



'Twas the Week Before Christmas'

(after Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the week before Christmas and all round the flat
No one was sleeping not even the cat.
Tension was mounting as stress levels grew,
Social Services concerned as to what might ensue.

Glad tidings were lacking, no spirit of Yule,
With the allowance withdrawn on our Gran's Winter Fuel.
'Income too high', she was no longer a claimant,
And she'd waved her goodbyes to her energy payment.
A ticket for Zurich was found in her pocket
And the family feared she was planning to hoppit.
'Dignitas Gran? You're not ill, can't you see?'
'Dignitas? Leave it out! I'm just going to ski'.

Dad made redundant from his job with UNESCO
Was now filling shelves at the Lewisham Tesco.
A new-fangled air fryer on Mum's Christmas list
But she wanted the kind with a new-fangled twist.
One that was powered on diesel or beer.
With the new tax on oxygen, air was too dear.
And with 'Strictly' now finished, (we know who's the winner,)
She was needing to plan for a chic Christmas dinner.
But with MasterChef pulled and Greg Wallace to blame
It would have to be turkey and roast spuds again.

Josh (16) was hoping to spend Christmas alone
Viewing dodgy internet sites if he gets a new phone.
And his sister Sienna will be seriously miffed
If her stocking has no tickets to see Taylor Swift.

Christmas Day looming, it's not looking the best,
Mum's panicked, Dad's angry and the kids are depressed.
And continued inflation an everyday norm,
'Shame on Keir Starmer, we should have voted Reform'.

Then just as they say they can't take more,
With a 'whoosh' and a 'clatter' there's a sleigh at the door.
With a little old man rather jolly and fat
Shouting the odds and frightening the cat.
And as he's proceeding to open his sack
Our mouths just fall open, we are taken aback.

Gran got some coal to burn on the Aga
And a ticket for cruising the Maldives with Saga.
With Thames Water struggling and mouth-dropping losses,
Dad's now top advisor to Thames Water bosses.
£18 billion required? Santa's smart Christmas elves
Will donate this or Dad will be back filling shelves.
And Mum is relieved, 'Christmas lunch? Such a fiddle!'
Santa's thoughtfully brought frozen dinners from Lidl.

Josh and his sister get their Christmas predictions.
The new Apple phone with no parental restrictions.
Tickets for Swifty when she next comes to Britain
And the traumatised cat is replaced with a kitten.

With gifts all unloaded and dumped on the path,
(Not nicely wrapped up and left neat on the hearth)
Up gets our jolly fat little Santa,
Makes sexist remarks - but it's just festive banter.
Then he calls to his reindeer all rearing to go
As it's pouring with rain, (you no longer see snow.)

'Come Donald, come Elon, come Justin, come Truss,
(Nigel and Boris have got on the bus)
Come Biden, come Vladimir come Dominic and all,
....Oh! The sleigh has turned over, crashed into a wall.
It's now bl***y freezing and the sh**'s hit the fan
But Boris and Biden will return if they can. (There is a precedent after all).
So what if our family's front garden's a bomb site?
Keep warm, Merry Christmas and we wish you a 'good night'.

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