

Bunny and Pup's Big Christmas Adventure

1st December

Let me introduce you to two little toys. Bunny is a little pink fluffy rabbit with floppy ears. Pup is a small furry black and white dog with bright shiny eyes, and they are both very new; in fact they have just been made, in that very special place where Father Christmas makes all the toys to be delivered on Christmas Eve. Their story begins in the workshop, where the elves have just finished making them. They had stitched on Bunny's fluffy tail, and polished Pup's glass eyes, and then the Chief Elf came along to wave the special Christmas dust over them, to make them extra specially nice, as he did with all the toys that are made in Father Christmas's workshop. However, on this occasion, the Chief Elf had a bit of sawdust up his nose, which tingled and itched. And just as he was about to sprinkle the Christmas dust, he gave a ginormous sneeze, and by accident, threw out much more Christmas dust than he should have done. The Chief Elf hurried off to blow his nose, so he didn't notice what had happened.

2nd December

Christmas dust is very special stuff. It holds lots of magic and without it, Father Christmas wouldn't be able to deliver all the presents as he does. And that much Christmas dust on two small toys had a very magical effect. First, Bunny's whiskers twitched. The Pup's tail gave a tiny wag. Then two little noses began to sniff the air. Finally, two pairs of eyes opened, bright and alert, staring with wonder at the world in front of them. Bunny and Pup had come to life. And because of the Christmas dust, they were woken with just enough knowledge to know that there was much to see and learn, and a burning curiosity to begin straight away.

3rd Decemeber

The first thing that Bunny did was turn and look at Pup. And the first thing that Pup did was to smile at Bunny. Then Pup sneezed, because some of the dust had gone up his nose, and Bunny laughed.

"Excuse me," said Pup. "That dust tickled my nose. Do you think that's what happened to the that elf?"

"I don't know," said Bunny. "Do you think he's coming back?"

They looked around but there was no sign of the Chief Elf, and all the other elves were too busy to pay any attention to a little rabbit and a little dog.

"I suppose we'll just have to wait for someone to come back," said Pup.

"Or," said Bunny mischievously, "we could go for a little walk."

4th December

Pup gave a little woof of excitement. "Do you think we should?" he asked. "We might get lost."

Bunny looked around the large workshop. It was very big, but that's what made it so exciting.

"I don't want to stay here," she said. "There's so much to see. This could be our only chance. Surely you want to see it too?"

"Yes I do," said Pup. He moved carefully to the edge of the workbench where they were sitting, and peered over. "Ooh, it's rather high up," he said, feeling a little dizzy.

"Then we need to find another way down," said Bunny. "Let's try over there." And she scampered to the other end of the workbench. Stacked up against this end was a big pile of boxes.

"Look," said Bunny, "we can climb down these and it will be easy to reach the ground."

5th December

So the two adventurous toys began their descent. The boxes were all different sizes and led nicely down to the floor like steps. But they were a little wobbly, and Bunny and Pup teetered and swayed as they made their way down. And just as they reached the ground, the pile of boxes started to crash down behind them. The falling boxes attracted the attention of the elves, and Bunny and Pup had to run away very quickly before they were seen. They hid behind a large sack and watched as the elves tidied up the boxes. However, the elves didn't put the boxes back as they had been, but moved them away completely.

"Now we can't get back up," said Pup in dismay.

"Don't worry, we'll find another way," said Bunny. "We'll worry about that later. But now we're here, we have to look around. Come on."

6th December

There were lots of interesting things to see in the workshop. Bunny and Pup were amazed to see all the different types of toys that the elves were making. Pup was particularly interested in a big basket full of bouncy balls.

"If we could get inside the basket, think how much fun it would be," he said.

"But how can we get in?" asked Bunny. "The basket is quite high."

"Could you lift me up on your shoulders?" asked Pup. "I'm sure I could climb in, and then pull you up behind me."

"Ok," said Bunny. She bent down and Pup climbed up onto her shoulders. Then the little bunny lifted the little pup up against the basket. Pup reached up as high as he could and just got his paws onto the rim of the basket. But alas, things did not go to plan. As Pup started to pull himself up, the basket began to tip. Bunny could see what was going to happen and she shouted a warning to Pup, but it was too late. The basket fell, bringing Pup back to earth and sending a waterfall of bouncy balls flooding out onto the workshop floor.

