

## Chapter 2

*After Midnight*

Each day the same thing happened. Soon the shoemaker and his wife had a lot of money. But still they did not know who was making these shoes.

So one night they did not go to bed. The shoemaker cut out the leather for the new shoes. Then he and his wife hid behind a curtain<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *curtain*—sounds like ‘ker-ten’.

At midnight, two little elves<sup>1</sup> jumped onto the bench. They had no clothes on! They began to cut and sew<sup>2</sup> and hammer. They worked very quickly. As they worked they sang happy songs. When the shoes were finished they danced around in circles. Then they ran away.

The shoemaker and his wife were amazed. They wanted to do something for the little elves.

‘We should make them some clothes!’ said the wife.

And so they did. They spent all day making little trousers, and shirts, and shoes, and caps. That night they put them on the bench instead of leather.

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<sup>1</sup> *elves*—very little, magical people with pointy ears.

<sup>2</sup> *sew*—sounds like ‘so’.