

Not Going Out - Christmas Special

by

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FADE IN:

TEASER

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 ONEINT. 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

Yeah. I just wanna know what I got for Christmas. You know I hate surprises.

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 TWOINT. 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 Christmaaaaaaas!

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 starts 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 Geoffery to come in here for a second.

GEOFFERY
I don't like the sound of this.

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

Lee leads Geoffery 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 Geoffery.

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 THREEINT. 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. Its to never again take
sleeping pills and laxatives on the
same night.

LEE

Oookay, 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

TAGINT. 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 Geoffery 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
Noooooooooo!

FADE OUT.

END OF
EPISODE.