

## Christmas Morning in the Babyfur's Hollow

Christmas morning dawned bright and sunny across the Babyfur Hollow. A light blanket of Christmas snow had fallen during the night adding an extra special element to the quiet little grove where the babyfurs live and play.

The light jingling in the morning hour woke many from their restless Christmas Eve night, anxiously and eagerly awaiting Santa Fox and the gifts and blessings he brings each year. They began to move around and rub the sleep from their eyes. In ones and twos, dressed in footed sleepers or PJ's with their favorite super hero or character emblazoned on them, they walk towards the jingle bell sound. Then they behold in stunned silence the sight before them.

Standing in the middle of the Hollow is a tall Christmas tree, decorated with colorful ornaments, twinkling lights, sparkling garland and light jingle bell ornaments swaying and jingling in the soft morning breeze. The evergreen is topped with a brilliant white star. Beneath its adorned branches are piles of brightly wrapped boxes, big and small, each with the name of a special babyfur, from Santa Fox.

"My tree!!" Benjie barked with joy as he rushed forward to take in the splendour of the grand coniferous tree. He stopped just before the pile of presents and looked up at a tree that was four times as tall as he was. He ran around it several times, stopping every so often to look at it from a different side. Then he stopped and breathed in awe, "It's even better than I dreamed it would be." Hanging from a branch is a colorfully wrapped bag of cookies, "To Benjie, from Santa Fox."

As Bengie perused the tree, many of the other babyfurs had toddled up to the tree and began looking through the piles of presents for one with their name on it.

"Hey! I found one wif my name on it!" Cried Ikazuchi Fox who tore open the wrappings to find a box with a set of 24 prismacolor pencils, a pencil sharpener and a 9"x12" Sketch Pad as well as a red and green foil bag of chocolate chip and sugar cookies inside it. "Look what I gots from Santa Fox!" Ika calls out showing off his colored pencils, sketch pad and cookies.

"Cookies?" Draco says and begins to intensely search for a package with his name on it. He finds one with Baby Dragon's name on it and briefly considers taking it for himself. He thinks better on it and instead calls out, "Baby Dwaggin. I finded yours!"

Draco continues to hunt around for his and finds it shortly thereafter. He picks it up and runs a good distance away to somewhere relatively safe where he can open it up. It jingles a little as he runs with it and it's fairly heavy. He tears into the package with his claws, opens the lid and is nearly blinded by the shimmering reflection off of five golden rings, each big enough to fit around his arm. "Wow!" he breaths in awe and then squinting his eyes he looks around again to be sure that he's alone before taking one out to examine it. He puts it in his mouth and bites down on it and the metal gives easily. "Gold." He whispers and quickly puts the ring back in the box.

"Hey Draco! Wha'd you get?" Swift called out from near the Christmas tree causing the dragon to look up in distress. But Draco recovered quickly, looking into the box he spied a foil wrapped package of cookies. He pulled them out and called back feigning disappointment, "I jus' got cookies."

Baby Dragon, who had just opened his box, looked up at Draco in shock, then smiled like a Cheshire cat and ran off with his box to his nest laughing and giggling in quite an unseemly manner that would spark suspicion.

"Cool!" Orca squeaks as he pulls out a dolphin plush, which was nearly the same size as he, from a box that is half the size. He instantly snuggles it to him and purrs, "It's the bestest present ever

and soooooo soft and snuggly.” As the phin opens his eyes back up from the intense snuggle, he also notices a festively marked baggie of cookies in the box, which was hidden from view by the plush dolpin. “I got’s cookies too!” Orca cheers.

BadCub looks at his box in trepidation. He want’s to open it, but he’s afraid of finding coal inside. After several minutes of indecision, it finally becomes too much for him and he slowly removes the wrapping and with his eyes closed, he opens the box. Opening first one eye, and then the other and then they both begin to tear up. Out of his box he pulls a brand new teddy bear just like the one he lost when the nursery burned down. The tears of joy mat his cheek fur as he hugs the plush bear to his chest and begins to gently laugh. Santa had given him the only kind of friend he could until the little bear was ready to realize that he had real friends all around him. He was so happy that he was unaware that he was already munching on the cookies he also received as part of his gift.

Pandr searched around the pile and found his package wrapped with Care Bear’s wrapping paper. The panda bear carefully removed the paper and saved it. When he finally opened his box he laughed with joy as he showed off the “big” box of crayons and a paw full of coloring books that he received in his box. “Lookie! Coloring Books an’ cwayons! Is just what I asked for!” Pandr shouted in glee, “An’ cookies too!”

