

1.The Day



It was the morning of the day that the elves, Mrs. Claus and, of course, Santa had worked all year for... Christmas Eve. Everything was set, and the place buzzed with excitement as Santa prepared to depart on his first and only delivery of the year! Though it was his only journey, it was indeed his longest.

Today or tonight depending on which part of the world you're in, was the day that all the children of the world would get their long awaited Christmas presents.

Hundreds of rosy-cheeked elves surrounded Santa's sleigh, smiling and nodding amongst themselves about their expert craftsmanship. They also admired Santa's majestic reindeer, who had also worked hard all year. Each reindeer was beautifully groomed for today's event.

The reindeer did look a little uneasy... well, who wouldn't be when encircled by at least three-thousand elves, all smiling, cheering, waving and dressed in the most shocking green! And not just green shirts; it was head-to-toe with green pants, green shoes, green tops, green hats, coats, and scarves. Not to forget the green gloves, which some of the elves wore.

They were all dressed up in their most sparkly, shiny and squeaky clean clothes, ready for a well-deserved break. While it was the start of vacation for the elves, for Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the reindeer...

their hardest working day was just about to begin!

“Well you look all packed and ready to go!” beamed Mrs. Claus as she inspected Santa, sitting tall in his sleigh with reins in hand.

The jolly old man was dressed in his cleanest red with white trimming coat and a large, black belted buckle that almost managed to keep his waistline intact. Noting his white flowing beard, rosy red cheeks and floppy red hat lined with white, Mrs. Claus saw that he had his usual Christmas Eve demeanor - determined but relaxed.

The red and white Santa's uniform used to be a lot cleaner. But now that most people had coal or wood burning fireplaces, Mrs. Claus found, much to her annoyance, that even careful and vigorous scrubbing couldn't get the white parts as crisp anymore!

Mrs. Claus now eyed the multitude of presents, all labeled and neatly tucked away in different sacks. These sacks were stacked too high for her liking, what if the sleigh toppled and Santa or one of the reindeer got hurt?

There were gifts for little boys and girls, bigger boys and girls... not to mention the older boys and girls who quietly wished, but never admitted that they still believed in Santa Claus!

Mrs. Claus always had a quick word with the reindeer team.

“Well Donner, another Christmas is here - be strong, okay?” She smiled as Donner gently pulled at his harness, and snorted to say respectfully,

“Sure thing, I won't fail!”

“And you Comet, make sure no one flies away,” she said with a giggle. Comet hoofed the ground twice... his way of laughing along with her. Once Mrs. Claus had a word with all of the remaining reindeer, Blitzen, Cupid, Dancer, Prancer Dasher and Vixen, she moved to the front for a chat with the most famous reindeer of all... Rudolph. Taking his head gently between her hands in a caress, she gave his furry nose a tickling scratch.

“And Rudolph, with your nose soon to be bright, lead the way and make this the safest of all nights,” Mrs. Claus whispered softly. Rudolph reared back slowly with a gentle snort to return her warmth and affection.