

THE DAY RUDOLPH RAN  
AWAY TO  
PITTSBURGH  
and  
RUDOLPH'S BIG SECRET

Two Christmas plays for children of all ages  
by **Coni Koepfinger**

# THE DAY RUDOLPH RAN AWAY TO PITTSBURGH/RUDOLPH'S BIG SECRET

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THE DAY RUDOLPH RAN AWAY TO PITTSBURGH/RUDOLPH'S BIG SECRET

*The Rudolph plays are dedicated to my two wonderful daughters,  
Katie and Mary, who inspired me always to be full of wonder!*

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THE DAY RUDOLPH RAN AWAY TO PITTSBURGH

CHARACTERS

|              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| WEETEL       | A wise old elf               |
| SLUMPY       | A younger elf                |
| RUDOLPH      | The red-nosed reindeer       |
| MR. BOGUTIER | A kind storekeeper           |
| KATE         | Mr. Bogutier's loving wife   |
| MICKEY       | Mr. Bogutier's son           |
| BIG MAX      | The factory bully.           |
| PETER        | A friendly factory worker    |
| ENSEMBLE     | Factory workers and carolers |

*SETTING:* Present day Pittsburgh - a city street decorated for the Christmas season.

# THE DAY RUDOLPH RAN AWAY TO PITTSBURGH

*In front of the toy shop a group of carolers are gathered singing "Silver Bells". The music fades as the two elves talking downstage right begin walking upstage through the city streets.*

**WEETEL.** So, this is your first trip to Pittsburgh, eh?

**SLUMPY.** Sure is. Boy, this is sure a pretty place— don't you think?

**WEETEL.** Yep indeedy, my boy. Hey there's the toy shop where they found Rudolph the day he ran away.

**SLUMPY.** No kidding? What happened to him?

**WEETEL.** Didn't you hear about it? It happened two years ago... on Christmas eve.

**SLUMPY.** No. *(Begging.)* Tell me the whole story, please. *(Aside to audience.)* I just love a good story, don't you? Tell me. Tell me, please. *(Prompts audience response.)*

**WEETEL.** *(Hands on hips.)* Right now?

**SLUMPY.** Sure! *(Pulls at Weetel.)* Let's sit down right here. *(Aside to audience.)* That way you can hear too. *(To Weetel.)* This is super! I love stories. *(Sits.)*

**WEETEL.** *(Sits with Slumpy.)* So I gather. So I gather.

**SLUMPY.** *(Anxiously.)* So, why did Rudolph run away in the first place?

**WEETEL.** Well, he was angry at the other reindeer for making fun of his nose...

**SLUMPY.** Why'd they make fun of it? If it wasn't for Rudolph's red nose we'd have never made all of our deliveries on time this year. He's got a natural headlight. They shouldn't make fun of him just because he's different.

**WEETEL.** Well, you know, we all do things sometimes in fun. I mean, you expect other people to have a sense of humor and well...

**SLUMPY.** So, why'd Rudolph go to Pittsburgh anyway?

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**WEETEL.** Well, he heard on the news that Pittsburgh was rated the Most Livable City, and he knew that Santa's reindeer could only live in the North Pole. He thought Pittsburgh would be a good place to start to find a new home. He thought maybe he could live there instead.

**SLUMPY.** Well, Pittsburgh sure is a pretty city. *(Aside to the audience.)* Don't you think so?

**WEETEL.** Now just who on earth are you talking to Slumpy?

**SLUMPY.** *(Sheepishly.)* Uh, no one. *(Aside to audience.)* Sssh! *(Stands; exaggerated whisper.)* Be very quiet, I made a magic spell so that Weetel can't see you. If he sees you, he won't tell us Rudolph's story... He gets upset with crowds. He says they don't keep quiet long enough. So let's trick him, okay? *(Prompts audience response.)*

**WEETEL.** *(Rises, looking into the audience.)* I can't see anybody. Are you going dingbat or what? Good for you we get a vacation for Christmas. You must have been overworked this year, Slumpy.

**SLUMPY.** *(Sitting back down.)* Come on, tell me the story. *(Tugs at him.)* Tell me about the day Rudolph ran away to Pittsburgh. I'll bet it was exciting, huh?

