

A Christmas Cracker

The scene is a meal table set for two. There are empty plates and bowls. There are Christmas crackers. Readers 1 & 2 sit opposite one another angled outwards towards the audience.

Reader (1) *(Sighs contentedly)* Aaah! that was great! That turkey died in a noble cause.

Reader (2) I couldn't agree more. It was absolutely bootiful! And the Christmas pud was perfect too.

Reader (1) It certainly was. Netto's best. BOGOF!

Reader (2) Pardon?

Reader (1) BOGOF! 'Buy one, get one free'. I bought two Christmas puds. We can have another one tomorrow. *(Raises glass)* Cheers!

Reader (2) *(Responds)* Cheers! Merry Christmas!

Reader (1) Yes! Merry Christmas to you too! *(Drinks...)* Oh.....and a Happy New Year of course! Mustn't forget that.

Reader (2) Right.....*(Raises glass again)* Cheers! A Happy New Year!

Reader (1) Cheers!

Reader (2) Shall pull a cracker?

Reader (1) Why not? After all.....it's Christmas!

(they laugh while preparing to pull a cracker together)

Reader (2) Ready! Steady! Pull! *(One of them 'wins' and puts on the hat and examines the toy which is, inevitably, a tape measure..)*

Reader (1) Oh good! A tape measure...that'll come in handy if we never use it! As my father used to say. *(More laughter)*

Reader (2) Hang on! Hang on! There's a joke. *(unwraps joke and reads)*
Why did the hedgehog cross the road?

Reader (1) I don't know, why did the hedgehog cross the road?

Reader (2) To show he had guts! *(Much laughter)*

Reader (1) That's terrible! Let's pull the other cracker. *(They do... Another hat is put on.)*

Reader (2) Oh look! there's another tape measure! *(Laughter)* And another joke. Why does Father Christmas wear gloves?

- Reader (1) I don't know. I didn't know Father Christmas wore gloves. Why does he anyway?
- Reader (2) So he doesn't scratch the toys with his claws.....Surely you've heard of Santa's Claws? Oooh! That's terrible. Hang on, there's something on the back.
- Reader (1) Not another joke is it?
- Reader (2) No – it's a note. "Help! Help! I am a slave in a Christmas Cracker factory!"
(Laughter)
- Reader (1) Oh stop it stop it! I can't bear it – it's hurting my sides! Oh dear....You know this is what Christmas is all about isn't it? Friends; good food; a few drinks; presents;
- Reader (2) Good jokes!
- Reader (1) Well we haven't had any of those yet have we? *(More laughter)*
All we need now for the perfect Christmas is the Queen's Speech! Only kidding!
- Reader (2) No, actually I don't mind the Queen's speech she often says really interesting things.
- Reader (1) Oh go on! Such as?
- Reader (2) Well, last year, when she was talking about...you know...the Commonwealth, she talked about people being brothers and sisters no matter what country they came from. And she said that this was God's message to us at Christmas time. I thought that was really good. If we actually treated other people like they were our brothers and sisters the world would be a better place.
- Reader (1) I don't know. You should hear the way my friend Dave goes on about his brothers and sisters. I don't think there's much love lost between them. Anyway..... God? What's God got to do with Christmas? If it was up to all those religious, churchy types there wouldn't be any Christmas! No food, definitely no drink, no presents and no fun. Keep God out of Christmas – that's what I say!
- Reader (2) Yes, you're right of course. Christians are a right miserable lot...always preaching at us. Hey! That's funny!
- Reader (1) What is?
- Reader (2) Well, them being called 'Christians'....it sounds a bit like Christmas doesn't it? 'Christians' – 'Christmas'. They both got 'Christ' in them.
- Reader (1) No need for bad language! Anyway.....we've missed the Queen's speech. We'll just have to get to the heart of Christmas without her....and it's nearly time.

Reader (2) Time? What for?

Reader (1) The heart of Christmas of course! 'Strictly come dancing! (*Lifts glass*)
Cheers!

FREEZE