Not Going Out - Christmas Special

by

James Klonowski
EXT. HIGH STREET - DAY

LEE and LUCY are shopping on Christmas Eve. It's pouring with rain. A typical British Christmas. The high street is very busy with stressed-out shoppers. The whole town looks very festive, decorated for the holidays. Lucy is carrying a few bags of presents. Lee is struggling with a large CD tower on his shoulder. People are ducking out of the way around him as he is very carefree with it to say the least.

LEE
This thing weighs a bloody ton.

LUCY
Oh, stop moaning, will you? And watch where you're going with it, you've already knocked down three people with it.

LEE
You try walking with a seven-foot tower on your shoulder! Why do you need a CD tower anyway? You don't own any bloody CDs!

LUCY
It was cheaper than an actual book case.

LEE
Oh, right... Wait. You don't have any books either!

LUCY
I know. I wanted something with a lot of shelves to put all the things on that helps make me look beautiful.

LEE
In that case, maybe we should go back and see if they got a bigger tower.

LUCY
What's up with you today? Why are you so miserable? You're making the Grinch look cheerful.

LEE
It's Christmas, and look at the weather. Pouring with rain. Where's the snow? This ain't festive.

LUCY
I can't change the weather, Lee.
LEE
And it's not just that. It's everything that goes with Christmas, it stresses me out.

LUCY
You don't do anything! Everything is always left to me!

LEE
I'm cooking the Christmas dinner this year, that's very stressful.

LUCY
Thinking about having to EAT your Christmas dinner is very stressful too.

LEE
I'm a good cook, thank you very much. Remember when Gordon Ramsay tasted my curry? He was speechless.

LUCY
That's because he was choking on all the curry powder!

LEE
That was just a minor accident. (then)
Look how many people are here. It's crazy. Why does Christmas always come around when the shops are so crowded?

LUCY
(sarcastic)
Yeah, you'd have thought Jesus Christ would've made it more convenient for people.

LEE
(continuing to struggle with the tower)
This bloody thing! Why did we have to pick it up so early?

LUCY
It's Christmas Eve!

LEE
That's not what I meant. I just don't understand why we couldn't pick it up on the way back?

LUCY
Because things sell out quickly at this time of year.
LEE
I don't think that applies to CD towers, Lucy. My shoulder is bloody killing.

LUCY
It's all your fault anyway.

LEE
(sarcastic)
What a surprise.

LUCY
Every year I ask you to do some Christmas shopping and every year you leave things to the last minute and we end up rushing round the shops like idiots on Christmas Eve. You amaze me, you really do. You have no problem buying football tickets, four bloody months in advance, but ask you to do some Christmas shopping and it always results in this!

LEE
So, I got my priorities right. If you ask me, kids get too much these days anyway. When I was young I was lucky if I got an orange in my stocking.

LUCY
That's because you were always on the naughty list. And don't expect a Christmas surprise from me tonight, I've got too much to do.

LEE
What else is new?

LUCY
I gotta wrap all these presents, paint my nails, pick out a dress for tomorrow--

LEE
--Yeah, yeah, I get the point. I won't be unwrapping you tonight.
(sarcastic)
Merry Christmas to me.

OPENING CREDITS
ACT ONE

INT. LEE & LUCY'S HOME. FRONT ROOM - LATER

The front room has been decorated for the Christmas period. It looks like Santa's grotto. CHARLIE, BENJI and MOLLY are under the tree picking up their presents, rattling them, trying to guess what they've got.

When they hear the FRONT DOOR OPENING, they rush back to their seats on the sofa pretending they've been up to nothing. Lee and Lucy enter, both look exasperated.

LUCY
God, I don't why I take you anywhere with me. I really don't.

LEE
Hey! It wasn't my fault you wanted a giant bloody CD tower and expected me to carry it like the incredible Hulk! I told you it was too bloody heavy.

LUCY
You knocked that poor old man out cold with it!

LEE
He was fine. Fortunately, his crutches broke the fall.

LUCY
His 6-foot-5 carer looked mad, though. What was he saying to you?

LEE
Oh... He was... He was just wishing me a Merry Christmas, that's all.

