

On the Cards

Scene: a card shop where a customer (C) is looking for Christmas cards to send her friends. She is helped by a shop assistant (A). C is looking at the cards with disapproval.

A Can I help you madam?

C I Hope so. I'm trying to find a Christmas card with a proper Christmas scene

A Well, we have quite a few here with Christmas scenes. Here's a nice one with a robin on it and a nice Victorian one with two children and a sledge. And how about this one with a bear on skis.

C No. What I meant was *Christmas* scenes

A I'm not sure what you're getting at. Look at this snow scene. Now what's more Christmassy than that?

C You don't understand. I need something that's much more reflects the true meaning of Christmas.

A Oh, I got just the thing. We have a new range of cards which show pictures of gifts. That's the best thing about Christmas to me – getting presents.

C But that isn't really what Christmas is about is it? In the end Christmas is about it's central character.

A Oh, you mean (*pointing up*) him up there!

C Yes – you've got the idea at last!

A Sure thing. We have a great range of Santa cards. Look at this lovely one of Santa and his elves. The children will love it. It looks like a real luxury card, but we sell them 10 for a pound.

C That's disgusting

A No, this is a great quality card.

C But Christmas isn't about a great fat man getting down chimneys or going around the world in a sleigh.

A Well I couldn't imagine a Christmas without Santa. I think of all those nights I used to stay awake expecting him to bring my presents and I hoped that I would catch him.

C But there's no such person.

A Yes, but it was the wonder of it all.

C What's wonderful about your parents lying to you that someone doesn't exist?

A Yes, but that's not the point is it. Christmas is all about getting presents and eating and drinking a lot. Mind you, I could do without the mother-in law coming.

C Exactly. So have you got any cards with the Christmas story on it?

A Sorry. I still don't follow.

C I mean something with angels, shepherds, wise men, scripture verses and all that.

A Oh... you mean religious cards.

C Got it at last!

A I don't think we have any of them – there isn't a demand.

C That's what you think. At my church we are after proper cards and we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus! It's a fantastic life-changing story. You should hear it some time..

A I don't do church myself but I've got some snow scenes with churches on. Will that do you?

C No it won't

A I don't have anything for you then. Why can't you just buy ordinary Christmas cards like anybody else?

C Because at Christmas, I like to worship Jesus **Christ** because it's his birth it is all about. You know – CHRIST-mas – the birth of Christ.

- A Oh, no not a religious person. That' s the trouble with you people. All killjoys. You just can' t bear people having fun.
- C That' s rubbish. There' s nothing more joyful than celebrating that God' s Son came into this world to deal with the problem of our sin. If you' re going to celebrate at Christmas, you might as well celebrate what it' s about because it' s much more interesting than getting presents, getting fat and getting drunk or meeting the mother in law. Anyway, I' m off to look for some proper cards elsewhere.
- A I guess there' s no pleasing some people. Fancy wanting to spoil Christmas by going on about Jesus. It' s not as if he gave us anything.
- C Yes he did; the greatest gift of all – eternal life.