

Manu in the Christmas Spiritworld: Prologue

Once upon a Christmastime there was a little girl called Manu who lived in a very secret village at the heart of the North Pole. Her after-school job was to clean the reindeer stables and today this was especially important because it was Christmas Eve and Nicholas Claus, the Father of Christmas himself, was on his way.

Just as she finished brushing the last straw and scooping the last reindeer poop, Santa walked in.

“Little Manu what a fine job you’ve done here! I know where you’ll be on the list.” Just then he exclaimed with surprise, “The list! I completely forgot to send it to Albert!” He rummaged around his pocket and pulled out a small red notebook that was bound with a golden ribbon. He reached out and placed it into her hand. “Would you mind delivering this to the door?”

Manu’s hand trembled a little as she took hold of THE list. “You want me to take it...to the door?”

He chuckled and said, “You’ll be fine. Run along now, not much time to release the bubbles.”



It wasn’t long before Manu approached the door. Elegantly inscribed in its wood was ‘The Christmas Spiritworld’ and under that was an ancient-looking bronze letterbox. Manu took out the notebook from her pocket and carefully opened the letterbox flap to slip it in. Just as she did, a letter that was stuck halfway through fell to the floor. She picked it up; it was a folded paper note. Inside it read...

‘Nicholas, something is wrong with the Christmas Spiritworld and Albert has gone missing! Please send help or there won’t be anyone to deliver joy this year!’

You see, Albert Claus is the less-famous brother of Santa. He works and lives in the Christmas Spiritworld, a magical land just beyond our own. His job is to collect the bubbles of joy that pop through into their world every time a child feels pure happiness in ours, and then to release them all at once, all around the world, on Christmas day.

But now he was in trouble, Santa didn’t know and he’d already left to deliver the presents. Without Albert, children would look unexcitedly at their gifts and feel no joy at all. Christmas would be ruined and there was only one night to save it. She didn’t know what she’d find on the other side, but Manu took a deep breath and opened the door...