LUCY
(unconvinced)
Yeah, I'm sure he was.

GEOFFERY walks in from the kitchen.

GEOFFERY.
(sarcastic)
Another successful shopping trip, I see.

LEE
I'm not in the mood for you today, Geoffery.

GEOFFERY
I see the Grinch has arrived.
LUCY'
We're just a little stressed at the moment, dad.
(then)
You kids alright?

MOLLY

LUCY
I'm sorry, but you're just gonna have to wait and see what Santa brings you.

MOLLY
Mum, I don't believe in Santa. It's just a million fat, creepy guys wearing fake beards and red suits scaring children all over the world with their jolly laugh and fake promises.

LEE
(to Lucy)
She's got a point there.

Lucy glares at him.

LUCY
You should believe in him, sweetheart. He does exist, doesn't he, Lee?

LEE
Uh?
(off Lucy's look)
Oh, yeah... Yeah, he does. Of course he does.

MOLLY
Yeah? Then prove it.

LEE
.... Well, when I was about your age, I wrote a letter to Santa asking him for a new bike, and I actually got a reply.

DAISY pops up from behind the tree.

DAISY
You got a reply from Santa?!

LEE
Jesus, what the hell you doing here?!
GEOFFERY
Oh, Jesus is here now and all, is he?

DAISY
It is Christmas Eve after all, I thought I'd pop over and see how my best friends are doing.... but they weren't in, so I came here instead.

LEE
What the hell was you doing behind our tree?

DAISY
Seeing if Santa had left me a present, silly.

LEE
Anyway... As I was saying, I got a letter from Santa. I mean, it said "dream on", but he was right because I woke up on Christmas morning and got nothing.

MOLLY
Dad, stop treating me like a baby.

LEE
Just try and get in the Christmas spirit a little, sweetheart. I know being happy is not something that comes natural to you, but just try embracing it for the next couple of days.

MOLLY
I'm not making any promises.

LUCY
Where's Frank anyway? He was meant to be here an hour ago.

LEE
Don't remind me. I can't believe you agreed to let him stay here for Christmas.

LUCY
He's your father, Lee, and he had nowhere else to go.

LEE
There's always homeless shelters.

LUCY
He tried, they refused him. They said he smelt too bad.
GEOFFERY
I can vouch for that.

LUCY
You've seen him?

GEOFFERY
If you must know, he turned up earlier, then left again. He said he was going for a walk.

LEE
A walk in this weather?

LUCY
Lots of people like walking in the rain, Lee.

LEE
Yeah, but they're usually being chased by men in white coats.

LUCY
Is he okay? He seemed a little strange on the phone.

LEE
It's my dad, he's always strange.

DAISY
He might just be thinking about stuff. Maybe he wanted to clear his head. I like to go for a walk to clear my mind sometimes.

LEE
That brisk one minute walk must really take it out of you, Daisy.

(then)
Anyway, what's my dad got to think about? Maybe he could lend some of his thoughts to Daisy.

LUCY
This is your fault, Lee.

LEE
Oh, what a surprise. I'm really not feeling the warmth of Christmas yet.

LUCY
You don't interact with him enough. If he's got a problem he doesn't feel like he can and talk to you.

LEE
Lucy, my family don't solve problems by talking to each other.
LUCY
How do you solve them?

LEE
By drinking lots and lots of alcohol until you pass out and can't remember what the problem was.

LUCY
But that's pathetic.

LEE
Hey, it works for us.

LUCY
Maybe you should try speaking to him?

LEE
No!

LUCY
What?

LEE
Talking only makes things worse. That's how most marriages end in divorce - communication.

LUCY
You really are pathetic.

LEE
But we're still married, so you're welcome.

GEOFFERY
I think Lee's right on this one, sweetheart. Him interacting with a fellow human never ends well.

LUCY
That's true, and I don't want Christmas wrecked... Again.

LEE
Oh, are we still going on about this? That boy's family overreacted. And anyway, it was rather fun spending Christmas day in a police cell.

LUCY
(sarcastic)
Oh, yeah, it was great fun having our Christmas lunch with four robbers, a drunk and a partridge in a bloody pear tree!
DAISY
I don't remember there being a pear
tree?

