

AURORA, THE LITTLEST REINDEER

By

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Cast:

Narrator
Aurora (reindeer)
Taffy (cat)
Santa Claus
Mrs. Claus
Twizzler (elf)
Snicker (elf)
Dreamer (reindeer)
Schemer (reindeer)

Props:

Hammer	Harnesses
Broken Toy	Santa's hat
Wrapped Present	Mouse Hole
Pile of Presents (or tall shelf)	Hammering Sound (Rhythm Sticks)
Piece of gift wrap	Harness Sound (Bells)
Piece of sticky tape	Cooking Sound (Unknown)
Counter in kitchen	Santa's List

Setting: The stage is dark, but for the NARRATOR sitting upon a stool at the very corner of stage left with a light shining on them. In the shadows on the stage are various tableaux's, none of them lit and none with any movement. From left to right there is a scene of the stables with REINDEER getting ready to be harnessed, a kitchen where MRS. CLAUS is preparing a big Christmas dinner for Santa and the elves and lastly, the elves workshop where the ELVES are busy making toys and wrapping packages.

NARRATOR: It was Christmas Eve at the North Pole, and everyone was in a rushed state of excitement. In the elves workshop they were busy putting the finishing touches on toys and wrapping them up in paper with nice big bows.

(Tableau of the elves workshop is lit and comes to life – a flurry of activity. Cue sounds of hammering. After a pause, the tableau goes dark and freezes once again and hammering stops.)

NARRATOR: In the kitchen Mrs. Claus was cooking up a storm – she had to make enough food to fatten up Santa so he wouldn't disappoint any children who might sneak a peek of him while he was putting their presents under their trees – plus she had a whole bunch of elves to feed too!

(Tableau of the kitchen is lit and comes to life. Mrs. Claus is cooking and stirring a big cauldron that's almost as big as she is. Cue "cooking" sound. After a pause, the tableau goes dark and freezes once again and cooking sound stops.)

NARRATOR: And in the stables the reindeer were getting ready for their annual flight. It took them quite a while to harness themselves up – not having thumbs and all, so they were getting an early start.

(Tableau of the stable is lit and comes to life. The reindeer are trying to harness themselves but are not having an easy time of it and some good-natured teasing is going on. Cue harness sounds. After a pause, the tableau goes dark and freezes once again and harness sounds stop.)

NARRATOR: Everyone had a role to play, a job to do – something to keep them busy, everyone, but Aurora.

(AURORA enters from Stage Right with TAFFY trailing happily behind her. The pair are lit up and skip and play happily along – then begin to react to the NARRATOR)

NARRATOR: Aurora was the littlest reindeer at the North Pole – and the weakest. She was also, quite possibly, the friendliest and the one who wanted to help out the most. Most of the days of the year Aurora was happy to hang out and play with her cat Taffy or the other reindeer, but on Christmas Eve no one ever had any time for that.

(AURORA hangs her head and looks sad.)

NARRATOR: It made her sad that she didn't have a job to do – so Aurora decided to go see if she could help in the elves workshop. Surely they would have something she could do!

(The light on the NARRATOR goes off. AURORA and TAFFY enter the elves workshop tableau and it is illuminated and comes to life. Cue hammering sounds. AURORA approaches TWIZZLER, who is using a hammer to fix some toys, while TAFFY goes over to where SNICKER is wrapping presents and begins to play with a piece of wrapping paper.)

(Stop hammering sounds)

AURORA: Twizzler, can I help?

TWIZZLER: I dunno Aurora – do you think you could help me fix these toys? You need to be kinda strong to use the hammer.

AURORA: Oh, I can do it! Just let me try!

TWIZZLER: *(looking dubious)* Okay, you can try.

(TWIZZLER hands AURORA the hammer and a toy. AURORA tries to fix the toy – cue hammering sounds – but is unsuccessful. After several moments of trying, she gives up and gives the hammer and toy back to TAFFY – stop hammering sounds)

TWIZZLER: I'm sorry Aurora, it is kinda heavy.

AURORA: *(sadly)* That's alright – maybe Snicker will have something I can do.

TWIZZLER: Maybe – good luck.