**WEETEL.** Well, yes and no. . .Lucky for Rudolph, he met some really nice people in Pittsburgh. As he came into town, he found a toy store and they gave him a job in the loading department.

**SLUMPY.** A job? Hey, wait a minute... wouldn't everybody know Rudolph? Why he's famous with that red nose. They'd put it on the news that Santa was looking for him. How come they didn't recognize him and call up Santa?

**WEETEL.** Well, Rudolph thought of that, too. In fact, Rudolph ran away knowing Santa and everyone needed him that night. He knew they'd be looking for him. So he traveled in disguise.

**SLUMPY.** In disguise? You mean he wore a mask like at Halloween?

**WEETEL.** Well, sort of... he bandaged up his nose so no one could see how bright red it was. Just imagine... Sure, he needed a place to sleep and food to eat, didn't he?

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*Lights cross fade from the elves to mainstage. Christmas carolers enter singing "Here We Come a-Caroling, while set changes au vista to inside the toy shop. Rudolph is talking to Mr. Bogutier, the shopkeeper.*

**RUDOLPH.** Why thanks, Mr. Bogutier. It was getting dark out there, and well I know, I shouldn't be out after dark. And it was cold, too.

**MR. BOGUTIER.** You must be hungry, my dear boy!

**RUDOLPH.** I sure am!

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Well, then come back here and you can meet my wife and son over some hot soup and fresh bread.

**RUDOLPH.** Gee thanks. You're a really nice person, Mr. Bogutier. This is great! You're giving me a job and a place to stay and now a nice hot meal! Pittsburgh sure is a really nice place! I'm glad I decided to run away, er, opps, I mean, change jobs and move here. *(They cross to another room where Mickey, Mr. Bogutier's son and Mrs. Bogutier sit at the table set for supper.)*

**MR. BOGUTIER.** This is my wife, Kate, and my son, Mickey. Kate, Mickey, this is... uh... uh, I don't believe you told me your first name Mr. Reindeer?

**RUDOLPH.** *(Stuttering as he thinks.)* Uh, uh... Adolph.

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Adolph Reindeer. Nice name.

**KATE.** Pleasure, Adolph. Glad you could stay to supper. We love to share our good fortune with others.

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Oh, Kate, Adolph is going to stay longer than supper. I just hired him for that job in the loading department.

**MICKEY.** What happened to your nose there, Adolph? Did someone swap ya in the nose? Did ya get into a fight or something?

**RUDOLPH.** Uh, no... I was...

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Adolph here is, uh, I mean was a famous boxer from up North. He gave up fighting and decided to come here to Pittsburgh. Aren't we lucky, Kate? Finding an experienced toy packer just in time for the holiday!

**MICKEY.** A boxer, huh? Oh boy... How big are the guys you fight? I bet he could take care of BIG, MEAN MAX.

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**MR. BOGUTIER.** Now, now, Mickey, Adolph came down here to Pittsburgh to get away from all that. He told me he's given up fighting, so let's not...

**RUDOLPH.** *(Gulps, frightened.)* Uh, excuse me...Who's BIG MEAN MAX?

**MICKEY.** He's the biggest, meanest bully at the factory. You'll meet him tomorrow. He'll probably want to fight you when he finds out you were a fighter and sees that bandage on your nose. He picks on everyone.

Everyone except Dad, of course. Dad's the boss. Right, Daddy?

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Well now, enough of that now Mickey. Let's eat up our supper so we can get a good night's sleep. Adolph's probably had a long journey and we've all got a big day tomorrow... lots of work for us all. *(Holds up his glass.)* Why, it's going to be Christmas Eve soon.

*(The Bogutiers and Rudolph toast and exchange greetings while the lights dim down on the them and cross fade to the elves.)*

**SLUMPY.** *(Sing-songy.)* Uh-oh, I bet Rudolph's gonna get in trouble.

**WEETEL.** Why do you say that?

**SLUMPY.** He told a fib.

**WEETEL.** A fib?

**SLUMPY.** Yep, he made up a story. Tsk-tsk, told a lie. Everytime you tell a lie you get into trouble. I know, it happened to me before when I made up a story. I got in trouble and had to tell my mom and dad the truth.

