

The States Collection – Connecticut – Flying Reindeer  
By Claudia Haas  
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CAST: 3 (1 female, 1 male, 1 male or female)  
Dara: female; 14-15  
Bernie: male or female; age 8-9  
Santa Claus: male; ageless; yes, “the jolly old elf”

PLACE: Mystic, Connecticut

TIME: December

TAGS: Christmas, Santa, seaport, astronomy

SYNOPSIS: Dara has taken her younger sibling to Mystic Seaport for Santa’s arrival on a tugboat.

BERNIE

That was so lame. Why does Santa arrive on a tugboat? How could Santa even travel the earth in a tugboat? Don’t the people in Mystic know their history? Don’t they know about reindeer?

DARA

Don’t be such a Grinch. Look how pretty it all is – didn’t you love the sailboat parade with all the lights.

BERNIE

No.

DARA

And all the trees lined up at the docks?

BERNIE

No.

(SANTA enters. Nobody notices. He checks his phone.)

DARA

Mom drove over an hour to bring us to Mystic. You could be more appreciative.

BERNIE

She said it would be magical. Santa in a tugboat is not magical. It’s lame. I wanted flying reindeer. Where’s Mom?

DARA

Getting the car. Be patient.

BERNIE

I’ve been patient. For hours. Just to see a Tugboat-Santa.

(SANTA overhears and pays attention.)

SANTA

What's that? What's that, young one? You didn't like my tugboat entrance?

BERNIE

I like reindeer.

SANTA

I love reindeer. But I don't get to go sailing too much at the North Pole so this was a fun outing for me. I love visiting Mystic Seaport every year.

BERNIE

Nobody thinks about Santa sailing.

SANTA

Nobody thinks about Santa doing anything but building toys and then creating the fastest delivery service on earth. I'll tell you a secret – Santa likes a little fun.

BERNIE

I just came for the flying reindeer.

SANTA

You're a stubborn little tyke, aren't you?

DARA

Like a dog with a bone.

SANTA

I'll tell you a secret. The reindeer are in the sky right now. It's hard to see with all the lights. They get a bit out of shape during the year, so I have them fly a few hours each night so they are up for the journey on Christmas Eve.

BERNIE

I want to see them.

SANTA

I got that. Are there a lot of lights where you live?

DARA

We're a bit out of town.

SANTA

When you get home, get a star map. Like this.

(SANTA whips out the cell phone. DARA and BERNIE gather around.)

SANTA (cont'd)

There's Cassiopeia. And down here is the North Star. The North Star is the easiest to find. In-between Cassiopeia and the North Star is Rangifer – the Latin for reindeer and that's where the reindeer practice flying. It's a very long way from here so the stars are not too bright but they're there.

BERNIE

For reals?

SANTA

And what's more, if it's very clear – and you blink your eyes a few times you can see a tiny bit of red. Do you know what that is?

BERNIE

That's Rudolph!

SANTA

You know your stuff. So... is there anything I can bring you for Christmas Eve?

BERNIE

I just want to see flying reindeer.

SANTA

And you shall. Who knows? Maybe Santa will bring you a proper star map for Christmas and highlight the reindeer constellation.

DARA

Who knows?

SANTA

There's my ride. I have to catch a plane make to the North Pole to get ready for the big day. Merry. Merry.

DARA

And to all ....

BERNIE

A good night.

End of Play