(TWIZZLER returns to fixing toys while AURORA moves over to SNICKER. Meanwhile, TAFFY has discovered a big piece of sticky tape and is poking at it.)

AURORA: Hi Snicker!

SNICKER: Hi Aurora! Merry Christmas Eve!

AURORA: Thanks Snicker, you too. Hey, I don't suppose you've got any jobs I can help out with do you?

SNICKER: *(looks around)* Hmm...I'm not sure. Do you think you could stack Christmas presents?

AURORA: I could try!

SNICKER: Okay, here, take this box and just stick it up on top of that pile over there – then come back for another one okay?

AURORA: Okay! Thanks Snicker!

(AURORA takes the present, stumbling under its weight and attempts to put it on top of the, already tall stack of presents. Despite her best efforts she can't do it. TAFFY, meanwhile, has managed to get the tape stuck to her paw and is trying, in vain, to shake it off. AURORA takes the present back to SNICKER)

AURORA: I'm too small.

SNICKER: I'm sorry AURORA – maybe you should go see Mrs. Claus in the kitchen, she might have something you could do.

AURORA: Maybe...bye Snicker, bye Twizzler.

SNICKER AND TWIZZLER: Bye Aurora, bye Taffy!

(AURORA and TAFFY leave the tableau, heading over to the kitchen and MRS. Claus. The workshop tableau goes dark and still at the same time the kitchen one lights up. Cue cooking sound. TAFFY is having trouble walking because her paw still has a big piece of sticky tape stuck to it. Once the dialog starts, stop cooking sound)

MRS. CLAUS: *(pauses in what she's doing)* Oh hi Aurora! Hi Taffy! Come to sneak a bite of dinner before it's done?

AURORA: Uh, no Mrs. Claus – actually, I was hoping I'd be able to help out. I tried to help in the elves workshop, but there was nothing I could do – 'cause I'm too small and weak.

MRS. CLAUS: Oh, I'm sorry Aurora – I don't know if I have any jobs for you either. Right now I'm just stirring this pot, and as you can see, it's almost as big as you are.

(SANTA CLAUS enters the tableau, a big piece of paper in his hand. He sets the paper down on the counter and then takes his hat off, wipes his forehead and sets the hand down on the paper. The paper falls, to the floor – unnoticed by everyone but TAFFY who runs over to play with it.)

SANTA CLAUS: Wow, what a busy night. I just finished checking my list of who was naughty and who was nice and I've got it all ready to go. How are things in here?

(SANTA CLAUS glances over at AURORA who is looking especially sad)

SANTA CLAUS: Aurora! I didn't see you there – Merry Christmas Eve!

AURORA: Not for me it's not! There's nothing I can do to help.

(TAFFY gets the piece of paper stuck to her paw and tries to shake it off, but it sticks tight)

SANTA CLAUS: Nothing? Surely Mrs. Claus can find something you can do?

(SANTA CLAUS looks at MRS. CLAUS who shrugs)

MRS. CLAUS: Not right now dear, I'm afraid AURORA is just too little to help me stir the soup – she might fall right in.

(TAFFY stops trying to shake the paper off and listens to the conversation going on around her.)

AURORA: It's okay Mrs. Claus – it's not your fault I'm so little.

MRS. CLAUS: Now, now Aurora, there is nothing wrong with being little – it's just a part of who you are, part of what makes you special.

AURORA: I know, but why couldn't being the strongest reindeer be part of what makes me special, instead of being the smallest and the weakest?

SANTA CLAUS: Ahh you're not the only one who wishes there were something different about them you know Aurora. Do you think I really like being known as having a belly like jelly? It's not very healthy you know...

AURORA: But Santa...

MRS. CLAUS: And do you really think the elves like having pointy ears when all the people they see on tv have rounded ones?

AURORA: No, I suppose not – but they just wouldn't be elves without them.

SANTA CLAUS: Anymore than you would be Aurora without being small. Who knows, maybe someday you'll get bigger, but until then it's good to make the best of what you have.

AURORA: I suppose...

(SANTA CLAUS opens his mouth to say something more and then stops as he spots the piece of paper stuck to TAFFY's paw.)

