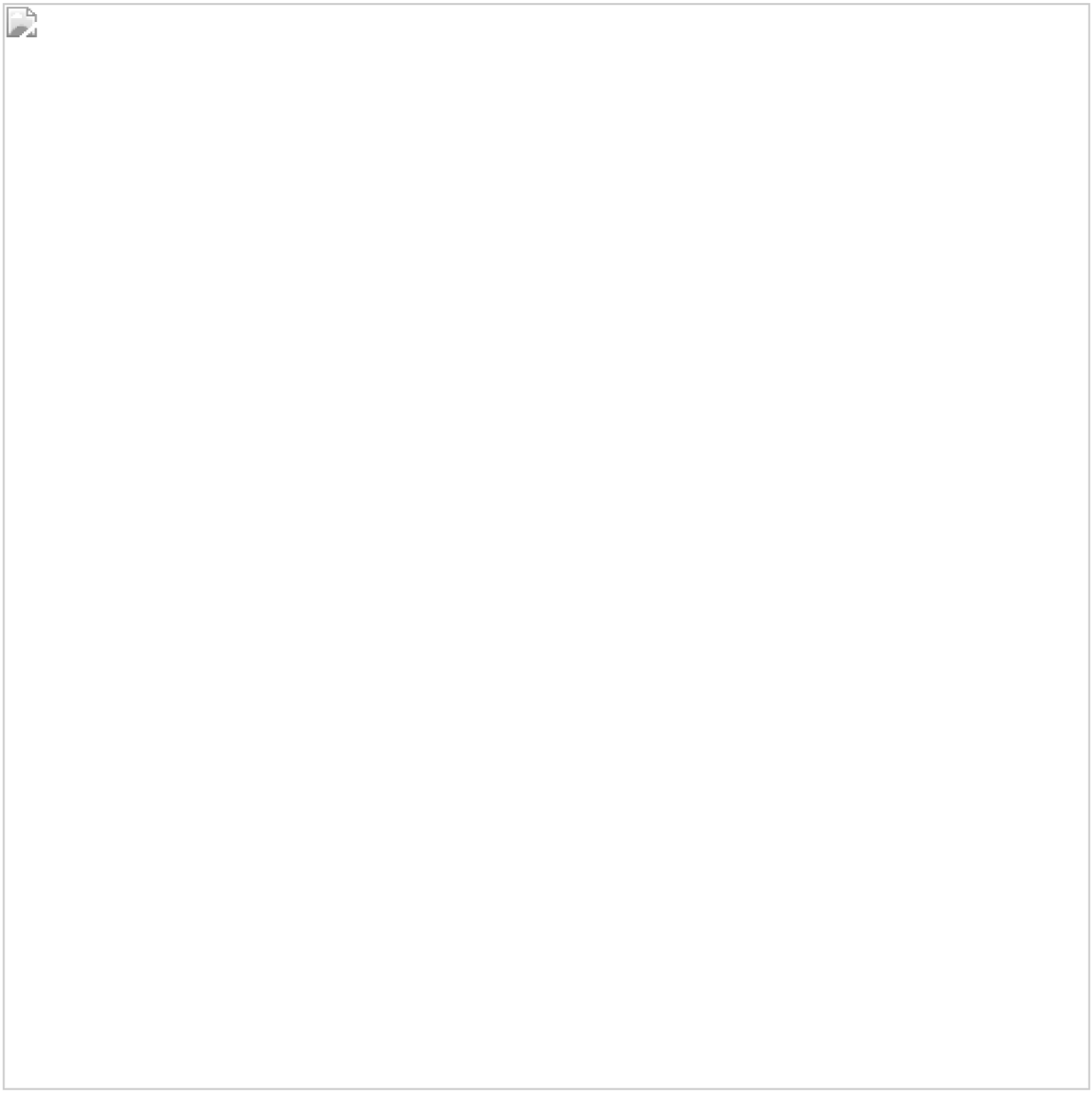
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Elves and the Shoemaker

A Tale from the Brothers Grimm



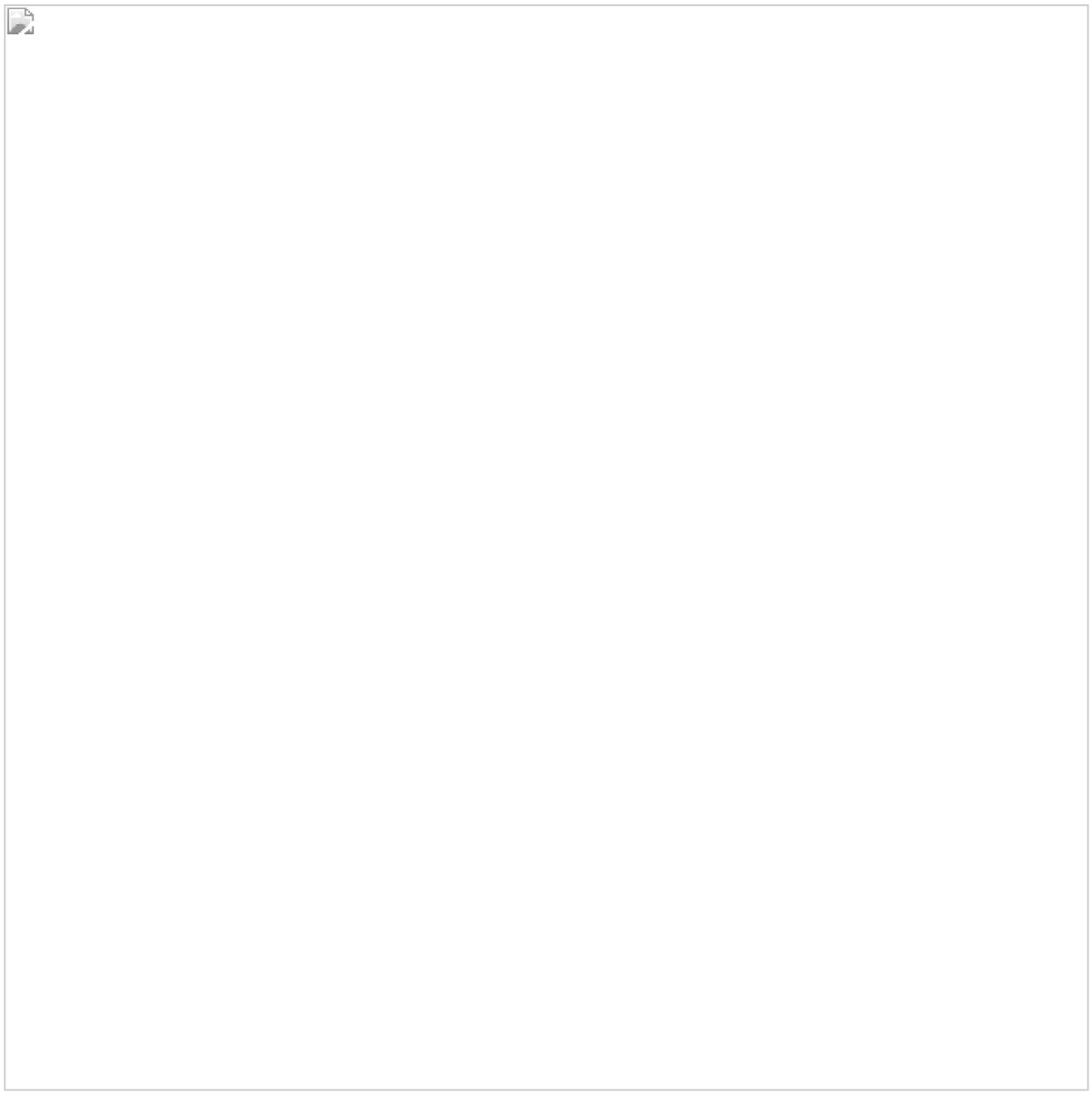
A shoemaker, through no fault of his own, had become so poor that at last he had nothing left but leather for one pair of shoes.

TALK ABOUT IT

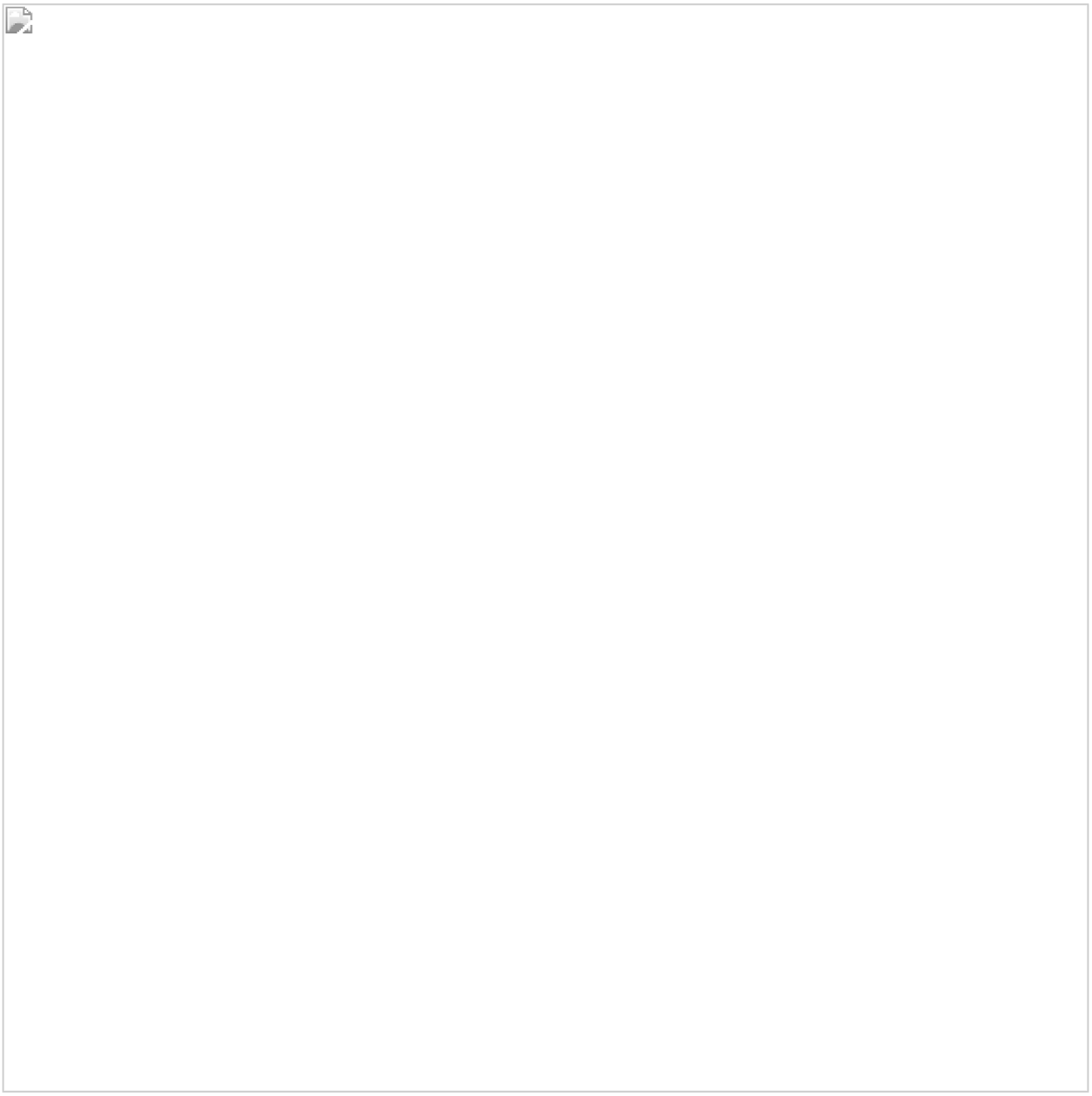
The shoemaker had almost nothing left. What do you think he might do next?

