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Opening extract from
The Night before Christmas

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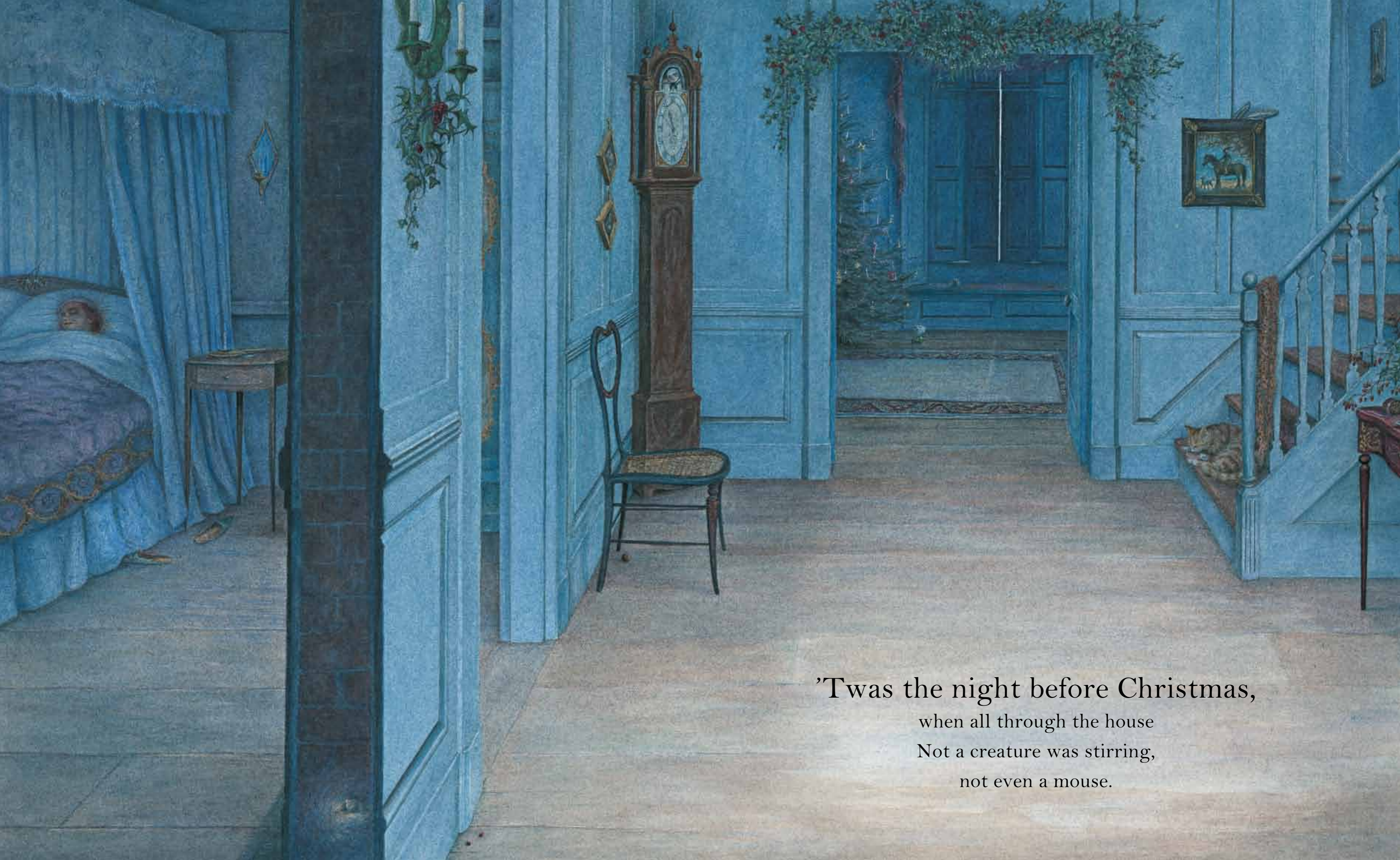


