

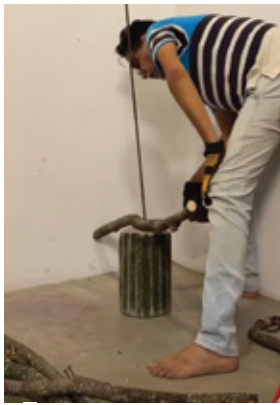


MERRY CHRISTMAS

ALL I WANT FOR Christmas IS YOU

Let IT Snow

on's things  
you've done  
S



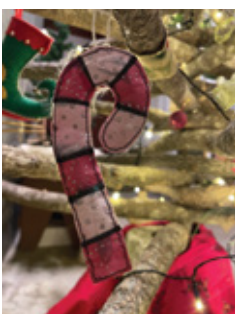
Making the tree



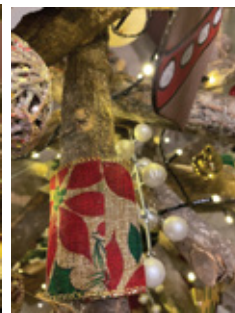
Decorating the tree as a little family



Before and After decorating



Before and After decorating



# Tree without a Tree

A Christmas Story by Anne Jayewardene

I'm Anne Jayewardene, a fashion designer, and I've always had a deep love for creativity. Since childhood, I've found joy in making things from scratch and repurposing materials. Recycling has always been a passion of mine, and I've always strived to give new life to the things around me. That's what drives me, both in my work and in my personal life.

One of the most memorable creative projects I've worked on is my wooden Christmas tree. It wasn't for a competition, but rather something personal—something that had been on my wish list for years. It all started in 2022 when my neighbors cut down a big teak tree as part of their home renovation. I had thought about the idea of creating a tree like this for about five years, but I never wanted to harm a tree just to fulfill my dream. So, when the opportunity came, I was thrilled to collect some of the branches they were about to throw away.

It felt like the universe was giving me a chance to turn these discarded pieces of wood into something meaningful. That year was especially significant for me because it marked our first Christmas in our first little home, just after my wedding. My father and my husband helped me build the tree, and I'll never forget the magic of putting it up in our new shared home. To this day, we still feel that same spark of joy when we set up the tree each year.

Christmas decorations have always been a special part of my life. When I was a child, I used to make at least two or three new decorations every year using scrap materials—fabrics, wood, anything I could find. Some of my decorations were gifts from my grandmothers, and I've always treasured them, carefully keeping them safe to use year after year.

This year, my husband surprised me with beautiful twine ball ornaments, which I added to our tree, making it even more personal. I also wrapped the ends of the wooden branches with leftover bonbon materials to give them a festive touch.

For me, Christmas is about creativity, family, and cherishing the small moments that make life so special. My wooden Christmas tree is more than just a decoration—it's a symbol of how everything comes full circle, how something old can be transformed into something new, and how the memories we create are the most beautiful part of the holidays.