

santa's helpers
a niki owl christmas story



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Thank You.

For many years, we've been led to believe that the only helpers working with Santa are Christmas elves. They make all the toys and wrap the presents, this is true. Yet their focus is limited to curating everyone's gifts for the year.

Do you still wonder how Santa manages to deliver our presents on time, no matter where we live in the world, come rain or shine? Well, so did I, until I learned what I'm about to share with you...

The story of Santa's helpers is missing one key truth.

Before I tell you this, there's something else you might like to know.

The story of Santa's helpers started several thousand miles outside of the North Pole...

How come? Well, unbeknownst to many, Santa Claus has a secret hideaway. When humans found out where he lives in the North Pole, their desire to go meet him forced Santa out of his regular seclusion. Whilst he loves to entertain and hear everyone's stories, this started to distract him from keeping on track with the demands of planning each Christmas. So he decided to find a special place he could go to, one that only Mrs Claus and the Reindeer knew. Here, he enjoys his much needed R&R time, and

prepares for the upcoming holiday season of the year in peace and quiet. Naturally, I cannot reveal where that place is...

Now, over the years, Santa and his Reindeer have been overwhelmed by the increasing human population around the world. Santa and his team are undeniably superb at what they do, but they can only deliver at a certain speed and capacity. Faced with the challenge of more homes to deliver presents to every year, Santa realised something needed to change. He needed to leverage himself, and his team. The Reindeer were getting tired by the increased delivery speeds, and it's important for Santa to keep his Reindeer healthy and happy. A new plan of action was required.

It was the end of October. Fall was turning the leaves orange and yellow, and the evening sun was taking refuge fast over the horizon.

Santa was in his ultra secret location and had called a special meeting with all his Reindeer to review their options. They huddled around the large circular fireplace in the middle of Santa's living room, while Mrs Claus baked several dozen gingerbread lebkuchen in the kitchen.

"I'm concerned about how to manage the workload," Santa declared, "It's just too much for all of us."

"But Santa, what else can we do? We'd rather not ask humans to do more this time of year... They deserve a delightful holiday rest! And even if we did ask, how would we keep it a secret? Wouldn't that ruin the magic of Christmas if people knew that it's not just us anymore?"

This was a tough moment. How could they maintain the magic of Christmas, *and* ask for help at the same time? How could they make this easy for everyone?

Clearly, many parents around the world already take it upon themselves to help Santa, without realising. Families around the world wake up on Christmas morning to find their tree surrounded by gifts, which parents carefully select for their loved ones. But to their surprise,

there are always extra gifts even for *them*, and they never know where these gifts come from.

“What about the elves?” Prancer asked.

“What about them? We’d need to get them transportation, find more reindeer, and air traffic is already quite cluttered as it is. I’m not sure that would be safe, and they would be too tired to fly around the world after working so hard making gifts for everyone,” Santa sighed.

The Reindeer started to talk amongst themselves, wondering if any other animals could help. Nature has its way of supporting itself very quickly, so they were trusting this process.

In that moment, a little owl flew in through the open kitchen window and sat on the right arm of Santa’s reading chair. The owl, only 8 inches tall, looked up at Santa with sweet beckoning eyes and offered a cute little, “Hoot”. Santa looked at the darling feathery creature, and twiddled his beard as an idea began to form in his mind.

The little owl then fluttered towards the kitchen and sat on Mrs Claus’s shoulder as she placed a freshly baked set of gingerbread cookies onto the counter. She broke a little piece off and held it up to the owl, who grasped it with one of his talons as he proceeded to snack on the warm, tasty treat. Mrs Claus patted him gently on the head when he was done.

Meanwhile, Santa was observing the little owl’s gracefully calculated actions.

“I’ve got it,” he stated with great resolve.

“What is it?” Rudolph asked, now trying to fend off the little owl, who had flown over to perch on his antlers. Rudolph was not impressed with this.

“Owls,” Santa replied, “They can carry the smaller presents, especially the ones that fill the Christmas stockings. We’ll have a parliament of owls help us.”

The Reindeer looked at one another, then at Santa, then at the owl.

The owl looked at the Reindeer, then at Santa, then at the counter piled high with baked delights.

“They are smart,” Vixen agreed.

“They fly well at night,” Donner pondered.

“There are elf owls that are smaller than elves!” Blitzen chuckled.

“They’re everywhere,” Dancer said, stretching his hind legs.

“They see well in the dark,” Cupid affirmed.

“They fly quietly, so nobody will notice them,” Dasher confirmed.

“And they’re mysterious, so Christmas can keep its magic,” Comet mused.

The energy in the room shifted from concerned to relieved.

“Is that a yes from all of you then?” Santa asked, wanting to be sure his whole team was happy with this decision.

All of the Reindeer nodded their heads, knocking some of their antlers together (they do take up a lot of space after all). Rudolph was softening up to the cuteness of the little owl, who was now swinging on his antlers like an athlete on a trapeze.

Santa looked at the owl and beckoned him to sit on the arm of the chair.

“What is your name, my little friend?” he enquired.

“Niki,” the owl hooted.

Rudolph’s nose lit up, “What a cute name for an owl,” he said, “And convenient, for Saint Nicholas and all.”

Santa smiled, “Well, Niki, do you think you and your owl friends would like to help make everyone’s Christmases even better from now on?”

“Sure! I love putting smiles on people’s faces! What can we do?”

“Just help us deliver the smaller gifts to every house around the world, even the ones that don’t celebrate Christmas as we know it.”

Niki’s heart filled with joy. What a beautiful idea! He sent a

quick thought to all his owl friends around the world, because animals communicate through thought energy just like we do. Their response was a fast and resounding “Yes.”

“Yes yes yes, we’d all love to help!” he hooted again, then had a thought, “Wait! Can I share stories while I deliver gifts? I like ones about taking leaps of faith and making our dreams come true.”

“Sure, Niki, everyone loves a good story! How will you share them?” Santa replied heartily.

“I’ll leave a little book in each stocking... how does that sound?”

“Great!”

And so it was that Santa, the Reindeer, and Niki the newly appointed Christmas Owl planned out the following Christmas to make sure that everyone around the world received a gift of love and reminder of joy.

Who knew that evening, when Niki flew into the kitchen with a heart full of goodness and a hungry tummy, that one of his biggest dreams to spread the cheer to all would come true?

Remember, everything you imagine is possible when you put your heart into it and you *believe*.

What wishes would *you* like to see come true this holiday season?

Now you know the truth about how Santa magically delivers our presents every year. Isn’t it awesome?

When you see owls this Christmas (well, any time of year really) remember the story of Niki the owl delivering inspiration and joy to all.



(wait, there's more on the next page...)

Give the gift of a story!

Do you like niki owl's idea of putting a book in each Christmas stocking? You can do it too!

Print this story, roll it up or place it in a nice envelope, and put it in someone's Christmas stocking. Then take a photo, tag and post it on Facebook, Pinterest or twitter.

Remember to add #SantasHelpers @nikiowl

tweetable:

Wow! @nikiowl just told me the real story behind #SantasHelpers! <http://nikiowl.com/santas-helpers>

click to tweet: <http://ctt.ec/76kxf>

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