



HOCUS POCUS PLAY
&
MAGIC BEANS CAFE

Santa's Sleigh Adventure



Kate Claxton

Santa's Sleigh Adventure

It was the 7th of December, and the North Pole was buzzing with preparations for Christmas.

Inside Santa's cosy workshop, the elves were busy making toys, and the reindeer were resting by the fire. It was Rudolph's turn to open the advent calendar.

"What's behind the door for today, Rudi?" called Santa with a hearty laugh, his voice echoing through the workshop.



Rudolph nudged the tiny wooden door until a treat fell out, snaffled it up, and turned his nose toward the sleigh shed.

"The SLEIGH!" gasped Jingles, Santa's Head Elf and the guardian of Christmas Magic. "We're already a week into December, and nobody has checked the sleigh!"

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Jingles had an extra-special responsibility this year. The Human Folk were tired and busy, and their Christmas Magic supply was running very low.

Jingles had been borrowing more and more magic from the North Pole Magic Supply (The N.P.M.S) to help keep December as sparkly and wonderful as possible for The Human Folk and their families.

"We have just enough Christmas Magic left to take a test flight tonight, Santa," Jingles explained, her eyes sparkling with determination. "Then, by Christmas Eve, the children's excitement should have the N.P.M.S filled to the brim and ready for takeoff."

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"Great idea, Jingles!" agreed Santa. "But the reindeer are booked in for their annual antler groom tonight. We'll have to fly the sleigh on our own. Are you sure we can handle it without the reindeer?"

"Yes, Santa, not a problem. We've got this." Jingles replied with confidence.

Jingles believed she could do anything by herself, and she was usually right. Usually...

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That night, under the silvery glow of the Arctic moon, Jingles gathered all the magic that was left in the N.P.M.S. Although it wasn't much, she was sure that a quick flight would be OK...

Outside, the sky was filling with heavy snow clouds, and the first flakes of December were beginning to fall.

"How magical!" Jingles cheered. "This wintry weather will surely make The Human Folk feel extra Christmassy, and the N.P.M.S will be topped up in no time!"

With that, she poured every last drop of magic into the sleigh's cylinders and set the controls for takeoff...



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Up in the sky, Santa pulled out his trusty sky map, which held all the sleigh checks and a secret emergency spell for just such an occasion.



Important Sleigh Checks:

Super Speed
Roof Landing
Emergency Magic Spell

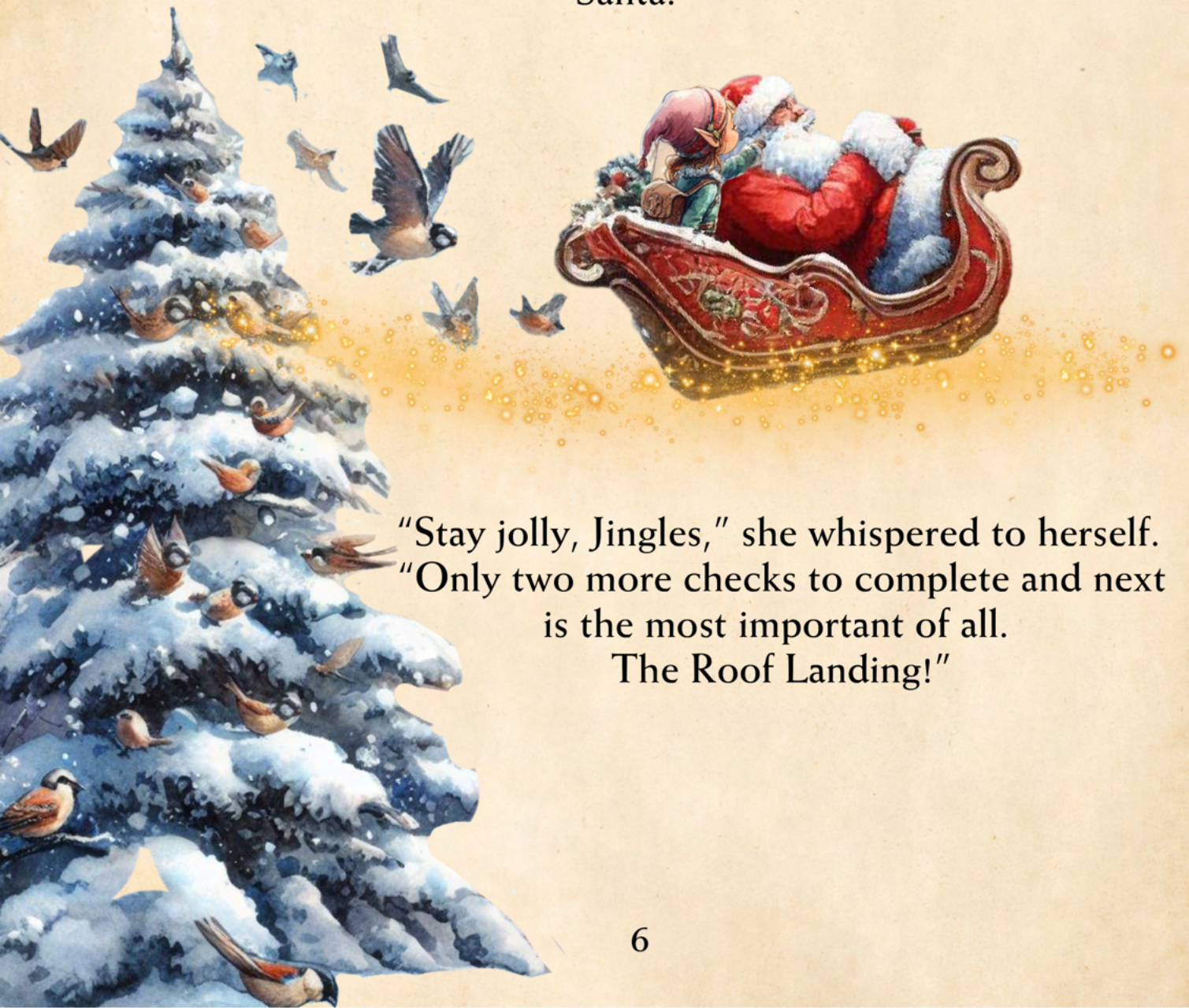
First to check was the Super Speed! Santa scanned the sky to make sure there was nothing in the way, then excitedly hit the accelerator button...



