

A Christmas Story

Dad sat on a chair on stage reading a newspaper. Daughter (acting about 8 years old) skips on to stage, wearing a Christmas jumper. Pencil and paper in hand.

Daughter: What 're you doing?

Dad: Reading the newspaper. What are you doing?

Daughter: *(sitting on the floor, and starting to write)* I'm going to write a story. Do you want to be in it?

Dad: Yes, that would be nice

(silence while Dad reads and Daughter thinks / writes)

Daughter: Daddy?

Dad: Yes?

Daughter: Are Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer friends?

Dad: *(giving the question serious consideration)* Um... Rudolph has to take Father Christmas to every home in the world to deliver presents, so he probably has met Frosty, but Rudolph must be very busy, and Frosty melts away, so I don't suppose they've spent much time together

Daughter: Oh, ok.... But what if they met up after Christmas but while it's still cold enough for snow?

Dad: Um... yes, that could work

Daughter: I've done a picture *(showing it to Dad)*

Dad: Oh, is that me?

Daughter: No! It's Frosty! *(shaking her head)* Silly Daddy!

Dad: Where am I in this story then?

Daughter: Um... well, it starts with Jesus has been born...

Dad: Oh, Jesus is in this story too is he?

Daughter: Yes, of course he is, it IS a Christmas story, Daddy... Jesus has been born, and the shepherds have been to see him, oh! but before that the donkey took Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and there wasn't any room at the inn, so they had to sleep in a stable, and put baby Jesus in the manger, and then the shepherds came to see him, and then the wise men came to see him and they brought him presents because they knew he was a king...and then after Christmas, when Rudolph isn't so busy, you take Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman to meet Jesus.

Dad: Do I?

Daughter: Yes

Dad: Why do I need to take them?

Daughter: Rudolph and Frosty don't know where Jesus is because they haven't got an angel giving them directions, like the shepherds had, or a big star to follow, like the wise men had, but you must know where Jesus is because you've been friends with him for years and years, so you can take Rudolph and Frosty and introduce them to Jesus. You can say "Hello Rudolph! Hello Frosty! Let's go and meet Jesus! Because you still can, you know, even though the bit with the donkey was a long time ago, because Jesus isn't like really, really old, but he lives forever, and the reason he came in the first place was because he wants to be your friend and help you."

Dad: When you put it like that, it sounds like a good plan

Daughter: Yes, and then if there's anybody else who wants to meet Jesus and they don't know where he is, because he's not in the stable anymore, you can take them as well, and then they can all be friends with Jesus, and have the best Christmas ever. And that's the end of my story.

Dad: That's a very good story

Daughter: Yes it is. I'm going to tell it to mummy (*skips off stage*).