

Armchair Adventures: An Interactive Story Podcast For Kids

A Christmas No1. Adventure!

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventures Theme (with sleigh bells)

Connie: Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings or Feliz Navidad wherever you're listening from adventurers! The voices of this episode's special guest Adventurers are...

Lexi
Jackson
Holly
Lola
Noah
Freddie
George
Alex

The adventurers all say their names

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Adventurers: Hi Connie!

Connie: So adventurers, I've got some really exciting news...A couple of weeks ago, we went down to London for the national production awards 2023. It was amazing, super glitz and glamour, there was even some celebrities there! Anyway, Armchair Adventures was nominated for the grassroots production award, and guess what....WE WON!! Thank you so much to all my lovely customers, and to all you adventurers for listening! We're national award winners!

You too can star in an episode of Armchair Adventures as one of our special guest adventurers. All you need to do is ask your grown up if you can join the Armchair Adventures fan club on Patreon. Simply head to patreon.com forward slash Armchair Adventures for more info!

SFX Jingle Bells (to underscore next dialogue)

Connie: Welcome to a festive bonus episode to get us in the mood for Christmas! Because we love music at Armchair Adventures, I thought what better way to get our festive groove on than making our very own Christmas single! What do you love about Christmas songs adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I love it when Santa's in it!

Adventurer: I love the jingle bells!

Adventurer: When they sing about presents!

Adventurer: When the singer goes, "it's CHRISSSTMASSSSS!!"

Connie: I totally agree Adventurers, there's nothing like a festive song to lift your Christmas spirits! So, Let's get all my customers on a group telephone chat and see what musical magic we can create, because with an Armchair Adventure, adventurers, we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Start. Call. Now.

SFX phone ring

Connie: Hello everyone!

All the customers say hello

Connie: So, gang, I've got a very important question...are you ready to be popstars!!?

Music: Funky pop/dance music

SFX cameras snapping

Customers: general curious hubbub about this

Music and SFX stop

Pat: What do you mean Connie!?

Connie: Well, I've been listening to all my fave Christmas songs and thought why don't we make our own?

The customers agree with Connie and start singing different Christmas songs

Hazel: Oh yes, I love all the ones from the 70's! they remind me of going to the discos!

Pat: Me too, we can be festive glam rockers together!

Ronnie: I love all the classics like Bing Crosby!

Anne: And don't forget the carols!

Connie: Can you sing your favourite Christmas song adventurers?

SFX Ding

The Adventurers sing some of their favourite songs

Connie: Well, it sounds like we are ready to record! Good job I've *already* booked us in at Blueprint studios in Manchester with our audio genius Ian *SFX flourish of cool audio* and musical maestro Andy! *SFX cool music flourish*

Ian records and produces music with loads of cool artists! He's amazing!

And Andy composes music, plays in bands and conducts orchestras, when it comes to music, you name it and he can do it!

I'm so excited gang; we're going to get the full studio experience! Even the popstar Rhianna has recorded there! You know, "you can stand under my umbrella ella ella..."

Customers: Wow! That's Amazing, if it's good enough for Rhianna its good enough for us! Etc.

Connie: Come on gang, let's jingle all the way on an adventure to Blueprint Studios in Manchester and record our Christmas Single! A journey of the imagination here we come!

Music: Armchair Adventures Theme (instrumental only, with sleigh bells)

SFX of musicians practising in a rehearsal room (in a different room)

Ian: Hi everyone! Welcome to Blueprint, my name's Ian...

Andy: And I'm Andy, it's great to meet you all!

Customers: Hi Ian! Hi Andy!

Cyril: What sort of thing do you do here Ian?

Ian: Well, I record all sorts of different things, from bands and singers to audiobooks and orchestras.

Customers: Fantastic! Wow that's amazing, Oooh! Were in safe hands then! Etc.

Ada: And I'm glad you're here to help us with our Christmas song too Andy.

Cyril: I'm a bit nervous! I've never recorded a song before.

The. Customers all agree with Cyril

Andy: Don't worry everyone, it's nothing we can't handle together!! No need to be nervous I promise.

Connie: Thanks Andy. I was feeling a little nervous myself! What do you think gang? How amazing is it in the studio!

Steve: It's so cool!

Keith: Look at that mixing desk!

SFX moving sliders, twisting knobs, pushing buttons

Cyril: And all the microphones! La la la la...

SFX of mic feedback and the 'la la la' as if come out of an amp

Lynda: And the sound booth.