SANTA CLAUS: *(very loud and excitedly)* What have you got there Taffy? Give me that, I need it or I can't deliver presents tonight!

(TAFFY gets startled by SANTA's sudden outburst and bolts out the door – into the stables tableau which lights up and comes to life while the kitchen tableau with AURORA and MRS. CLAUS goes dark. SANTA is following TAFFY. Cue harness sounds. The reindeer are trying to get harnessed up, but aren't having much luck, there is a lot of joking and good-natured teasing going on. TAFFY darts in and slides into a tiny mouse hole in the wall – peering out nervously at SANTA and the other reindeer. Stop harness noises as dialog begins)

DREAMER: *(almost getting run over by TAFFY on her way to the hole)* What the? Whoa

–

SCHEMER: Santa! What a nice surprise!

SANTA: Have you seen a cat? Has anyone seen TAFFY?

DREAMER: You mean that ball of fur that just went flying past my hooves? Yeah, I saw her.

SANTA: Where'd she go?

DREAMER: Into that mouse hole – she looked pretty scared. Did someone step on her tail or something? *(looks pointedly at SCHEMER)*

SCHEMER: Oh, one time! It happened one time, and that was months ago!

SANTA CLAUS: No, no, I startled her – I didn't mean to, but she somehow got my list of who was naughty and nice stuck to her paw – I can't deliver Christmas presents without it!

DREAMER: Oh no!

SCHEMER: I'll get her out!

(SCHEMER goes over to where TAFFY is hiding in the wall and tries to coax her out – to no avail.)

DREAMER: Oh, let me try – she's probably still scared of you after what you did to her tail!

SCHEMER: It was one time! And it was totally an accident, you know that don't you Taffy?

(TAFFY shakes her head no and tries to back up further into the mouse hole)

DREAMER: Come out Taffy, no one's going to hurt you; we just need that piece of paper.

(TAFFY doesn't budge.)

SANTA CLAUS: Well, she's not going to come out for me – I'm the one who scared her in there in the first place.

DREAMER: I don't think she's going to come out at all – someone is going to have to go in and get her.

SCHEMER: Oh, good plan there Dreamer – who do you know who is small enough to fit in there?

SANTA CLAUS: Aurora!

(Kitchen tableau comes to life and Aurora, hearing her name, comes rushing into the stables. As soon as she leaves the kitchen the tableau goes dark once more and freezes.)

AURORA: Did you call me? Man Santa, you sure can run fast when you want to! Where's Taffy?

SANTA CLAUS: She's hiding in that hole over there – I need you to go in and get her out. If I don't get that piece of paper that's stuck to her paw we'll have to cancel Christmas.

AURORA: Cancel Christmas! You can't do that – think of all the little boys and girls who would be so sad.

DREAMER: He won't have to cancel Christmas if you can get the paper.

SCHEMER: Go on Aurora, go ahead and get it.

AURORA: Alright, I'll try.

(AURORA kneels in front of the hole and tries to coax TAFFY out. TAFFY starts to come out, but then shakes her head and backs back into the hole once more. Finally AURORA sighs and climbs in the hole herself, pulling TAFFY out with her. The reindeer cheer – cue harness sounds – and AURORA pulls the piece of paper off TAFFY's paw and hands it to SANTA CLAUS. TAFFY, still looking nervously at SANTA CLAUS, presses up against AURORA's leg when she stands up)

SANTA CLAUS: Thank you Aurora, you saved Christmas.

AURORA: I did, didn't I?

DREAMER: You sure did!

AURORA: Even though I'm small...

SCHEMER: More like because you are small

AURORA: I guess there are advantages to being different after all.

SANTA CLAUS: There sure are. How about giving me a hand getting the reindeer harnessed – you can guard the list from Taffy while I get everything ready to go.

AURORA: Sounds good to me! *(Smiling brightly)*

SCHEMER: Merry Christmas Eve Aurora

AURORA: Merry Christmas Eve everybody! Merry Christmas Eve!

(SANTA starts harnessing the reindeer while AURORA holds the list and TAFFY stays pressed tight against her side. Then the lights go off, the tableau freezes and the curtains close)