7th December

The two toys scurried away. Luckily, the elves were too busy trying to catch all the balls to notice them. Pup led the way to what seemed like a perfect hiding place – a big dolls house. They let themselves in through the front door and found themselves in a beautifully furnished home.

"Wow," said Bunny. "This is so nice, we could live here forever."

She went into the living room and found a very comfortable looking sofa. Happily, she snuggled down for a rest – it was quite tiring having adventures.

Pup went to explore in the kitchen. There was a perfect little cooker, but no food, and the fridge door wouldn't open, no matter how hard he tried. Pup decided he didn't like the kitchen very much and decided to go and explore upstairs. In the bedroom, there were two cosy little beds. Pup instantly went to bounce on them, but was shocked to find someone already asleep in one of the beds.

8th December

Pup went over to the bed and took a closer look at the sleeping toy. It was a very pretty girl doll and she was fast asleep.

"Hello," said Pup. "Please wake up. I want to meet you properly."

But the sleeping doll didn't stir. No matter how much Pup barked, the doll just wouldn't wake up. Of course, this doll didn't have any extra Christmas dust like Pup did, and so she couldn't wake up, but Pup didn't know that. He went on barking and then he gave the doll a little shake, and then a bigger shake, and then a really big shake, until the doll fell out of bed. Pup was so astonished that he barked even louder. Then Bunny came running into the bedroom.

"What's all the noise about?" she demanded. "You're going to give us away."

"Look," said Pup, pointing at the lifeless doll on the floor. "I didn't mean to hurt her."

Bunny took a closer look. "I don't think you did," she said. "But I think we should get out of here before you cause any more trouble. Shame, because I really like it here."

"I don't," said Pup. "It's creepy. Let's go."

9th December

So the toys left the house and went looking for somewhere else to explore. That's when Pup saw the big toy car. He and Bunny scrambled up into the front seats. It was the perfect fit for them.

"Do you think we can make it go?" asked Pup.

"Hmm, I shouldn't think so," said Bunny. But she didn't notice a switch at her side that said on/off. She leant against it and accidentally switched it to On. All of a sudden, the car started to move forwards.

"Yikes," cried Pup, grabbing the steering wheel, "I don't know how to drive."

"Watch out for the wall," shouted Bunny. "Turn left, turn left."

Just in time, Pup turned the steering wheel and steered the car away from the wall. But now it was heading towards a huge pile of presents.

"Left again," shouted Bunny.

"Wheee!" cried Pup, as the car turned again and shot out of the room. "This is fun."

But Bunny was too frightened to be having any fun. She could see that they were heading towards a flight of stairs that they would drive straight down if they didn't stop.

"Stop the car, stop the car," she shouted.

"I can't," said Pup. "I don't know how."

"Then turn right," said Bunny.

But this time, Pup was too late and before they could turn, the car went straight over the top and began to fall down the stairs.

10th December

The car bounced and crashed all the way down the stairs. When it landed at the bottom, Bunny and Pup climbed out, feeling very bruised and shaken.

"Ooh, I didn't like that," said Pup.

"That's not the worst thing," said Bunny. "How are we going to get back up those stairs?"

Looking up from the bottom, the stairs seemed like a mountain to the two small toys.

"Maybe there's another way," said Pup. "We should look around. After all, we are explorers."

"Alright then," said Bunny. "Where are we now, do you think?"

They looked around and saw that they were in a kind of hallway. In front of them was a large open door, with the outside world just beyond it. Curiously, they crept over to have a look.

"It's dark," said Bunny.

"And cold," said Pup. "What is all that white stuff?"

Because they were new-made, they had never seen snow before, but maybe because of the Christmas dust, they somehow just knew that it would be fun to play in. So off they went, jumping into the deep snow, which almost hid the little bunny and puppy. This was even more fun than the balls or the dolls house or the car.

11th December

They began by throwing the snow up into the air and letting it fall down on their heads. Then Bunny threw some snow at Pup, which made him squeal, and then, of course, he had to throw some snow at Bunny. A glorious snow fight followed, until both toys were quite exhausted. Then they fell back in the soft snow and waved their arms and legs about to make shapes. Then Bunny discovered that the snow could be packed together to make models. She made a snow pup, while Pup made a snow bunny. They were having a lot of fun, but eventually they began to shiver.

