

## Transcript of Story On Podcast: Rudolphia the Red-Nosed Deer Mouse - A Familiar Story with a Twist!

### Chapter 1: Opening

Psst! Are you on break from school right now?!

Are you... already bored?

Are you tired of relaxing on the couch or... organizing your room!?

Well, if you answered yes to any of those questions, I may have just the project you've been looking for!

[cheesy music starts]

Story On is having a writing contest for kids during the month of December! If you are a kid between the ages of 6 and 12, and you live somewhere on the blue planet (that's Earth), you can enter the contest!

First, get permission from your grown ups, then write a story about a winter holiday tradition gone horribly wrong!

Send us your story by January 4th, 2021 and you'll have a chance to win! The winning story will be read on a special episode of Story On where it will be shared with children and families around the world! Wow!!!

For more contest details, talk to your grown ups and visit [storyonpodcast.com](http://storyonpodcast.com)

[music fades]

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen? Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen?? But do you recall...the most famous. Reindeer. of all!?

What was his name again!? Oh yeah! RUDOLPH! Rudolph the rednosed reindeer!

Did you know that you can use a familiar story, like Rudolph, as inspiration for your own story!?

You can keep the plot or storyline the same but add in some extra details or new characters.

Like maybe you want to tell the story of Rudolph but add in a bad guy who steals Santa's sleigh!? Or, you can keep the characters the same and change the setting. Maybe instead of the North Pole, your Rudolph story could take place under water or in space!

For today's show, I wanted to take a familiar story and make it my own.

And because I'm not quite ready to say goodbye to Christmas for another year, I found myself thinking about Rudolph.

But, what if Rudolph wasn't a reindeer? What if he was a different animal? Something...smaller?! And what if he wasn't a he...but, a she!?

As you listen to my story today, pay special attention to the details and the plot. How did I change the story to make it my own? And what did I keep the same?

Now it's time for the story.

[fading chime music]

## **Chapter 2: Story**

This is Rudolphia the Red Nose Deer Mouse

It was a cold and blustery morning at the North Pole. The snow was really coming down out there.

But, despite the unusually chilly temperature and low visibility, the reindeer of the north pole were getting ready to gather for the 2000th annual Reindeer games.

The games were made up of several tasks. All of which tested essential reindeer skills.

Reindeer that did well enough in the games would be given the chance to pull Santa's sleigh. Which was pretty much every reindeer's biggest dream.

So, even though this was the worst weather the North Pole had seen in recorded history, the games had to go on.

Rudolphia the deer mouse was at her cozy underground burrow with her parents. She was munching on her favorite breakfast of Birch leaves and arctic moss. Her fur was freshly combed and shampooed. And she was wearing her father's special Christmas bells.

However, she was feeling anything but special. Rudolphia slowly chewed her breakfast and sighed. "I don't know why I have to watch these silly games! No one ever wants to sit next to me. Not with this ruby red nose of mine!"

Rudolphia bonked herself on the tip of her nose and her light glowed even brighter.

(Mom): "Oh there, there, darling! That's not true! Any one of the other animals would be delighted to sit next to you. And remember, that shiny nose is just one of the many things that make you special! The other creatures will understand that some day. You'll see."

(Rudolphia): "Yeah, yeah. Sure mom."

Rudolphia was not convinced.

And no wonder. Having a shiny red nose was pretty inconvenient.

She always had trouble falling asleep with that bright red light beaming right in her eyes, and it was very difficult to sneak up on anyone, especially in the dark.

And to a mouse, sneaking ability is pretty essential!

Her nose was basically a constant source of trouble for her with the other young mice. And the other animals for that matter. They were always laughing at her and calling her names.

But, she knew that her parents would never agree to her skipping the reindeer games. It was customary that all young animals in the north pole go to cheer on the reindeer every year. They literally had to go with bells on. It added to the excitement.

So, she reluctantly finished her meal, combed her whiskers, fluffed her soft brown fur and went out into the chilly day.

It was very windy and snowing real hard. Which is saying a lot, because this is the North Pole. It's basically like a real life snow globe up there.

Anyway, Rudolphia knew that she needed to hurry. Scampering through the snow with the wind swirling all around in every direction made that challenging, though.

Thank goodness she was so tiny.

Rudolphia basically jumped from animal track to animal track in the deep snow, her head bent down as she pushed against the white blanket of snow that seemed to be blowing right at her.

“Just. Keep. Going,” she muttered between clenched teeth.

She had to continue to move forward. Being the smallest of the animals in the North Pole, she needed to get a spot at the front of the audience. Otherwise she'd end up just staring at a bunch of furry animal feet for the next few hours.

