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SHERLOCK'S
NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS

PETERSEN * DICKERT



SHERLOCK'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

A MYSTERY



JULIE PETERSEN

ILLUSTRATED BY **SHERYL DICKERT**

“Why, Sherlock, I just saw
Santa standing right there!”
But as Sherlock looked over,
the sidewalk was bare.
No jolly old elf did our
Sherlock now see.
Had Watson really seen him
on this Christmas Eve?



Hustling and harried,
the shoppers passed by,
But then one kindly soul
gave compassion a try.
As she reached in her purse
and pulled out a small offering,
John Watson saw something
that left him exclaiming,





Not a trace of St. Nick
did their searching reveal.
"Perhaps," put forth John,
"this Santa is for real!"
"Nonsense," said Sherlock.
"'Tis a man in disguise.
I can't believe he's real
until I see with my eyes.

"You recall, my dear Watson,
that time when we found
The Baskerville mystery
was no ghostly hound
But in fact, a poor dog
all costumed and arrayed.
This Santa Claus fantasy is,
as well, a charade."

At the rustling of the tree
swiftly Sherlock turned 'round—
But no dastardly criminal
was there to be found—
Instead, there stood Santa Claus,
dressed in red with white fur.
Sherlock blinked and pinched
himself—just to be sure.



Yes, it was the jolly man,
brushing off and smiling.
“Indeed, sir” said Santa,
“Watson has me been spying.
I’m ever present, noting each
good, kindly deed,
Be it for friend, or family,
or neighbor in need.”