"I do like this stuff, but it is very cold," said Pup.

"I agree," said Bunny. "Perhaps we should find our way back inside and get warm again."

"Back up the steps?" asked Pup mournfully.

"No, let's try somewhere else," said Bunny. "What about that building over there? It's not like the one we were in before."

"Ok," said Pup. "But let's go quick. My ears have gone numb."

12th December

The two toys made their way through the snow to a much smaller building than the one they had come out of. A big door was open and when they crept inside, they found that it was very different to the workshop. The floor was strewn with sweet-smelling hay, and lamps cast a rosy glow over lots of wooden stalls. And looking over a low door at the nearest stall was a big hairy head with strange pointy things on the top. Pup and Bunny didn't know what it was because they had never seen a reindeer before.

The reindeer lowered his head and sniffed at the toys when they came closer.

"Hullo," he said in a deep voice. "We don't see toys in the stables very often. What are you two doing here?"

"We're exploring," said Bunny.

The reindeer took another sniff at them. "Ah, Christmas dust," he said. "You're both covered in it. That explains why you're here and not in the workshop."

"Are you going to tell on us?" asked Pup nervously.

"I don't think there's any need for that," said the reindeer, "so long as you're not up to mischief."

"No, not us," said Bunny. "Well, not on purpose. We just wanted to look around."

"And now you've found the stables," said the reindeer. "This is a very good place to see."

"But what is it?" asked Pup. "What do you do here?"

"Don't you know?" said the reindeer in surprise.

13th December

"We don't know very much about what's going on around here," said Bunny. "It's all a mystery to us. That's why we wanted to explore."

"Well, you are very new," said the reindeer. "Let me introduce myself. I'm Dasher, one of Father Christmas's reindeer, and I help pull the sleigh on Christmas Eve."

He sounded very proud of this, but Bunny and Pup still didn't know what he meant.

"Who is Father Christmas?" asked Pup.

Dasher laughed a deep, rumbling reindeer laugh. "He's the man in charge," he said.

"I thought that was the Chief Elf," said Bunny.

"No, the elves help Father Christmas make all the toys," said Dasher. "Toys like you. Only usually, they aren't wandering around."

"That's why we saw all those toys in the workshop," said Bunny.

"But why do they make them?" asked Pup. "Does Father Christmas keep them all for himself?"

Dasher laughed again. "No no no," he said. "That's the very special thing about Father Christmas. All those toys are for girls and boys all around the world. And on Christmas Eve, all us reindeer help Father Christmas deliver them all. It's a very busy night and uses a lot of magic. But that's what makes it so special."

14th December

"Wow," said Bunny. "So that's what it's all about. And is that why we were made?"

"Of course," said Dasher. "I imagine that Father Christmas has a nice home lined up for each of you. Some nice little girl or boy, who's been good all year, will wake up on Christmas morning and find you in their stocking."

"Oh, that sounds nice," said Bunny. "What do you think Pup?"

"It would be nice," said Pup, "but it won't happen if we're not in the right place."

"You're right," said Bunny. "Mr Dasher, when does Father Christmas begin his journey?"

"Let me see," said Dasher. "Where are we at? 23rd of December already? Then we begin tomorrow."

"Tomorrow!" cried Pup. "Bunny, we need to get back to the workshop quickly."

"Don't worry, we will," said Bunny. "Mr Dasher, which is the easiest way back to the workshop? You see, we came down a big flight of stairs, and I'm worried that we might not be able to get back up."

"Ah, I see," said Dasher. "No, you don't want to go that way. There's a much better way than that. I'll tell you the way to go."

15th December

"Don't go back out into the snow," said Dasher. "It's alright for reindeer like me but not so good for soft toys like you. There's a way into the house through the stables. Go along here and at the end, there's a door. When you go through, it will bring you to the lift."

"A lift?" said Bunny.

"Yes," said Dasher with a chuckle. "Father Christmas had it installed years ago, the best thing he ever did. It makes bringing all the presents down for loading very easy. Now when you get inside, you need to look for the red button. That will take you back upstairs. Luckily, the buttons are fixed low, because some of the elves are quite small. I think you should just manage, if you work together."