As much as she didn't want to watch the Reindeer Games, she wanted to watch fluffy animal feet even less. So she pressed on.

As she got closer to Reindeer HQ, she quickly realized that something was off.

No one was at the start line, except for the head elf, old Mr. Ribbons. He was standing, dressed in his finest green elf jacket and wearing his pointy boots. He was holding his hands up to his eyes, trying to shield them from the blowing snow.

She could see large brown blobs scattered around the different areas. Rudolphia squinted and realized that the brown blotches were reindeer. A few were clustered around the pond. One was standing in front of the Great Christmas Tree and a whole lot were just spread around in random places.

“Am I too late?” wondered Rudolphia, “have the games already started? Are they playing some kind of new game? One that involves....standing still?”

She hadn't heard anything about a new statue game and there was usually a big buzz any time new games were introduced. Perhaps she was just out of the loop.

“I guess they have started. But where are all the spectators!?” Rudolphia scanned the sidelines but she didn't see a single animal lined up. Usually the animals were squeezed in there real tight.

She started to feel uneasy. And when mice feel uncomfortable, they don't hesitate. They run away. Immediately. So that's what Rudolphia tried to do.

Only, turning around in so much snow wasn't easy. Her paws were sinking deep into the snow and she kept falling over. It took way more effort than you'd expect, but she finally did it.

As she jumped to the first footprint towards home, she heard someone calling to her.

(Mr. Ribbons): “Hey! Rudolphia! Thank goodness you're here! I could see you coming from a mile away! Come over here!”

It was Mr. Ribbons. And he sounded different. He was always very calm and collected. But now, his voice sounded higher. Like he was freaking out.

“OooooK, coming!” Rudolphia replied reluctantly. “What in the world would Mr. Ribbons want with a little mouse like me!?”

She quickly made her way over to the old elf, her little heart thumping.

Moments later, Rudolphia was standing in front of Mr. Ribbons.

“How may I be of assistance?” she asked politely.

Truth be told she was intimidated by Mr. Ribbons. He was so important and powerful. She’d never spoken to him before and she was surprised he knew her name.

(Mr. Ribbons): “We’ve got a serious problem, missy. It’s Santa. I just got word that no one has been able to find him. And no wonder. We’ve got real white out conditions here. You’re the only one who’s been able to make it here. All the reindeer are just standing around, scattered all over the grounds. They can’t even find the starting line! And none of the other animals even showed up. The blizzard is so strong, they can barely see their front paws. They’re no help at all! You’re our only hope! You and that shiny nose of yours.”

Rudolphia stood frozen for a moment. But not from the cold. From the shock.

“Santa’s...missing!?” She could barely bring herself to utter the words.

She’d only heard of one other time that the big guy had been MIA (he’d taken his new sleigh for a joyride and gotten stranded on an iceberg) and that caused such a panic in the north pole that Mr. Ribbons insisted on a sled tracking device and strongly recommended that Santa utilize the buddy system when going anywhere further than his mailbox.

And that happened in the summer. Santa didn’t have anything to do for months and everyone was still freaking out.

But this time was different. This was Christmas Eve!

Oh...wait, did I forget to mention that? Lemme see...I did tell you that Rudolphia was getting ready to watch the Reindeer Games, right?

Yep, definitely did. She was eating breakfast and she was wearing her father’s special bells and all that.

Oh but it looks like I forgot to mention that the Reindeer Games always take place on December 24th, which is, of course, Christmas Eve.

Yeah, so now you understand that Santa was missing on THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF THE YEAR!

The day that all reindeer, elves, mice, and snowy owls work their butts off for every single day of the year. So you can understand that this news would come as a surprise to little Rudolphia.

And to hear that she was their only hope!? That little mouse's head must have been spinning.

Rudolphia shook her head suddenly. She realized that Mr. Ribbons had been talking [blah blah blah Santa blah blah snow in background].

"Sorry, Mr. Ribbons but how could Santa be missing? What about the tracking device!? What about the buddy system!?" Rudolphia asked.

Mr. Ribbons flailed his arms around in response. "Do you see this weather we're dealing with here!? The buddy system is no good when you can't see the hand at the end of your arm! Or, I guess in your case, paw. Anyway, Santa's sleigh is parked. It's still here. So at least we know that Santa can't be too far. But we do have to find him. And fast! The children around the world are waiting and we can't let them down!"

Rudolphia suddenly felt very small. Snow-blinded reindeer. Missing Santa. Almost two billion children around the world... counting on her?!

Rudolphia felt very hot. She let her little body sink down into the mound of snow beneath her for a moment.

Then, she spoke. "But, Mr Ribbons....I'm just a tiny little mouse. I've never saved any one or any thing...I mean other than some red Holly berries that I saved last week but that was only because I wasn't hungry at lunch time and...."