This book belongs to _____

The Elves and the Shoemaker · another picture



The Last Bit of Leather



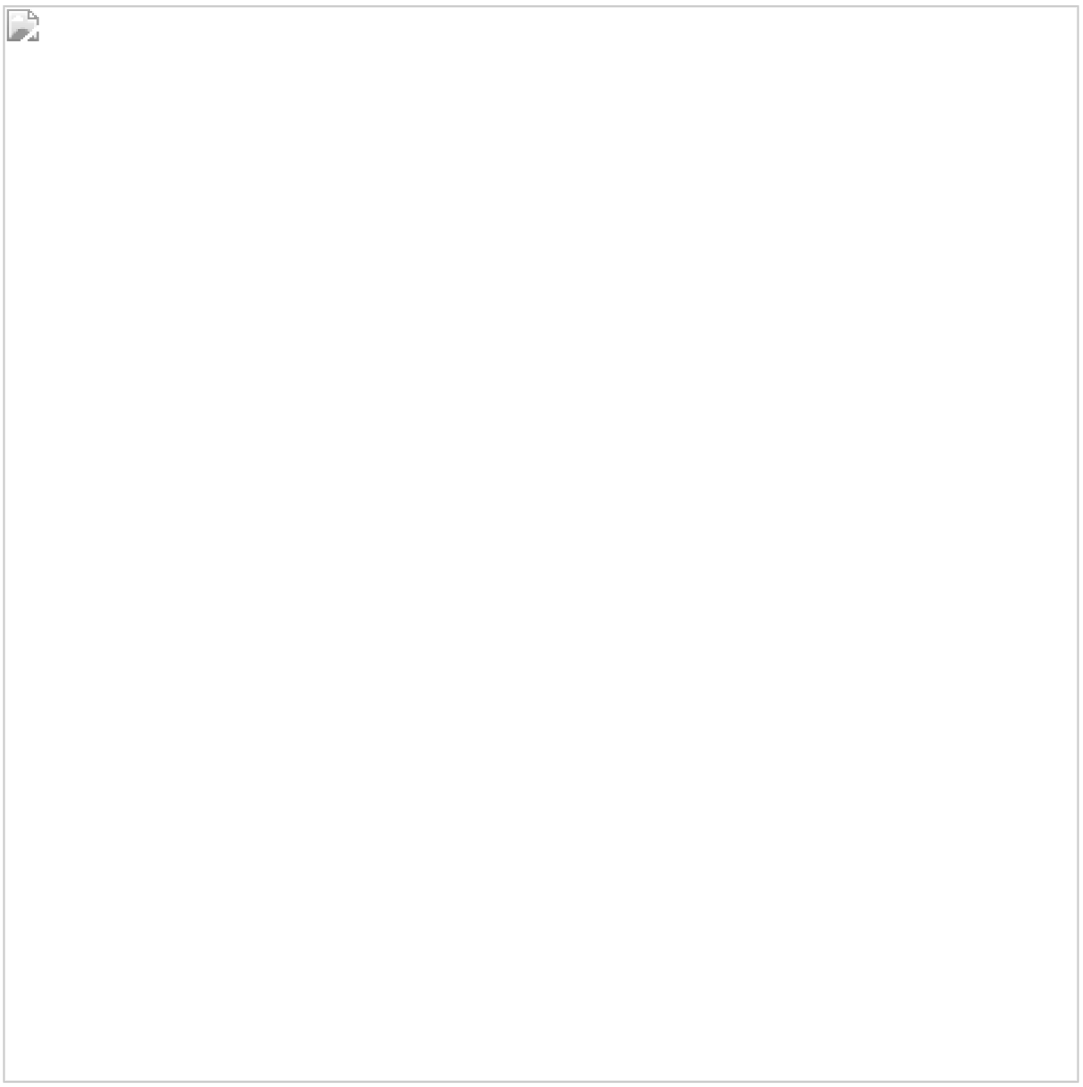
In the evening, the shoemaker cut out the shoes he wished to start making the next morning.

Then he lay down quietly in bed, said his prayers, and fell asleep.

In the morning, he said his prayers again and was just about to sit down to work. And there on his table stood the two shoes, quite finished!

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the shoes got finished while he slept?

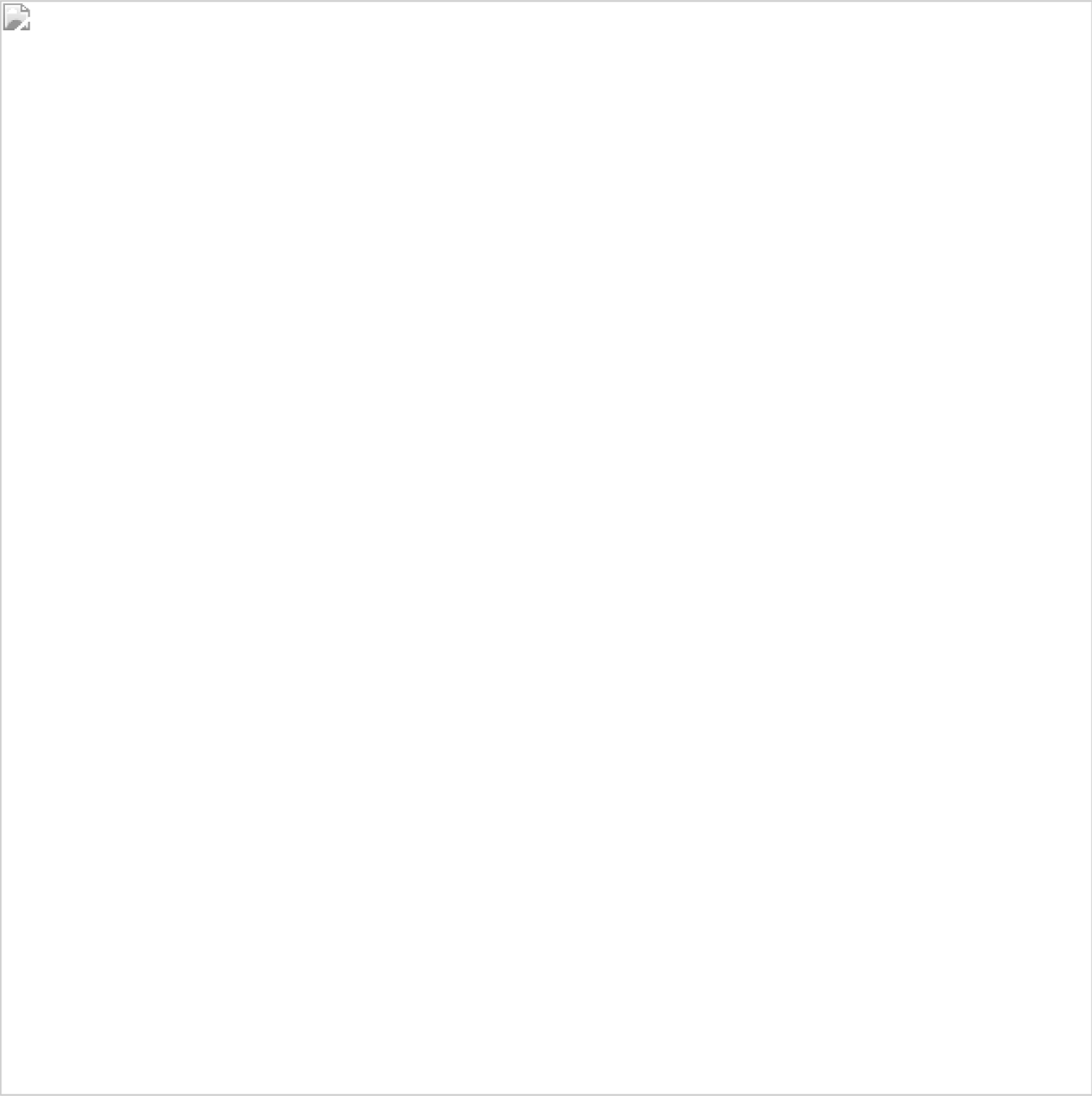


Think about it

1. What did the shoemaker have left?

- ○ Leather for one pair of shoes
- ○ A whole shop full of shoes
- ○ A big bag of gold