WHOOOOSH!

The sleigh rocketed through the snowy sky at such speed that trees trembled below, sending a flock of birds flying in every direction.

"Sorry!" Santa called out to the startled birds. Jingles gulped, noticing that the Super Speed check had used HALF the magic supply already. Perhaps she should tell Santa.



"Stay jolly, Jingles," she whispered to herself. "Only two more checks to complete and next is the most important of all. The Roof Landing!"

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Jingles knew that for a perfect roof landing, they must hit the brakes exactly six reindeer-lengths before the chimney. She checked the sky map and picked their next target.

As Santa steered toward the snow-covered roof, he searched for the all-important chimney. He looked left, he looked right. He looked forward and backward, but oh no! This house did not have a chimney!

They had followed the wrong house on the map and were heading quickly toward the roof's edge...



WHIZZ! BANG! BUMP!

The sleigh slid off the roof, crashing through the trees and landing on the ground below.

Jingles leaped out of the shaken sleigh and inspected it for damage. Some nuts and bolts were missing, probably lost in the trees.

"No ho ho trouble" Santa chuckled. "Let's get back to the workshop, and I'll have it fixed in no time."



As Santa set the controls for takeoff, the sleigh let out a CLUNK and a PLUNK, and all the lights went out.

"The magic!" Jingles cried. "It's all GONE!"

The North Pole Magic Supply was empty. Not a single drop of magic remained in the cylinders.

Santa reached for the sky map to chant the emergency spell to take them home. But the map had fallen into the snow during the crash. It was soggy and scrambled, and the words didn't make sense.



Jingles slumped against the sleigh and felt a tiny tear roll down her cheek. "It's all my fault! I said we'd have enough magic, and we DON'T!" she sobbed. "How will you deliver presents with a broken sleigh and a soggy map?"

"Now, now, Jingles," Santa replied with a warm smile. "We're in this together, and we'll find a way to gather more Christmas magic and get the sleigh going again."

Suddenly, a shimmer of colour caught Jingles' eye. It was a signpost!



Santa tiptoed over and wiped the snow from the colourful sign, revealing the words 'Hocus Pocus Play.'



“Magic!” Jingles cheered with glee. “Anywhere with a magical name like Hocus Pocus **MUST** be able to help us fix the sleigh!” They marched off to see who lived inside.

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Tap-tap-tap. Santa knocked gently on the door. Tap-tap-tap.
But there was no answer.

Santa tried his magic key, unlocking the door to reveal a cosy room of twinkling fairy lights and magical trinkets. In the corner of the room was a mysterious hatch.

"Look at this place, Jingles," Santa whispered in amazement.

Jingles' eyes lit up like Christmas tree lights. "It's like a room from a magical story!"

With a sigh of relief, they entered the room and settled by a cosy, crackling fire. Santa smiled and said, "This place feels so magical, like it could help us fix our sleigh."



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But it had been a long night, and Jingles felt her eyelids getting heavy. "It's very late. Maybe we can leave a note for the Human Folk here. They can help us when they wake up." she yawned.

Santa agreed, and they wrote a letter together:

Dearest Human Folk of Hocus Pocus Play,

I'm Jingles, Santa's Head Elf. Santa and I had a little adventure with his sleigh, and, well, we've ended up here.

We could really use your help gathering some special Christmas Magic, figuring out our soggy sky map, and looking for any sleigh parts that might have fallen off.

Our mission is to get the sleigh back in tip-top shape for Christmas Eve, and we would be super grateful for your help.

With lots of Christmas cheer.

Santa and Jingles. XOX

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Feeling confident, Jingles stuck the note to the front door.

Now all they had to do was wait for the Human Folk to arrive in this mysterious Hocus Pocus place, and Christmas would be saved...



To be continued...

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We can't wait to welcome you to
Hocus Pocus Play to help finish the story
and save Santa's sleigh!

Families can get as involved as they like.
You can choose to help gather more magic
and find clues, but if you just want to play
in our enchanted village and meet Santa -
that's OK too!

In the words of Jingles, 'stay jolly' and we'll
see you very soon for your magical
adventure!



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