John R: Oh look at all those pictures of famous singers...

Pat: Look at these huge headphones...

John O'G: There's even a lampshade like a guitar pick...

Hazel: What can you see at the recording studio adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Pianos...

Adventurer: I can see loads of sound proofing on the walls...

Adventurer: There are so many cool instruments everywhere...

Adventurer: A giant desk with loads of buttons...

Adventurer: I can hear music playing in the background...

Adventurer: It smells like hit records!

SFX of band from other room slowly fades out from here

Ian: I'm glad you like it, but I didn't think you were still coming? Didn't you get my message?

Connie: No, I didn't! I was so excited to get here I've not looked at my phone!

Ian: Oh well, there's a huge snow storm coming in within the next hour!

SFX dun dun dun

Customers: Oh no! What are we going to do! I've not even done me pressie shopping!

Ian: Don't worry everyone, we still have a good hour!

Andy: If you have your song ready to record, we can have you out of here and enjoying a hot chocolate at home before you know it.

Connie: Eeerrmm, confession time gang... I was so excited about the idea I never even got started thinking about the actual song itself.

Lilly: Oh no!

Ada: What are we going to do?

Hazel: How will we make up a whole song in an hour?

Keith: And record it!

Lynda: We do love music but it's a lot to think of on the spot.

Andy: Never fear, I have a super-duper song writing workshop, that's perfect for a situation like this!

SFX superhero fan fare

Customers: Oh brilliant! Thank goodness for that! Etc.

Connie: Thanks Andy, sounds very exciting!

Andy: Then let's get to it So, my first question is...what ingredients do all songs have?

Connie: Errrm I can't think now, you've put me on the spot...gang?

Steve: Oh, the pressures really on now!

Kenny: My minds gone blank.

Customers: Nor me? Errrm, ohh that's a tricky one!

Cyril: Sounds like a job for the adventurers.

Ronnie: Good idea Cyril.

Pat: What ingredients make up a song adventurer?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: A catchy beat...

SFX drum beat

Adventurer: A melody...

SFX a little tune

Adventurer: Instruments...

SFX of a few instruments playing together

Adventurer: Don't forget lyrics!

SFX writing on paper

Lynda: Oh thanks Adventurers! You saved our bacon there!

Andy: And you just mentioned the perfect place to start, lyrics!

Keith: Of course, every song needs lyrics.

Anne: So, what do we do?

Andy: I'm glad you asked Anne. The first thing we need to do is create a word bank!

Steve: Oooh what's that?

Ronnie: Can we use it to buy our presents!?

Andy: Haha not quite Ronnie! We think of loads of words as a starting point to inspire us! And that becomes our bank. And because your song is about Christmas, we just need to think of loads of words that make us think of the festive season!

Hazel: Ooh like snow!

Pat: Presents!

Kenny: Fun!

Cyril: Time- like time spent together!

Lynda: Together that's good too, Cyril!

Andy: That's it gang!

Connie: I can feel my imagination firing up now! What words make you think about Christmas adventurer?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Lights...

Adventurer: Trees...

Adventurer: Magic...

Adventurer: Laughter...

Adventurer: Everyone...

Adventurer: Presents...

Adventurer: Santa!

Andy: Great start adventurers! Now I want you to think of some words for how we feel at Christmas time!

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Excited...

Adventurer: Cosy...

Adventurer: Happy...

Adventurer: Love...

Adventurer: Joy.

Connie: Brilliant! This bank is really starting to fill up now. What do we do next Andy?

Andy: Well now we have to create a sentence from words in the bank. It's also good if we can make part of it rhyme too.

Hazel: How about we start by describing what we're singing about? Christmas time...

Connie: Good idea! So, starting with something like 'It's Christmas time...'

Cyril: And a greeting would be good next...

Connie: So 'Merry Christmas everyone?'

Cyril: Perfect!

Lynda: How about using some of the words the adventurers said next! 'A time for laughter and for fun!'

Andy: Wow with lyrics like these it really feels like Christmas has begun!

Connie: Andy you genius! That is an amazing rhyme to finish the sentence!

Andy: Go on then Connie, put it all together...

Connie: It's Christmas time, so merry Christmas everyone, a time for laughter and for fun, Christmas has begun.

The customers all like the sound of that

Ada: What a great start!

Ian: I don't mean to rush you gang but the snows already started to fall outside, look out of this window...

SFX Window creak followed by light snow storm sounds

Cyril: Oh dear, that snow's not messing about!