*The
Night
Before
Christmas*

*Clement C Moore
Angela Barrett*



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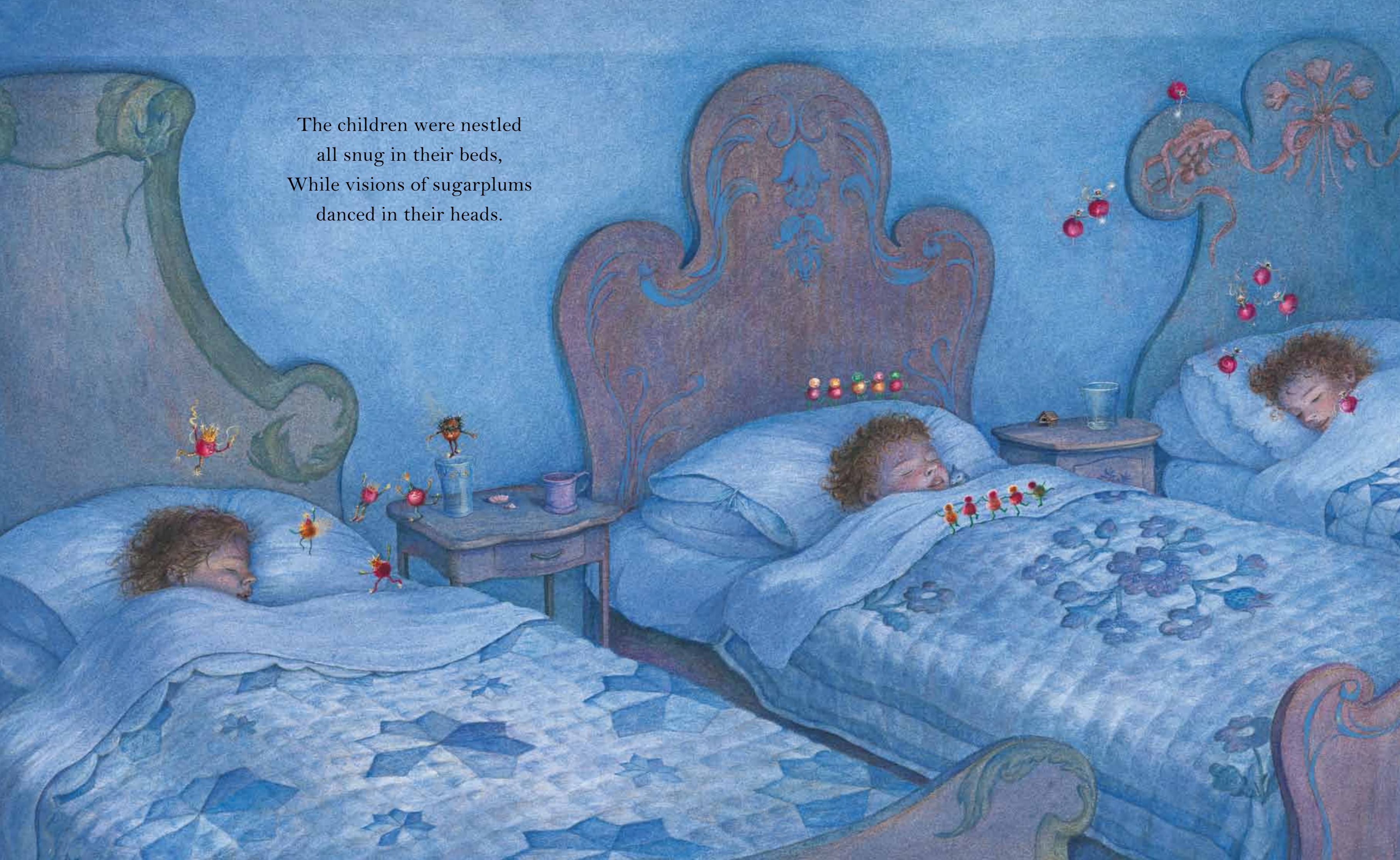


