

## Nesbit Goes Christmas Shopping

By Synthia Robinson-Pack

Nesbitt was so excited that Christmas was approaching. He couldn't wait to open all of his Christmas gifts. Each year Santa, his parents and grandparents gave him so many toys that they filled the living room floor. He knew that it would be another wonderful Christmas this year.

"Nesbitt! Violet! Edwin! Come into the living room!" he heard his mother yelling up the staircase. Nesbit quickly ran downstairs to the living room and found his brother Edwin and sister Violet had beaten him into the room. "What's up, Mom?" Nesbit asked.

"Well, this year your dad and I want to do something different. Each year we have always bought all of your gifts but this year we are going to give each of you \$50 to buy Christmas gifts for each other. Sound like fun?" Nesbitt's mother asked. "Yes!" they all replied. "Good then," Mom said, "You need to learn more about handling your money so here is \$50 for you Nesbitt, \$50 for you Violet, and \$50 for Edwin. Let's go shopping! Choose your gifts well."

Nesbitt was so excited about having money to spend. Sometimes he had some money but usually it was only five or ten dollars. Once he had gotten twenty dollars for helping his neighbor do some work in the yard but that was all. He was only nine years old though. He couldn't wait until he was older and could do small jobs to earn lots of money. Then he would be able to buy lots of candy and toys. Nesbitt spent the whole car ride to the mall daydreaming about the money he would earn mowing yards and delivering newspapers when he was older.

"Okay, kids," Mom said, "let's go into the toy store and see what you can find." Nesbitt, Violet and Edwin loved the toy store in the mall because it has so many toys. They even had toys that were stacked up to the ceiling. This is the best day ever, Nesbitt thought as he looked at the number of toys and felt the fifty dollar bill in his hand.

He walked down each aisle first to see what they had so he could decide what he wanted to buy. As he walked down the last aisle, he saw the video games. He loved to play video games but his mother only allowed him to play for an hour a day, after he had done his homework. His brother Edwin didn't like videos; he loved to play sports. His sister Violet didn't like video games either; she liked to read. He had seen the perfect sports equipment for his brother in the third aisle. It costs twenty-three dollars. On the sixth aisle, he had seen the new book that his sister wanted but it was twenty dollars.

Nesbitt thought about the new video game he wanted that stood in front of him on the shelf. He had really wanted this game for weeks. If he bought those gifts for them, then he would not be able to

afford the new game that he wanted which was thirty-five dollars. If I spend five dollars on Violet and five dollars on Edwin, I can afford the new game, he thought. He sped through the aisles looking for five dollar gifts for Edwin and Violet. He found a cheap football for Edwin and a small, paperback book for Violet. He raced over and grabbed the video game for himself. He felt so grown-up as he paid for his items at the checkout counter. "That will be \$47.70," the young lady behind the counter said. Nesbitt reached up his fifty dollar bill to her. "Your change is \$2.30. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas," she said. Nesbitt walked over to the store entrance where his mother, Edwin and Violet were waiting. "Everybody ready to go home and wrap your gifts?" his mother asked. "Yes!" they all replied.

For the next couple of weeks, Nesbitt couldn't wait for Christmas to arrive. He had decided that it was best to wait until Christmas to play his new game but it was difficult for him not to play it yet. He hated playing his old games though, especially when he knew he had the new game in his room.

On Christmas Day, Nesbitt and his brother Edwin awakened and then raced to the living room but Nesbitt lost, as always. His brother was always faster even though he was a year younger. His parents were already in the living room, drinking their morning coffee around the Christmas tree. Nesbitt, Edwin and his parents waited until Violet came walking into the room. "Now, Mom?" the kids asked. "Yes, you can open them now," mom replied with a laugh, "but you have to open your gifts to each other first."

She handed the packages out to each child. Nesbitt had three packages, one gift from Edwin and two from Violet. Edwin had three, two gifts from Violet and one from Nesbitt. Violet had two gifts, one from Edwin and one from Nesbitt. "Violet, open yours first," Mom said.

Violet opened her gift from Edwin and found a collection of books from her favorite author. "These are wonderful, Edwin," she said, "Thank you so much." She opened her gift from Nesbitt and found the cheap paperback. "Nesbitt, thank you," she said with a hint of surprise. Nesbitt could feel her disappointment with the gift. He knew that he had cheated her out of a nice gift and she knew it too. Nesbitt's parents looked at him with a sense of disappointment.

