

## ***“Grandad’s Christmas Story”***

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**AUTHOR'S REMARKS**

When I was asked to write a Nativity Play for Avendale's annual Christmas service I was conscious of two well worn traditions that I felt should be challenged. Firstly in my experience Christmas Nativity plays are usually performed only by children. My intent was to involve as wide a range of ages as possible. (In the event the cast ages ranged from 4 to 62!). Secondly the Christmas story as recorded in the Bible is so familiar that we tend to stop thinking about it. I therefore tried to find an unconventional way of telling the story without losing its traditional background. Only others will be able to judge to what extent I succeeded.

David Carmichael

**First performed**

**Avendale Old Parish Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2002**

**Subsequently Performed by**

**East Park Junior School in St Matthews Church, East Park, Wolverhampton, on  
18th December 2003**

**GRANDAD'S CHRISTMAS STORY**

*[GRANDAD is snoozing in his favourite chair. MARTIN and SOPHIE enter. They are in dressed in pyjamas and nightdress respectively and wearing dressing gowns and slippers and are obviously ready for bed. SOPHIE is carrying a large toy furry rabbit ]*

SOPHIE Grandad!

MARTIN Grandad! – *[disappointed]* Oh he's sleeping!

SOPHIE *[shaking him]* Wake up Grandad– Wake up!

MARTIN *[horrified]* Sophie !!

*[GRANDAD wakes – or has he just been pretending to sleep?]*

GRANDAD I might have known it would be you two. Why aren't you in bed Eh?

SOPHIE Mummy said that we could stay up until you told us a story.

GRANDAD Mummy said that – did she?

MARTIN Yes Grandad

SOPHIE

GRANDAD Well in that case - I think we'd better do what Mummy says don't you? *[He indicates they should sit beside him and they do]* So - what do you want me tell you a story about tonight? Martin ?

MARTIN A king and armies of soldiers.

GRANDAD OK - Sophie ?

SOPHIE A pretty mummy and a kind daddy...

MARTIN ....and a wicked emperor....

SOPHIE ... and a tiny little baby and lots of animals...

MARTIN ... and a wizard

SOPHIE ... and a furry rabbit like Fluffy *[She holds up her toy]*

GRANDAD *[after a pause]* Well – that shouldn't be too hard. Now let me think.....

BIBLE READER In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God and the word was God.

GRANDAD                   Once upon a time, thousands of years ago, at the edge of a distant galaxy a very small world was circling a very ordinary little star. On that world lived thousands, maybe millions of different people – mummies and daddies, boys and girls, uncles and aunts and even some grannies and grandads as well.     And along with all these people were many different kinds of animals – lions and tigers, elephants and camels, dogs and cats, cows, sheep, pigs and...

SOPHIE                    Furry rabbits?

GRANDAD                 Oh course ...and furry rabbits – lots and lots of them.   Now, the whole of this world was ruled by one man – the Emperor.

MARTIN                  What was the Emperor's name, Grandad?

GRANDAD                 As far as I can remember he was called   - Gus!

MARTIN  
SOPHIE                  Gus !!??

GRANDAD                 But only by his friends – not that he had many of those for he was a very cruel and greedy man. His armies marched through every corner of his Empire making sure that everyone did exactly what he wanted them to do.   Then one night – on the six o'clock news.....

NEWS READER            There was a surprise development at the Imperial palace today when, at a hastily called news conference a spokesman announced that following increasing concerns about tax evasion the Emperor had commanded that a world wide census should be carried out. Details are vague at this time but it seems that all citizens will be required to travel to the city of their ancestors to be entered on the new tax registers.   Based on reliable inside sources the most probable time for this census appears to be during the Winter Solstice holiday.   This will ensure minimum disruption to agriculture and industry and also give a much needed boost to the hotel and tourist industry which is currently suffering an economic downturn.   It is understood that full details will be announced by the local imperial heralds shortly.   [Use real name], Imperial Broadcasting Service, outside the Imperial palace.

BIBLE READER            In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled....

HERALD                  Here is a command from our beloved Emperor – Listen and Obey

                                  Go to the city of your ancestors  
                                  Go directly to the city of your ancestors  
                                  Do not pass GO  
                                  Do not expect any compensation for loss of earnings

                                  [As he exits]

                                  Here is a command from our beloved Emperor – Listen and obey

**For the full script please contact Garrion Enterprises**