

Armchair Adventures: A Christmas Spirit Adventure

Armchair Adventure Theme Song:

On an armchair adventure you can go anywhere you like,

On an armchair adventure imaginations fly.

SFX snow falling, festive bell sounds etc.

Narrator: Christmas time is drawing near, and snow is starting to fall over Ashton. Families are decking out their homes, children are opening their advent calendars and everyone is full of Christmas spirit and cheer! Out on the streets, everyone is wrapped up warm, waving a hearty hello to each other as they pass by on their Christmas shopping trips. Even Connie has gone to visit the big man himself, Father Christmas in Lapland!

SFX Santa 'ho ho ho'

Leaving Uncle Scroo- I mean Uncle Chris in charge at Armchair Adventures Headquarters. Here he sits, dressed in fingerless gloves and a scarf indoors, A single, measly lump of coal burning in the fireplace, throwing in Christmas cracker jokes by the handful.

Not a scrap of decoration can be seen around him - bah humbug...

SFX phone ringing

Uncle Chris: Armchair Adventures headquarters, dramaaaaah practitioner, actor and workshop leader extraordinaire Uncle Chris speaking, how can I help!

Customer: Hello Uncle Chris! I hope you're having a nice time manning the fort! It's all of your customers here! Say hello gang!

Gang: Hello/merry Christmas etc.

Customer: We know how hard Connie has been working this year and we want to decorate the Armchair Adventures HQ as a very special surprise for her when she gets back from Lapland!

Customer: ...And of course we'd love your help to get it all Christmassy!

Uncle Chris: Ohhhh no, absolutely no can do I'm afraid

Customer: What do you mean!?

Customer: That's not like you Uncle Chris...

Uncle Chris: Well the thing is gang...I don't like Christmas ...

SFX dun dun dun

General grumbles and shock from the gang

Customer: Whaaaaaattt!! You don't like chestnuts roasting on an open fire?

SFX gently burning fire

Uncle Chris: CHESNUT? I chest – not

Customer: What about giving and receiving presents!

SFX Family opening presents

Uncle Chris: Have you never heard of birthdays?

Customer: What about all the delicious Christmas food?! Christmas pudding? Selection boxes, Roast turkey with all the trimmings!!!

SFX crockery and eating sounds

Uncle Chris: I have a perfectly good roast on a Sunday...

Customer: You're telling me you don't like singing carols and a good festive boogie?

SFX Carol singers

Uncle Chris: I'd rather sing in the shower!

Customer: Outrageous!

Customer: And what about the beautiful baubles and twinkling lights?

SFX twinkling lights

Uncle Chris: I'm alright for baubles thanks John, and if I want some twinkling lights I'll just turn my light switch on and off really fast thank you very much!

SFX light switching on and off lots of times followed by an electrical buzz sound

Customer: Oh dear...lets have some help from you adventurers at home! What's your favourite thing about Christmas time?

SFX Ding

Child: I like the Christmas turkey because it's juicy and fat and perfect!

Child: Playing football in the snow

Child: Presents.

Child: I like playing in the snow, doing snow angels with my little brother.

Child: I like it when I watch movies with my family.

Child: I like building snowmen.

Child: I like spending time with my Grandma, because my Grandma always comes.

Child: Spending time with my family.

Uncle Chris: I remain unmoved!

Customer: Oh Uncle Chris you're being a right scrooge!!

Customer: You really are! what about putting out the carrot for Rudolph and the mince pies for Santa? You must like doing that!

Uncle Chris: That's a very big no from me! Don't even get me started on him!!

Gang: Do you mean FATHER CHRISTMAS??

Uncle Chris: That's exactly who I mean!!

Customer: What have you got against Father Christmas?

Customer: He's a lovely fella!

Uncle Chris: I don't like to talk about it if I'm honest. But I will tell you this much. He's the very reason I don't like Christmas – so bah- hum-bug!