Not One Bad Stitch

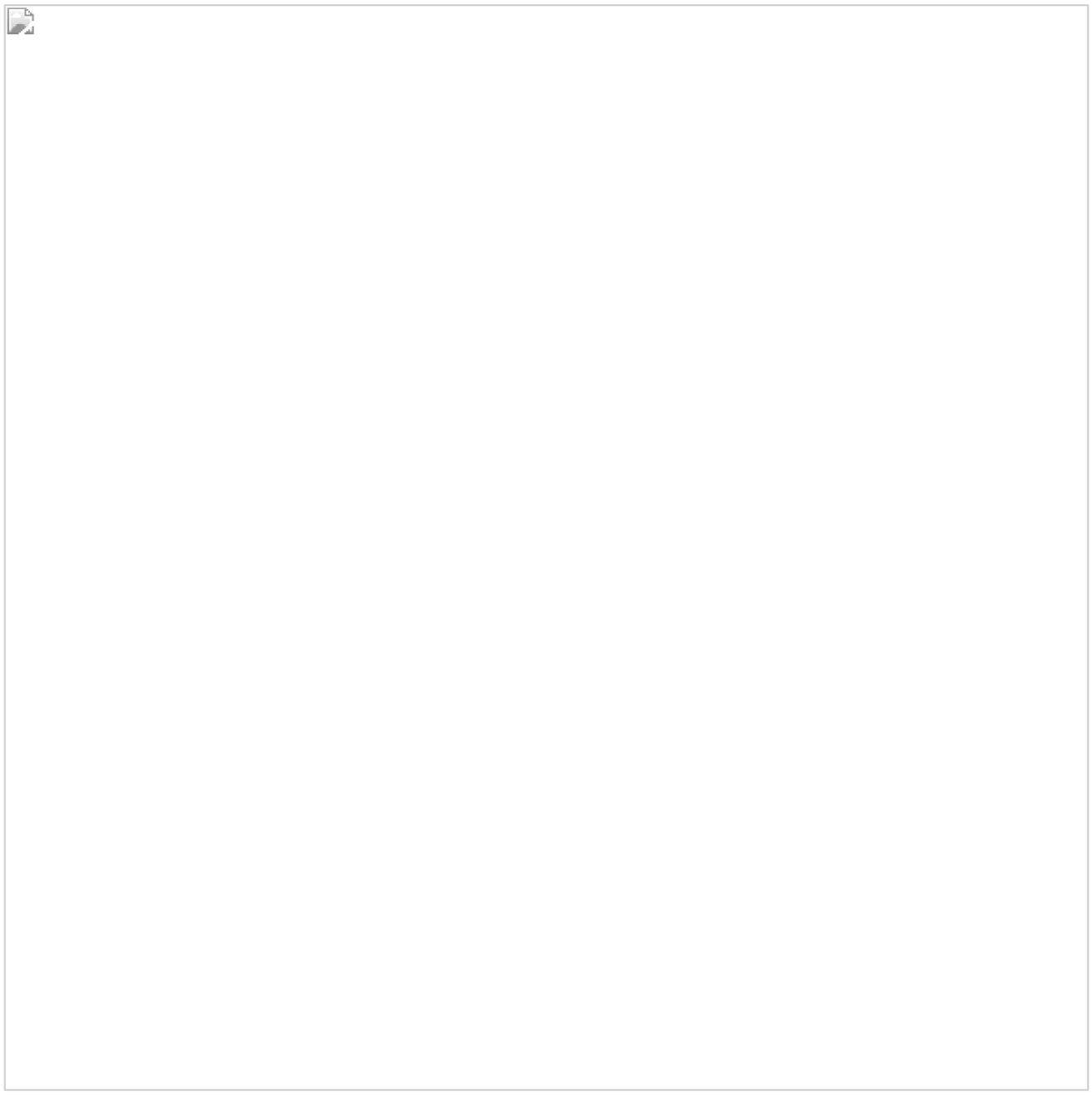


The shoemaker was astounded. He did not know what to say.

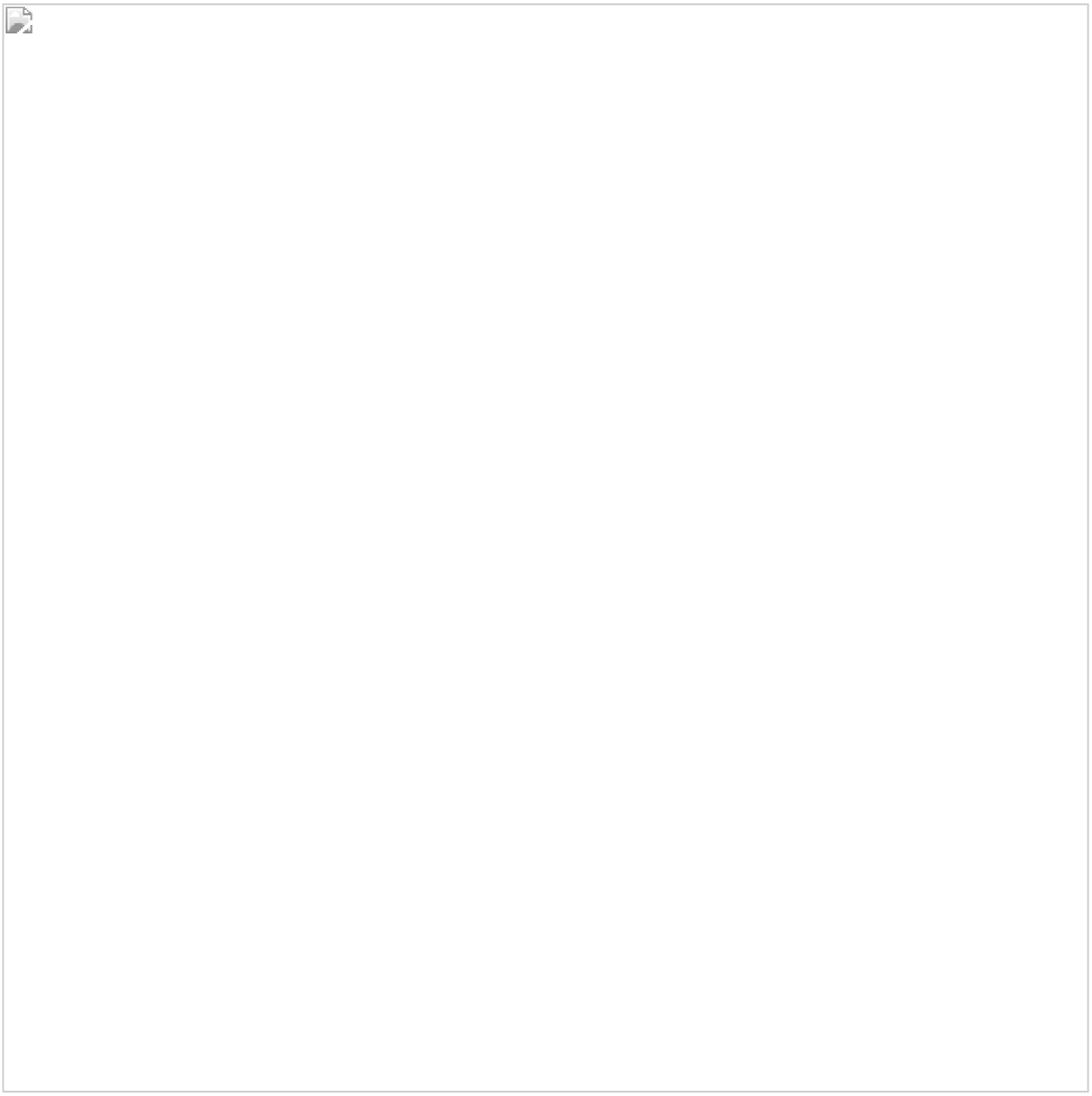
He picked up the shoes to look at them closely. They were so neatly made that there was not one bad stitch in them, just as if they were meant to be a masterpiece.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you do if you woke up and found your work already done?



Leather for Two Pairs



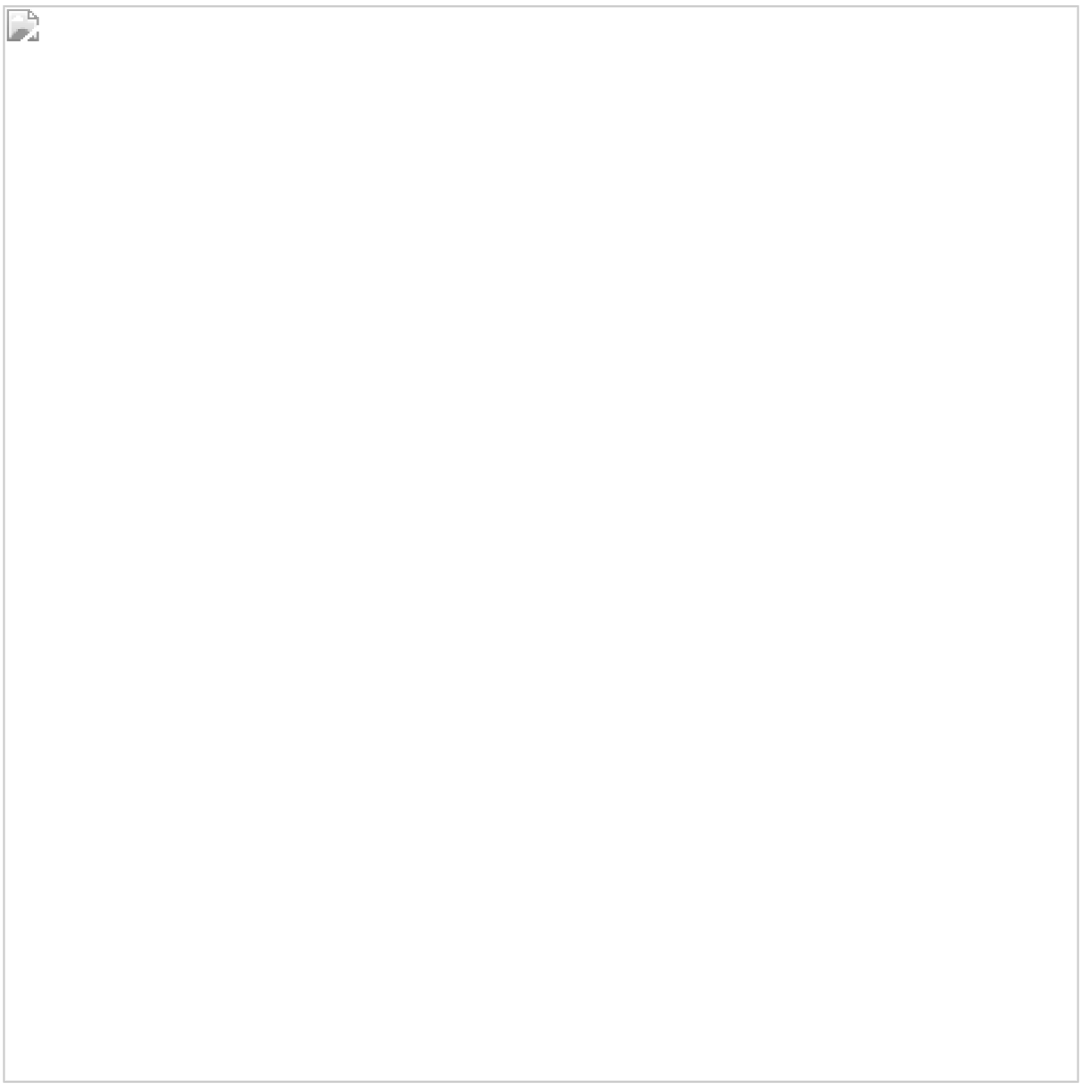
Soon a buyer came in. The shoes pleased him so well that he paid more than usual for them.

With that money the shoemaker could buy leather for two pairs of shoes. He cut them out at night, and in the morning they were already made!

TALK ABOUT IT

The buyer liked the shoes very much. What do you like to look at that is made with care?

