



It's just before Christmas. Maja, The girl with the magic hands, looks out of her window and sees her parents driving towards the city. Her parents would have liked to take her with them, but she would rather stay at home.

It starts to snow. Her thoughts turn to the journey, she thinks of Grandma Nati, who hasn't moved with them and who she hasn't seen for soooooo long. Her whole face lights up at the thought of her grandma: she thinks of her parents' surprised and disbelieving faces when grandma told them that she wasn't moving with them because she wanted to do what she had always wanted to do ... go on a research trip! Namely go on a research trip! And - she did. Since then, they keep getting postcards from Grandma from faraway countries. She is so happy with what she is doing. When asked by her son, her dad, when she would be back, she said mischievously: "As long as it takes, it takes." When she said that, her blue-green eyes sparkled in a very special way. And it still "takes" ...

Maja reflects: "What a cool grandma, who, as she always said, "followed her star", even if she didn't know exactly where it would take her." She just did it. Grandma Nati knew and felt that she could trust this, her "star", and follow it in her daily life. For her, this meant in very small things, in tasks that needed to be done and for her whole life - step by step ...

Lost in thought, Maja still stands rooted to the spot at her window and looks outside. Meanwhile, the snowy landscape has turned a deep blue. Between the snowflakes, she can see a star shining brightly out of the cloud cover, like a window opening. It looks as if it is beckoning to her. When it has disappeared behind the clouds again, she pau-

ses for a moment, closes her eyes, feels her breathing calm and experiences a pleasant silence in her room.

Maja has an idea that brings a smile to her face. She carefully turns on the lamp on the desk, opens her treasure chest and pulls out a green leather-bound book. It's the book that Grandma gave her as a farewell present. Grandma Nati's baking and cooking book, in which she collected and wrote down recipes for Maja! What a little treasure! Maja turns to a page and finds exactly the recipe she was looking for! "Easy butter cookies".

She cheers: "Oh yes, I'll bake them!" With the baking book under her arm, she storms out of her room, down the spiral staircase, Minka her mother's cat with her. The barking of her little dog reminds her that her Luna can't walk down the spiral staircase very well yet, and certainly not when it's so dark! Maja stops, looks up a little concerned and immediately apologizes to her dog! She runs upstairs, takes her in her arms, carries her down the spiral staircase and sets her down. Now all is right with the world again for her little dog. Luna masters the other staircase without the "carrying service".

Maja goes into the kitchen, puts the baking book on the kitchen table and starts to pick out the ingredients. Then she stops, thinks and ponders:

"Baking Christmas squares on my own?

No, that doesn't feel right ..." She pauses for a moment.

The thoughts that come to her warm her heart. "I could ask Grandpa Seebert if he'd like to bake with me. I'm sure he'd be delighted! A good idea, but - Grandpa will eat the cookies straight away. Mmmmmmh, something just fits in his round belly ..." Then she laughs at herself: "Never mind, let him snack, we'll just bake more cookies!"

Amused, she fetches more ingredients from the pantry and then knocks on Grandpa Seebert's front door, which she reaches from the hallway.

No one opens it. "Gingle Bells" echoes softly through the door. She opens it and can barely see her grandpa for all the smoke ...! Grandpa Seebert is sitting in his cozy armchair, listening to music, smoking a pipe and has probably been doing so for a while ...! She notices for herself that he is allowed to smoke as much pipe as he likes in his apartment, jumps up to him and asks him if he would like to bake Christmas cookies with her.



He immediately puts down his pipe and enthusiastically follows his granddaughter into the kitchen. Maja switches on some Christmas music and the two of them start baking cookies together. ... Grandpa Seebert doesn't wait until the cookies are ready ... He nibbles a little of the dough. Just to see if it turned out well, of course!

When Ma and Papo return home, the smell of freshly baked Christmas cookies is already wafting towards them.

The last tray of Christmas stars is still in the oven. Ma helps them clear up the "baking chaos" in the kitchen. Afterwards, they enjoy the baked cookies together. Ma and Maja together with a hot cup of tea and Grandpa Seebert and Papo with a "stiff grog", which Grandpa has prepared in his kitchen according to the secret recipe of an old "sea bear", a captain of the seas.

So everyone has what they like.

After Maja and her mother have put the cookies in two cookie tins - one for Grandpa Seebert - Maja goes to sleep.

From her bed, she looks outside and discovers this one star that shines particularly brightly towards her. Grateful and fulfilled, it dawns on her that she has not only baked "easy-as-pie butter cookies" - Christmas stars - but also followed "her star" like Grandma Nati, bringing a lot of joy and having fun herself. With a THANK YOU and a smile on her lips, Maja falls fast asleep.

Who knows, maybe you too will bake Christmas stars and follow "your star" as if by magic ... and you can do that without baking, without Christmas, at any moment. And if you miss the moment? Never mind, you'll have another moment in no time.

The girl with the magic hands wishes you lots of joy, a "wonder-filled" time with your very special Christmas stars, which will continue to shine after Christmas and accompany you if you want them to.

Christmas greetings
Marion Rosenkranz
The author

Short story from the category:

The girl with the magic hands continued ...

