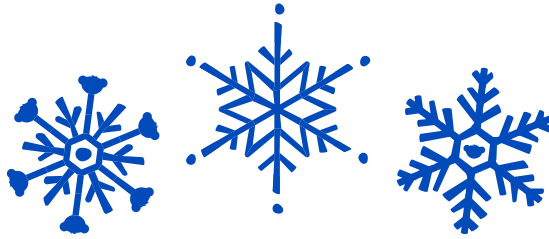




IT'S STORY TIME

Enjoy reading this story with your family or to your furry friends!
Fun twist: Set up your furry friends and act out the story!



PARTY AT THE NORTH POLE

Stardust the Unicorn watched from the woods as the falling snow settled on the rooftops of Santa's village below. It was late on Christmas Eve, and Santa's global sleigh ride had gone off without a hitch thanks to Glisten and the rest of the reindeer. Gifts had been delivered to everyone on the Nice List – and it was time to celebrate a job well done with food, music, festivities and merriment!

The elves had planned a holiday party in Santa's Workshop to celebrate a year's worth of hard work making toys for everyone on the Nice List. As Stardust put on her cape to join the rest of the village at the party, she saw her friend Sparkle, a friendly Northern Llamacorn with shimmery pink fur and a golden horn, running up to her in a hurry.

"What's wrong?" Stardust asked her friend, worried.

"It's Glisten!" Sparkle exclaimed. "She hasn't returned to the village yet and the party's already underway!"

This struck Stardust as very odd. Where could Glisten be? The post-sleigh ride holiday party was one of the greatest traditions at the North Pole. It was highly unlikely that Glisten of all reindeer would miss it!

"Okay, let's try to find Glisten," Stardust said. "Sparkle, you're in charge of the holiday party. You should head back there to make sure things are going smoothly. I'll try to find Glisten and bring her to the party!"

As Sparkle the Llamacorn trotted back to the village, Stardust galloped to the stables of the village. The reindeer had returned from Santa's sleigh ride and were already at the party relaxing after a long night of flying; luckily, Stardust was here to look for Blue Blast, a small but nimble Northern husky who guarded the reindeer and lived in the stables.

"Blue Blast!" Stardust exclaimed into the dark night. "I need your help!"

Within moments, the loyal husky pup appeared from one of the stables. He had icy blue fur and his ears were perked up at the sound of concern in Stardust's voice.

"Stardust!" the little husky said. "Is everything alright?"

"Glisten is nowhere to be found!" Stardust replied. "Can you use your expert sense of smell to help me look for her?"

Blue Blast immediately sprung into action. "I'll search the grounds of the village!" And with that the pup disappeared into the falling snow to search for Glisten.

After double checking the rest of the stables and asking more elves and animals throughout the village if they had seen Glisten, Stardust journeyed to the party, her horn held low in sadness. Sparkle had tried to entertain the elves and animals during the party, but word had gotten out that Glisten was missing. The mood at the party was down – even the gingerbread band had stopped playing.

"What do we do?" asked Sparkle sadly, her fleece fur glimmering underneath the twinkling holiday lights. "It's not like Glisten to be gone on Christmas Eve...and we can't celebrate Christmas if we're not all together!"

Suddenly, Blue Blast burst into the Workshop at full speed. "Stardust!" he exclaimed breathlessly. "I found some fresh hoof prints leading to the woods!"

Blue Blast bounded from the party with Stardust, Sparkle and the rest of the elves and animals closely behind. Now everyone from the party was outside in the falling snow, following large hoof prints through the village and into the woods behind Santa's Workshop. The hoof prints led them to a clearing deep in the woods. They came upon an area festively decorated with holiday lights, tinsel-laden trees and tables of hot cocoa and Christmas cookies. It was a winter wonderland! Stardust, Sparkle, Blue Blast and the rest of the villagers looked around in wonder. They had never seen this area of the woods. What was this place?

"Well, I guess the surprise is out!" a voice said from behind them.

They all whirled their heads around. It was Glisten! The star-powered reindeer stood in the clearing with a mischievous smile on her face, her sparkly fur glinting in the moonlight.

"Glisten!" the animals and elves all shouted happily in unison.

"Sorry if I alarmed you, but I was working on a special surprise!" Glisten said to her friends. "I was going to bring you all out here when it was ready, but since you all found me first..."

With that, Glisten produced a shiny object from her cape. It was a large glass snow globe with a gleaming gold base. The inside of the snow globe contained a miniature version of the North Pole woods – in fact, it was the exact snowy spot that the

party-goers were currently standing!

"This snow globe has been passed down through generations of reindeer. Legend says that it has magical powers on Christmas Day – but it only functions at its full power when friends come together in a true holiday spirit. Since we're all here now, why don't we make a magical memory together?"

Stardust, Sparkle and Blue Blast looked at one another and smiled. This sounded like a wonderful plan. They huddled close with the rest of the elves and animals of the village. Glisten stood in the middle of them. From out in the distance, they heard the grandfather clock in the Workshop chime twelve times.

"It's midnight!" exclaimed Stardust. "It's officially Christmas!"

"You have perfect timing, my friends," Glisten said with a twinkle in her eye. She picked up the snow globe and looked around at her friends.

"To the spirit of Christmas!" Glisten exclaimed.

"To the spirit of Christmas!" the entire village replied in unison.

Glisten gave the snow globe a powerful shake, causing the white snow inside the glass to swirl around and around. The group of friends peered inside the glass snow globe and noticed something peculiar – the snow was changing colors! The snow globe was a colorful swirl as Glisten set it down gently in the clearing.

As the elves and animals looked up, something magical started to happen. The snow falling around them had begun to change colors too! Glisten, Stardust, Sparkle and Blue Blast watched in awe as the snowflakes swirling around them magically transformed from white to pink, green, blue, orange, yellow, purple and silver. The blanket of falling snow was now shimmering with every color of the rainbow!

"Surprise!" Glisten said to her friends as they look around in wonder. "Magical things can happen when you celebrate with friends!"

The group of friends cheered and hugged, happy to all be together at last. As the colorful snow began to fall, the holiday party kicked back into full gear, and the villagers celebrated all the accomplishments of the past year well into Christmas morning. It was snow much fun being together on Christmas!



THE END

