



THE LIST  
By Paul Smith

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## CHARACTERS

DEREK – 50'S

Ebenezer Scrooge was right when he said..... what was it?..... no, I forget....anyway, doesn't matter, he didn't like Christmas much and nor do I!

That's not entirely true – many aspects of it I love.

Still get excited about receiving presents. Love the food and that self-forgiveness feeling you have from eating too much. Unnecessary eating is one of my great loves – until I get on the scales. But enjoy it while it lasts.

I like a good Christmas Carol – not a church goer anymore - sing along with the radio – lustily – in tune – I think.

Love a real Christmas tree – none of your fake crap – has to be real – lights and decorations – love it. Don't overdo other decs – I don't drench my house in lights – watching the electricity bill mount up. Ok, some of these house displays are good – there's a couple not far from here that start putting their lights up in September. It takes them till March to remove them. Six months – six months of their lives putting up and taking down Christmas lights. Bonkers. Ridiculous.

So, yes, I love many aspects of Christmas – but – and it is a very big but – writing Christmas cards is akin to having root canal work without anaesthetic. It's one of those things you need to do, but it's full of angst and pain and frustration.

Now, don't get me wrong, I like a Christmas card and I take time to choose the selection I want us to send – always charity ones of course and charities that mean something to me, not just selected at random cos the word 'charity' appears! How many people buy like that? Crazy. They should get home and look on the back and see they have supported the 'Kill All Cats' Charity or the 'Support Adolph Hitler Regeneration' Charity – that'd shock 'em into paying a bit more attention to what they're putting their money into! No, got to be the right charities.

It's been my responsibility to do the Christmas cards for quite a number of years. My wife suggested it when I foolishly offered to help prepare for the big day. Stuck with it. It's a valued contribution so I am told, so I just get on with it. Doesn't stop me being opinionated