

The  
New

Recruit



star on SANTA'S  
SLEIGH

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It was a gloomy night. A young reindeer panicked. Now was a very bad time to get lost. She remembered the things her mother, Ash said when she left around noon to find food:

“You can stay out until dusk,”

“But don’t go off the path, Starie...”

“And whatever you do...”

“STAY AWAY FROM THE HUMAN.”

The reindeer’s name was Glowing Northern Star, but everyone called her Star.

Star had slipped off a narrow path and hurt her leg. She was currently stuck in a rare bramble.

The fawn realized it was almost midnight, and she could hear, far off in the distance, members of her herd desperately calling for her, but she was weak, and all she could do was croak quietly in response, for she wasn’t strong enough to call back.

The bramble she was stuck in covered her entire body, and after a while, Star accepted that she wouldn’t be found by her herd.

Darkness soon started to envelope around Star. The beautiful colours and stars in the sky were the only thing keeping her hopeful, and they were fading away. *No!* Star screamed in her mind to the darkness, *Let me go!!* But the darkness didn’t listen, and it sealed her in time.

Star woke up next to a jolly man with a candy cane in his mouth. “Ho Ho Ho!” he said. Immediately guessing he was evil, Star started looking for a place to hide. The man let out a happy laugh that chilled her to the bone.

“You could be a new recruit for my sleigh; what if I call you ‘Twirler?’”

Star was taken to a small barn that was bigger on the inside than the outside. It was filled with reindeer. Then, The old man pulled out a knife.

## CHP. 2

Blaze scanned the horizon. No food in sight. *Again.* He was about ready to give up, when he remembered Prancer. He galloped over to Santa's barn, where Prancer lived. He was very careful though. He knew that the human who hunted reindeer for their fur was nearby. Soon he approached the barn.

The barn had many stalls. Maybe Santa wanted more reindeer?

"Hey Prancer, can I have some hay for my herd?" Blaze asked as he approached.

"Sure, Donner!" Prancer replied, giving Blaze a mouthful of hay. Just as Blaze was about to leave Prancer stopped him.

"Donner, I get lonely by myself..."

"Donner" looked at Prancer. He was a young reindeer.

"I would, Prancer, but I am in charge of my herd."

"Donner, someone else could be in charge! You could live here!!"

Blaze pretended not to smile. He DID wonder what living with Prancer would be like...

# CHP. 3

Star flinched as the knife flew past her. Santa carved the name “Twirler” into a sign behind her. Star was put into a stall, and when Santa left, she started to cry.

“MY NAME ISN’T TWIRLER!”

A reindeer behind her snorted.

“My name wasn’t always Donner.”

Star whimpered. She realized she was the only one in a stall. Two reindeer in the middle of the barn were fighting.

“For your name being ‘Cupid’, you aren’t the sweetest candy cane an elf can make!!” snorted one.

“I was about to pick you for my team, Rudolph, but now I won’t!” Spat Cupid.

“SILENCE!!” Bellowed an elder reindeer, “we have a new reindeer,”

“What’s your name?” asked Rudolph.

“Star,”

“Weird...” commented Cupid.

“She means Twirler,” laughed Donner.

The reindeer cheered.

# CHP.

*Blaze sat down and called to his herd, letting them know that he would be leaving. He made his sister, Spot, into the leader.*

Donner woke up and heard a banging noise. The new arrival, Twirler, was trying to break out of her stall. He realized that Blitzen, (who was in the stall next to him) was also awake. She seemed deep in thought.

“Twirler looks like my sister, Ash,” She commented.

“She says her name is Star,” Donner replied.

“Did Spot have another fawn?” Blitzen asked.

“No Spot’s probably too old,”

The banging slowed down as Twirler got tired.

“Try to befriend her so we can find out,” Donner whispered.

## CHP. 5

Star woke up. Her head hurt from banging it on her stall. She saw a friendly-looking reindeer. “Hi,” she said

“Want me to take you out of this cage, Twirler?”

“Yes please,” Star replied.

“My name’s Blitzen,” said the reindeer, “You have any kin?”

“My mother’s name is Ash, and my father’s is Knight,” responded Star.

The stall door slid open, and Star was about to run away, when Blitzen threw a harness on her. “Us reindeer have magic, Star... and the reason you had to stay in your stall was so you wouldn’t run away!” Blitzen explained.

## CHP. 6

Donner saw Star's eyes and suddenly he understood everything she felt. He knew it wasn't right to keep Star here against her will.

Star was probably very homesick, and was definitely missing her kin. Blitzen seemed to realize this too, and she started using her magic to loosen Star's harness. Donner smiled at Star. Star seemed to-SUDDENLY SANTA BURST INTO THE BARN AND STARTED TO HOOK REINDEER ONTO HIS SLEIGH. And Star and Rudolph were in the front.



CHP. 

Star wasn't very helpful in flying Santa's sleigh, but she had a blast with Rudolph.

"But after I led the sleigh all the other's started getting me involved in stuff!!!" Rudolph concluded.

Star really liked Rudolph's story.

"I just thought that Cupid was judging me for my nose by not picking me on her team in soccer!" Rudolph explained.

Star nodded.

Santa didn't seem to be that bad...



Star woke up the next day. She had a great time. But in her heart she knew she had to go home. So, she looked at Donner, who nodded and got up. Using magic he opened the stall and let Star out.

She galloped home to her more than relieved mother, father and friend. Looking back, she could still see the barn. She knew it would be part of her life again one day, but for now, she had to have fun. With a tiny bit of magic she gained from flying Santa's sleigh, she made sparkles whisk across the plains and the landscape was thriving with food once again.

Star knew that Donner enjoyed being with his friend, Prancer, and Blitzen left to get away from it all. She even knew that Rudolph just liked to be helpful. She knew they all warmed up to Santa eventually. She knew Santa meant no harm and she might have liked him.

But she also knew that wasn't the right path for her.

And so, she continued to go along her path.

## *EPILOGUE*

“And so, I continued to go along my path,” Star concluded to her new fawn, Fairy.

“Let me meet Blitzen and Donner and Prancer and Rudolph and Cupid!!” shrieked Fairy.

“Well, I don’t see anything wrong with that...” agreed Star,  
“Let’s go!”