

How Pepper and Precious Saved Christmas Day

a rhyming story of Love, Courage,
and Helping Out



Chiwah Slater

How Pepper and Precious Saved Christmas



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*'Twas the night before Christmas,
and Santa was sad.
He felt heartsick and helpless,
and to top it off, mad.*



*His Christmas delivery was about to get the boot,
because he couldn't fit in his furry red suit!*



*"Don't worry, dear Santa,"
a jolly elf said.*

*"Your green suit still fits you.
Does it have to be red?"*



*Another elf pointed to
the larger blue one.*

*And then another elf offered
to sew him a new one.*

*Santa thanked them for trying
but said, as gently as he could,
that their efforts to "suit" him wouldn't do any good.*



*He said, "It's in the chimneys I fear for my luck.
For once I squeeze in,
I'm afraid I'll get stuck!"*

*Oh, how he wished he hadn't pigged out every day.
All those cookies and cakes
at the North Pole Cafe!*



*He'd grown too wide for his seat in the sleigh.
He was worried.
He had to think of a way!*

*He couldn't bear to think of canceling his flight
while kids dreamed of sugarplums
all through the night.*



*When they woke in the morning,
all those good girls and boys —
How would they feel if there weren't any toys?*

*No, that must not happen.
But what could he do?
He couldn't replace himself like an old worn-out shoe.*



*He tugged on his beard.
His creative brain whirled.
Only he knew his sky route all around the whole world!*

*Then Precious the pup looked up from her bone.
She'd had an idea, all on her own.*



*"I can help you, sweet Santa," she stepped up to say.
"We can make the sleigh bigger, and give it more lift.
You drive the reindeer, and I'll deliver the gifts!"*



*Now, that idea made old Santa giggle.
'Twas the answer, indeed! Yes, Precious could wriggle
right down every chimney,
and Santa had no doubt
that this little doggie could climb right back out!*

*But then came a call to the phone of St. Nick.
"Oh, no! This can't be! Rudolph cannot be sick!
It's Christmas tomorrow!
And tonight we must fly!"*



*But Rudolph had a tummy ache,
and had gone beddie-bye.*

*Just then, with a shiver and sparkle and gleam,
Pepper Chihuahua awoke from a dream.*



*"Could I really do it?" he asked himself with a twinkle.
"No problem! I've got it! We'll solve this new wrinkle."*

*Pepper danced in a circle and tapped all his toes,
saying "There in my dream, the answer arose!
Rudolph told me, 'My friend, it is no mystery
that at last I have truly gone down in history.
And you, my friend Pepper, can now take my place
by leading the sleigh through outer space!"*



*Pepper was excited,
and yelled 'You bet!' with pride.
He'd be glad to lead Santa's sleigh on this ride!*

*Santa chewed on his pipe stem,
thinking hard on this plan.*

"I think I can do it," Pepper said. "Yes, I can!"



*Hmmm ... how could Pepper lead the sleigh through the dark?
To fly, they would surely need Rudolph's bright spark!*

"But – Pepper, you've no shiny nose!" Santa cried.



*Then Pepper stepped forward and, smiling, replied,
"No matter how dark be the sky up above,
I will lead your sleigh forth
by the light of my love!"*

*Pepper's heart swelled.
Oh my, what a sight!*



*And old Santa's eyes grew wide at the light.
"Well now, look at that glow!" he said, standing tall.
"Hitch up the team! We fly tonight after all!"*

*The elves made the sleigh bigger
so Santa could fit,
and fixed a place beside him where Precious could sit.*



*In his new red suit he felt fine as could be.
And he laughed right out loud, with a slap to his knee.*

*And now that Santa had made his mind up,
Dancer and Prancer and the reindeer all lined up.*



*Pepper stepped to the front,
bright with love in his heart,
and declared, "I am all set to play my lead part!"*



*"To the rooftops!" Santa cried,
and they all flew away with Pepper and Precious,
to save Christmas Day.*



*Aren't you glad?
Have a merry Christmas!*



Did you enjoy the story?

