

The less than festive Reindeer

A sketch by Robin Hill

The scene: A Christmas party, with revellers chatting sotto voce in background. Sheena and Richard take centre stage.

*Characters: Sheena Munro, an enthusiast for Christmas.
Richard Reindeer, a dull and jaded businessman.*

*Props: Sheena: a full bottle of water (for occasional sipping)
a glass with "Magic Snow" powder, ready in base
Richard: a drink, a party blower
Revellers: drinks, party hats and other festive stuff.*

Sheena: *[Enthusiastically]* This is a great Christmas party, don't you think?

Richard: *[Bored]* Yes, indeed. Very festive, I must say. *[Blows party blower unenthusiastically]*

Sheena: Cheers!

Richard: Your very good health. *[Both drink; short pause]* Reindeer.

Sheena: I beg your pardon.

Richard: The name's Reindeer ... Richard Reindeer.

Sheena: Pleased to meet you Richard. I'm Sheena Munro.

Richard: Pleased to meet you too, Sheena.

Sheena: *[Short pause, looking quizzically]* Forgive me for saying this, but I couldn't help noticing ... that's a rather unusual name you have there.

Richard: What, Richard?

Sheena: No. Reindeer. I've never met a Reindeer before ... except on my holidays in Aviemore.

Richard: Ah, yes. I used to be called Douglas Clarke, but I changed my name to Reindeer to fit in with my business: *[In a dull and embarrassed voice]* “Ricky Reindeer’s Grand Grotto of Festive Fantasy”. Ricky Reindeer. That’s me.

Sheena: Ricky Reindeer! Well, well, well! I’ve been to your grotto many a time! Took my children there only last week. Very Christmassy, I must say. Frolicking elves as far as the eye could see. Just imagine when I tell the kids I’ve met the great Ricky Reindeer in person. Here, it must be a busy time of year for you.

Richard: Quite. Work takes over my whole life the closer we get to the 25th of December. The curious thing is ... I simply can’t stand Christmas.

Sheena: Surely not, Richard! It’s a great time of year. Child in the manger. Joy to the world. Goodwill to all ...

Richard: *[Interrupting]* Oh please! Spare me the detail. I spend so much time immersed in it all that for me Christmas has no spark, no excitement, no magic at all.

Revellers: Aaaaaaaaaaaw!

Sheena: I can hardly believe that. And you a proper Reindeer as well.

Richard: Oh, I know! But the fact of the matter is that Christmas just isn’t for me. *[Suddenly animated]* Except for the business side of things, of course. The glorious joys of thousands upon thousands of Santa onesies, inflatable turkeys, musical shepherds and neon angels. That’s what it’s about. Oh yes! As we Reindeers like to say: “Deck the halls with all things funny, ’tis the season to make money.”

Sheena: Fa la la la la. Wait a minute! Christmas must mean more to you than the ringing of cash registers. Think of the traditions. For example, our family just loves all those wonderful old carols: “Away in a manger”; “Hark the herald angels sing”; “Good King Wenceslas”. Does your family have a favourite song at Christmastime?

Richard: That would have to be ... “What a friend we have in Jesus”.

Sheena: I see.

Richard: No, I’m afraid I’m a lost cause when it comes to the child in the manger. Each December I’m bringing home the bacon, ladling in the loot, maybe even worshipping the wonga, if truth be told. But that’s all there is to it: Christmas is just a fairy tale like any other – only it’s one that works like clockwork, year after year, making the punters part with their precious pounds. Beyond that, there’s nothing.

Revellers: Shaaaaaaame!

Sheena: Well, I disagree Richard, because that first Christmas really was a time of miracle and wonder. It may have been an ordinary, cold, dark night, like any other – it’s true – but it was a night that would become special in unimaginable ways. Wonder was in the air. God was about to do something amazing – something that would change the world for ever. *[Faces audience, pours water from bottle into glass and waits for snow to build up.]* Oh yes! Christmas really is a time of magic.

Richard: *[Amazed at the sight of the overflowing snow]* I say!

Sheena: And I say ... Merry Christmas! *[Flutters some snow over Richard’s head]*

[Exeunt to music]

Please note: "Magic Snow" powder and similar products are available to buy in trick and joke shops and over the internet.

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If you use the sketch, have fun, and let me know how it goes!

With best wishes, especially for Christmas when it comes,

Robin

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