



## The Christmas Star

"There it is it's so bright I can see it!" shouted Mango.  
"Are you sure it's the Christmas star Mango?" asked Sherbet.  
"I'm not sure but I think so! It's too bright not to be" he shrugged.

Just then they heard a crash! They looked up and to their amazement they saw Santa Clause! His sleigh had just come crashing down onto a nearby roof.

"Oh, ho-no!" cried Santa.

"Rudolph, it must be that nose of yours sonny!"

Rudolph looked at Santa and then shook his head and peered down to have a look at where they had landed. It was then that he spotted the Loopies looking up at him and Santa and the crash landed sleigh. Santa peered down to, to see what had caught Rudolph's attention and he saw the Loopies too, looking up at him with gaping jaws.

Santa blushed, "Shouldn't you be in bed?"

The Loopies just continued to stare.

"In all my years of delivering presents," he said as he began climbing off the roof.

"I've never been spotted once! Until now that is!" he said with a twinkle in his eye.

"So you really are Santa?" asked Tubblie in surprise.

"Who'd you think I was, Billy the Kid?" he said with a jolly laugh.

"Not so! Yur beard is too white for ye ta be going by a name like kid." said Patch.

Santa starred at Patch, "Is he for real? Or have I just entered into a time warp and gone back to Halloween?"

Santa looked very confused.

"Why did you crash Santa?" asked Sherbet in dismay.

"I dunno, I really think I may have hit a time warp as we were following The Star." He replied, still trying to understand why Patch was dressed up in a Pirate suit.

"He really is a Pirate Mr. Clause!" said Wusky helping to clear Santa's confusion.

"One of my closest friends too, along with his piratey crew Wallace and Woody here." He pointed to the other pirates hidden among the other Loopies of Acersville. They had all been on their way home from Granny's house after their annual Christmas Eve Dinner trying to spot the Christmas Star.

"And you certainly didn't hit a time warp, our very own Professor Astro would have been aware of that I can assure you!" explained Rufus, as he slapped the Professor on the back.

"You said you were following the Star?" asked Mango, very interested to learn more about Santa's Christmas travels.

"Yes! You see that very bright, very pointy one, high up there?" he asked.

"Mango! It is the one you spotted, bravo!" cried Sherbet who was very proud of her brother!

"Well done! Maybe I should download your GPS system and give it to Rudolph; it might make it easier tracking the Star next year."

Santa edged toward Mango and tugged his nose. Mango giggled.

"What are you doing that for?" he asked.

"Where do you keep your GPS? Rudolph has his in his nose." He replied.

The Loopies grinned a little. They thought Santa was very funny.

"We don't have GPS systems but we could always repair Rudolph's one for you?" offered Rufus.

"Would you be able to do that?" asked Santa a little surprised.

Professor Astro grinned at Rufus.

"Of course, don't worry a second longer!" replied the Professor, excited at the fact that his scientific knowledge could help at such an important time.

"Well we'll have to hurry we only have 6 hours till everyone wakes up to open their presents on Christmas morning and my reindeer are fresh out of Brandy." said Santa.

"Brandy?" said Tubblie, his eyes getting their naughty Tubblie gleam.

"Yes, it keeps them warm in the cold winter air and helps them to run faster so we can deliver all the presents on time. I'm already way off schedule!" he said grimly, looking at his watch.

"We'll soon have you on your way! Mango and Sherbet, take Santa for Mince pies at Granny's and we'll sort out the rest!" said Rufus, eager to get started on repairing Rudolph's GPS.

So the twins excitedly showed Santa the way to Granny's house while the other Loopies set to work on fixing Santa's sleigh and repairing Rudolph's nose!

The Loopies worked so fast, in no time at all Santa's sleigh was ready to leave Acersville.

"Here you go Santa." said Leechie handing the jolly man a remote control.

"That's for turning Rudolph's GPS on and off." explained Rufus.

"I have fitted the GPS with an extra magnet so it's pull toward the Star will be stronger." smiled Astro as he patted Rudolph on the nose.

"You've all been so kind." Smiled Santa as a small tear formed in his eye, he then bent down to give them each a gift.

"Now those are for Christmas morning, and sorry I couldn't place them under your trees and in your stockings, but you do understand, the sun's nearly up and I still have so many deliveries to make." He said brushing the tear away with his red glove.

The Loopies nodded and thanked Santa for their gifts.

"Now!" he said taking a deep breath to settle his emotions.

"Who was it that spotted the Christmas Star?" he said smiling a jolly smile.

Mango raised his hand slowly.

"Well then hop aboard son, don't you want to see it up close?"

Mango could hardly believe it! Santa had chosen him to ride in his sleigh on Christmas Eve!

Mango climbed up and sat on the velvety seat and breathed in the Christmas smells of Santa's sleigh. It was like being in a Chocolate factory that made gingerbread cookies too! Mango's experience was interrupted when Santa said, "Don't you have a sister son?"

"Huh, oh, yes! Yes I do, her name is Sherbet." blushed Mango.

"Well then Sherbet, up you come too."

So Sherbet jumped up and ran to the sleigh to join her brother. The twins were so excited!

Santa then took his place at the reins and cracked his whip.  
"On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer, on Vixen!" Santa began calling out all of his reindeer by name. The reindeer began to run, faster and faster, until they were moving at the speed of light.

"Oh my!" smiled Santa, "My reindeer don't usually run this fast!"  
Mango and Sherbet looked at one another and grinned. That Tubblie he must have fed the reindeer his Lighter Fluid from the Brandy Bottle he had handed Granny at dinner! That naughty rascal! But still they couldn't blame him, it was the best way to get the reindeer to run extra fast to help Santa get back on schedule with his present delivering! So on they rode over the frosty sky all the while getting nearer and nearer to the Christmas Star.

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