

Armchair Adventures

Now That's What I Call An Uncle Chris Christmas!

Intro

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

Music: Armchair Adventure Theme

Connie: G'day, afternoon or bonne nuit wherever you're listening from adventurers! The voices of today's join in at home adventurers are...

Adventurers all say their names

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Adventurers: Hi Connie!

Scene 1

SFX Jingle Bells

Connie: Merry Christmas! We can say that now, because the season is upon us! The goose has got fat...

SFX goose honking

Connie: ...and the frost is on the ground...

SFX ice cracking

Connie: ...At least it is where I am. There's only a few more sleeps until the big day, yay! It really is the most wonderful time of the year. My absolute favourite! Being all cosy and all the twinkling lights and eating chocolate every day! Or is that just me? You must all love Christmas, though. Go on, who's with me?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I love Christmas, me!

Adventurer: I do, I do!

Adventurer: Me me me!

Adventurer: I love it!

Connie: What do you love most about Christmas, adventurers?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Mince pies!

Adventurer: I love the school holidays.

Adventurer: The presents.

Adventurer: I love snowball fights.

Connie: Yeah! Let's have a snowball fight, adventurers! Hit me with your best shot!

SFX Ding

SFX Snowball fighting

Adventurers: SNOW BALL FIGHT!

Adventurer: Take that!

Adventurer: Argh, it's so cold.

Adventurer: Duck!

Adventurer: Eat snow!

Adventurer: I love Christmas dinner.

Connie: Aww, amazing! I can almost taste Christmas dinner, now. I love it!
BUT... you won't believe this, adventurers. Our oven at home is broken.

SFX dun dun dun

Connie: Dad's saying there'll be no turkey for us.

SFX comedy goose honking

Connie: But I won't be defeated! I have a plan, adventurer!! I'm going to ask Uncle Chris if he'll have me, my Mum and Dad over for Christmas day! I know, I know, he's not a Christmas fan, but hopefully I can twist his arm!

SFX Phone ringing

Connie: Helloo! Uncle Chris?

UC: Hi Connie, how are you?

Connie: I'm not bad, but I could be better. You'll never guess what?

UC: What?

Connie: Our oven's broken!

UC: Oh no!

Connie: I know! Terrible timing! Anyway, I was thinking, (*spoken really quickly*) why don't we come to your house on Christmas day, it'd be so much fun to have Christmas together and I can help you cook the turkey, it's not that big a deal really, you don't have to go to any fuss. What do you think?

UC: Do I get a choice?

Connie: Thaaanks!! Anyway, I'd better go. I'll tell Mum and Dad the good news. Bye!!

UC: (*Sighs*) Bye then!

SFX Phone down

UC: Right, adventurers. It looks like I'm hosting Christmas for the family! I don't even know what I'm going to need to do that! But since I'm doing it, I might as well do it properly. This is going to be the best Christmas EVER!

Let's get our local community theatre company on a group telephone chat. They did the panto adventure last Christmas, they are experts at everything Christmassy! Because with an Armchair Adventure, 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 rings

The theatre company all say hello

SFX background Christmas music

Chris: Ho ho ho!

UC: You all sound very festive!

Julia: Oh yes, I love Christmas!

Dan: I started early, Uncle Chris. I've already worked my way through Elf, White Christmas and Miracle on 34th Street.

UC: What are they?

Danny: You don't know what they are?

Chris: Where've you been, Uncle Chris? Under a rock?

John: Bah humbug!

Dan: They're Christmas films!

UC: See, this is what I don't know. What do people do at Christmas? My Christmas day usually involves a toastie and the boxset of Countdown.

Chris: Booring!

Katie: That makes me a bit sad, Uncle Chris.

UC: Oh, don't pity me, that's how I want it! But since Connie and her folks are coming to my house, I'd better know a bit more about what they'll expect.

John: Well, you're going to need a turkey for starters.

UC: For starters? Then what do we have for mains?!

John: No! I mean that's top of your shopping list.

UC: Oh right.

Mike: And you'll need sprouts.

Gill: Yes, and roast potatoes.

Danny: Parsnips!

Julia: Stuffing!

Louise: Christmas pudding.

Dan: Cranberry sauce.

Nicola: Mmmmm.

UC: Wait, wait, wait!! Right ok, hold up. There's only one way we should be talking about Christmas day must-haves... and that's as a Totally Tinselly Top Ten!

Gang: Woohoo! Can't wait. Yeah, love it!

UC: It's time to go the TV Studio, festive funmakers! A journey of the imagination here we come... we're going to record an episode of Top of the Christmas Pops!

Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune

Scene 2

SFX general hubbub of TV studio

UC: Here we are adventurers, back at the TV studio!

SFX Clapper board snapping shut

Ann: With the clapperboard...

SFX Lights sizzling

Katie: Lights

Julia: Stage.

Chris: Make-up artists.

Mike: Mic-rophones.

UC: Nice one, Mike. You remembered the mic!

Paul: And all of the crew!

UC: Adventurers, you can have a go at directing. Go for it!

SFX Ding

Adventurers: Lights, cameras, action!

UC: Ok.

Music: Showbiz style

UC: Welcome Christmas comrades to another magical and marvellous 'join in at home' episode of Top of the Christmas Pops! In today's show, we count down the top ten of what we need to make the best ever Christmas day!!! Starting at number ten.

Danny: Me, me, me, me, me!

UC: Go on then, Danny. What've you got for us?

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Danny: At number ten. What you need for the best Christmas on planet earth is... Christmas cracker jokes!

Music fades out

SFX Christmas crackers being pulled and snapping!