"And where do we go after that?" asked Pup.

Dasher laughed. "I don't know that," he said. "I've never been. Reindeer don't go in the house."

"Thank you so much, Mr Dasher," said Bunny. "Will we ever see you again?"

"I'll watch out for you on Christmas Eve," said Dasher. "I'm sure you'll be just fine."

16th December

So Bunny and Pup said a quick goodbye to Dasher and scampered off through the stables. Most of the other reindeer were asleep, getting ready for their big journey ahead, so the two toys moved as quietly as they could. At the end, they found the door that Dasher had told them about and slipped through.

"I really liked Mr Dasher," said Pup. "He was so nice."

"Yes he was," said Bunny. "And it's lucky that we found him. Look, there's the lift, just like he said."

In front of them were a set of big silver doors. They were closed, but Bunny found some buttons on the wall at the side. They were just a little too high to reach, but Bunny lifted Pup up on her shoulders and Pup could press the button. There was a strange noise of whirring and clanking, and the two toys stood back to see what would happen. Then there was a ping and the two doors magically slid open. Bunny and Pup stepped inside and looked for the button. But then they saw two buttons. One was green, one was red.

"Which one do we press?" asked Pup.

"Let me think," said Bunny. "I remember. Mr Dasher said it was the red button."

"I wonder what the green one does," said Pup.

"I don't know," said Bunny, "and we don't have time to find out. We need to get back to the workshop quick."

17th December

Once again, Bunny lifted Pup on her shoulders and Pup pressed the red button. Then they got a bit of a shock when the lift started to move.

"Ooh, I don't like it," said Pup. "It makes my tummy feel funny."

"Mine too," said Bunny. "But it's better than climbing all those stairs."

Then, with another ping, the lift came to a stop and the doors slid open. The toys were glad to scurry out of the lift.

"Now where are we?" said Bunny, looking around.

They found themselves in a very large room, filled with big piles of wrapped presents. Bunny and Pup stared in amazement because there were just so many presents.

"I never knew there would be so many," said Pup.

"Well, Mr Dasher did say that Father Christmas takes toys to children all around the world," said Bunny. "That must be a lot of toys."

"But how do they fit them all on one sleigh?" asked Pup curiously. "The reindeer must be very strong."

"I think they are," said Bunny. "And I think it must have something to do with that Christmas dust that Mr Dasher spoke of. I think there must be a lot of magic in this place."

18th December

"Which way should we go?" asked Pup.

"Let's try this way," said Bunny. "I think I can see a door down there."

"What a lot of presents," said Pup as they walked through the room. "Father Christmas must be very kind to give them all away."

"Yes, very kind," said Bunny. "I wonder why he does it?"

"That's what I was wondering," said Pup. "What is Christmas all about? I do wish someone could tell us."

"I suppose Mr Dasher could tell us," said Bunny, "but I don't think we should go back now. There might not be time."

"The elves could tell us," said Pup. "But they always look so busy. They make me nervous."

"Me too," said Bunny. "Maybe we'll see someone else who can explain it all."

Finally they reached the end of the room and the door that led out. Bunny and Pup peeped through to see where it led. They saw another corridor with lots of doors. But all the doors were closed.

"Which way do we go now?" cried Pup.

"I don't know," said Bunny. "Maybe we'll have to wait here until someone finds us."

"But that might take ages," said Pup. "It might not be in time."

"I know," said Bunny sadly, "but what else can we do? We can't open these doors on our own."

19th December

But just as the two toys were beginning to get really miserable, the door closest to them opened. Nervously, Bunny and Pup cuddled together and watched. An elf left the room and walked down the corridor to another door. He didn't see the two toys. And to their delight, he left the door open.

"Let's go in," said Bunny. "We might as well see where it goes."

So Bunny and Pup crept through the door. It led into a very cosy room, lit with glowing lamps and flickering candles. A big log fire was roaring in the fireplace. The whole room was decorated all around with bunches of holly. And in the corner, Bunny and Pup were very surprised to see a tree growing! Not an ordinary tree, but one covered in shiny balls and glittery stuff.

"This is the nicest place ever," said Pup in amazement.

