

ABSULUM  
THE REINDEER ELF  
by Duncan Wells

Absulum the Reindeer Elf  
worked in the reindeer barn.  
He had to clean it everyday  
and that was rather hard  
for it was such a dirty job  
to mop and slop and scour and scrape  
every corner, nook and cranny  
in that reindeer place.

Absulum the Reindeer Elf  
had to keep the reindeer groomed.  
He had to give them all a bath.  
He had to feed them too.  
Cook their meals, brush their fur  
and fill that barn with hay  
and every morning when he woke  
he would have to do it all over again.

Absulum the Reindeer Elf  
played nurse and doctor too.  
He took care of all the reindeer  
if they were sick or had the flu.  
He fixed their sleigh, he mended their reins  
and if they were sad he would wipe their tears.  
He worked his fingers to the bone  
but it seemed that no one cared.

Of course the elves in Santa's Workshop  
they were such a happy lot  
singing songs all day long  
with that jolly happy Santa Claus.  
They laughed and danced from toy to toy  
as if it was such fun  
while outside in the reindeer barn  
was the Elf named Absulum.

Absulum the Reindeer Elf,  
when he heard that happy noise,  
would wish he was a Workshop Elf  
making Christmas toys;  
but a Workshop Elf is wise and tall

and Absulum was not  
and that was why he was in that barn,  
well that is what he thought.

Now, it was on a Christmas Eve  
when this incident occurred,  
Santa's sleigh was flying high  
there was no reason for concern  
until the wind came up  
and the snow came down  
in a blinding wall of white  
and all the reindeer say  
that it set the stage  
for the tragedy that took place that night.

Through that snow the reindeer flew  
with neither fear nor fright  
but the wind grew strong  
and stronger still  
until a blizzard grabbed  
that Christmas night.  
And it shook that night,  
it shook the sky  
and it shook that reindeer sleigh.  
The reindeer they could hardly see  
so soon they lost their way.

They were tumbling twisting  
turning topsy-turvy  
'round and 'round.  
They hit the tree tops  
flipped the sleigh  
and smashed into the ground.

The reindeer sleigh was broken  
it was scattered everywhere.  
There were parts and pieces on the ground  
over here and over there.  
Christmas toys torn from their wrapping,  
ribbons tangled in the trees  
and there upon the forest floor  
lay Santa Claus, and all could see  
that he was hurt from the tragic crash  
but just how bad no one would ask.  
For asking might be finding out  
an answer no one cared to know.

The reindeer gathered 'round him  
each one limping, scraped or cut  
and one by one they called his name  
"Oh, Santa Claus? Get up!"  
But not one move did Santa make  
not a flicker not a sound  
and every single reindeer there thought,  
"What will we do now?"

The sky was black there was no light  
no moon or shining star.  
The reindeer huddled close for warmth  
around Santa Claus who was lying there  
in such a heap of sadness  
pines and twigs caught in his beard.  
Then one reindeer thought out loud  
"If only Absulum was here."

Then suddenly the reindeer,  
well they all began to chant.  
"Absulum oh Absulum  
do you know where we're at?  
Oh Absulum, Absulum  
please come we need you now!  
Absulum, Oh Absulum,"  
the reindeer chanted loud.  
"Absulum, Absulum  
can you hear us call?  
Absulum? Absulum?  
Absuuuulllllummmmm?"

Suddenly a star lit up  
that stormy Christmas sky  
and it fell toward the Earth  
and landed there at Santa's side.  
The reindeer all stepped back  
and gasped in wonder at the sight  
of Absulum the Reindeer Elf  
and the star he brought for light.

He placed that star upon a tree  
and it filled the Christmas sky  
then quickly down with reindeer 'round  
he was there at Santa's side.

Then on his knees the Reindeer Elf  
he breathed a single breath of life  
into his mouth and as he did  
Santa opened wide his eyes.  
"Absulum?" Said Santa Claus.  
"Absulum, is that you?"  
but Absulum did not answer  
for there was too much work to do.

He held his hand up to his mouth  
and let loose the oddest scream  
that echoed through the forest  
through the mountains and ravines.

Now, that scream? It was a creature call,  
one he learned when he was young.  
It was a call that creatures answered to  
and caused them all to come.  
And come they did  
from hovel, hole,  
from cavern, nest and tree  
to offer help  
to a Reindeer Elf  
who was in his hour of need.

Within seconds Squirrel  
and Moose and Deer  
were there upon the scene.  
Raccoon, Fox and Bobcat came  
and every bird from every tree.  
And every bunny rabbit hopped  
and those who had to crawled  
to take part in the rescue  
of the reindeer and Santa Claus.

Each part and piece of Santa's sleigh  
was gathered from the wreck  
and brought to Absulum the Reindeer Elf  
who began to put the pieces back.  
The reins were mangled, tangled torn,  
the runners snapped in two  
but Absulum the Reindeer Elf  
knew exactly what to do.

And so, while he worked on Santa's sleigh,  
the creatures all pitched in

to gather up the toys  
that were scattered by the wind.  
They put the toys back in their wrapping,  
tied the ribbons, filled the sack.  
By then that sleigh was good as new  
so, they threw the sack in back.  
Then they helped old Santa to his feet  
and up onto the sleigh.  
The reindeer they got in as well  
wherever they could find a space.

Then Absulum the Reindeer Elf,  
he called the creatures 'round.  
He placed the reins upon them all  
and said, "We're taking Santa home".  
Then up into the drivers seat  
that tiny elf did climb.  
He took the reins  
and without delay  
commanded them to fly.

Well, that sleigh took off  
it left the ground  
and headed straight into the sky  
being pulled by Moose and Bunny Rabbits  
and creatures who weren't meant to fly.  
But fly they did and how or why  
is not an answer we need know.  
You see the question most important is,  
"Did they get them home?"

Well, yes they did.  
They got them home  
and quickly took them in.  
Missus Claus fed them chicken soup  
then she called to Absulum.  
She said, "Absulum, look outside  
there are toys still in the sleigh.  
You have to get back out there  
and deliver them right away."

Absulum looked at Missus Claus.  
He knew she was in charge  
but, instead of following her orders  
he took his reindeer to the reindeer barn.  
He tended to their injuries

all that night and all the next day  
and as for all those toys outside  
well, that is where they stayed.

Because Reindeer Elves  
concern themselves  
only with what's right  
and when taking care of reindeer  
is all you know in life  
then you do what must be done  
to make sure those reindeer never come to harm  
and so, now you know  
why Absulum works in the Reindeer Barn.