Leather for Two Pairs · another picture

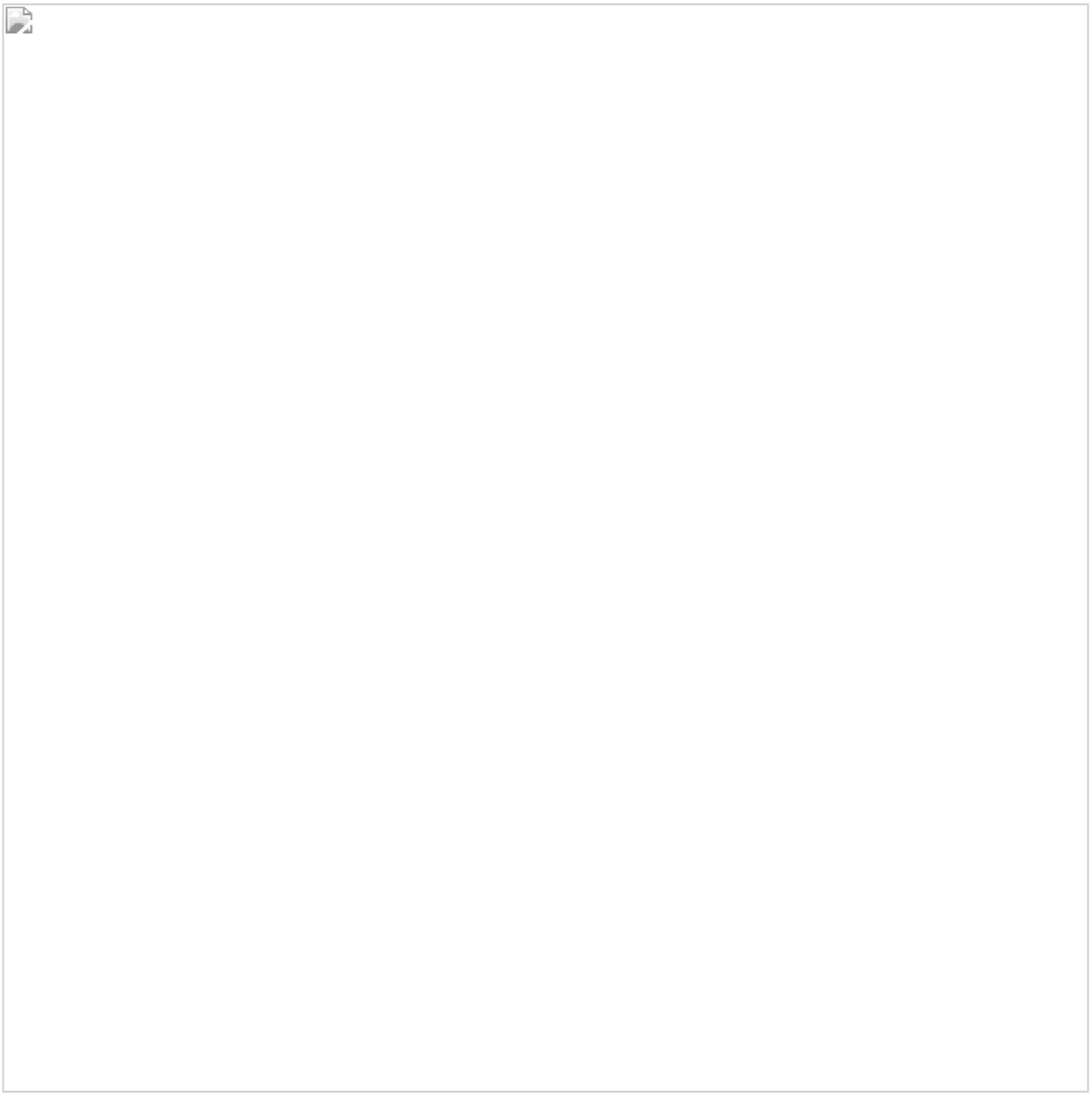


Think about it

1. How many pairs of shoes could he buy leather for after the first sale?

- ○ One pair
- ○ Two pairs
- ○ Ten pairs

Four Pairs, Then More



Again buyers came and gave him money enough for leather for four pairs.

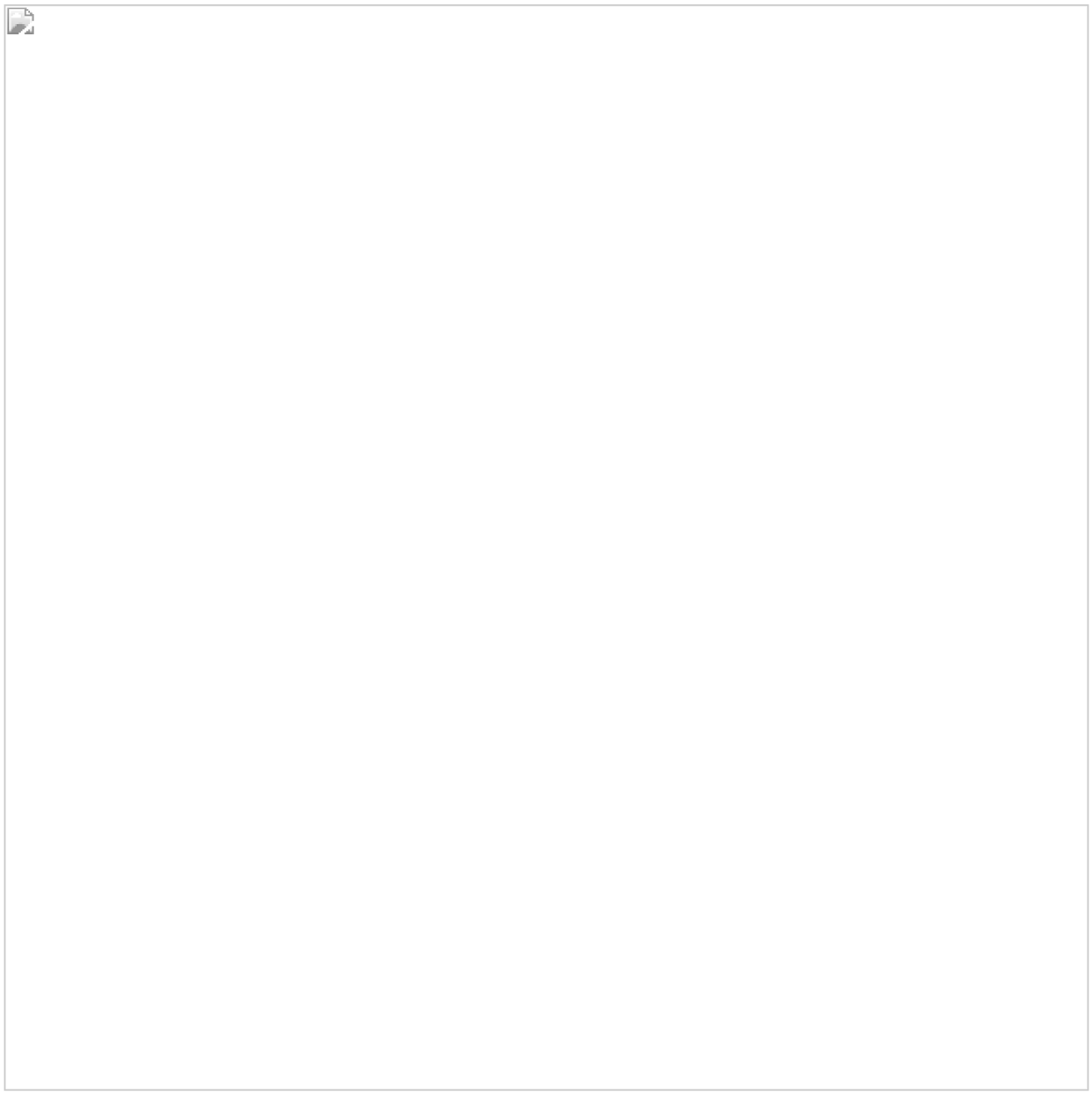
The next morning he found the four pairs made. And so it went on. Whatever he cut out in the evening was finished by morning.

Before long the shoemaker was comfortable again, and at last he became a wealthy man.

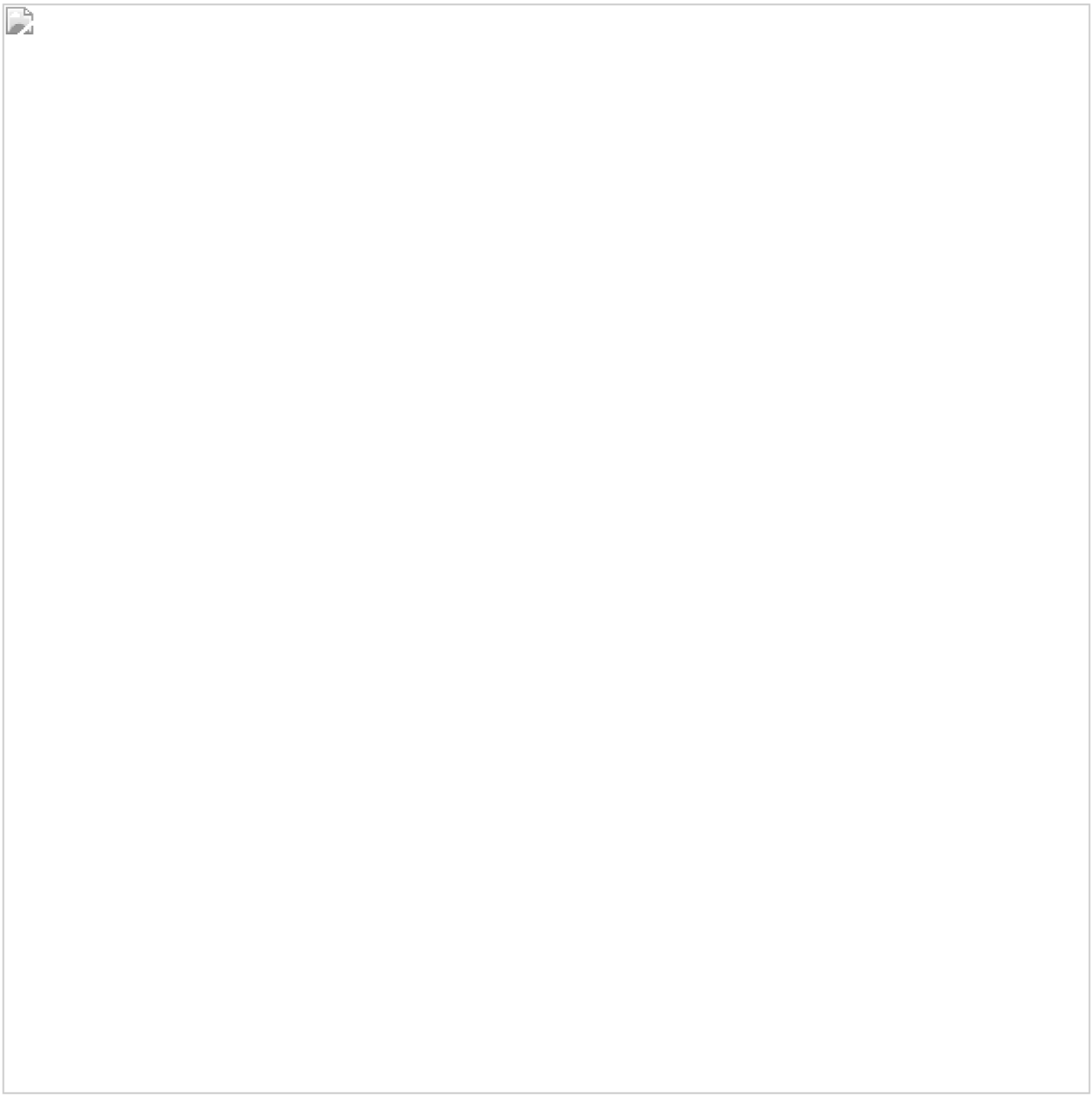
TALK ABOUT IT

The shoemaker did the cutting. Who did the sewing? What do you think?