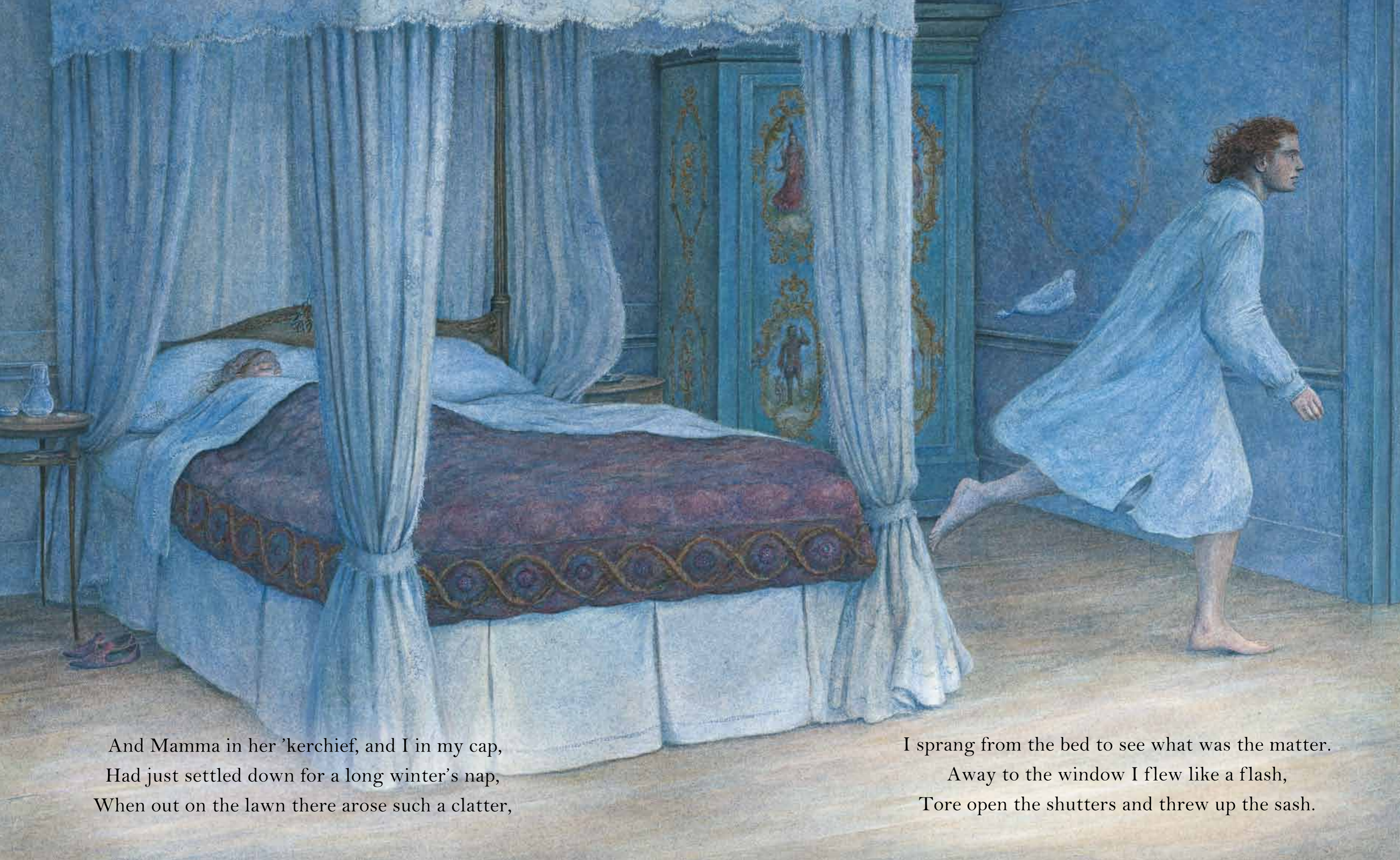
'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung
by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas
soon would be there.



