

Synopsis

The story of 'The Ice Demon' is set in an isolated village in the far north of Norway. From a time before anyone can remember, the village has been under the curse of an evil Ice Demon. The curse brings misfortune and unhappiness to the villagers and the Ice Demon kidnaps the children if they are out after dark. The villagers believe that it is because of this curse that Christmas has never been a joyous celebration.

ACT ONE – THE VILLAGE IN THE SNOW

Act One opens with the Villagers preparing for Christmas and the annual Gathering of the Villages Festival. The Grown-Ups have been busy buying presents, determined at last to give their children a 'real' Christmas. They begin to worry that they have neglected the preparations for the Festival. Despite the Grown-Ups' concerns, it transpires that the children have completed all the chores.

After all of their hard work, the children beg for extra time to play. Eventually the Grown-Ups relent. As darkness falls the children know they must return to their homes. One child, Olaf, decides that he will stay up after dark to test if the stories of the curse are really true. During the night, the Ice Demon takes Olaf away.

The following morning the Villagers wake up and realise that Olaf has disappeared. Maya, Olaf's sister, sneaks off into the forest in search of her brother.

ACT TWO – IN THE FOREST

On her way through the forest Maya gets lost and begins to lose hope. In her despair she encounters an old woman who gives her a special coat.

ACT THREE – THE ICE PALACE

Maya finally reaches the Ice Palace where the Ice Demon and his clan await her. Their attempts to scare her away fail. Maya appeals to the Ice Demon to set Olaf free. Noticing that the Ice Demon is shivering, she offers him the coat given to her by the old woman. A magical transformation takes place. The Ice Demon's heart is 'melted' and the frozen children are set free.

ACT FOUR – BACK IN THE VILLAGE

Maya, Olaf and the missing children arrive home and a great party ensues. Later that night, when the village is asleep, distant sleigh bells are heard. The children wake up to find presents at the foot of their beds! Could it be that Santa has come at last?