Her exhaustion from all the work she did before Christmas was nowhere to be seen as the pony fox, Vulpin, galloped to the tree and began sniffing out her present. She found it and nickered happily. “To Vulpin; From Santa Fox” The tag read. She trotted a little ways away from the tree so as not to be in the way and began to open her gift. She looked inside and found a lovely tea set, a pretty mint green, frilly party dress and matching panties, and a Spirit plushie. Alone with a dozen chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies wrapped up in colorful foil packaging was a note.

“Dearest Vulpin. When life has got you feeling corralled, find some time for yourself to unwind. Dress up for a proper spot of tea and cookies with a friend or two and give yourself a break from your daily grind. Love Santa Fox”

She hugged the Spirit plush and gave a joyous whinny at the gifts she had been given.

Showtime finds his box and he opens it, not sure what Santa Fox might have given him. Tearing off the gift-wrap, he opens his box and finds an official NBA basketball inside. Taking it out, it rolls in his paws to the label and then his jaw drops as scrawled across the ball in black marker is the signature of Kobe Bryant #8 Los Angeles Lakers. In his shock he nearly drops the ball back into the box, nearly crushing his bag of cookies, but he catches himself. “Awsome!” is all he can say he’s that speechless.

Dobie runs past with one paw raised above his head holding a Play Mobile model of a Hawker Horizon Corporate Jet. He’s laughing and banking the jet plane left and right as he runs around the Hollow making whooshing jet sounds. Pretending to talk to and from the control tower he banks the nose up slightly and lowers the landing gear as he brings the plane lower and lower to make a perfect landing. He taxi’s the plane around to another imaginary runway, then he makes noises like the jet’s engines are increasing throttle and then he runs with the plane and takes off again, raising the gear and flying off to where ever his imagination will take him.

Kit watches Dobie run by before sitting down to open up his present. His eyes light up as he finds within his box a special, beautiful first edition big boy’s adventure book, with lots of pictures. When he opens it up to the title page he finds that it’s autographed by the author with the special message, “It’s an honor to know that my book will be the first you learn to read Kit. Never loose your love of reading.” Kit also finds a festive bag of cookies in his box.

Loupy shyly approaches the tree, then backs off when other little furs run in to find their own gifts. The little silver wolf tries again and again to get close enough to the tree to look for any gifts there for him. He knows what he asked Santa Fox for and as such doesn’t expect anything big.

Imagine his surprise when Swift Fox carries a small box over to the shy wolf and hands it to him. "Dis one says is fer you." Swift yerfs, showing you the tag which reads, "To Loupy, from Santa Fox. Loupy smiles at Swift and gives him a hug, then he sits down to open it. He tears off the paper then lifts the lid to the small box up. When the lid is removed, he finds inside a DVD of 101 Dalmatians, Patches Adventure and a bag of cookies. "J'ai le nouveau DVD dalmatian!" He barks excitedly, "Et biscuits aussi!"

Milly is sure her gift could never come in a box, yet she did find a small box under the tree with her name on it. Curious she opened it up and found inside a bag of cookies and a picture frame. She pulled the frame out of the box and turning it over she saw a group picture of every babyfur who resides in the hollow. On a small brass plaque is etched, "My new family."

Hyper walks over to the tree just to check, expecting not to find anything for himself. There's a marked surprise when he spies a tag with his name on it on one of the boxes. He looks around, then checks the tag again. "To Hyper, from Santa Fox." Is clearly written upon it. He picks it up from beneath the tree and walks away to open it up in private, clearly curious as to what might be inside. Removing the paper, the pup opens the box. Inside is a bag of cookies and a note. "Dearest Hyper. You have friends all around. You have all but to see them, accept them, and love them as you would be loved deep down in your heart. What you ask for you already have in such abundance I could never match in quantity. Let yourself be liked and you will find the friendship you so long for. Santa Fox"

Jimmy hopped around the tree anxiously looking for his own present as he watched others leave the tree with boxes of their own. As the pile gets smaller he stumbles across his present set back behind some of the others. He takes it and hops a short distance away to open it. Within his gift box is a red and green cellophane bag of carrot cookies and a plush red fox wearing a collar with the name "Swift" on the tag. He takes the plush fox and hugs it to his chest and murmurs, "Now I's got uh S'ift of my own."

There is joy and happiness throughout the Babyfurs Hollow as friends share their new toys and gifts, messages and blessings. Gifts have been left for every babyfur in the Hollow and without. Brightly wrapped cellophane bags of cookies for every babyfur as wished for by Loupgris Wolf. With each brightly wrapped gift is also the wish for the very Merriest of Christmases and a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!!

Swift Fox  
(Glen Rockhill)  
Christmas 2002