Rudolphia tended to ramble when she was nervous. She cleared her tiny throat, "How could I possibly help you!?"

"It's true, you are small," agreed Mr Ribbons, "And you're weak and easily spooked. You're pretty much the opposite of a hero in every possible way. But you are the only animal who was able to find me in this weather. You were determined. You didn't give up. And, you have that remarkable red nose. Your nose seems to create a spot light which enables you to see when all the other animals and inhabitants of the North Pole cannot. You, Rudolphia, are going to use that nose to find Santa."

Rudolphia took a deep breath.

Man was Mr Ribbons good at pep talks. No wonder he was the leader of the elves.

He'd convinced her.

Rudolphia felt that if anyone could find Santa, it was her.

Mr Ribbons believed in her and she started to feel bigger. Bigger and stronger.

Rudolphia gave her nose a quick polish to ensure maximum brightness and took off like an arctic wolf.

"Follow meeeeeee!" she called over her shoulder to Mr Ribbons.

He stumbled trying to keep up to her as they ran around scanning the large grounds of Reindeer HQ for any signs of the jolly man in red. But he was nowhere to be found. They'd checked all his favorite places: the stables, the pond, the sledding hill....but nothing. No Santa.

They sat down together on a bench, just outside the barn. Mr Ribbons put his head in his hands.

(Mr. Ribbons): "Well that's it. We've checked everywhere. There's no Christmas without Santa. We're just going to have to cancel it. 1523 years in the business and I never could have predicted this."

He began to sob.

Rudolphia felt smaller than an ant. Maybe she wasn't the right animal for the job. How silly she was for thinking a tiny little mouse like herself with a glowing red nose could save Santa. Could save Christmas!

She buried her head in the snow that covered the bench. But, almost immediately she began to feel brain freeze. That snow was cold!

She picked her head out of the snow. And that's when she noticed footprints. Large human footprints. Ones that could only have been made by large boots.

She quickly looked at Mr Ribbon's tiny pointed elf shoes. "Santa!!!" she called as she leaped off the bench.

She scampered from footprint to footprint. Mr Ribbons was running along behind her. Then, suddenly, smack!

She ran right into a red pant leg. The leg had been swinging towards her and, since it was significantly more powerful than she, it sent her flying up in the air like a catapult.

Up, up, up she flew, back in the direction she'd come from. She landed with a smack right against Mr Ribbon's forehead before flopping to the ground.

The next thing she knew, two quiet voices were murmuring.

She opened her eyes to see Santa and Mr Ribbons kneeling down over her. They were wondering if she was ok.

She jumped to her feet. She'd done it! She'd found Santa!!! In her excitement, she jumped onto Santa's arm and then onto his shoulder and then his back and then his head.

Santa laughed jollily. [ho ho ho hahaha] Turns out he'd been walking around all over the grounds, blinded by the wind and snow. He'd kept wandering around, trying to find something or someone that looked familiar and they just kept missing each other.

Then, Santa had noticed the glowing red light from Rudolphia's nose and was finding his way to it at the same time that Rudolphia had discovered his boot prints!

Rudolphia led Santa and Mr Ribbons around the grounds and together they gathered the reindeer, and loaded up the sleigh.

There was no time for the Reindeer games any more. Santa had to hit the road if he was going to make all his deliveries.

But, the wind was still blowing incredibly fast and the snow was still coming down incredibly hard. They knew that Santa and the reindeer wouldn't be able to see.

Rudolphia was worried. How would Santa fly the sleigh if he couldn't even find his way on foot!? But she didn't have to wonder for long. Because Santa had an idea.

Moments later, Rudolphia the Red Nose Deer Mouse stood on Dasher's head, between his antlers at the front of Santa's sleigh.

As they lifted off into the air, Rudolphia lit up the sky with the spotlight from her shiny red nose.

Santa and his team successfully delivered presents to children around the world and Rudolphia went down in history as the first (and so far only) mouse to guide Santa's sleigh.

No one ever laughed at her red nose again. In fact, they marveled at it. They loved it. But no one loved it more than Rudolphia. For it was just one of the many things that made her special.

The End

[jingling music]

### **Chapter 3: Discussion**

So there you have it! Rudolph with a twist!

I thought it would be fun for a tiny little mouse to save the day and lead the way for Santa and the reindeer! What did you think of the changes I made? Did you like my story?

Can you write your own story using Rudolph or another holiday character or famous story as inspiration? Don't forget to share it with your friends, your family and me [laura@storyonpodcast.com](mailto:laura@storyonpodcast.com)!

[cheerful closing theme song starts]

That's our show for today.

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[music fades]