"It certainly is," said Bunny. "I wonder who lives here?"

"Maybe it's the Chief elf's room," said Pup.

Then they both jumped as they heard merry laughter coming from one of the armchairs in front of the fire. It was turned towards the fireplace, so they hadn't noticed that there was someone sitting there. But now they trembled with fright as the person in the chair leaned around to take a look at them.

20th December

The person in the chair was a rather round and rather old man. He had hair as white as the snow that they had been playing in, and a long, fluffy beard the same colour. It hid a lot of his face, but they could still see his jolly smile as he looked down at them. He appeared to be dressed all in red, apart from some fluffy pink slippers. Pup noticed that the slippers also had pink bunny ears and a nose and whiskers, and he was so pleased by it that he forgot all about being nervous.

"Look," he said, "slippers just like you, Bunny."

The man in the chair laughed. "So you like my slippers do you?" he said. "Why don't you come and take a closer look. And you can tell me all about yourselves."

Pup barked happily and ran over to the man in the chair. Bunny went a little more shyly, but she found that she was liking this old man and decided that they didn't need to be afraid of him.

"We're trying to find our way back to the workshop," she said.

"But what are you doing out of the workshop?" asked the old man. "It's not customary for toys to go wandering around."

"We didn't mean to cause any trouble," said Pup. "We just wanted to explore. Everything is so exciting when you're as new as us."

"Well, yes it is," said the old man. "I wonder if the elves know you're here."

"They don't know," said Bunny. "We hid from them. But we did see Mr Dasher the reindeer, and he told us all about the presents."

"And about Father Christmas," added Pup, "only, he never really told us why Father Christmas delivers the presents."

"It's still a mystery to us," said Bunny. "If only someone could explain it."

"I can explain it," said the old man. "Come and sit closer to the fire and I'll tell you all about it."

21st December

So the two toys went to sit beside the fire and the old man settled back in his chair.

"It's a funny old story," he said. "It really started a very long time ago, in a place very different to this place. There was no snow there, and no elves, and no toys and no Christmas dust. In fact, there was no Christmas at all until a very special baby boy was born. He was the son of God, they said, and rich and poor people brought him presents to celebrate his birth. And since then, lots of other people have given each other presents, to remember him. And they call this celebration of his birth Christmas."

"Was he Father Christmas?" asked Bunny.

"No, Father Christmas is someone else altogether," said the old man. "He is a man who saw that some children didn't get any presents, because their families were too poor. And so he started to give them presents himself, and kept it a secret, so it would be a nice surprise. And Father Christmas found that he liked doing this so much that he wanted to do it for all children. And using this very special stuff called Christmas dust, that's just what he does."

"And did he ask the reindeer to help him?" asked Bunny.

"He did," said the old man. "He couldn't do it without them."

"And the elves?" asked Pup. "Is that why they are so busy?"

"Indeed," said the old man. "This is their busiest time of year. But they can rest soon."

"And is it all done by magic?" asked Bunny. "This Christmas dust must be very magical. I like the sound of it."

The old man chuckled again. "Yes, you do seem to be very fond of it," he said. "I wonder how you two came to get an extra dose of it."

"Will Father Christmas be very cross with us?" asked Pup. "We didn't mean to get covered in dust and have an adventure."

22nd December

The old man gave a really big laugh. "I promise you that Father Christmas isn't the least bit cross," he said, looking very jolly and kind. Suddenly, Bunny had an idea.

"Are you Father Christmas?" she asked.

"The man himself," said Father Christmas. "I'm very pleased to have met you, Bunny and Pup. And I'm glad that you have had a nice adventure." He bent down and held out his hands to Bunny and Pup, and lifted them up onto his lap.

"Thank you for telling us all about Christmas," said Pup.

"I'm happy to have helped," said Father Christmas.

"But please, Father Christmas, are we still in time to go with the other toys?" asked Bunny.

"Don't you worry about that," said Father Christmas. "There's plenty of time. But are you sure you want to go? Wouldn't you like to live here with me in the workshop? It's always an exciting place for adventurous toys."

"Well, that would be nice," said Pup, "but we thought it sounded wonderful, having a new home with a child to love."

"If you don't mind," said Bunny, "we'd really like to find homes of our own."

