MRS. SANTA CLAUS VS. THE LIVING DEAD

Written by Josh Wellman

Excerpt: The Reindeer

EXT. PATH BETWEEN MAIN BUILDINGS AND THE STABLES - NIGHT

Kris walks along the path in his full Santa gear. Bjorn walks with him, shivering in his thin elf tights and light coat.

KRIS
Goodness, it is warm.

BJORN
…

KRIS
Once upon a time, it was cold enough in the winter to need this get-up everywhere in the north. Now, what's going on with …
(stammers)
What's going on with the reindeer?

CUT TO - RAUCOUS HOOF-STOMPING!

EXT. STABLES - NIGHT

The snowy area outside the rustic-but-storybook stables.

STOMP! STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!

REINDEER
(variously)
Come on!
This is getting ridiculous!
Oh, St. Nick on a stick!
Idiots!
Shut the hoof up!

BLITZEN sits aloof and silent in one corner of the yard, looking over the fence. She is not happy.

RUDOLPH, nose aglow angrily, sulks in a different corner.

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BLITZEN
I told all of you, I’m not mad.
I’m just not talking to Mr.
(sings, off-key)
EGO THE RED-NOSED REINDEER
(speaks)
… for now.

RUDOLPH
I’m right here. I can hear you…

BLITZEN
Oh, the wind, soooo louuud.

DANCER breaks off from the other inciting reindeer and places herself between Rudolph and Blitzen.

DANCER
All right, you two. This stops.
We’ve all wanted our turn in the lead, Blitzen. We hear you.
And Rudolph, obviously it’s too late for this year, but you’re too attached to the front. It’s gone weird. It’s fetishy. Every time you lose your antlers for the winter…

RUDOLPH
LookIKNOW!
Only female reindeer keep their antlers in the winter.
But only I have a nose made of light.
Anywhere!
Anywhere in the world!
Mr. Santa needs my nose to light the way.
The children of the world need my nose.
Christmas itself needs.
This. HOOFING. NOSE!

BLITZEN
(mocking his voice)
You know where you can put that nose…

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RUDOLPH
That does it, you bi–

Reindeer erupt, but Kris and Bjorn arrive, interrupting.

KRIS
Ho, ho, HOOoooooowhat’s this, now?
Do I sense dissent in the ranks?

DANCER
See? Now you’re wasting Mr.
Santa’s time!

KRIS
Now, now, Dancer, don’t worry. I’d
much rather be out here with you
ladies and gentlemen, anyway. I’m
useless in there, these days.

CHORUS OF REINDEER AND BJORN
(variously)
You’re never useless!
You could never be!
You’re not, Mr. Santa!
Don’t be ridiculous!
How silly, sir!

KRIS
Hush, darlings… I know I still
have plenty of use in the world.
But I think many of us around here
are feeling the need to make some
changes.

RUDOLPH
(overlapping)
I think we need to slow down here!
Now don’t you start, Vixen! Vixen!

OTHER REINDEER
(overlapping; variously)
You’re right!
That’s for sure!
Preach!

BJORN
So you see?

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KRIS
I do, indeed…
Listen, dears… Things seem to have come to a head all around the North Pole. Maybe it’s the warm winters.
But we won’t solve anything tonight. We have the dress rehearsal. Then we’ll get through tomorrow.
And after a nice break… we can all start to think about how next year can be more enjoyable…

Another outburst from the reindeer.

KRIS
For all of us!

He gives a big, loving:

KRIS
Ho, ho, ho!

…and hugs the reindeer, who nuzzle him back. There’s real love in this dysfunctional family. One antler pokes his ear,

causing him to wince–OUCH! SHARP!-and he laughs magnanimously.

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