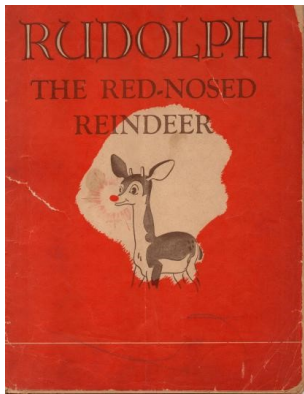


The original story of [Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer](#)



As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for **Montgomery Ward**, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade **picture book**.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their **debt-ridden employee**. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a **millionaire**.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named **Johnny Marks**, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from **Bing Crosby** on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached **Gene Autry**. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "*Here Comes Santa Claus*" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "*They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games*" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "*White Christmas*" Since then, Rudolph has come to life in **TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards** and even a Ringling Bros. **circus act**.

The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by **Bob May** and immortalized in song by **Johnny Marks** has come to **symbolize Christmas** as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "*He'll go down in history.*"

Theresa Williams Hudson, 16 Νοεμβρίου στις 22:58

Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer <https://youtu.be/44bL90HP0Ys?feature=shared>

Song by **Gene Autry** and The Pinafores

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen

Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen

But do you recall

The most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Had a very shiny nose

And if you ever saw it

You would even say it glows

All of the other reindeer

Used to laugh and call him names

They never let poor Rudolph

Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve

Santa came to say

"Rudolph, with your nose so bright

Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him

As they shouted out with glee

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

You'll go down in history"

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Had a very shiny nose

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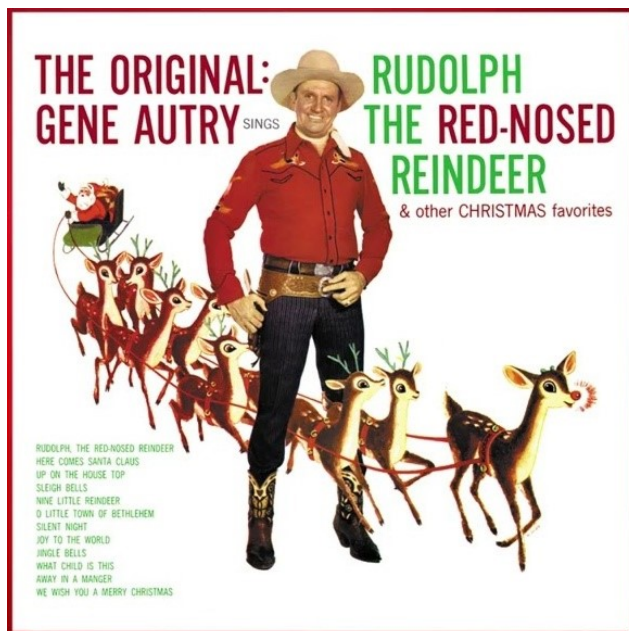
Then how the reindeer loved him

As they shouted out with glee

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

You'll go down in history"

Songwriters: Johnny Marks



Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer Lyrics © ST. Nicholas Music Inc., Warner Chappell Music, Inc