LEE
Don't worry, I won't be wrecking
anything this year. In fact, I
won't even be here for the rest of
the day.

LUCY
What do you mean?

LEE
I'm gonna go meet Toby down the pub
for a few drinks.

LUCY
Thought you said you don't do
talking?

LEE
Who said anything about talking?

LUCY
Well, don't get too drunk. Anna
still ain't speaking to us after
you cost Toby his job.

LEE
That was an accident. And anyway,
she's agreed to come over for
Christmas dinner so it's all good.

LUCY
That is if you don't poison her
with your cooking.

Lee reacts. FRANK enters, looking quite upset wearing a hat
and gloves.

LUCY
Hey, Frank. You okay?

FRANK
I don't feel very well, love.

LEE
Then take off your gloves!
(laughs at his own joke)
You get it? That was a classic.

FRANK
(sarcastic)
Yeah, I got it, Lee. As
sophisticated as it was.
LUCY
Maybe walking in the rain weren't the brightest of ideas, Frank.

FRANK
I know, love, but it's the only chance I get to have time to myself.

LUCY
Anything you wanna talk about?

FRANK
No.

LUCY
You want me to make you a nice hot chocolate with some marshmallows, Frank?

FRANK
No, maybe later. I think I'm gonna have a lay down and sleep it off.

LUCY
Okay, Frank. Whatever you think is best.

Frank heads up the stairs.

LUCY
(to Lee)
Something is definitely up with him!

LEE
He's just playing us as usual. Look at him, got us waiting on him hand and foot. He's even sleeping in our bed. It's ridiculous.

LUCY
You know, sometimes I ask myself why I married you, and most of the time I can't come up with a valid reason.

GEOFFERY
I keep asking the same question.

LEE
Alright, thank you, Geoffery.

DAISY
It's certainly not for his manhood.

LUCY
Daisy!
DAISY
What? Oh, sorry, was that too much?

INT. TOBY & ANNA'S HOME - LATER

The home has been decorated for the festive period. The Christmas tree is huge, and TOBY is busy putting the finishing touches to it when Lee approaches. He is rather wet from all the rain.

LEE
Bloody hell, what a day.

Toby ignores him, remains focused on the tree. He puts a bauble on the tree, then takes it off before putting it back on again. He keeps repeating this.

LEE
What you doing there, Toby?

TOBY
Putting up the Christmas decorations.

LEE
I can see that, but why do you keep taking the bauble off and putting it back on?

TOBY
Oh, I see. Well, there's something you don't know about me, Lee.

LEE
There's a lot I don't know about you, and I want it to stay that way.

TOBY
I have CDO.

LEE
CDO? What the bloody hell is that?

TOBY
Well, it's like OCD, but the letters are in alphabetical order, as they should be.

LEE
Ooooookay.

TOBY
(noticing that Lee is wet)
Is it still raining out?
LEE
There's a few spots of rain in the air, yes.

TOBY
Didn't you bring the car?

LEE
Of course I bloody did, but there's like a half a mile walk from the street to your door!

TOBY
(goes back to working on the tree)
So, how was the holiday?

LEE
It was perfect.

TOBY
Yeah, Lucy said she got your postcard.

LEE
I would've liked to have taken her, but she couldn't get the time off work and the tickets were non-refundable. Lucy's never liked Benidorm anyway.

ANNA approaches in a rather revealing Santa outfit. Toby is mesmerised. Even Lee is getting a little hot under the collar.

ANNA
You two can put your eyes back in your sockets, now. I'm not doing this for your benefit, it's for work.

TOBY
It's never for my benefit.

ANNA
Oh, don't start all this again, Toby.

LEE
And I'll have you know that I'm a happily married man. Well, I'm a married man anyway.

TOBY
Actually Anna, I think I have some mistletoe here.
ANNA
Good for you. Maybe you can go find yourself a mirror.

LEE
So, you both looking forward to coming over ours for Christmas dinner?

ANNA
I can think of worse ways to spend the festive season... Like being sung to by Nick Knowles in his underwear. At least I won't have to cook this year, though.

