

# The Claus are out.

This is a sketch about how Christmas can get taken over by Father Christmas

*Scene: the back office of a Christmas shop. 1 and 2 are office staff who are in the process of ordering stock.*

- 1 Yes that's right mate, we'll have 40 of the large santas, 30 of the ones with him sitting on his sleigh and 25 of the novelty santa who sings Jungle Bells (*pause*) Yes I know they break down within a few weeks but most people won't notice until next Christmas.
- 2 Tell him he's a complete con man
- 1 No, no, Charlie, you misheard her - what she said was you're cool man. (*mouths to 2*) Shut up (*continues*) Now we want 100 boxes of the Christmas cards with assorted robins and winter scenes, 200 of santa and his little helpers, 200 of the novelty range with the rude jokes and 200 of the deluxe range of 3D Victorian popup Charles Dickens characters
- 2 And tell him he's a right Scrooge too.
- 1 (*puts hand over mouthpiece*) Shh ... I know you don't like Charlie but there's no need to insult him. He's good business. His tat is cheap and nasty but the punter's love it. (*continues*) Sorry about that Charlie, I was just checking something with my Secretary. (*pause*). New lines eh? You have my attention. A blow up baby Jesus, musical candles shaped like wise men, frankincense holders, praying teddies, musical churches .... No Charlie, I don't think my punters will go for that sort of stuff. We're a Christmas store after all.... Christmas... religious don't make me laugh - mind you my mum religiously watches the Queen's speech... Yeh OK, see ya Charlie (*puts the phone down*) He's a lad that Charlie but there is a limit to the tat that I'll get off him.
- 2 You know, I think there is a market for religious stuff. My friend next door always complains that she can't find any Christmas cards in the shops with shepherds or angels or Joseph & Mary.
- 1 That's because the ones with robins and santas are much more colourful - who wants a picture of shepherds and sheep unless they watch One Man and His Dog.
- 2 Well, she goes to Church and is really looking forward to what they're doing at Christmas
- 1 What do they have then. Some sort of Bazaar with santa for the children?
- 2 No they have these things called services where people sing and whatnot.
- 1 Strange!
- 2 And what's more, she let me have a look around last year - and you know what - there were no pictures of santa - can you imagine that?
- 1 Christmas isn't Christmas without a bazaar and Father Christmas - so what do they do instead?
- 2 Well she said it's something about the birth of Jesus and that's why she wants cards with shepherds and wise men. Apparently their going to do a play with the children this year. The kids are going to dress up as shepherds and angels and all that
- 1 That's sweet. I suppose they're going to have santa come on at the end and give them presents.
- 2 Oh, no. I asked and she said that they give presents to disadvantaged children because God

gave them the gift of Jesus

- 1 What no presents from santa? How do they get presents then?
- 2 Don't be silly. The same way as anyone else. She said that she doesn't encourage her kids to believe in Father Christmas because he doesn't exist.
- 1 That's disgraceful! Really disgraceful! Believing in Father Christmas is one of the joys of childhood.
- 2 I can see what she means. After all I can remember how disappointed my children were when they found I'd lied to them for years. In fact my 9 year old thought I lied about other things to her too.
- 1 Oh come on - they're little white lies. Does nobody any harm. Ha, Ha. Last year my 5 year old was wondering how santa got in because we don't have a chimney. I said that he was like the man on Star Trek and could turn into liquid and seep under the door! Hah! You should have seen the look on his face - priceless. He had an argument with his mates at school who were adamant that santa cam down the chimney
- 2 Yeah but then kids have a problem with fantasy and reality. My neighbour says she wants to tell the truth to her children.
- 1 Like all that religious mumbo-jumbo - I don't think so.
- 2 That's what I said but she said that the main difference is that it can be proved that Jesus really did live and that what they celebrate are historic events. In fact she claims that when she trusted Jesus, it was the most life-changing thing she ever did.
- 1 Oh yeah and the rest. Let's keep Christmas like Christmas and enjoy ourselves
- 2 But it makes you think.
- 1 Come on, get into the real world, we've got plastic santas to sell. After all, no santas, no Christmas.