Maybe I'll go see all of Canada! Or all the world! Well... maybe not all the world but the thought made it a little better.

I first stopped at a place the humans called Ohio and Home Depot. When I was out of the box, they had put me into after they cut me down, I saw... a... house? Building? Well, it said Home Depot over the dirty doors that creaked open slowly. Then I heard someone... a male human said "Hey Steve! It's \$100 for that tree!" I guess I am \$100? What ever that means. The man named Steve said "Ok... here... all these trees are going to a buyer." I wish they could stop staring at my bare bottom. Next thing I knew I was back in the box, and I was off to a place they called Alaska. The plane I was put on dropped me and about 50 other trees off in front of a house. A big man came out and cared us in. He dresses us in lights, it was as if we were logs in the fire. "NO, NO, NO" he said to me "No one will buy a tree this Big!" after about two weeks I was back in a box going to... Paris! "This is too big! Take it back Bob!" said a woman and Bob laughed, flipping little green things (money it was called...I think), left the trees with her and said "Bye!"

I soon found that the woman's name was Holly but the two little monsters that liked to touch me and decorate me in red and green called her mama and Ma. This woman liked to wear purple and never let the little monsters of the house and never let anyone in. One time a man was at the door, and she did not say leave... she just slammed the door with a frightened look on her face. The only time she left someone in, in the daytime was a man that liked to look at me for some reason and told Holly he could "come back tomorrow for it". I knew that by "it" he meant me. Before I knew it, I was off to Wisconsin! I was upset that I had to leave Paris, and I had grown to like the little monsters, but hard things happen, like how I had to leave my magical grove for a world of kind and unkind monsters. I was out of the box and off the train. After the train I was loaded on a Ram truck that was much better than the box. I very much enjoyed my visit to Wisconsin because the man was very kind to me, and I have a reason why. First, he did not put lights on me, but he rapped a light red cloth around me. He did not stare that much but even when he did the cozy cloth made me not feel bare. I spent a week there and then on Friday he sadly said, "You have a new owner." He always talked to me which I liked very much.

I was out and off to London; I was lucky because I was placed near a window on the plane. (Also, I was unlucky because there was a dog next to me that was not nice.) Once I was off the plane 6 people (4 kids and 2 adults) came up to me. "Oh! Mother! He will never fit!" said the tallest girl. "We will make him fit Hannah" said the 2nd tallest boy. "That is right Seth" said the mom "I really like big trees, Dad!" said the tallest. "If it'll fit Aaron" said the smallest one, which I found out her name was Elisabeth. It took some time for them to lift me too

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their truck. After, I was lifted, twisted, and turned to fit neatly in the house. They had 3 floors with a spiral staircase that went through all 2 of them, the staircase twisted around me, making me go through all floors.

On Christmas Eve they took 3 hours to put on all the beach-ornaments and tinsel. Then after that, they setup a train set around me that I really liked. In the middle of the night a rather large man dressed in red and white came down the chimney and put wrapped boxes made of trees under me. Then he looked smiled at me and whispered something like "Wow...don't know how they'll top that next year!" In the morning my family came down the steps and enjoyed the boxes that the man left. After taking all the wrapping (made of trees that they called paper) the family oohed and awed at the things they large man had given them. Then they had family over 2 (more) parents, 2 (MORE) kids and one Grandma. They ate, laughed, and talked together all day. After that it was nighttime and then I knew it was my time to go... all trees do... so of course my family knew as well.

They took some of my cones and planted them in their humongous yard. Year after year they did this, and they have started a new magical grove.

Bonjour! I am a Canaan Fir from Canada. I am 14 years old now and I am 20 feet tall and 12 feet wide. I am 0 pounds... I am a spirit of the magical grove of the Younessian Family.

The End!