

Christmas Eve Wonders



I don't know how many of you were out last night, Christmas Eve, but it was a very interesting night. At some time after it was pretty dark, I stepped out onto our back porch to give the dogs a treat or something. It was very dark and I heard hoofs running, it sounded like the horses might have been out and were running across the front pasture. Normally with nearly a full moon, there is plenty of light to see what is going on, but last night was different. Thus the first strange thing, it was very dark. Earlier that evening I had seen the moon and had the normal night shadows we are accustomed to up here, but not last night.

I decided I'd better suit up (temps were below zero) and go check on the horses. I wasn't sure what I had heard running across the field of ice. I mention to Roy, I hear either horses, a herd of moose or reindeer, possible landing and taking off but I couldn't see a thing. The dogs were restless too and kept banking every now and then like somebody had just stopped by.

I found my coveralls, my night head lamp and a thick pair of gloves and I headed out. I wasn't sure what I was going to find but I knew I had to go look. I really expected to find horses out but as I got nearer and nearer the barn, I didn't find horses. In fact I didn't find anything---- out of the ordinary. The horses were all grazing on their hay nets, some were snug in their blankets and all seem happy. *Almost too peaceful.*

I stay down there a few minutes and survey the situation, a trick learned in the Army, if things seem to good, wait a few and see what happens. I started filling the water tank and cleaning up a few piles of poop and that's when I started noticing things. It was just little things, things a person might say were normal, but I know better for I'm down in the barn about this time every night.

First it was the moon. The night sky is beautiful, so I spend a lot of moments looking up at the moon and stars. Well, last night it was different. The moon wasn't in site, I'm not sure why not as there didn't seem to be any clouds but the night was darker than normal. Second were some of the stars themselves. They were flashing! Blinking kind of and after you look away, they seem to be in different places. Third, were the horses themselves, they were calm and peaceful until SUDDENLY they all took off and run to the other side of the pasture, away from the trees, like there was something hiding in the trees.

Some people would just chalk it up to being a normal night, but I have my own theories and here they are: REINDEER!!! We were being watched by reindeer, flying reindeer. It all added up. It was the magic of Christmas. On Christmas Eve, all the reindeer can fly. Well Santa took the older ones to pull his sled and I think the younger ones sneaked out and were playing last night. My front pasture would normally be a great place for them to practice their landings but is a bit icy so they were having more trouble than normal. Hence when I went out on the porch, I heard a lot of scrambling. I don't believe humans are allowed to see the reindeer so they all went and hide in the woods. Everybody knows how hard it is for young things to stand still so when I didn't go right back inside the house, they got restless and moved around, scaring the horses.

The dark night was part of the Magic along with the red sparkling stars. I suspect they were other reindeer practicing flying. When you're looking right at them, they didn't move, so they weren't planes but after you looked away and then looked back, they would be in different places. I decided it was time to go back to the house and leave the evening to the reindeer. After all this was probably their favorite night of the year, the night they get to fly!!!