

Station Six – The Mouse's story

It used to be quiet in here, but not anymore.

I had the perfect nest in the straw in the manger, lovely and warm and high off the ground so the dog and cat don't find me by accident whilst I'm fast asleep. Food was easy to find, there was always some leftover grain somewhere.

But a few nights ago, a family turned up and there hasn't been a minute's peace since. I don't know why they couldn't stay in the big house – this is where the animals live. She had a baby, right here in the stable. They used my manger to put the baby in. I ran up the manger to have a look in, and there was the baby. He held my eye and we looked at each other for quite a while, it was like he knew me and could talk to me. I felt peace. That's not how I usually feel when I'm around humans.

After that, I was happy to make another nest, high up, just below the roof. From there, I could see all the comings and goings, and no one noticed me. Except the baby. He would look up every now and then, always knew exactly where I was, didn't have to look around.

There was a lot of people. It wasn't just me who thought the baby was special. Some shepherds came. Like me, they spent a lot of time gazing at the baby with peaceful smiles on their faces. Then they talked a lot amongst themselves, very excited they were, and rushed off.

Some other people arrived, all dressed up, with lots of gifts. The baby was in the mother's lap and the well-dressed people knelt and held out the gifts. Once they'd given the gifts, they were quiet, just like the shepherds, just looking at the baby and smiling like they'd finally worked out a complicated problem.

Then they left, and everyone slept. I sneaked back down the manger and spent quite a while looking at the baby. He opened his eyes every now and then and smiled at me. It made me warm all over, nothing like I felt before.

The next day, the mother and father packed up their stuff and left. I watched them go, glad that the stable was empty again. Didn't realise how much I was going to miss that baby.

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