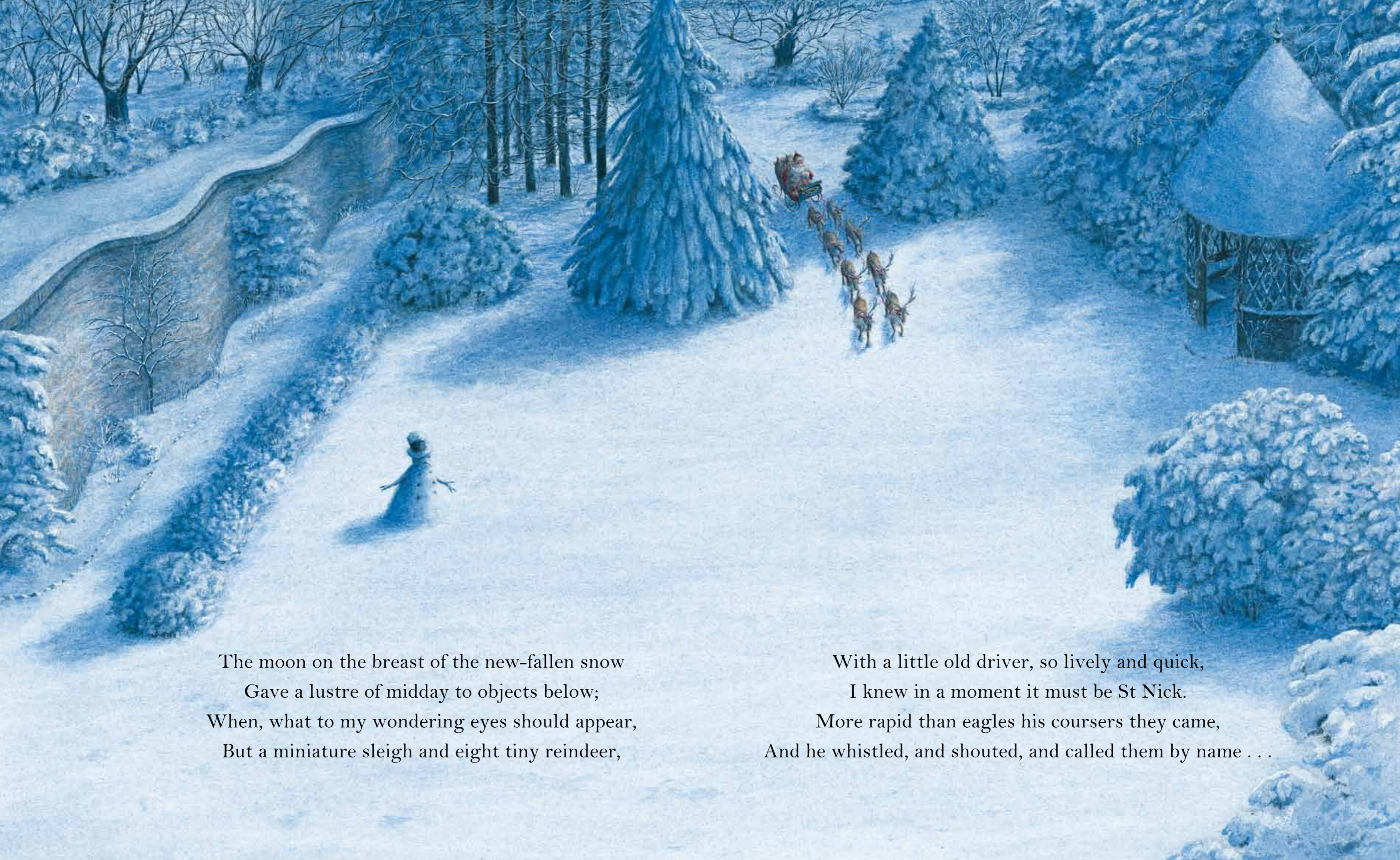
The children were nestled
all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums
danced in their heads.





And Mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.



The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave a lustre of midday to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name . . .



“Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer!
Now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On Cupid!
On, Donder and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch!
To the top of the wall!
Now, dash away! Dash away!
Dash away all!”