Four Pairs, Then More · another picture



Let Us Stay Up



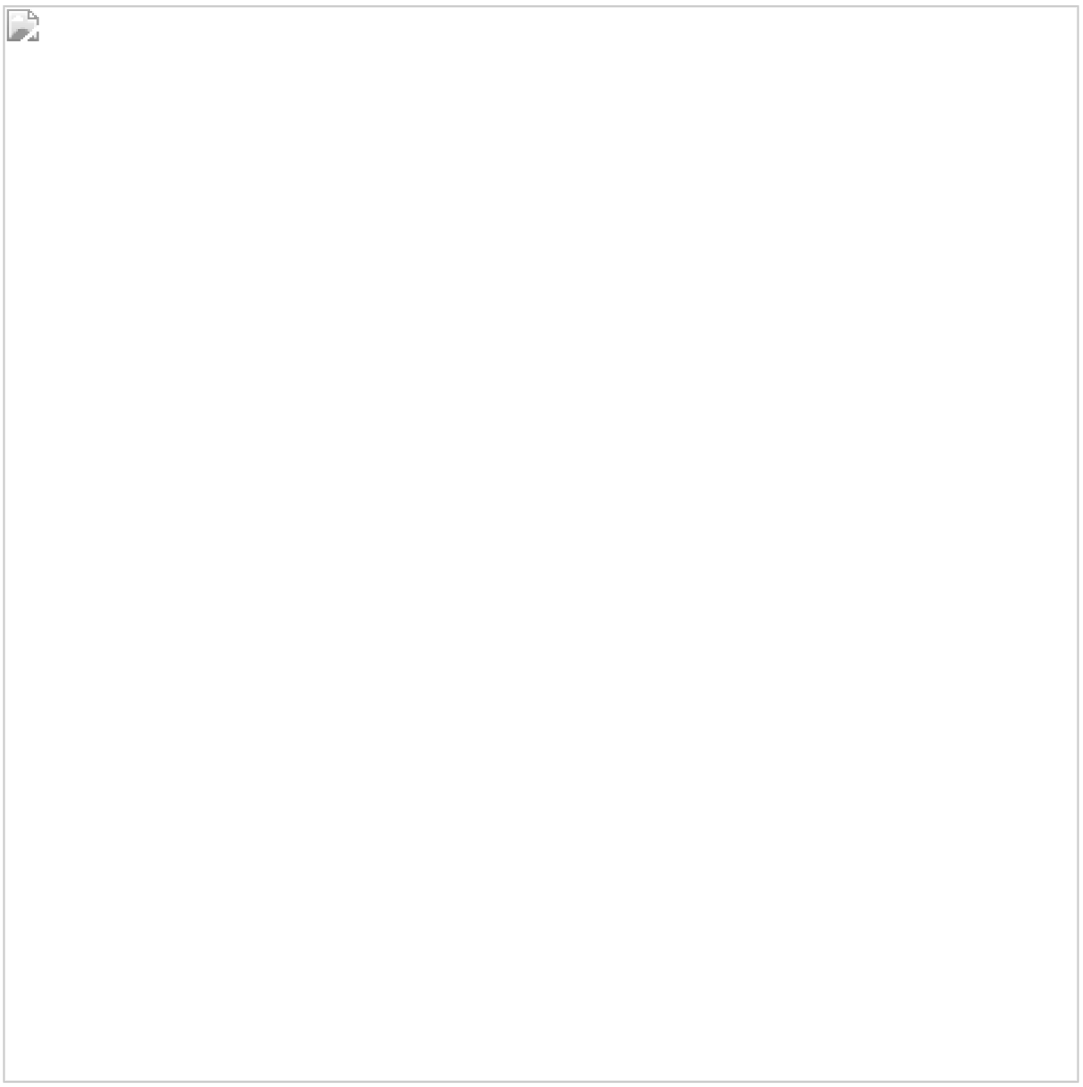
One evening, not long before Christmas, the shoemaker had been cutting out leather. Before going to bed he said to his wife,

“What think you if we were to stay up to-night to see who it is that lends us this helping hand?”

His wife liked the idea. She lit a candle, and they hid in a corner of the room, behind some clothes that were hanging there. And they watched.

TALK ABOUT IT

Would you have stayed up to find out? What would you be hoping to see?

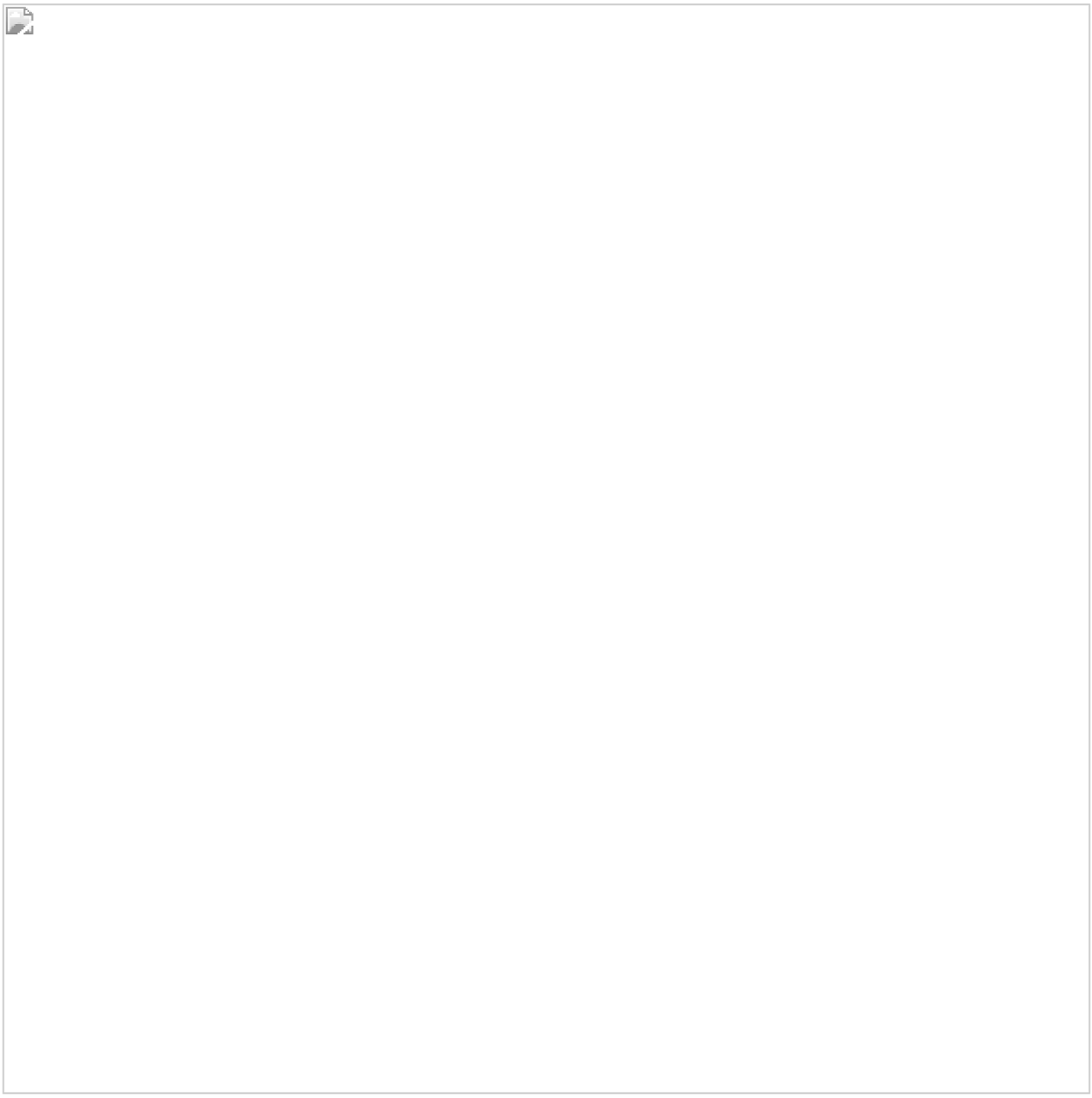


Think about it

1. Where did the shoemaker and his wife hide?

- ○ Behind some hanging clothes
- ○ Under the table
- ○ Up the chimney

Two Little Men at Midnight



At midnight, two pretty little men came in. They had no clothes on at all.

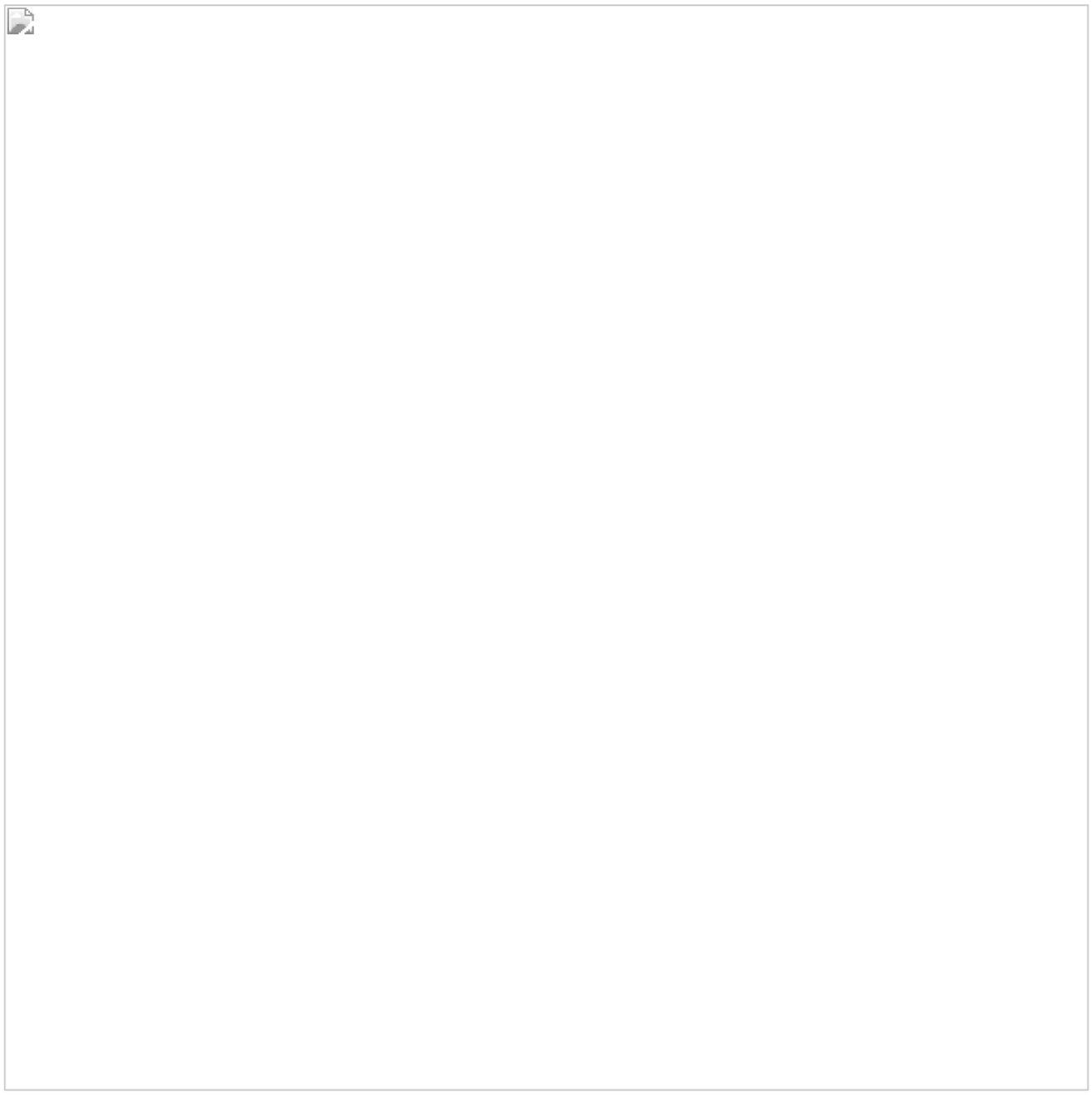
They sat down by the shoemaker's table, took all the cut-out work, and began to stitch, and sew, and hammer, so cleverly and so quickly with their little fingers that the shoemaker could not turn his eyes away.

