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opening extract from

# **Christmas Stories for Little Angels**

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# Mary's surprise

Mary was a good girl, just grown up. She lived with her parents and always did as they asked. They gave her everything she needed. They had found a fine man called Joseph for her to marry. Mary liked to know what would happen from one day to the next. She didn't like surprises.

One morning, Mary was sweeping the floor. Suddenly a bright light appeared in the corner. Mary gasped and dropped her broom.

"Don't be afraid," said a voice. An angel stepped forward. "God has sent me with a message. He would like you to be the mother of his child. It will be a boy, and his name will be Jesus."

"It's a nice name," said Mary, "but the whole idea is a big surprise. I'll have to think about it."

Mary thought hard. What would happen if she did as God asked?

Her parents might think she was bad; her friends might think she was mad; and Joseph would be so, so sad.

She would have to say no.

"God would be very glad," said the angel.





Mary looked out of the window. She thought of the way her parents smiled when she pleased them. She wondered how God's smile might look.

Mary looked back at the angel. "I will do what God has asked me," she said.

"Thank you," said the angel. "God will be so pleased. And one day, so will people all over the world."

The angel disappeared. Mary took a deep breath, then she went outside. It was time to share the surprise with Joseph.