Customer: Well you can't just leave it at that Uncle Chris! Come on adventures, convince Uncle Chris to spill the sprouts!

SFX Ding

Kids encouraging Uncle Chris

Uncle Chris: Ok, ok, ok I'll talk!

Sad piano music

Uncle Chris: Oh sadder than that...

Even Sadder music

Uncle Chris: It was the run up to Christmas in 19 mumble mumble and I was a wee slip of a child...

SFX the sound of children, excited, going to see Santa

All my friends' families had taken them to visit Santa already and I had to watch them coming away with a special gift for under the tree - jealous was an understatement.

I knew exactly what I was going to ask for you see, a hilarious festive joke book, so I could entertain everyone at the Christmas party!

SFX Christmas Party music and laughing (at the jokes)

I begged and asked and nagged for my parents to take me, but they were always so busy, and as we edged closer and closer to Christmas, I thought I'd never get to go...

Finally, on Christmas Eve, my mum rushed in from work and said 'get in the car – we're going!'

SFX car engine starting and driving off

The snow was coming down thick and fast and it was dark already but nothing was stopping us from getting to the garden centre to see Santa...

SFX car parks, engine off. Footsteps of child running (towards Santa).

I was so excited I ran to the doors of Santa's grotto, only to find it was too late...he was gone... he didn't wait for me. I looked up to the sky, mittens trailing in the snow, to see the light of Rudolph's nose twinkling in the distance.

And that, adventurers, was the day I lost my Christmas spirit...

Music ends

Gang: Oh Uncle Chris, that's sad etc. etc.

Customer: I'm sure he didn't mean anything by it...

Customer: ... and that shouldn't hold you back from all the other lovely things about Christmas time

Uncle Chris: It's not just that Jan, I'm no good at all that other stuff you and the adventurers mentioned either...my lack of Christmas spirit has left me without the ability to do anything Christmassy whatsoever.

So sorry Connie, sorry adventurers that's the end of that!

Customer: I'll tell you what, why don't we teach you some Christmas jokes instead Uncle Chris?

Customer: They should bring a bit of Christmas cheer to your cheeks!

Uncle Chris: No no no, I don't want to hear them, I hate Christmas jokes the most! Especially those that come in silly Christmas crackers...

Customer: Uncle Chris they are the best ones! Come on just one little joke...

Uncle Chris: (Sticks fingers in his ears) No way! La la la la I cant hear you...

Customer: It's just a joke Uncle Chris what's the matter with you? You love jokes!

Uncle Chris: I love OTHER kinds of jokes, Halloween jokes, silly jokes, Easter jokes, knock knock jokes...

Customer: (Interrupting) Yes alright! But why don't you just give them a try? For us...

Uncle Chris: Hmmmm if I have to...

Customer: What do you call an old snowman?
Water!

SFX Diddly bum tshhh

Uncle Chris: Nope

Customer: What goes 'Oh, oh, oh'?
Santa walking backwards!

SFX Diddly bum tshhh

Uncle Chris: Not funny

Customer: What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa?
A Christmas quacker!

SFX Diddly bum tshhh

Uncle Chris: Listen gang I appreciate the effort but it won't work!

Customer: Sounds like a job for you at home, come on adventurers, can you tell a joke to make Uncle Chris laugh?

SFX Ding

Child: What do elves learn at Christmas... the elf-abet!

Child: What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum... a meltdown!

Child: What is Santa's dog's name... Santa Paws!

Child: Knock knock...

Who's there?

Olive...

Olive who?

Olive the other reindeers, used to laugh and call him names!

Uncle Chris: Thanks for trying adventurers, but sorry no...can...do...it's a no no no from me!

Customer: Right Uncle Chris that's enough of this scrooging! Go and put the kettle on...

*SFX Uncle Chris walking away, hear a door opening and the tap running to fill the kettle,
Then*

the click of the kettle being put on and beginning to boil.

