

The Montgomery Street Gang

A Christmas Story for Children

By Emily Ramsdell

Illustrated by James R. Chrisfield





Chapter 1

It was a cold December day. It was snowing and the wind was beating against the faces of the five kids walking down Montgomery Street. To everyone in the neighborhood these kids were well-known as the Montgomery Street Gang.

There was Tony, he was tough. The kids called him "Big T." "T" for trouble! He yelled a lot and maybe that's why he was the ringleader of the group. Then there was Big T's younger brother, Dashawn, who did everything his brother told him to do. Next in the gang was Butch, he was big for his age and real mean. Diego was the neighborhood bully. Tagging along behind the gang was Maria. The guys really didn't want her following them. Maria's mother died and she came to live with Big T's family until they could find a home for her. Maria always had with her the one possession that meant the most to her, an old raggedy doll.





The Montgomery Street Gang were more out of school than in. They spent some of their time at their makeshift hideout or gang headquarters at the end of Montgomery Street just past the open field in an abandoned garage. Wherever the Montgomery Street Gang went, there was trouble! They beat up on kids, they destroyed other people's property, they lied, cheated, stole things from the corner drug store. They made life miserable for those living on Montgomery Street.

Montgomery Street was made up of people of all colors, shapes and sizes. On the street stood a lot of vacant houses, some boarded up, others trying to survive. Homes that once were beautiful, now stood silent. Broken down garages and empty store fronts decorated with graffiti dotted the landscape. In the remaining houses lived the neighborhood kids of Montgomery Street most of whom roamed the streets to escape the boredom and loneliness. But in the midst of all this brokenness on Montgomery Street there stood an old brick building.