They did not stop until everything was done and stood finished on the table. Then they ran quickly away.

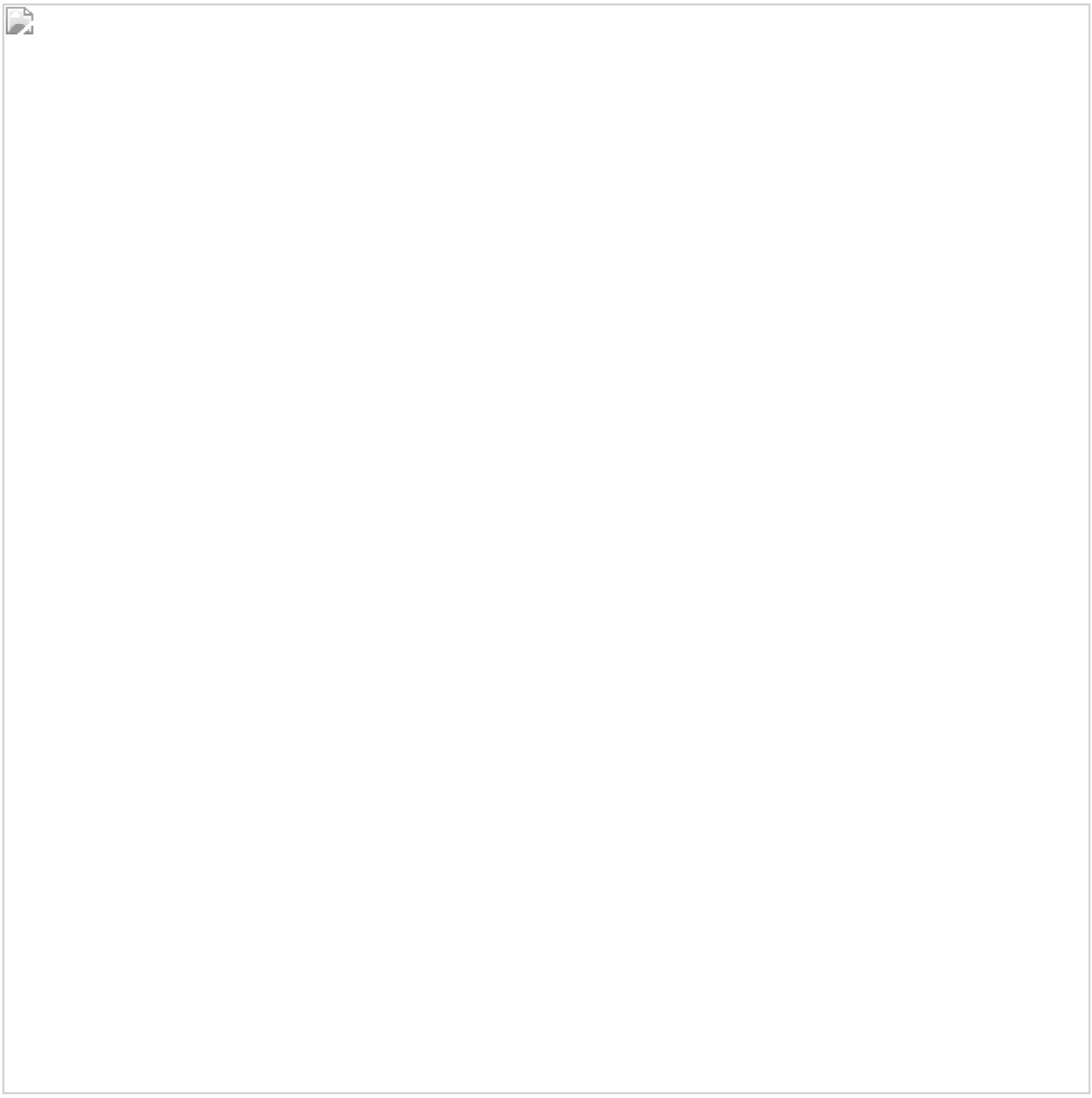
TALK ABOUT IT

What would you ask the little men if you could talk to them?

Two Little Men at Midnight · another picture



A Way to Say Thank You



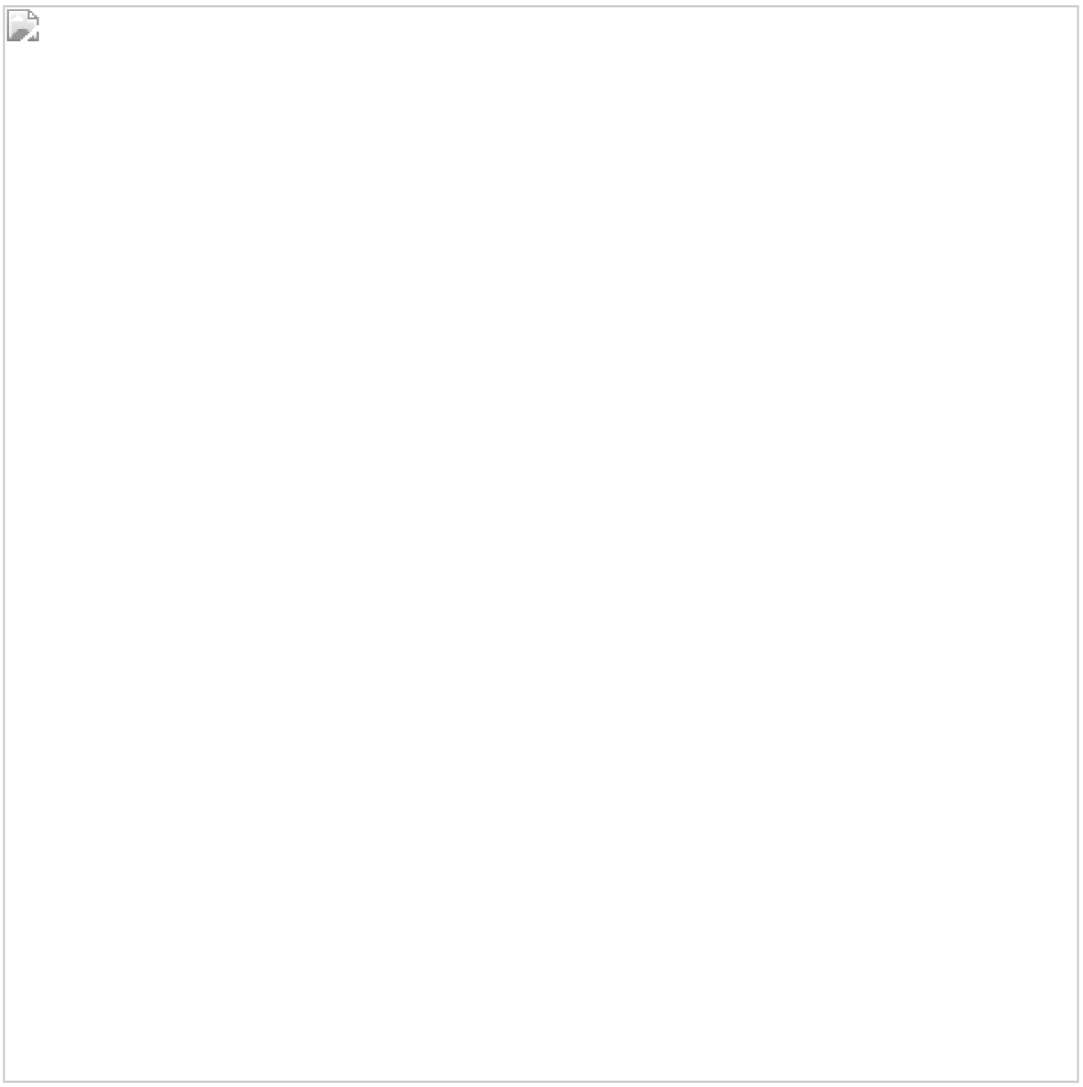
Next morning the wife said,

"The little men have made us rich, and we really must show that we are grateful for it."

She noticed that the little men ran about with nothing on. She said she would make each of them a little shirt, a coat, a vest, and trousers, and knit them each a pair of stockings. And her husband would make them each a pair of little shoes.

TALK ABOUT IT

The wife wanted to say thank you with a gift. How do you like to say thank you?