**WEETEL.** I bet you got punished by your mom and dad too, huh?

**SLUMPY.** Yeah but, you know what? It felt good to tell the truth. I didn't have to worry anymore about them finding out that I was lying.

**WEETEL.** Well we'll soon see what happened to Rudolph the next day at the toy factory. *(Lights cross-fade back to Mr. Bogutier's factory. A group of workers are gathered around what sounds like a fight just about to happen. Mickey breaks through the crowd and runs offstage in a panic.)*

**BIG MAX.** You're lying again, Adolph. I don't like liars.

**RUDOLPH.** I'm not a liar. I'm not, Mickey! Help me! Get your dad or something.

**MICKEY.** *(Screaming from offstage.)* Dad! Dad! Come quick! Big Max has got Adolph up against the wall! He's going to hurt him or something! Hurry, Dad! Hurry!



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**BIG MAX.** (*Holding Rudolph against the wall.*) Whaddya mean fighting is for bullies? Are you calling me a bully cause I likes ta fight?

**RUDOLPH.** No, no, I didn't say that.

**BIG MAX.** Yes, you did. Don't lie to me. I should slam you right here!

**RUDOLPH.** (*Shaking.*) Oh no. Please no. Don't hurt me. I'll do anything you say.

**BIG MAX.** (*Drops Rudolph; laughs.*) You said only bullies like to fight, didn't he, Peter?

**PETER.** Yep, yep, that's what he said. He called you a big old bully, Max.

**BIG MAX.** (*Pushing Rudolph.*) Oh yeah? You think I'm a bully, huh?

**RUDOLPH.** No, no. Not at all. You're a real nice guy. (*They all laugh at him.*) I mean...

**BIG MAX.** You seem awful chicken for a big boxer from up North. Doesn't he guys?

**PETER.** Uh-oh, Max. Let's beat it boys, here comes the boss.

**BIG MAX.** (*Releasing Rudolph.*) You... a fighter...hah. Sure I bet! (*Grabs Rudolph again.*) Don't say a word to the boss or I'll get ya twice as bad tomorrow. Ya hear me? (*Drops him.*)

**RUDOLPH.** Yes, I do. Yes, certainly, Max. Whatever you say, M-m-m-max. Whatever you say! (*Mr. Bogutier and Mickey rush in to the scene gasping, out of breath.*)

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Okay, okay, let's break it up. What's going on here, boys? Adolph, are you all right? You look terrible.

**RUDOLPH.** Oh...oh... fine...fine, Sir. Just fine, Mr. Bogutier.

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Max, you weren't picking on the new boy here. Were you?

**BIG MAX.** Uh... no sireee, Mr. Bogutier. We were just playing... uh... playing - just boxing around. In fact, tomorrow we're going to have a real boxing match with gloves and all. Right here after work. (*The others cheer.*) Adolph and I figured it'd be a little holiday treat for the gang. In fact, it was Adolph's idea!

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Adolph! I'm surprised at you! (*Shakes his head at Rudolph, who shrugs and smiles back at him.*) But I guess it can't hurt, as long as we maintain our holiday spirit of good clean fun!

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**BIG MAX.** Right, Adolph? A real boxing match. That'll be a great show, huh, Adolph? *(The boys cheer him.)*

**RUDOLPH.** *(Still cowering.)* Uh-huh, sure, Max, sure.

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Now Max. Adolph doesn't want to fight anymore... why just look at him. You can see he's afraid of you Max! *(Rudolph nods excitedly.)* Maybe it's not such a good idea.

**BIG MAX.** But it was his idea, wasn't it Adolph? *(Kicks Rudolph behind Mr. Bogutier's back.)* Wasn't it?

**RUDOLPH.** Ouch! Oooo...Uh, sure... my idea all along, Mr. Bogutier. It'll be fun. Really it will! *(The lunch bell rings.)*

**MR. BOGUTIER.** Okay, boys. Lunchtime's over. Time to get back to work. This is our busiest day of the year. Santa's counting on us tonight so we've got to have his shipments ready to go or there won't be enough toys to go around Pittsburgh. *(Claps his hands.)* Back to work now boys, back to your jobs. *(Exits. Rudolph stares helplessly at Mickey while Big Max and the other workers straggle offstage.)*

**MICKEY.** Adolph, why didn't you tell my dad the truth?

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