Hazel: Some of those snowflakes are as big as my head!

Connie: Try not to worry gang, we're on a roll now. I'm sure we will have the song done in no time.

Pat: Yes, you're right Connie, let's plough on.

Customers: General agreements: We can do this! Let's beat the snow! Hope we don't end up needing a plough! Etc!

John O'G: So, Andy what's next?

Andy: Well, now we need a catchy melody.

Keith: Who's 'Melody?' And what's she got to do with it?

Anne: It's a not a person Keith, he means the tune!

Andy: That's right; the melody is something that makes us want to sing along.

Connie: Sounds good! So, how do we do it maestro?

Andy: Ok, I'm going to play some chords like this:

SFX Andy plays the chords to the chorus of the song slowly

SFX Andy playing the chords then softer to underscore the next few sentences

And I want you to try and sing a rhythm out loud using our sentence.
Let's start with 'it's Christmas time'

Cyril: How about (in the rhythm) It's Christmas time...

Connie: Ooh yeah I like it!

Keith: I think I've got the next bit, how about (in the rhythm) so merry
Christmas everyone

Andy: Great stuff! How about you adventurers? Can you think of a rhythm to
go with 'a time for laughter and for fun?'

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Yeah how about: (in the rhythm), 'a time for laughter and for fun?'

Connie: Amazing! And how about this for the end, 'Christmas has begun'

Andy: Brilliant! Now we need to add some pitches to those rhythms! Pitch is
how high or low the sound is. This is a low pitch sound.

SFX low pitch note

And this is a high pitch sound:

SFX High pitch note

Let's play a game to help you identify the pitch. When you hear me
play a high note, I want you to wave your arms in the air like you just
don't care. And when I play a low note, I want you to wave to the
ground as low as you can...

Connie: Right let's do this, are you ready to get pitchy gang?!

Customers: Too right! Pitch this! Wooo hoo! Etc.

Connie: You too adventtues! Arms high for high pitch, arms low for low pitch!

SFX Ding

SFX Andy plays a high pitch

Adventurer: Wave your arms to the sky!

SFX Andy plays a low pitch

Adventurer: Put your arms down!

SFX Andy plays a high pitch (x2)

Adventurer: Don't miss the pitch-

SFX Andy plays a high and low pitches quickly

Adventurer: Arghhh, he's going too fast!

Connie: Ha, that was so much fun!

Andy: Now, Let's try adding some pitches to the rhythm of the sentences we created, why don't you have a go Connie?

Connie: Ok here goes nothing...

SFX mic feedback

Connie: (*Singing into the mic*) 'It's Christmas time, so merry Christmas everyone!'

Andy: Sounding great!

Lynda: Oh yeah! How about this next: (*singing into the mic*) 'A time for laughter and for fun!'

Cyril: I've got the ending! (*Singing into the mic*) 'Yeahhh Christmas has begun!'

Andy: I love that, 'yeah' you added Cyril, sounding like a rock star!

Cyril: Ah thanks Andy, I always knew I was rock and roll!

SFX Rock and roll electric guitar riff

Andy: OK everyone let's put that all together! 1, 2, 3 go

SFX Andy playing the song and the gang singing along

Customers: (*Singing*)

'It's Christmas time
Merry Christmas everyone
A time for laughter and for fun
Yeah, Christmas has begun'

Connie: You too adventurers, join in at home as we sing it again...

SFX Ding

SFX Andy playing again

Adventurers: 'It's Christmas time
Merry Christmas everyone
A time for laughter and for fun
Yeah, Christmas has begun'

Connie: This is so cool, what do we need next everyone?

Keith: I'd say we need to make a band.

Pat: Great idea Keith, let's use loads of instruments to make the track sound exciting!

Hazel: Oh yes! What instruments will you play everyone?

The customers are deciding what to play

SFX of lots of different instruments

Promo swap

Connie: While everyone's figuring out what instruments they want to play in the band let's pause our journey of the imagination. There's something I'd like you to listen to. It's another podcast I think you'd enjoy...

Connie: Welcome back Adventurers let's get back to the studio and see what everyone's playing!

Promo swap ends

Lynda: I've always fancied the harp!

SFX Harp pluck

Ada: I love the strings family – I'll be on the cello!

SFX Cello

Kenny: I'll join you on the double bass!

SFX Double bass

Ronnie: Don't forget me on the violin

SFX Violin

Steve: And check out me and the brass gang! I'm on tuba, Linda's got the bugle, Anne on trombone and Lilly with the trumpet! Hit it brass bunch!

