ON THE LONG TRAIL
Strange Things Happened There

By CLAUDIA PRACH}

Both Christmas was ending by way of the Long Trail, but to sentiment that Beth herself detested. Beth was "the poor, lonely girl who" came to the conclusion.

Beth's home was The Long Trail, and to her it was a source of great comfort. She had many friends, but the Long Trail was her favorite haunt. She used to walk the Long Trail for hours at a time, and it was here that she found the peace and quiet she craved.

One day, Beth was walking along the Long Trail when she saw a group of colorful people. They were all dressed in bright tunics and hats, and they sang as they walked. Beth was fascinated by their appearance, and she stopped to watch them.

The group stopped in front of a small house. They entered, and Beth listened to their conversation. She heard them sing a song about the beauty of the Long Trail.

"It's a beautiful place," one of the group said. "We come here every year to celebrate Christmas."

Beth was so enchanted by their visit that she decided to spend Christmas at the Long Trail house. She packed her things and left home, determined to enjoy the beauty of the Long Trail.

The group welcomed Beth warmly and treated her like one of their own. They sang Christmas songs and shared stories about their lives. Beth felt like she had found a new family.

When Christmas Day arrived, the group organized a special celebration. They decorated the Long Trail house with lights and tinsel, and they enjoyed a feast together. Beth felt like she was part of something special.

After the celebration, Beth decided to stay at the Long Trail house for a few more days. She loved the peace and quiet of the Long Trail, and she knew she would always treasure her time there. She looked forward to the next Christmas, when she would return to the Long Trail to celebrate with her new family.