LEE
Exactly. You can just put your feet up and enjoy what these bad boys (gestures with hands) Can muster up.

ANNA
I dread to think.

INT. LOCAL PUB – DAY
Lee and Toby are at the bar drinking. Daisy enters, dressed as a vampire.

LEE
Ah, Daisy. Wrong holiday.

DAISY
Oh... So that's why I've been getting funny looks on the tube.

LEE
So, what you doing for Christmas, Daisy?

DAISY
Well, with Tim away on business, Lucy ever so kindly asked me to stay over the holidays. Isn't that great?

LEE
Not the word I was thinking of. (then) So, how is Tim?

DAISY
Good. We're actually trying for a baby.

LEE
Well, congratulations Daisy, you've managed to turn me off beer.
TOBY
Ignore him, I think that's wonderful news.

DAISY
We're rather excited about it too, but it's been difficult with the lack of sleep. Sometimes we go thirty, forty days without sleep.

LEE
Really? How do you manage that?

DAISY
Oh, it's not too bad. We sleep like babies during the night.

LEE
(to Toby)
Told you she was certified insane.

TOBY
Don't talk about her like that, she's trying to become a mother.

LEE
You're right, let's call Childline now.

(then)
So, what's Tim's latest business venture?

DAISY
A Zumba class for the overweight and overaged.

LEE
(sarcastic)
What a lovely image.

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. MASTER BEDROOM - LATER

Daisy is putting up a poster with nails and a hammer as opposed to the more traditional way of using pins. She inevitably ends up catching her finger with the hammer and nail causing her blood to splash up the walls and the poster like a scene out of some slasher movie just as Lucy enters carrying a tray of milk and cookies which she throws in the air as she SCREAMS at what she sees.

DAISY
Don't panic, it's much worse than it looks.

(starts eating some of the food off the floor)
Mmmm, can't beat homemade cookies.

LUCY
I think I'm gonna be sick.
DAISY
Oh don't be so hard on yourself
Lucy, the floors aren't that dirty.

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. FRONT ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

The family are all playing Monopoly. Lee is clearly winning. Molly has a huge frown on her face, and her blood is boiling at the thought of losing.

LEE
Ah, Mayfair. That's another one of
mine, Molly

MOLLY
Of course it is. You own everything
on the board!

LEE
No, I don't. You've got all the
oranges. Benji's got the stations
and your mother has Old Kent Road.
There's everything to play for.
Right, cough up the £2,000.

MOLLY
I haven't got that kind of money.

LEE
Then that's you out of the game.
(off Molly's raging look)
Or, we can just move on swiftly.

BENJI
Hey, you didn't do that when I
landed on your property!

LEE
That's because I'm not afraid of
you.
(then)
Okay, Charlie, your turn.

Charlie rolls the dice and moves his object around the
board. He lands on one of the orange squares.

MOLLY
Yes! That's mine! It's £800.

CHARLIE
No thanks, I'd rather sleep in the
car.

LEE
What car? You still can't even ride
a bike.

CHARLIE
I can... With stabilisers.
MOLLY
Just pay the money!

CHARLIE
No, you didn't pay, dad!

LUCY
Oh God, I feared this would happen.

CHARLIE
Well, I'm not paying.

Molly rages and throws the game board in the air. All the pieces go flying.

BENJI (O.O.S)
Ow, my eye!

LUCY
Just once I'd like this family to play a board game and not have it end with us taking a trip to the hospital.

MOLLY
Well, he started it!

LEE
I don't think we should play Monopoly again next year.

LUCY
Molly, you have to control your anger. It's getting out of hand! I'm really disappointed in you.

MOLLY
Oh, shut up!

LEE
(sarcastic)
I see that everyone is in the Christmas spirit again this year.

DAISY
(entering)
I know, it's great. It really is the best time of the year.

END OF ACT
ONE
ACT TWO

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

It's Christmas morning. Lee and Lucy are sleeping when Daisy enters all excited, jumping up and down on the bed.

DAISY
It's Christmaaaaaaaas!

Lee kicks him off the bed.

