

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS



HENRY VAN DYKE

THE LOST WORD

A CHRISTMAS LEGEND

The Lost Word
A Christmas Legend Of Long Ago
Henry Van Dyke

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www.jazzybee-verlag.de

*www.facebook.com/jazzybeeverlag
admin@jazzybee-verlag.de*

The Lost Word

I - The Poverty Of Hermas

"COME down, Hermas, come down! The night is past. It is time to be stirring. Christ is born to-day. Peace be with you in His name. Make haste and come down!"

A little group of young men were standing in a street of Antioch, in the dusk of early morning, fifteen hundred years ago. It was a class of candidates who had nearly finished their two years of training for the Christian church. They had come to call their fellow-student Hermas from his lodging.

Their voices rang out cheerily through the cool air. They were full of that glad sense of life which the young feel when they awake and come to rouse one who is still sleeping. There was a note of friendly triumph in their call, as if they were exulting unconsciously in having begun the adventure of the new day before their comrade.