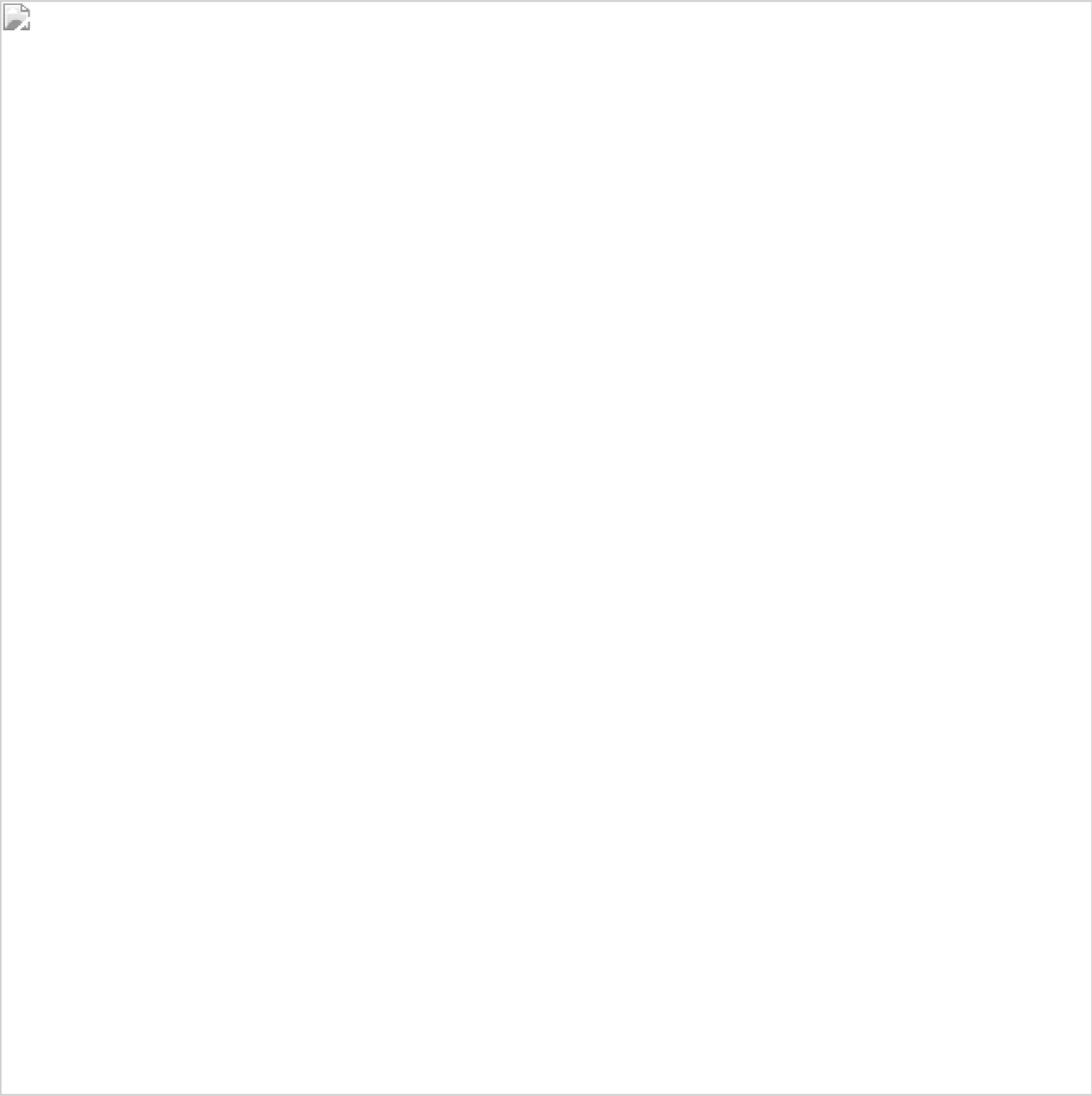


Think about it

1. What did the wife want to show?

- ○ That she was tired
- ○ That they were grateful
- ○ That she was cross

Presents on the Table



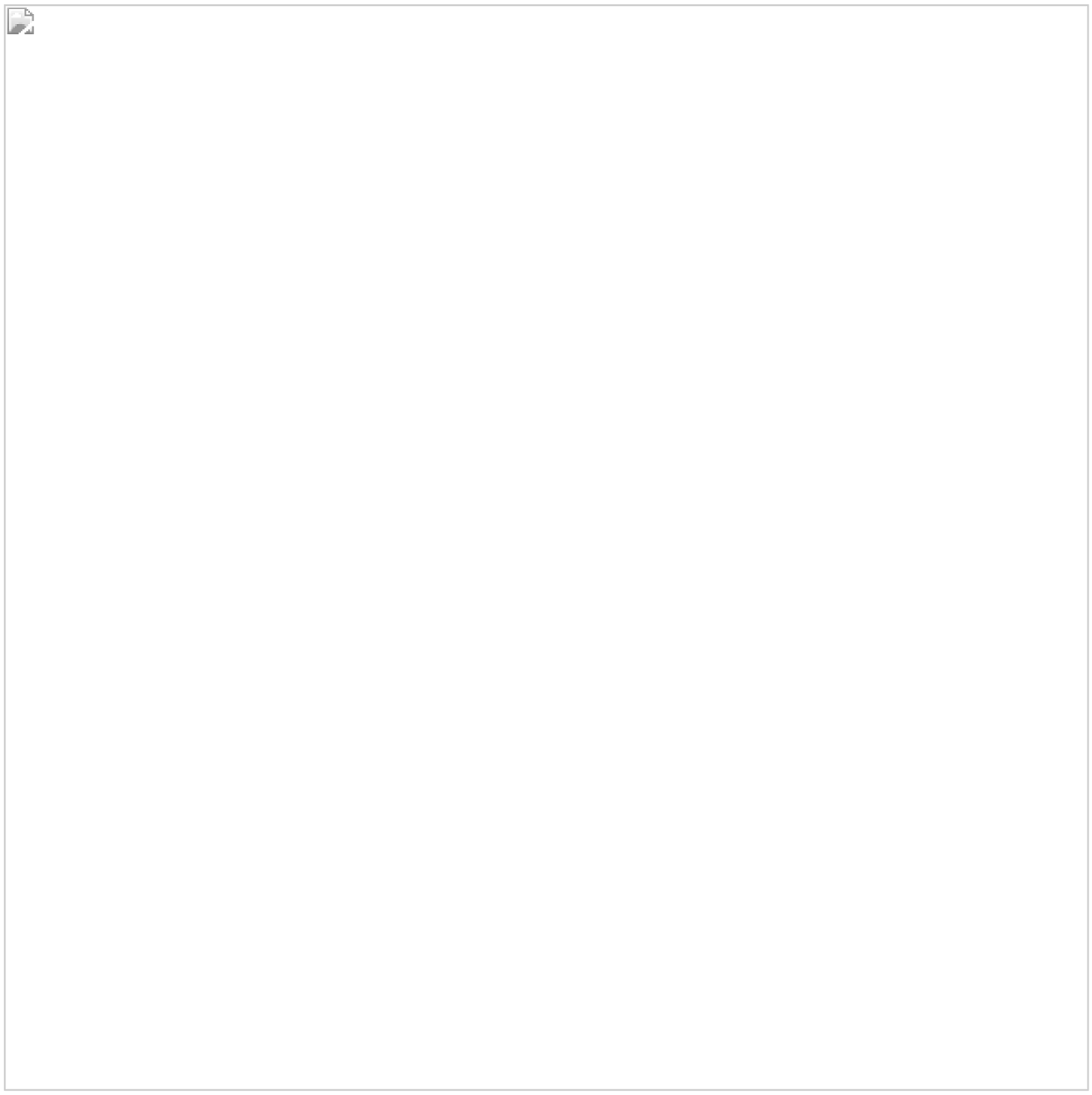
The man said he would be very glad to do it.

One night, when everything was ready, they laid the presents on the table instead of the cut-out leather. Then they hid again to see what the little men would do.

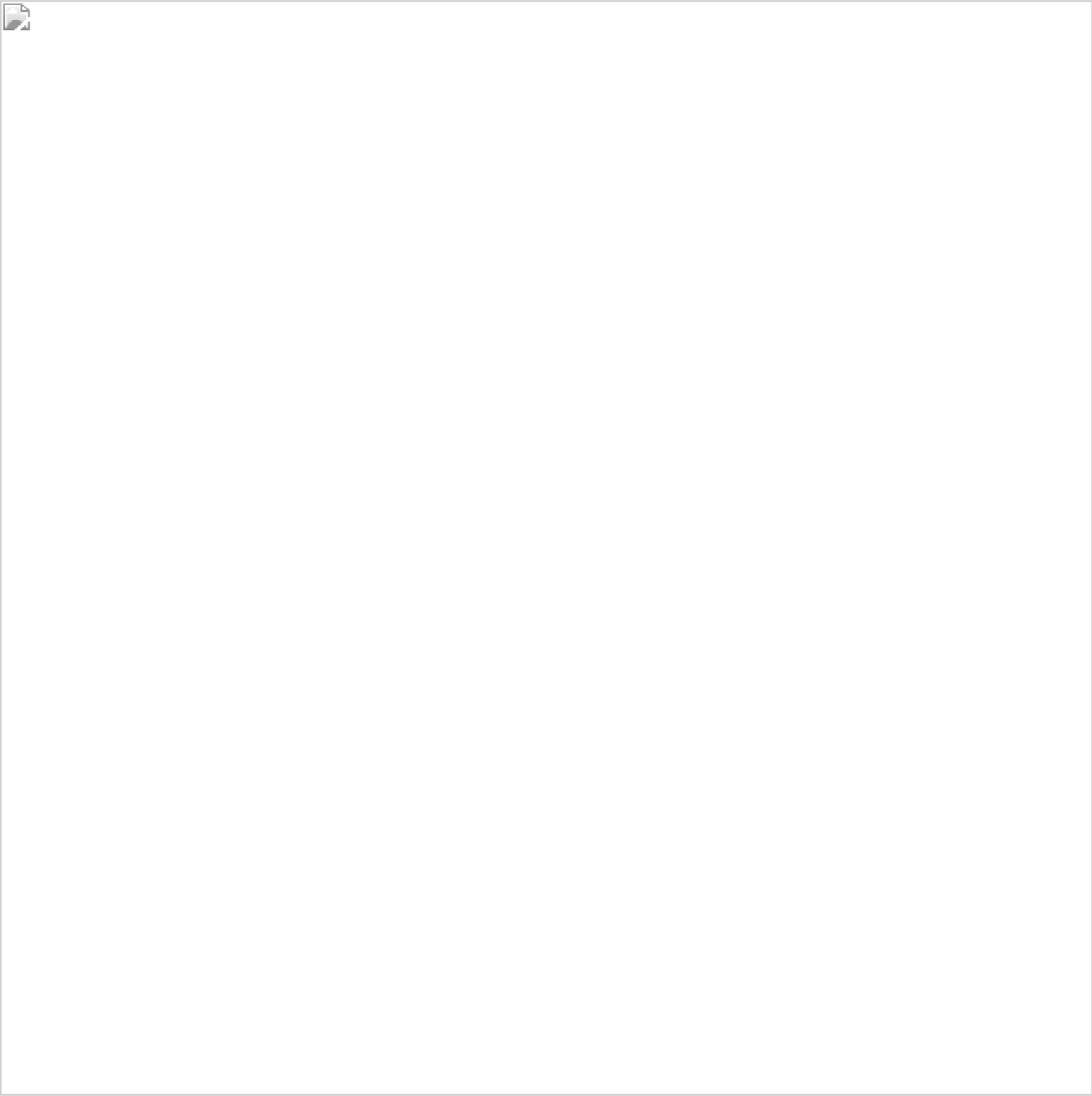
TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the little men will do when they see the presents?

