

## Christmas Story 1 – Twinkle the Star, written by Laura Jury

Hello there.

How lovely to see you today.

I hope you have had a lovely day.

Well, I would like to tell you the story of Twinkle. Are you sitting comfortably? Good. So, let's begin.

Ah, I hear you ask, who is Twinkle? Well, I'll tell you. Next time you are outside in the evening at Christmas, look up into the sky. See all the stars up there? They are Twinkle's family. And, you see the brightest one up there? That is Twinkle herself.

Twinkle wasn't always the brightest star in the sky.

When Twinkle was a little star, she was quite shy. There were many other stars who were much brighter than she was. She grew up with six other young stars, and they were known to the other stars as the Seven Stars.

The other stars laughed at Twinkle. You are the smallest, they said. You do not shine brightly. They said. Twinkle didn't know what to do. She hid wherever she could, and did not like it if people saw her. She watched quietly, and tried to learn.

In Star- school, it was difficult – when the teacher asked a question, the bigger stars who shone more brightly would always be noticed, and she would be ignored. So, Twinkle learned to watch quietly and learn.

She did not think she was very clever, and became very sad thinking that she must be a very bad star. But try as she might, she could not shine as much as her brothers and sisters.

In winter, the stars had more to do. With nights being longer, they had to shine for longer. Her brothers and sisters always grew tired and complained of the hard work. She did her best, and always shone steadily, for the people on Planet Earth below.

On planet Earth, there is a Day in the winter, December the 25<sup>th</sup>, often called Christmas but sometimes called other names in different countries, where friends, and family, come together every year to celebrate together, give each other presents, renew friendships, and have a lovely day together.

In the far North, in a secret village, on Planet Earth, lives Santa Claus. He travels around the world on the night before Christmas, in his sleigh, drawn by reindeer, bringing presents to all the children to open on Christmas day.

So, one year, Santa Claus was worried. Rudolph, the leader of his reindeer, had a very bad cold, and his bright red nose, which led the reindeer, and Santa, was not as bright as usual, because he had been blowing his nose more than usual. But Rudolph would not stay home, and risk any child

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missing out on their present. So, Santa Claus loaded up his sleigh, and, with a hot thermos of soup given to him by Mrs Claus, and a sack of hay for the reindeer, set off.

Santa Claus began delivering presents, hurrying through the night sky, making sure that nobody was forgotten. And up above, Twinkle's sisters and brothers shone brightly, giving starlight for Santa Claus to see by, as he hurried down chimneys and delivered his presents.

Several hours passed. And then a big storm came up. Heavy snow and wind howled around, and, try as they might, the stars in the sky could not shine brightly enough to be seen through the clouds.

“well” said Sparkle, the brightest of the stars “we will take a nap, and come back when those clouds have gone again”, and most of the stars, who were tired from shining so much, went to bed. Glitter and Light, two of the other stars, had shouted at Twinkle for not shining brightly enough, and Twinkle felt sad, and stayed outside, watching and still trying to shine.

Back on Planet Earth, Rudolph had been blowing his nose, and had rubbed off some of the bright shine from his nose.

Santa still had presents to deliver to so many people in so many countries, including to you, and did not know what to do. With no light from the stars, to see where he was going, and the light from Rudolph's nose fading, he did not know where to travel.

His sleigh came to rest in a desert. Rudolph, between sneezes, was beside himself with apology, and while the other reindeer ate some hay, and Santa drank his hot soup, Rudolph looked up at the thick clouds.

Only little Twinkle, in the sky above, heard them. She listened, and watched. Then, she saw a small hole in the cloud, as the storm slowly stopped. She looked around for her brothers and sisters. She could not see them, they were still asleep.

She shone with all her might. She hoped that someone below would look up and see her. She waved and twinkled.

Rudolph looked up at the sky. The clouds were clearing, but he could see no stars.

And then, he thought he saw something. After another fit of sneezes, he rubbed his eyes, and looked again. Yes. There.

He had seen little Twinkle.

Rudolph ran over to Santa, who was sadly draining the last of his soup, and walking around the sleigh wondering what to do.

“Look Santa, look!” said Rudolph, pointing at the sky. Santa looked but could see nothing.

“oh no” said Santa. “I have dropped my spectacles.”

Dasher, and Prancer, two of the other reindeer, hurried around looking for them, and after several minutes, found them dropped in the remains of the hay, which Comet had just been about to eat.

They returned the spectacles to Santa.

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“Now” said Santa “what are we looking at?”

Rudolph pointed into the sky, at little Twinkle. “look up there Santa, a star”

Santa peered for a moment, and then saw Twinkle.

“Ah, what was her name again?”

Rudolph thought for a moment “I think her name is Twinkle. Her place in the sky is next to Sparkle and Glitter.”

“Ah yes” said Santa. “well she is doing very well, what a helpful little star”

Santa gave Twinkle a wave, as the reindeer got ready to pull the sleigh again.

Twinkle shone all that night, guiding Santa and the rest of the reindeer for their journey. Thanks to Twinkle, all the rest of the children of the world, received their presents that night.

At the end of the night, back in Lapland, in the North, Santa and the reindeer arrived home safely. . Rudolph looked up at Twinkle again and waved.

Santa hurried into his cottage, and returned shortly with a present.

“what's that” asked Rudolph “we have delivered everything”.

“Yes” said Santa “but this is a very special present, and we have one more journey to make”

Once more, they flew into the sky, and this time, it was a new journey. They flew up to Twinkle, and gave her, her present.

Twinkle was amazed, she had never been given a present before. And when she opened it, it was a magical star-polish. She used a little, and found that it made her shine as brightly as her brothers and sisters. Hiding at the back from their teasing, she had just become dusty. She was really the brightest star of all!

When the other stars came back, pretending to have not noticed that the storm clouds had gone, they were amazed to find little Twinkle shining brighter than any of them. Twinkle showed them her present and told them what had happened.

The other stars were a little bit jealous, but after all, because of her hard work, the children all had their Christmas presents, all because of Twinkle, and nobody could argue that was the best thing of all.

So, that is how Twinkle became the brightest star in the sky. So, next time you are outside on a winters night, and look up at the sky, look for the brightest star there, and give Twinkle a wave.

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