"Nesbitt, go ahead and open your gifts next," he heard his father say. Slowly he opened the gift from Edwin. It was a video game; one of the cheaper ones but still a nice one. Then he opened his gifts from Violet. They were another video game that he had wanted and a video gaming book. He knew that this meant that she had spent a little more than her fifty dollars on him and Edwin and that made him feel so terrible. "Thanks, guys!" Nesbitt said, "These are wonderful." Edwin smiled as Nesbitt looked at his new games. "It's not the game you wanted but it is supposed to be a great game," Edwin said.

"Edwin, your turn," Mom said. Edwin opened a gift from Violet and found some knee and elbow pads with cool graphics on them. "I thought those would be nice for your skateboarding," Violet said, "The sales lady told me that these are the cool gear now and I know how much you hate the plain ones that you have so I thought you would like them." Edwin smiled as he put them on his elbows and knees. His other gift from her was a skateboarding magazine. "These are too cool, sis," he said, "I can't wait to show my friends." Edwin looked silly, Nesbitt thought, as he opened up his other gift. Edwin looked

disappointed when he realized that Nesbitt had bought him a cheap football. It isn't even leather, he thought as he turned to his brother and thanked him.

Nesbitt felt the disappointment from Violet, Edwin and his parents. He knew that he should have done more for them. "Let's open the other gifts," his mom said as she handed out lots and lots of presents to each person. Nesbitt felt guilty as he opened one great gift after another. Nana Maria and Papa John had gotten him a great new video game and case for his collection. Grandma Sarah and Grandpa William had given him a fifty dollar gift card to the toy store. Mom and dad had gotten him so many great gifts. There were games, new toys, and even a skateboard but he knew that the last gift was always supposed to be the best one. For Violet, that gift was a gift collection of books from a new author she wanted to read. For Edwin, it was a set of golf clubs so he could learn how to golf. Edwin sat and looked at the package in front of him. Slowly he pulled away the wrapping paper and revealed the gift he realized was in front of him. It was three new video games, including the one that he had bought with his gift money. Nesbitt looked at the video game on top. He had this game tucked underneath his bed in his room. Suddenly he felt terrible about himself and the game. The game that had felt so important before was nothing now. The wonderful pictures on the front of the package had promised some great play time when he was in the toy store. Now he didn't even want to play it.

"What's wrong," mom asked, "You said those were the games you wanted for Christmas. I even made certain to get the one you wanted most." Nesbitt sat in front of the Christmas tree and felt a tear fall down his face. He looked at his sister looking through her new books and his brother examining his new golf clubs. "Mom, Dad, I've did something terrible," he said, "I took the money you gave me and I bought cheap gifts for Violet and Edwin so I could buy this game for myself. I have it upstairs in my room." Nesbitt couldn't stop the tears from rolling down his face now. He felt so badly at what he had done to his family. They had trusted him and he had cheated them. Nesbitt felt his father pick him up in his arms and hug him. "Don't worry, son," he said, "We all make mistakes. You just need to figure out how to make it right." While Violet and Edwin played with their new toys, Nesbitt's parents tried to console him the rest of the day.

The next morning Nesbitt woke up and grabbed the new game from underneath his bed. "Mom, can we go to the toy store right away?" he asked, "I have something I need to do." She responded they could go after breakfast. Nesbitt felt better when his mother drove him to the toy store. He rushed up to the return counter and placed four items on the counter. "I need to return these for other toys," he said. The lady behind the counter handed him a ticket. "You have one hundred and five dollars and six cents on it," she said.

Nesbitt took his time as he walked through the aisles. He found it was difficult to find the perfect gift so he was happy when a salesman helped him choose his gifts. He walked confidently towards his mother who had been waiting at the store entrance for him. He felt proud as they drove home. When they arrive, he walked up to Violet and Edwin, handing each of them a bag. "I'm sorry that I was so selfish," he said, "I hope you like these gifts."

Edwin reached into his bag and pulled out a cool skateboarding helmet that he had admired. “Cool!” replied Edwin as he put the helmet on his head. Violet pulled a beautiful porcelain doll that she had been wanting. “Oh, Nesbitt, it’s beautiful,” she said. Nesbitt’s mom was surprised by the wonderful gifts that he purchased. “Nesbitt, how were you able to afford such nice gifts?” his mother asked. “These are wonderful.”

“Well, I took the game that I had bought and the three games that you had bought me back and used the money for the gifts,” he said. “It didn’t feel right for me to have those games after what I had done to Violet and Edwin. I thought maybe if I took all the games back, then I could get them better gifts.” Nesbitt’s mother smiled as she reached over and hugged him. “I am so proud of you, honey,” he heard her say as he was suddenly squashed by big bear hugs from his family.

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