Presents on the Table · another picture



Now We Are Boys



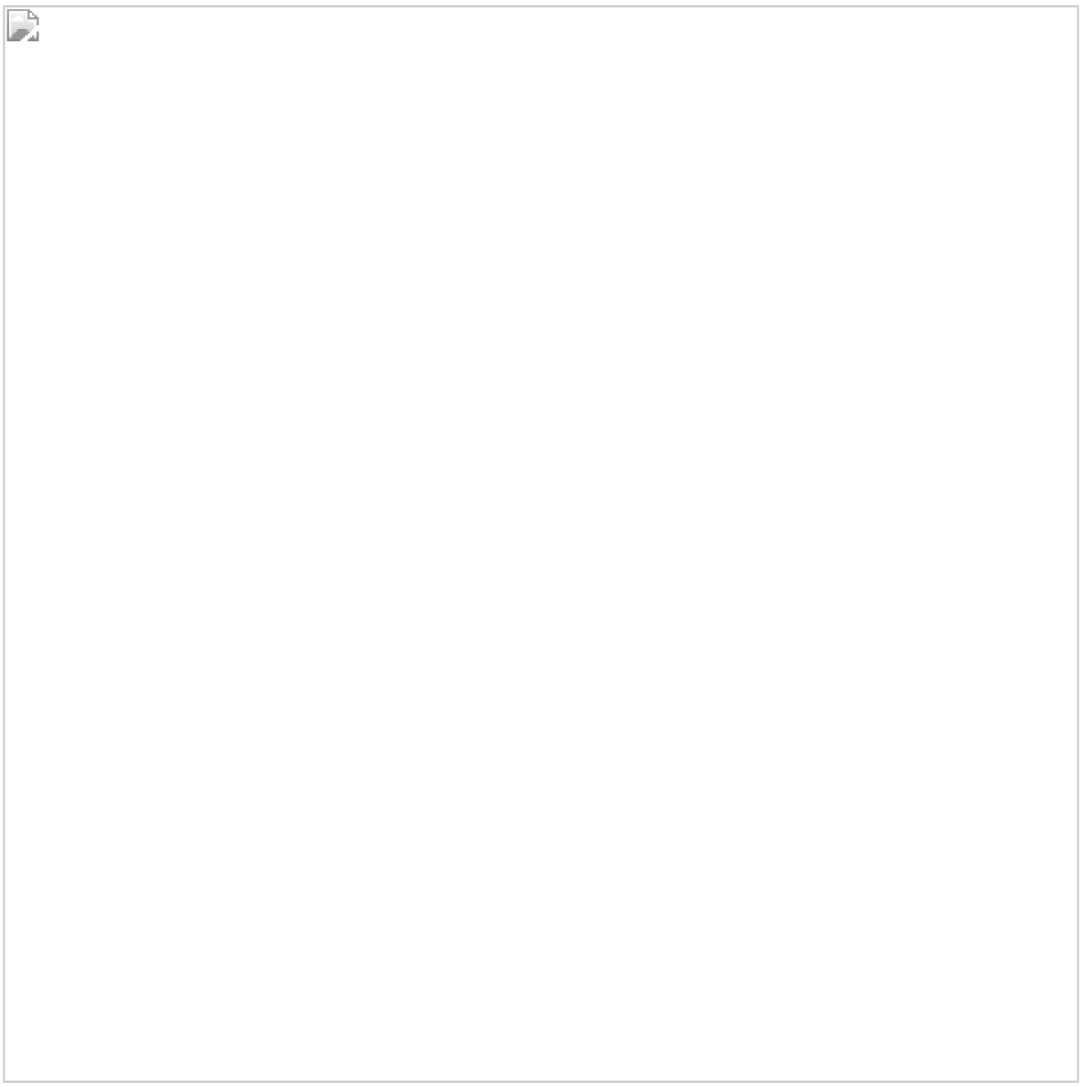
At midnight the little men came bounding in, ready to get to work. But they found no leather. They found only the pretty little clothes.

At first they were astonished. Then they were full of delight. They put the clothes on very quickly, and sang,

"Now we are boys so fine to see, Why should we longer cobblers be?"

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the little men looked when they found their presents?

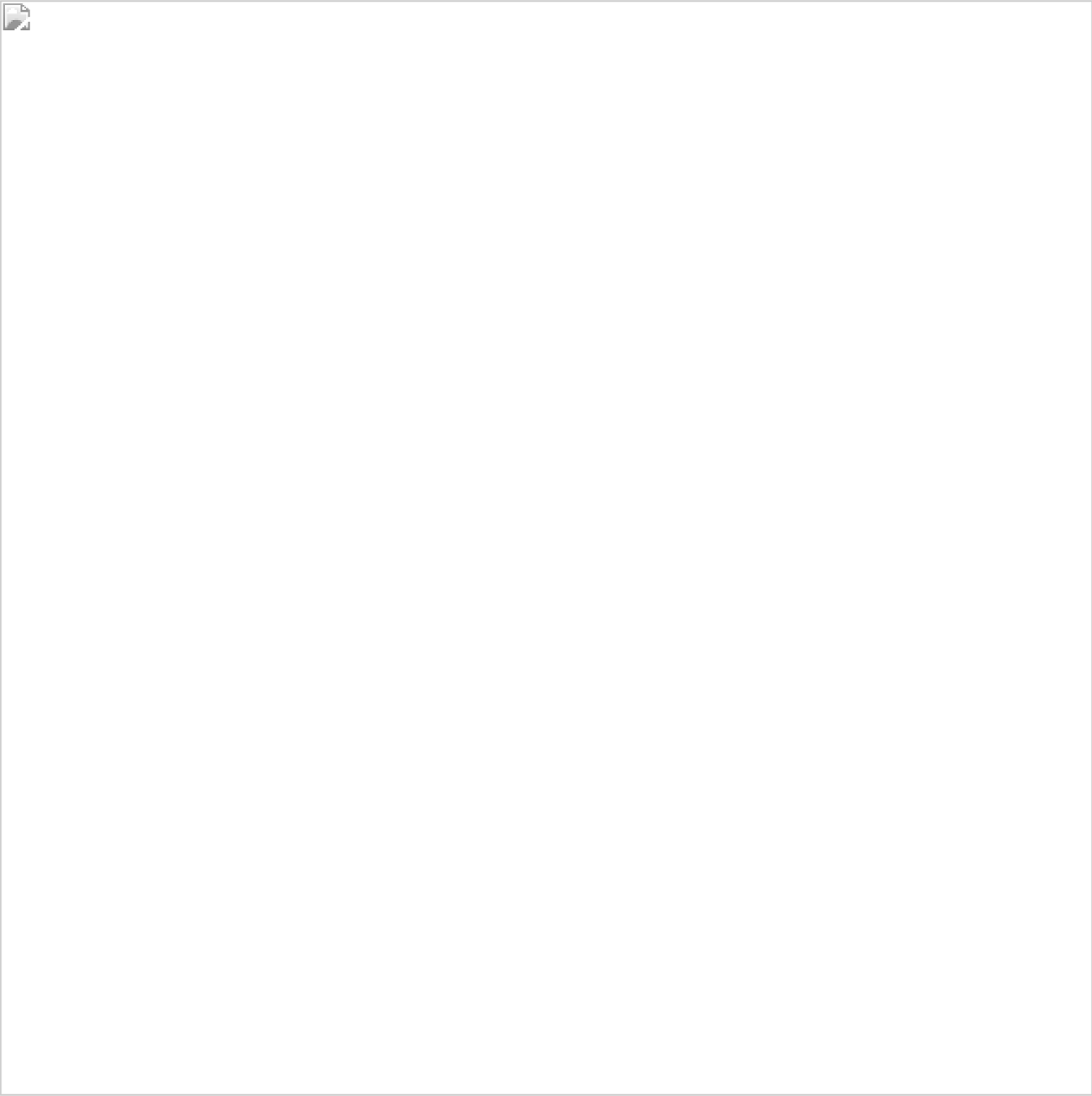


Think about it

1. What did the little men find on the table that night?

- ○ More leather
- ○ Little clothes
- ○ A letter

Dancing Out the Door



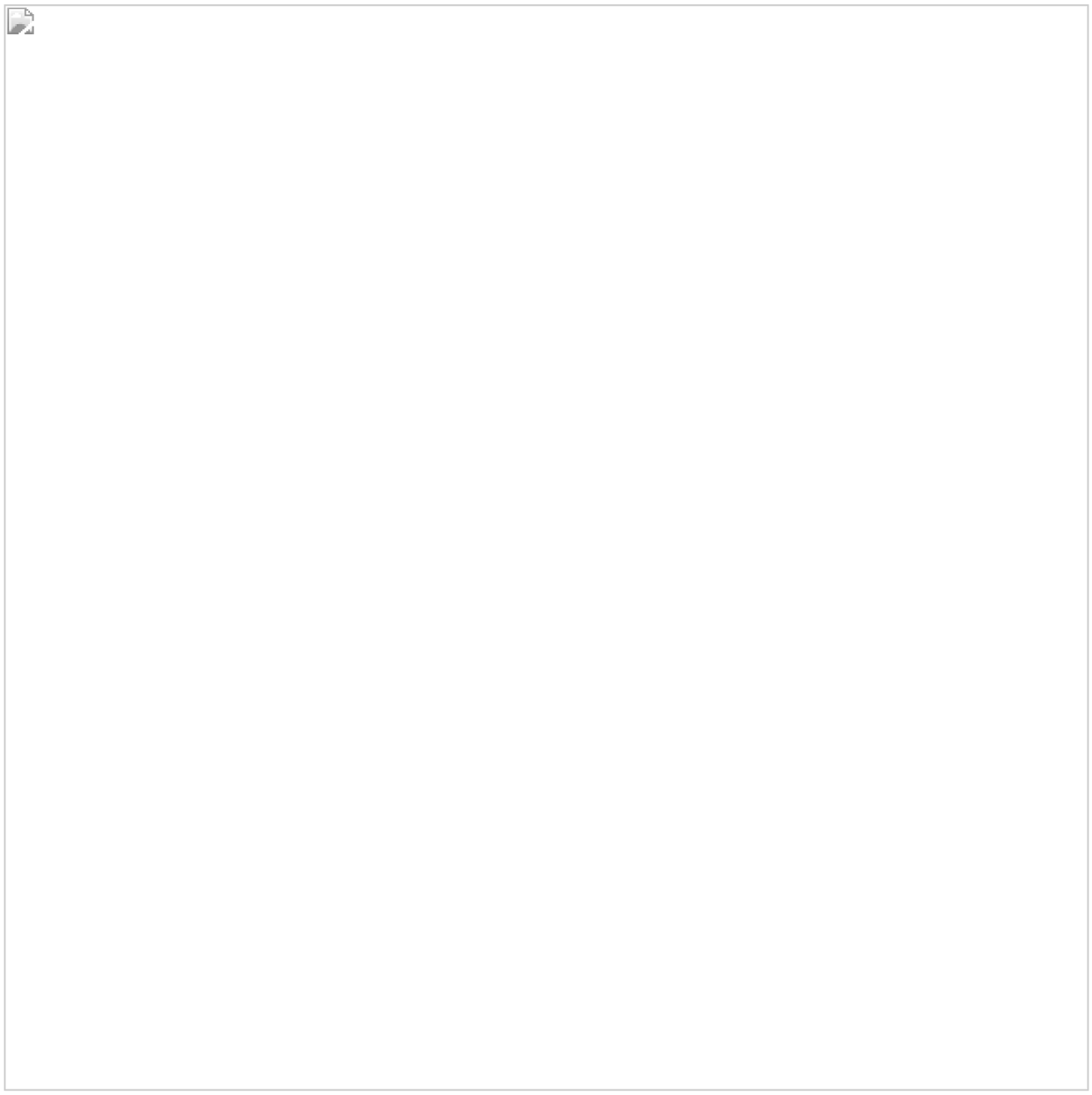
Then they danced, and skipped, and leapt over the chairs and benches. At last they danced out of the door.

From that time on they came no more. But as long as the shoemaker lived, all went well with him, and everything he did prospered.

TALK ABOUT IT

The little men went away happy. What do you think the shoemaker and his wife thought as they watched?

Dancing Out the Door · another picture



“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

Free to read, color, and print in the Book Library

Made with love by Love is a Habit