How bright is the Light of YOUR Love?

*Imagine a warm flame lighting up your heart!
Can you feel the glow spreading out all around you?*

*If you share that glow with everyone you meet,
do you think it might make the world a happier place?*

Why not give it a try?

Have a Merry Christmas!

*We'll see you in 2023 with more fun books with great messages,
starring the world's most delightful animals!*

ATTENTION PARENTS and OTHER KID LOVERS ...

If you enjoyed this story of love and resourcefulness, you will love

Mrs. Macker's Quacker ...



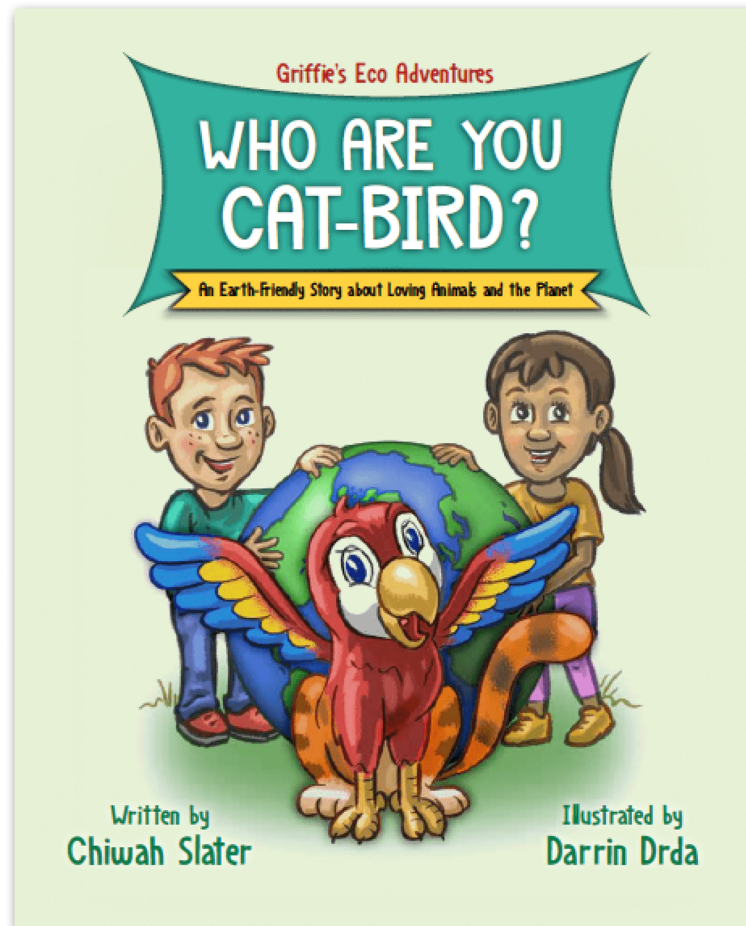
Pluck, a very special duck, has extraordinary talents. But no one knows, not even his friend Mrs. Macker. Watch what happens when Pluck decides to reveal what he can really do. Will he risk everything to share his talents and follow his dream?

This vibrant rhyming children's story delivers fun and excitement while presenting powerful messages of standing up for yourself, taking risks, forgiving others, and valuing friendship.

Complete with questions and activities, this delightful book for ages 4-8 further engages children at home, at the library, and in the classroom.

For sample pages and activities, visit www.ThePlyckyDuck.com

Coming in spring, 2023 ...



Who Are You, Cat-Bird?

Griffie isn't your ordinary eco hero! This charming modern-day descendant of the mythical griffins of old wins the hearts of young readers as he earns his first eagle feathers by helping two children save a bluebird caught in a plastic bag.

This fun and thought-provoking introduction to eco awareness, green living, and wildlife stewardship includes engaging environmental questions and activities for home or classroom. Perfect for children ages 5-8.

Keep an eye out for our newsletter to be "in the know" as the release date approaches!