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. FRONT ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

Lee and Lucy are still half asleep as the kids start ripping open presents with delight on their faces. Frank is sitting on the sofa drinking some water looking like he hasn't had a wink of sleep.

Benji opens a present to reveal an Xbox One.

BENJI
Wow, thanks!

LEE
Yeah, I thought you'd like that. Now you got one, you can stop playing on mine.

BENJI
Wait, where's all the games?

LEE
Those consoles cost enough, you're lucky you got that!

Molly opens a gift to reveal a brand new flat-screen TV.

MOLLY
A TV?

LUCY
Don't you like it, love?

MOLLY
I guess, but I already got a TV.

LUCY
Yeah, but this is a new one.

MOLLY
Until I open it.

LUCY
You know, the old "thank you, I love it" still works.

Charlie opens a present to reveal a scooter.
CHARLIE
Oh, cool!

LEE
Yeah, that should save you falling off so much.

Charlie gets on the scooter, instantly falls off.

LEE
Well, that's the theory anyway.
(noticing Frank isn't opening anything)
Dad, aren't you gonna open any of your presents?

FRANK
In a minute.

LEE
Well, at least open one now. They weren't cheap you know.

FRANK
(sighs)
Fine.

LEE
(sarcastic)
Don't get too excited, though.

Frank opens one to reveal a Christmas jumper with his face on and the phrase "I'm a miserable old git" written on it. Lee laughs. Frank cries.

LUCY
(to Lee)
I knew I should've picked it out!

LEE
Don't you like it, dad?

FRANK
Yeah, yeah, it's nice.

LEE
Then tell your face.

FRANK
I'm sorry, I'm just all over the place at the moment.

LEE
(sarcastic)
Really? We hadn't noticed.

LUCY
Is everything okay, Frank? You want to talk? You can tell us anything.
FRANK
No, it's okay.

LUCY
If you're sure.

LEE
She's sure.  
    (hands Lucy a present)  
    Merry Christmas, love.

LUCY
I thought we weren't doing presents this year?

LEE
You really meant that? I'll take it back then.

LUCY
    (starts to open it)  
    Too late.

Lucy opens what looks like a really expensive bracelet.

LUCY
Oh, wow. Lee, it's gorgeous. I love it.

LEE
You really like it?

LUCY
I really do.

LEE
I'm glad. Only the best for you.

LUCY
Is it real?

LEE
Of course it is! What do you take me for?

LUCY
So, it's okay for me to bath in it?

LEE
I wouldn't.

LUCY
Then it's not real bloody silver, then!

LEE
I have a waterproof watch, but it doesn't mean I'd go deep-sea diving
    (MORE)
LEE (cont'd)
in the bloody thing! And it's the
thought that counts anyway.

A card comes through the letter-box. Lucy walks over to it and picks it up.

LUCY
(while opening it)
What's the bloody point of sending
cards on Christmas day?
(reads it and drops it)
Oh my Christ!

LEE
What's the matter? It's not filled
with bloody glitter again is it?
I'll go get the hoover.

LUCY
No, it's not that. It's from the
Jeffersons across the road.

LEE
The Jeffersons? But they've never
sent us a Christmas card in all the
time we've known them.

LUCY
I know, we must have made a good
impression on them this year.

LEE
See, I told you that me giving them
a lift was a good idea. They did
soak my seats, though.

LUCY
That's only because you drenched
them by driving through a gigantic
puddle.

LEE
I didn't see it!

LUCY
Right, I'm gonna have to find a
card to give to them now.

LEE
I don't think we got any left.
Daisy's used most of them to draw
on. I think Molly's still got some
of the ones she made, though.

LUCY
But they've got skulls and bones on
them.
LEE
It's either that or nothing.

LUCY
I can't give them bloody nothing!
This is a massive milestone in our friendship with the Jeffersons.

LEE
So, just give them one of Molly's cards.

LUCY
Oh, God. I think it's safe to say we won't be on their Christmas card list next year.

LEE
You never know, they may be into skulls and bones.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Lee answers to see Geoffery, WENDY, Toby and Anna. Geoffery is carrying a bag.

LEE
Merry Christmas to you all.

They all say it back.

LEE
(to Anna and Toby)
Where's Jack?

