

SANTA Ho, ho, ho! Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?

RUDOLPH That's right, I won't.

SANTA What?

RUDOLPH I've had a better offer. I'm co-presenting a Christmas special on national TV.

SANTA But how will I deliver the presents? It'll be disastrous. You'll go down in history.

RUDOLPH Don't be so dramatic. Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen can't wait to pull the sleigh without me. They just pretended to love me because I'd hit the big time. But I'm too famous to join in any reindeer games.

SANTA Aren't you being rather ungrateful? Remember, I made you a celebrity.

RUDOLPH Nonsense. It's Rudolph "the" red-nosed reindeer, not Rudolph "a" red-nosed reindeer. I'm unique. Cream always rises to the top. I'd have made it with or without you.

SANTA But pulling my sleigh is the greatest honour a reindeer can have.

RUDOLPH Typical! Trying to get the creative talent to work for nothing because it's good publicity. Do I get free moss by telling the supplier "It'll be good exposure for you?"

SANTA Think of the children!

RUDOLPH What I think is this: I've got the world at my hooves, then one foggy Christmas Eve, I hit a satellite, and all at once it's "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer *had* a very shiny nose. Now he's the odd one out in a donkey sanctuary."

SANTA Haven't I always looked after you?

RUDOLPH Not particularly. Do you recall when all of the other reindeer used to laugh and call me names? No, because you never asked how I was.

SANTA You should have made a complaint.

RUDOLPH So now it's my fault! Blame the victim! Anyway, do you realise how humiliating it was, sitting around on a zero-hours contract hoping for a nightshift? The hours I spent polishing this nose, thinking "If you ever saw it, you would even say it glows..."

SANTA I'm sorry, I didn't realise.

RUDOLPH No, well you do now. I don't need you any more. I'm the most famous reindeer of all. If you want to make a booking, speak to my agent. I'm doing Strictly next year. No more "poor Rudolph" for me!

Rudolph exits, humming his theme tune.