



Straining her ears, Penny could hear scratching and rustling coming from the family room. Penny tiptoed back to the room. *What was that? It can't be Tabby; I put him in the laundry. It must be Santa! I would loooove to meet Santa and the Reindeer, but I am a bit scared too.*



Russel, the rooster from next door, delivered his first cock-a-doodle-do for the morning. It was very loud because the sliding door was open. Had she left it like that, or was it Santa? Penny closed the door quietly when a rustling sound came from the Christmas tree.





Startled, she turned, there was something on it, round and furry with big eyes and fluffy ears. A koala. 'MUM...MUM! THERE IS A KOALA IN THE CHRISTMAS TREE!' Penny called. 'MUM, COME QUICK!'



Penny's mum came out of her bedroom. 'Penny, I told you not to get up before your father and I, and do not tell stories just to get us up. What are you...?'



Penny stood pointing at the Christmas tree. Her mum looked and could not believe her eyes - halfway up the tree was a real live koala. '**DAN...DAN! COME QUICK! THERE IS A KOALA IN THE CHRISTMAS TREE!**' Mum called out to Dad.