TOBY
He's with his grandparents. Anna doesn't think Christmas is a time for children.

ANNA
Well, it's not.

LEE
(to Geoffery)
What you got in the bag there?

GEOFFERY
When I found out that you'd be doing the Christmas dinner I thought it'd be wise to bring along some extra supplies.

LEE
Hey! I have you know that I'm a great cook.

GEOFFERY
You did have to call the fire brigade when you tried to cook (MORE)
GEOFFERY (cont'd)
dinner at my place a few years back.

LEE
That was just a minor accident.

WENDY
Lee, you got any sprouts?

LEE
I think we have some, why?

WENDY
Well, I'm not as regular as I used to be so make sure you pile my plate with them. It may kick start some movement down there.

LEE
(sarcastic)
What a lovely image.

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. EATING AREA - LATER

The whole clan, except for Lee are sitting down at the table waiting for dinner.

MOLLY
Mum, why did you let dad cook the Christmas dinner?

LUCY
He's been nagging me to let him cook it for years, so I thought now would be the perfect time. That was before I knew we were having guests.

(to the guests)
I apologise in advance for Lee's cooking.

ANNA
It's fine. I'm not exactly expecting a Gordon Ramsay special.

LUCY
Well, we may get the swearing.

BENJI
I'm gonna say I've become a vegetarian.

LUCY
Your father will never buy that. Just let him feel useful for one day of the year.
TOBY
I know that feeling.

ANNA
One day a year's pushing it a little, Toby.

LUCY
Anyway, just do what I used to do when I first started dating your father. Don't look at the food or taste it, or smell it for that matter. Just chew and swallow, and get it over as quickly as possible.

Lee enters from the kitchen looking rather flustered.

LUCY
Everything alright out there?

TOBY
Should I call the fire brigade?

LEE
No, everything's fine. I just gotta ask Geoffrey to come in here for a second.

GEOFFERY
I don't like the sound of this.

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOUSE. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Lee leads Geoffrey into the kitchen which is filled with smoke.

GEOFFERY
My God, it's like a scene from London's Burning in here!

LEE
London's Burning? When was the last time you watched TV?

GEOFFERY
Alright, I couldn't think of anything else, I was too busy choking on all this smoke.

LEE
Okay, I messed up. But I can't have Lucy knowing. She trusted me to make this dinner.

GEOFFERY
More fool her.
LEE
You can gloat after Christmas. But right now I need your extra supplies, and I need you to cook it for me.

GEOFFERY
And why should I do that?

LEE
To help your son in law? To help the man who has invited you over for dinner? To help the guy who has given you three beautiful grandchildren?

GEOFFERY
None of that's gonna work on me.

LEE
Then do it for Lucy. She thinks the world of you, and I think she deserves a good Christmas.

GEOFFERY
(sighs)
Fine, I'll do it.

LEE
Thank you!

GEOFFERY
I'm not doing it for you. I'm doing it for Lucy and my beautiful grandchildren.

The three kids are heard shouting and screaming in the other room.

GEOFFERY
Okay, just Lucy.

**INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. EATING AREA - LATER**

The whole lot are sitting at the table with their Christmas hats on eating their Christmas dinner. They are all enjoying it.

MOLLY
This is delicious.

LEE
You don't have to sound so surprised.

LUCY
And the kitchen's still in one piece, well done.
LEE
Again, less of the surprise.

Lee nods at Geoffrey.

GEOFFERY
So, what's your secret to this delicious turkey, Lee?

LEE
I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

TOBY
It's a little dry.

GEOFFERY
(offended)
It's meant to be dry!

LUCY
This actually makes a nice change not to do the cooking for once.

WENDY
I'll do the washing up for you, Lucy.

LUCY
Thank you, mum. Why can't it be Christmas everyday?

LEE
You seriously wouldn't want that. And anyway, I always do the dishes.

LUCY
No, you just run the plates under the tap and put them away, hoping that I won't notice.
(then)
Do you like the dinner, Frank?
(no answer)
Frank?

FRANK
Sorry, what?

LUCY
You okay, Frank? You look in a world of your own.

LEE
He always looks like that.