"Of course I don't mind," said Father Christmas. "After all, that will be an awfully big adventure too. And I know the perfect home for the two of you."

"Together?" asked Bunny.

"Yes, together," said Father Christmas. "I can't split the two of you up after all your fun."

23rd December

Just then, the elf came back into the room.

"Here's your hot chocolate, Father Christmas," he said. Then he stopped and looked at the toys in surprise.

"What are those toys doing here?" he asked.

"It's alright," said Father Christmas. "Bunny and Pup have been having a little adventure. It seems that they have had an extra sprinkling of Christmas dust. It was only natural that they wanted to explore."

The elf smiled. "That would explain a few things," he said. "We thought some funny things were going on in the workshop."

"I'm sorry if we caused any trouble," said Bunny.

"Don't worry, it's all cleared up now," said the elf. "But what are we going to do with them now, Father Christmas?"

"Well, I think Bunny and Pup are probably quite tired after all their adventures," said Father Christmas. "Can you believe that they got all the way down to the stables and met Dasher? I think we should find them somewhere warm and cosy to have a sleep until it's time to go. And then, when the sleigh is ready, they can ride with me until it's time to go to their new home."

"Hurrah, we'll get to meet Mr Dasher again," said Pup.

"And all the other reindeer," said Father Christmas. "Jingleberry, can you find them a bed?"

"Of course," said the elf. "Come on with me, toys."

"Bye Bunny, bye Pup," said Father Christmas. "We all need some rest before the big journey. I'll see you again soon."

24th December

So Bunny and Pup were taken to a bedroom with cosy little elf beds in, and as soon as they snuggled down together, they found that they were really sleepy. After all their adventures, it was lovely to lie down and fall asleep. Bunny dreamt about playing in the snow and Pup dreamt about driving the car.

They were woken a good while later by Jingleberry. He explained that the sleigh was nearly all loaded up and that Father Christmas would be leaving very soon. Bunny and Pup were very excited. They went with Jingleberry back to Father Christmas's room, where they found their old friend putting on his warm hat and scarf. Pup was disappointed to see that he was no longer wearing his bunny slippers.

"Bunny slippers wouldn't be any good on a job like this," said Father Christmas. "I need my big strong boots tonight."

Jingleberry also had little hats and scarves for Bunny and Pup to put on, which fit them just perfectly. Then it was time to go back down in the lift and into the stables. But now the stables had no reindeer in, just lots of very busy elves running to and fro. Father Christmas took them outside, where Bunny and Pup had their first sight of the magic sleigh. It was all red and gold, and much bigger than they had imagined. And it was absolutely crammed with sacks of presents.

"How do you fit them all in?" asked Bunny in wonder.

"With a lot of Christmas dust," said Father Christmas. "There's just enough room left for us."

"Look, there's Mr Dasher," cried Pup. He and Bunny hopped through the snow to where Dasher was tethered in front of the sleigh with the other reindeer.

"Hello again, young toys," he said. "So you found your way back to the workshop."

"Not quite," said Pup. "But we did get to meet Father Christmas."

"And did you enjoy your adventure?" asked Dasher.

"It's been wonderful," said Bunny.

"And it's not over yet," said Father Christmas, coming over to them. "It's time to start going. Toys, you come and sit up with me."

So Bunny and Pup were lifted into the seat of the sleigh next to Father Christmas. The elves all gathered around to wave and Father Christmas started up the sleigh. At first, the reindeer ran and the sleigh swished smoothly across the snow. But then Father Christmas shook a handful of Christmas dust all the over the reindeer, and with a big shout, the sleigh took off into the air.

"Wow," cried Bunny. "This is even better than the lift."

The two toys snuggled up to Father Christmas, amazed at how high they were flying. The air around them was cold but they were warm and snug in the sleigh.

When Father Christmas began to make his stops, they were even more amazed to see how easily he found the right toys, and how quietly he could get up and down the chimneys.

"How do you do it?" asked Pup. But Father Christmas only laughed and said, "Christmas dust."

Then they stopped at a house and Father Christmas said, "This is where you and I say goodbye."

"Is this our new home?" asked Bunny excitedly.

"Yes it is," said Father Christmas. "Are you ready for your next adventure?"

And Bunny and Pup certainly were.