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DEAR RODENT FRIENDS . . .

Dear rodent friends, here it is...another whisker-licking good tale just for you, from your friend Geronimo Stilton!

This story is all about one of my favorite holidays, Valentine’s Day. Yes, I guess I’m just a sappy rodent at heart.

I love all of that mushy stuff, like hearts and flowers and creamy cheese pastries.

Read on to learn all about...
Cheesecake! It was February 13, and I was so excited. The next day was Valentine’s Day! Do you like Valentine’s Day? I do. Every year I throw a big party for all my friends. And this year was going to be the best one yet.
How Did Valentine’s Day Begin?

February 14 is dedicated to all people who love one another: friends, family, parents, and sweethearts. It’s a special occasion to express our feelings by giving a gift of chocolate, a poem, a flower, or… a smile!

IT’S A VERY OLD HOLIDAY

On February 14, the ancient Romans celebrated the goddess Juno, wife of the god Jupiter, and protector of women and married couples. On February 15, the feast of Lupercalia was celebrated, in honor of the god Luperco, the arrival of spring, and the fertility of the earth and animals. In the fifth century A.D., these feasts were both abolished, and February 14 became the day of Saint Valentine, the patron saint of lovers.

THE STORY OF SAINT VALENTINE

Valentine was the bishop of Terni, Italy. He was imprisoned, and then beheaded by the Roman Emperor Claudius II in A.D. 269. There are many stories in Valentine’s life that show why he became the patron saint of people who love one another. This is one of them.

After school, many children went to play in Valentine’s garden. One day, Valentine heard a young couple arguing there. He gave them a beautiful rose and prayed that their love would be eternal. The two made up immediately and asked Valentine to officiate at their wedding!
I had sent out more than one hundred *invitations* to my special friends and relatives. I had decorated my house with *red streamers*. I had ordered a heart-shaped *cheesecake* from Squeakini’s, the best bakery in the city. I had even hired a *band*!

That night, I went to bed with a *smile* on my snout. I dreamed I was nibbling cheesecake at my
perfectly planned, perfectly organized, fabulous Valentine’s Day party.