Anna gets a text through on her phone, she reads it, puts phone back down.
TOBY
Who was that?

ANNA
My mother. Jack's missing us, and wants to chat.

TOBY
Should we go see him?

ANNA
No, we haven't had dessert yet.

Geoffery is chewing on a piece of turkey, then takes a sip of water and his false teeth fall into the glass. Everyone is a little repulsed, except for Charlie

CHARLIE
Wow, that's so cool!

GEOFFERY
Oh, I'm so sorry. This happens quite a lot.

LEE
There's no harm done. We'll just throw the glass out.

LUCY
Molly, are you okay? You've gone all blotchy.

We see Molly with red blotches all over her face. Everyone pushes their seats back, fearing something super contagious.

LUCY
You must've had an allergic reaction to something.

MOLLY
But I've only eaten the Christmas dinner..... And 25 packets of Wotsits.

LUCY
That must be it then.

ANNA
(to Lee)
I knew your cooking would put someone in the hospital.

GEOFFERY
It's not the cooking!

LUCY
Dad's right. It's the crisps. Too much colouring. We're gonna have to take you to the hospital.
MOLLY
Hospital?

LEE
It's Christmas day, you'll never get seen by a doctor. I'm sure she'll be fine anyway.

LUCY
Lee, she's had an allergic reaction. There's no telling what will happen next.

DAISY
I had an allergic reaction once. My throat got really swollen and I passed out. I woke up with all sorts of tubes in me. I was pretty close to death. But I did get a lollipop for being a good patient.

LUCY
Right, that's it. Molly, get your coat. We're going to the hospital.

MOLLY
What're they gonna do to me?

LUCY
I don't know, give you an injection most probably.

MOLLY
An injection?! I'm fine, honest.

LUCY
Don't be silly. Go get your coat.

They exit.

LEE
(sighs)
What a Christmas.

GEOFFERY
Still better than last year.

Daisy starts chuckling to herself.

LEE
You okay there, Daisy?

DAISY
Yeah, just reading one of these jokes out of a cracker. They get funnier every year.
LEE
(sarcastic)
Yeah, I'm sure Michael McIntyre
waits every year for the Christmas
crackers, so he can get some new
material.

DAISY
Listen to this one. What do you
call jewellery made of fruit?
(pause)
Pear-l earrings!

WENDY
I need more drink.

END OF ACT
TWO
ACT THREE

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. FRONT ROOM - LATER

Lee, the kids, Daisy, Geoffery and Wendy are watching TV. Some are nodding off, having ate too much. Lucy and Molly then enter. Molly heads up the stairs.

LEE
(checks his watch)
You've been awhile. I did warn you. Is everything okay, though?

LUCY
Oh, yeah. She's had her injection and she's totally fine now, just a little drowsy.

LEE
That's good news.

LUCY
The doctor on the other hand is not so fine.

LEE
What do you mean?

LUCY
As he came at her with the needle, she kicked him between the legs.

LEE
Ouch.

LUCY
Yeah, I'm just gonna make sure Molly is in bed, so she can have some rest.

Lucy heads up the stairs.

DAISY
New year's resolutions.

Everyone looks around, a little confused.

LEE
What's that, Daisy?

DAISY
We should make some. I actually have one in mind.

LEE
Is it to get a new brain?
DAISY
No. It's to never again take sleeping pills and laxatives on the same night.

LEE
Ooookay, how about you Toby?

TOBY
Mine is to be more assertive with people.
(Off Anna's look)
If that's okay with you?

Lucy rushes down the stairs carrying a letter in her hand.

LEE
Bloody hell, Lucy. We shout at the kids for running down the stairs, then you go do it.

LUCY
It's Frank. He's gone!

LEE
I know.

LUCY
What do you mean, you know?!

LEE
He just went for a walk earlier, nothing to worry about.

LUCY
I think you should read this.

LEE
It better be good. I hate reading anything that isn't about football.

LUCY
Lee, this is serious. Read it.

Lee takes the letter and begins to read it.

