

A Gift for Me ...

... Boy, I thought I died and went to heaven! My humans brought a tree into the house just for me. You see it is really hard to get up in the wee hours of the morning, when it is so cold my teeth chatter, to run outside and relieve myself. Lately, I thought I might freeze to death out there! That's why I was so happy to see the big green tree in the middle of our living room. How much better can it get!

The first thing I did after my people stopped fussing around the tree was to go over and inspect every inch of it that I could get my nose on. Great fragrances! I smelled many people, some car smoke, some animal smells I wasn't sure of and the great outdoors. I was just starting to lift my leg and put my initials on the tree and I got a swift NNNOOOO!!! And a boot out the door. What did I do wrong? I thought it was for me. Now I am really confused.

My family finally let me back in the house, with strong grumblings, but the tree had been transformed. Lights so beautiful, I thought the stars had settled on it. There were funny balls I wanted to grab, but I could see my nose in them and it really looked weird.

The tree also had popcorn. Now, I love popcorn. Sometimes late at night me and my human sit around the box that has sound and pictures and he pops me piece after piece of popcorn. I love it and the buttery taste makes me want more. I really wanted to eat the popcorn right there but I figured I better be good since I already was in the DOG HOUSE!!

That tree also had one of my favorite things in the world. I think it is called chocolate. I could smell it! Yum yum! I slinked over to my bed and pretended to go to sleep and just waited patiently for my chance to ravage the tree.

Later that night my small humans left some cookies and a few carrots on the fireplace. Every one went to bed and I curled up next to the warm flame. During the night I got hungry and ate all the cookies and 1 of the carrots. They weren't all that good. But a little later right when I was starting to dream about the poodle next door, I heard such a clatter. I sprang to the window. I wasn't sure whether to bark or to hide for that matter.

I saw the most incredible sight. A human in fur all red and white. He really didn't care that I ate all his cookies. Then he did something amazing! He replaced all the popcorn and chocolate with dog cookies.

He told me to be good and I knew that I would. I will always guard my family with never-ending love and devotion! Never pee on the Christmas tree or ever bite! Then with one quick motion he disappeared out of sight. He whispered, "Peace to all Creatures, and to all a Good Night!"