(To the other customers) Ok you lot lets come up with a plan!

SFX of gang whispering and coming up with a plans

Customer: Let's take him on a Christmas adventure to help him mend his ways!

Customer: Yes we can use a bit of draaaaamah! He loves that!

Customer: Why don't we text Connie too, get her to have a word, with 'you know who', while she's in Lapland...

Gang: Yes good idea, brilliant etc.

Customer: Who can use Whatsapp?

Customer: Whats what?

Customer: Whatsapp!

Customer: What?

Customer: Oh forget it!

SFX sound of tapping on a phone and message sent tone

Uncle Chris: What are you lot up to?

Gang: Nothing! Don't mind us! You just worry about the brews...etc.

SFX of lots of tea cups clinking on a tray

Uncle Chris: Right here we are...

Customer: Ok Uncle Chris, brace yourself...

Customer: Because we are going to take you on a special adventure...

Gang: ...to get your Christmas spirit back!

Music Armchair Adventure theme (festive version with a few jingle bells)

Customer: Wait for me I'm just finishing me brew!!!

Music fades out

Narrator: And with a jingle of a bell the gang arrive in the dreary very un-Christmassy Armchair Adventures HQ...

Customer: Oh Uncle Chris it's ever so bare in here!

Customer: And why haven't you put the radiators on, there's no need for that lump of coal business!

Uncle Chris: Well that was my way of getting into the Christmas spirit...bah humbug!

Customer: Oh this has got to stop! It's time to decorate this gaff!

SFX rummaging around some boxes

Customer: Well I've got the tree!

SFX rustle of a Christmas tree

Customer: And I've got the box of decs!

SFX jingle jangle/rustle of a box of Christmas decorations

Uncle Chris: I'm not sure if I can do this gang...

Customer: Of course you can! Summon up your drama Uncle Chris! We're going to dance our way through it!

Music disco style

Customer: Let's Disco dance this tinsel onto that tree, pick one up at the end and flick it up to the sky with a point!

Gang: Pick and flick, pick and flick, pick and flick!

Customer: Can you disco dance the tinsel adventurer! Make sure you pick and flick!

SFX Ding

Gang: Come on you disco divas! Yeah let's go! Pick and flick, pick and flick, pick and flick!

Customer: Come on Uncle Chris, get a pile of these Christmas cards we're going to line dance them across the mantelpiece!

Music country style

And you adventure line dance those cards all in a row...5, 6, 7, 8!

SFX Ding

Sounds of kids line dancing

Music fades out

Customer: And last but not least...

Customer: ...the Pierre de resistance!

Customer: Scoop up a handful of baubles and let's funky turkey them all over that tree!

Uncle Chris: Okaaay maybe I could lead this one...

Come on adventurer scoop up some baubles and let's... three, two ,
one...FUNKY TURKEY THEM!

Music pop style

SFX Ding

Sound of kids funky turkey bauble throwing

Customer: What dance move would you use to decorate the Christmas tree adventurer?

SFX Ding

Child: I'm gonna rainbow floss the star or the angel onto the top of the tree!

Child: The Irish dance!

Child: I'm doing the spin!

Child: I'd hike those baubles on that tree!

Child: I'm gonna wrap some tinsel round the tree, doing the train!

Music fades out

Customer: Wow, how nice does it look in here now!

Customer: Much more like it!

Uncle Chris: I guess so...

Customer: We know so! Don't be sitting down yet, it's time for our next round of festive fun!

Uncle Chris: I think that's more than enough for me thanks...

Customer: Come on Uncle Chris, it's a draaaaaamaahhh game....

Uncle Chris: (Cautiously) Ok tell me more...

Customer: Well, seeing as you don't like all the delicious Christmas food...

Customer: You've got two seconds to rename us a Christmas favourite!

Music like a countdown timer

Uncle Chris: Hang on I usually give you ten seconds in my games!

Customer: It's a bonus episode Uncle Chris, we haven't got all day!

Customer: So, we'll shout out a Christmas food and you've got two seconds to rename it!

Uncle Chris: I suppose I could give it a try...

Customer: On your marks, get set, GO!

Customer: Christmas pudding

Uncle Chris: Fruit-filled football cake

Customer: Sprouts

Uncle Chris: Easy, giant bogey balls

Customer: Pigs in blankets

Uncle Chris: Ah, fingers in plasters

Customer: Urgh they don't sound very appealing.

Customer: I'm sure you lot at home can do better than this! What new names for festive food can you come up with adventurers?

SFX Ding

Child: Broccoli could be mini little Christmas trees.

Child: Mash can be the white snow.

Child: Potatoes can be little roast bowling balls.

Music stops

Uncle Chris: Ok I'll admit it that was pretty funny...

Customer: So how's that Christmas spirit coming along Uncle Chris?

Uncle Chris: Hmmmm medium at best. Let's just forget it, I'm no good at all this...

Customer: Not on your nelly!

Customer: Final round!

Customer: It's time for a quiz show...

Gang: Guess the Gift!

Customer: Come on Uncle Chris get your quiz host character out!

Uncle Chris: Hmmm

Customer: You know you can't resist it...

Uncle Chris: (Reluctant run up into full-blown character) Cue theeee musiccccc!!

Music: quiz show theme (with sleigh bells)

Uncle Chris: Hello adventurers and welcome to an exciting round of 'guess the gift' where you have...

SFX record screech to end quiz music

Uncle Chris: Hang on I don't know the rules!

Customer: Oh don't worry it's easy! We'll show you a present and you have to think back to previous Armchair Adventure episodes and match it to one of us customers!

Music: quiz show theme again (with sleigh bells)

Customer: First up, we have an Ashton United Football Scarf!

Uncle Chris: There's only one person I know who'd wear one of those! It's got to be Ronnie, from the football adventure in series 1!

Gang: Corrrrect!

Ronnie: Ashton United!

SFX football crowd cheering and trumpets

Customer: Round 2...for our next gift, we have a super shiny gardening kit?

Uncle Chris: Hmm...who likes gardening? (muttering while thinking of different people)...
I know, Hazel from the compost adventure in series 2!

Gang: Corrrrect!

Hazel: I compost so that less waste gets sent to landfill, but also to provide a habitat
for a whole load of minibeasts.

Customer: And for the final gift...which customer would like this fancy-looking banjo?

Uncle Chris: Hmm....music, who likes music??! Keith, it's Keith from the festival
adventure!

Gang: That's right! Well done Uncle Chris! Nice job!

SFX opening a box

Keith: Look, here's my banjo!

SFX banjo playing

Customer: Oh no, not that blinking banjo again!

Keith: Still got it!

SFX closing a box

Music fades out

Customer: That Christmas spirit must be overflowing by now!

Customer: You've danced to decorate...

Customer: Completely rebranded Christmas food...

Customer: ...and you've shown what a great gift buyer you'll be by storming the guess the gift quiz!

Uncle Chris: I hear what you're saying, and I have enjoyed it all, and the Armchair Adventures HQ doesn't look half bad now! But I'm sorry gang I'm just not there...

Customer: How come Uncle Chris? You've come so far?

Uncle Chris: I guess nothing can melt the ice in my heart caused by that terrible Christmas Eve incident in 19 mumble mumble...

Customer: Right, come here let's get that kettle back on sharpish!

SFX Uncle Chris walking off, door opening, kettle on and beginning to boil

(To the gang whispered) Ok gang, let's get on to Connie see if she's had any luck!

SFX of someone tapping their phone

Customer: Has she messaged back?

Customer: She has!

Customer: Well what's she said!

Customer: Ok keep your hair on! She said, 'Santa is go! Just say when.'

Gang: NOW!!

Customer: Ok I've sent it, no need to shout!

SFX phone rings in HQ

Uncle Chris: I'll get it! Armchair Adventures Headquarters, dramaaaaaah practitioner, actor and workshop leader extraordinaire Uncle Chris speaking, how can I help?

SFX sleigh bells

Santa: Ho ho ho Uncle Chris, Santa here, I've heard you're having a little trouble with your Christmas spirit and it might have a little something to do with me...

Uncle Chris: Well, errm yes, I'm doing my best but I'm still sad about that Christmas Eve when you left before I could see you...

Santa: Do accept my apologies, Rudolph had a terrible cold in the year 19 mumble mumble and I was waiting for you to arrive and he let off an all-mighty sneeze and off we went into the sky! The present run started early that year let me tell you...

Uncle Chris: Oh wow, no wonder I could still see his nose in the distance ...

Santa: But Uncle Chris, didn't you get the gift that I left you? I managed to throw it off the sleigh as we blasted off into the night!

Uncle Chris: No I didn't get it, we left pretty much straight away because I was upset and in what my mum would call a turbo sulk.

Santa: Oh dear, well I'll get the elves right on it, check under your tree on Christmas day!

SFX sleigh bells

Uncle Chris: Wow, thanks Santa!

Santa: My pleasure! Merry Christmas! Ho, ho, ho!

Uncle Chris: Merry Christmas!

SFX putting the phone down

Customer: Hang on, did you just say Merry Christmas?

Customer: Who was that on the phone?

Customer: You'll never believe it gang, it was Father Christmas himself!!! How did he know?

Customer: That's the magic of Christmas!

Customer: Shhh don't tell him we had anything to do with it adventurers...

Uncle Chris: Right you lot thanks so much for helping me get my Christmas spirit back! The HQ looks lovely for Connie, and I'm feeling very festive! So festive in fact, I'm going to run home, get some giant bogey balls on the boil and sit tight until Christmas day!

I can't wait til I find out what I'm getting from Father Christmas – you'll be alright on the phones won't you gang! Merrrrrry Christmas!

Gang: Hang on! I can't stay here all week; I've not finished me Christmas shopping etc etc.

SFX Christmas bells and magical twinkling sounds

Narrator: So Uncle Chris was as good as his word. He left all the customers to look after the phones at Armchair Adventures HQ, and settled into all the things Christmas had to offer for the first time in years. Decorating his home,

catching up on years of advent calendar chocolate and sipping warm cocoa by a roaring fire. He was sure to leave out the mince pies and carrots for Santa as he eagerly awaited his Christmas gift...

SFX an alarm clock

Uncle Chris: It's Christmas morning!!! I hope Santa's been!

Sfx of Uncle Chris getting out of bed and heavy footsteps running down the stairs

Uncle Chris: Oh yes!!! There's his boot prints! He's been he's been! And what's this! A present for me!

SFX of festive music while Uncle Chris unwrapping a gift

Uncle Chris: My joke book! I can't believe it!! Ok here goes nothing, let's try some of these jokes out...

SFX of Uncle Chris flipping through pages of the book

Uncle Chris: Ahem... What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinsilitis

(mild laughter)...Ok good...let's try another....

What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?

A mistle-toad

(bit more laughter)... Oh that was a good one...hehehe

Might as well have another while I'm at it...

Knock knock....

SFX Ding

Uncle Chris: Snow

SFX Ding

Uncle Chris: Its snow good moaning you've only got one present!

Hahaha! Oh it might be one present but it's the best one I've had, (laughing)
oh I love it! Thanks everyone for helping me find my Christmas spirit!

Music: AA Theme (with jingle bells)

Uncle Chris: Until next time! I'm off to enjoy this joke book! Merry Christmas everyone!

Children: Merry Christmas!

Armchair Adventure Theme Song:

On an armchair adventure you can go anywhere you like,
On an armchair adventure imaginations fly.