SFX A blast of brass instruments

Pat: It's the triangle for me!

SFX Triangle

John R: And you've got the two Johns on keys!

John OG: (*Like a club announcement*) It's time for Ready and O'Grady

John R: The piano men!

SFX Piano

Keith: It's guitar for me, let's rock!

SFX guitar riff

Hazel: And don't forget my big drum!

SFX Comedy big drum

Cyril: And I'll be the star on top of the tree, the icing on the cake the ultimate Christmas instrument...sleigh bells!!!

SFX Sleigh bells

Customers: Woooohoo!! We are sounding so festive! Etc.

Connie: What instrument would you play in the band Adventurer?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I'm on guitar...

SFX acoustic guitar

Adventurer: Drums for me...

SFX drum kit

Adventurer: I'm a pro on the recorder...

SFX recorder tune

Adventurer: I'll do steel pans!

SFX steel pans

Andy: Well it looks like we have ourselves a band!

Connie: Oh yeah! 'The Armchair Adventures Christmas Crackers!!'

SFX A short blast of a band.

Andy: Well now we have a band, a perfect way to get the rest of the song is a Jam session.

Cyril: I bagsy raspberry!

Andy: Not that kind of jam I'm afraid Cyril, a jam session is a band coming together and trying things out.

Cyril: Ooohhh gotcha!

Andy: Let's play around with what we have so far and see what we come up with for the rest of the song...

SFX Band playing

SFX Ian dramatically bursting through the door

Ian: (urgent shouting) STOP THE MUSIC EVERYONE!

Customers: (shocked by Ian) ARRRGHHH

SFX crashing sounds of everyone dropping their instruments, comedy missed notes, a trumpet blast, a bum note on a string and then a tinkle of a triangle hitting the floor to finish for comic effect!

Connie: Oh no Ian what's wrong!

Ian: Sorry to interrupt but the snow has really picked up outside, look!

SFX door opening

SFX huge snowstorm

Pat: Oh no, It's going to be bad soon!

Keith: I don't know about soon...

Hazel: It already looks pretty bad to me!

Lynda: We definitely won't be driving home for Christmas that's for sure.

SFX door slam

Connie: Try not to worry everyone, I think we're ready to record.

Kenny: We have the lyrics...

Ronnie: The melody...

Ada: Complete with pitch...

Keith: The band...

Hazel: The song is pretty much ready after the jam session...

John R: But it feels like there is something missing...

Connie: Maybe we should ask the special guest adventurers?

Customers: THAT'S IT! SOME ADVENTUERERS!

Connie: You're right! We need some adventurers here at the studio to perform on the single with us!

Steve: It won't sound the same without their voices in it...

Ada: No Christmas hit is complete without a choir!

Lynda: And the adventurers would be perfect!

The customers all agree

Lynda: But how will we get them here?

Pat: I think it's time we faced facts gang...

Steve: Look!

SFX door opening

SFX even bigger snow storm

Customers: WERE SNOWED IN! ARRRRGHHHH

SFX dun dun dun!

Connie: Oh no, I'm so sorry everyone! How would we even get the adventurers here now?

Lilly: How will we get home?

Customers: *Worried hubbub*

Pat: (*coming in over the worries*) Hang on a minute, I've got an idea...Ronnie have you still got Santa's number?

Steve: From when we met him with Connie's Uncle Chris?

Ada: And helped him get his Christmas spirit back in season 3...

Ronnie: Of course I have! Me and Santa are besties!

John OG: Amazing!

Pat: Why don't you give him a ring? He could pick up the adventurers in his sleigh...

Lynda: Bring them here...

Ada: And then we could finish our Christmas single...

Hazel And he can take us all home afterwards...

Cyril: A snowstorm's no match for Santa and his reindeer!

Connie: Great idea gang! Go on Ronnie, give him a call!

SFX ringtone

Ronnie: Hello Santa mate!

Santa: Ronnie, good to hear from you!

Ronnie: How's things? Have you been watching the footie?

Santa: Ho ho ho, have I! Lapland FC are not doing so well though...

Ronnie: How come?

Santa: The snow men don't pass!

Ronnie/Santa: Hahahaa

Connie: Errrm do you mind if I talk to him Ronnie? Thanks! Santa, we're stuck in a recording studio making our Christmas single because of this snowstorm!

Santa: Oh no!

Connie: And we were wondering if you could help us finish it by bringing the Adventurers here on your sleigh? And then maybe, if it's not too much trouble, you could take us all home on it too?