FRANK (V.O.)
Lee, Lucy, I just want to tell you how much it meant to me to spend Christmas with you. It's been lovely. I'm sorry that it's come to this, but I don't have any choice. I can't sleep, I can't eat and I'm always feeling sick with worry. I've wanted to tell you both for so long, but I just couldn't bring myself to do it. I'm sorry if this letter is long, I know you hate (MORE)
FRANK (V.O.) (cont'd)
reading, Lee. I'm just gonna say it. I had some bad news from the doctor. Real bad. I don't know how much time I have left. I just want to die in peace, I hope you understand.
(then)
Oh, and Merry Christmas.

LEE
(sarcastic)
He sure knows how to make Christmas a jolly occasion, don't he?

INT. LEE'S CAR - NIGHT

Lee and Lucy are sitting in the car outside the local pub.

LUCY
Are we even sure he's here?

LEE
Not positive, but I can't think of anywhere else.

LUCY
Are you okay?

LEE
Yeah, I'm fine. None of this will be true, anyway. You know what he's like. He's just doing it for attention.

LUCY
I think he's serious this time, Lee. What are we gonna do?

LEE
If it's true, I don't know. I have a load of different emotions inside of me. I know we've had our ups and downs, but he's still my dad.

LUCY
Do you want me to come in with you?

LEE
No, I think it's best if I do this myself.

Lee braces himself as he touches the door handle. He takes a deep breath, then exits.

INT. LOCAL PUB. FRONT ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

"SILENT NIGHT" song plays over the scene.
Lee sees Frank sitting at the bar. He goes over to him, puts an arm over his shoulder.

FRANK
I'm guessing you read the letter.

LEE
Yeah. Why didn't you just tell us?

FRANK
I didn't wanna ruin your Christmas.

LEE
When did you hear the news then?

FRANK
Last week. I've never been so scared in my life. I know you may not believe me after everything, which is why I kept the test results.

He hands Lee the results. Lee reads them, looks at Frank, who is crying. Lee puts the results on the bar, hugs his father. Both cry. Lucy enters. She goes up to them, sees the results on the bar, picks it up, reads it.

LUCY
It says it's negative.

The music stops.

LEE
I know Lucy, you were right. He weren't lying.

LUCY
Negative means the all clear, you idiots.

LEE
What?!

FRANK
You mean I'm not dying?

LUCY
No, you're fine.

LEE
Well, I'm not I just shared a touching moment with my father that I'm gonna need counselling to forget!

END OF ACT
THREE
TAG

INT. TOBY & ANNA'S HOME - LATER

Toby and Anna are sitting down watching TV. She gets another text on her phone, reads it.

TOBY
Was that your mother again?

ANNA
Yeah, Jack really wants us to go pick him up now.

TOBY
Now? But the EastEnders Christmas special is about to come on.

ANNA
Will you stop going on about bloody EastEnders?! Spoiler alert - someone dies.

TOBY
(sarcastic)
You have such a warm glow around you at Christmas.

ANNA
Bite me!

INT. LEE AND LUCY'S HOME. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lee and Lucy are in bed together.

LEE
It wasn't a bad Christmas, all things considered.

LUCY
Apart from Frank's near-death experience and Molly's allergic reaction, you mean?

LEE
Yeah.

LUCY
I suppose not. And it was nice having the Christmas dinner cooked for me for once. I was rather impressed by your cooking.

LEE
Well, I best be honest. I kind of messed up the dinner, so I had Geoffrey make it.
LUCY
I know, he called me earlier.

LEE
He what? The big mouthed git!

LUCY
It's alright, it's the thought that counts.

LEE
So... Do you fancy giving me my present now?

LUCY
I guess it is Christmas after all, I'll go slip into something a little more romantic.

LEE
Yes!

Daisy enters with a birthday cake singing Happy Birthday.

LEE
What you doing, Daisy? It's no one's birthday.

DAISY
It's Jesus Christ's birthday, the most important birthday of all.

LEE
Well, whatever, me and Lucy are a little busy.... If you get what I mean.

(then)
Who am I kidding?

DAISY
Oh... Now I feel kinda bad.

LUCY
Why?

The kids come running in and jump all over the bed.

DAISY
I told them we'd play Monopoly.

LEE AND LUCY
Noooooooo!

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE.