

# Santa Agonistes or the Tragical End of Santa Claus

By John Gledhill

## Cast

Rudolph: a humanoid reindeer who is not very bright

Santa: A not too jovial version twenty-first century version of his former self

Set: The Christmas Crystal Palace at the North Pole

*(Santa is sitting at a table with his head in his hands and groaning. An empty bottle of whisky and an empty glass are on the table.)* Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

Santa: *(Moans quietly)*

*The music of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is faded in with steadily increasing volume.*

Santa: *(The groans increase in proportion to the volume of the music.)*

*Enter Rudolph, carrying a bag and looking manically cheerful. The music stops, but Rudolph continues the barrage by singing or whistling to the tune of Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer.*

*[Can be played in full for a non-profit performance; otherwise, the first few bars will suffice or copyright permission can be obtained from the copyright holders.]*

Rudolph: Santa, why are you looking so depressed?

Santa: I'm looking depressed because I am depressed.

Rudolph: But it's Christmas!

Santa: Precisely – that's exactly why I am depressed.

Rudolph: But you are Santa Claus.

Santa: Please, Rudolph, I beg you; don't keep reminding me.

Rudolph: But what's wrong, Santa?

Santa: Everything is wrong – you should know as you are the only reindeer not on strike at the moment, unlike all the miserable elves who are all out again and don't mention those dozy dwarves.

Rudolph: Yes, but I am loyal to the last – not like those other snooty, snotty reindeer.

Santa: I know, Rudi, and I appreciate your devotion.

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