Santa: Absolutely Connie! It will be a good practice for Christmas eve, really shake off the snowflakes!

Customers: Cheering! Oh thank you so much! Etc!

Santa: Are you ready for a sleigh ride Adventurers!

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Oh yeh!

Adventurer: I thought you'd never ask!

Adventurer: I can't wait to meet Rudolph!

Adventurer: I've always wanted to go on a sleigh!

Adventurer: Can't wait!

Santa: Then I'm on my way! Ho, ho, ho, let's gooooooo!

SFX phone hanging up

SFX whoosh of sleigh

Keith: Hmm so how long do you think it will take?

Anne: How fast is a sleigh?

Linda: What's the miles per hour on a reindeer?

SFX Sleigh bells in the distance, getting louder

Connie: Cyril is that you practicing the sleigh bells?

Cyril: No?

SFX Sleigh bells, louder again

Connie: But I can hear...wait if it's not you, then I think he's here already!

Hazel: Wow that is fast!

SFX Door kicked open.

Santa: Ho ho ho! Did someone order some adventurers?

Ada: It's a Christmas miracle!

Connie: Wow! Thanks for your help Santa! Hi Adventurers, It's so great to see you! How was the sleigh ride here?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: It was amazing!

Adventurer: I saw all our houses...

Adventurer: It was so fast, my hat blew off!

Adventurer: We caught loads of snowflakes!

Adventurer: Santa was really blasting the tunes!

Adventurer: I waved to me nan, Hiya nan!

Adventurer: I saw my cat running on the top of the houses!

Adventurer: It was so fast, I loved it!

Connie: Wow how exciting! I can't wait to try it out later! And you're just in time to make our Christmas single with us adventurers!

Adventurers: Woohoo!

Connie: Right gang, right adventurers, let's get in the studio and record this funky festive track!

Customers: Woohoo! Amazing! Cheering etc.

Adventurer: Hold on Connie...

Adventurer: Seeing as Santa brought us all the way here...

Adventurer: Do you think it would be ok for him to be on the single too?

Connie: Great idea! Wow, yes of course! Santa would you do us the honour of being on our Christmas record?

Santa: Oh me? Oh Connie, so generous of you! But I'm not sure what I can contribute...

Adventurer: Why don't you do a rap Santa!

Adventurer: Yeah!!!

Adventurer: You were spitting some amazing bars when you picked us up in the sleigh!

Adventurer: Even the reindeers got into the groove!

Connie: Wow Santa you can rap!

Santa: (*Bashful*) Well, yes believe it or not! Just a little hobby you know. Me and the reindeers do love a good rap...

Ronnie: Must be all that wrapping practice you do over Christmas!

SFX joke drums (ba dum ch)

Kenny: Eh? I don't get it?

SFX Tumble weed

Ronnie: It's a joke? Rap? Wrapping paper? Get it?

SFX Tumble Weed louder

Kenny: Not really.

Ronnie: Oh, forget it!

Connie: Ok Ian, I think we are ready to take it to the studio!

Ian: That's great Connie, ready when you are!

Connie: Come on then 'The Armchair Adventures Christmas Crackers!' Let's make some music!

Andy: Count us in Ian!

Ian: Ok everyone ready, one, a two, a one, two, three, four!

Music: 'It's Christmas Time!'

Customers: Woohoo! I love it! Great job everyone! It makes me feel so festive!

Etc.

Adventurer: Woohoo!

Adventurer: I love it!

Adventurer: Great job everyone!

Adventurer: It makes me feel so festive!

Adventurer: We're gonna be superstars!

Connie: And you weren't kidding about your rapping skills Santa!

Santa: Why thank you Connie! Now, before I take you all home, who's up for a snowball fight!!!

Customers/Ian/Andy: Oh definitely! Let's go! I was born to snow fight! Etc.

Adventurer: Oh yes!

Adventurer: I love a snowball fight!

Adventurer: Look out Rudolph!

SFX Snowball fight and general Christmas merriment

Connie: That's all we have time for today adventurers. Thanks so much for helping us create our Christmas single! And now it's time to say goodbye to our journey of the imagination and get back to reality. Merry Christmas everyone!

Byes from the ensemble

Connie: End. Call. Now.

SFX Phone down.

Connie: Lovely.

Music: Armchair Adventure's theme (with sleigh bells)

Ian: Armchair Adventures is a Made By Mortals production. Thank you for listening.