UC: Oh great, I love a good belly laugh! What are some of your best jokes?

Dan: I wouldn't say they're the best, but the best ones are the rubbish ones!

UC: Go on then!

Dan: Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

UC: I don't know, who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

Dan: A mince spy.

SFX drum kit – b-dum tsh!

Everybody laughing

Gill: I've got one for you! What do snowmen have for breakfast?

UC: I don't know. What do snowmen have for breakfast?

Gill: Snowflakes!

SFX drum kit – b-dum tsh!

Everybody laughing

UC: Very good!

Chris: What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

UC: I don't know!

Chris: Tinsellitius!

SFX drum kit – b-dum tsh!

Everybody laughing

UC: Hee hee hee!! Adventurers, what are your best worst Christmas cracker jokes?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: What happens to elves when they're naughty? Santa gives them the sack!

Adventurer: Why couldn't the skeleton go to the Christmas party? He had no body to go with.

Adventurer: What athlete is warmest during winter? A long jumper!

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

SFX drum kit – b-dum tsh!

Everybody laughing

UC: They're great! Ha ha ha.

Nicola: I like the bits and bobs you get inside the cracker.

Katie: The crown!

Ann: And the tiny gift.

John: I like the bang when you pull a cracker!

Gill: I had a cracker once that didn't bang!

All: Ahhhh.

Danny: That's disappointing.

Gill: I know.

Chris: I had one once and it wasn't a normal bang. They must've filled it with a firework instead!

SFX Firework goes off

Gill: That didn't happen, Chris!

Chris: It did!

Gill: What happened then?

Chris: The Christmas party went off with a bang!

SFX drum kit – b-dum tsh!

Music: Showbiz theme

UC: Very good! Ok, on with our countdown... Next up, at number nine, it's...

Gary: Me!

UC: Ok, Gary. With?

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Gary: For the tastiest, tinselliest Christmas, Uncle Chris. You need Brussel sprouts!

Music fades out

Paul: A lot of people don't like sprouts.

UC: Hands up if you like them, adventurers!

SFX Ding

UC: I'd say that's about half of you like them and half of you hate them!

John: They smell like cabbage!

Habib: They're nice with salad!

Gill: How many sprouts can you eat, adventurers?

SFX Ding
SFX eating sounds

Adventurer: I try not to eat any, but I will if I have to!

Adventurer: A hundred, easy!

Adventurer: Zero, ewwww!

Adventurer: I love sprouts, me!

Adventurer: Two thousand.

SFX eating sounds stop

Katie: I can eat 3.

Dan: I have 4.

Gary: I'll have 25!

UC: 25, Gary?! There wouldn't be any room on your plate for very much else!

Gary: They're delicious and nutritious!

Chris: They give you a gassy bum! I bet your gassy bum lasts for ages!

Louise: All the way through the King's speech!

Chris: Let's cook up some sprouts and have a gassy bum competition!

UC: Really?!

Dennis: Oh no!!

SFX boiling water in a pan

Chris: Here's your sprouts, everybody. Gary can eat 25, so you've all got 30 each on your plates.

UC: You can join in too, adventurers. Ready to eat up all of your sprouts?

SFX Ding

Chris: Ready, set, go!!

SFX whistle

SFX stadium crowd sounds

SFX cutlery and eating hurriedly with a background vibe of galloping horses

UC: *(Commenting like a racing commentator)* And it's a strong start for Katie who's already two down. Hmm. She doesn't look too keen on eating anymore, though. Dan is going steady. Cutting each sprout up and chewing each bite mindfully. Oh, and what's this? Leading the field at an insatiable rate is Gary. 24 down, will he stop at 25, or will he break his own sprout-eating record? He's going for it, adventurers! With 30 brussel sprouts, Gary is the winner! Well done, Gary!

SFX stadium crowd cheer

Gang: Cheers and whoops

Gary: Thanks, Uncle Chris.

UC: How did you do, adventurer?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Oh, it made me feel sick!

Adventurer: I won't need my dinner now.

Adventurer: I can't believe I ate two thousand.

UC: That's a strong sprout game, gang!

SFX stomach gurgling sounds

Gary: Oww. I think the sprouts are fighting back, Uncle Chris...

SFX whoopee cushion beginning to release, cut abruptly short with:

UC: And that's enough of that! We'll come back to see how you're doing in a bit, Gary.

This feels like a good place to pause our journey of the imagination, as there's something I'd like you to listen to. It's another podcast I think you'd enjoy....

PROMO SWAP AD PLAYS

Scene 3

Music: Showbiz Theme

UC: Next up at number eight, it's...

Gill: Me!

UC: Go on, Gill.

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Gill: Number eight is decorating the tree! I love it!

Music fades out

UC: I do like twinkly lights, to be fair. So, I just find a tree and put some lights on it?

Gill: Well, there's a bit more to it than that.

Paul: First you need to find the right tree.

Chris: And then you need to decorate it.

Nicola: If you can find your decorations. I was once in the loft for 2 days looking for mine!

SFX rummaging in the loft

Dan: My family insist on hanging the decorations I once made at school years ago!

Danny: And then last of all... you need a star to put on the top!

Julia: Or a fairy!

Gill: That'll be the easy part for you, Uncle Chris.

Louise: You're so tall you can reach the top of the tree no bother!

Anne: I once fell into the tree when I tried to put the fairy on top!

SFX falling into the tree

Habib: Ouch!

UC: Ok, I get it! Alright then, adventurers. Are you ready for the lights switch on? 3, 2, 1...

SFX Ding

SFX lights twinkling

Group: Sounds of wonder and awe!

UC: Wow! That really does look magical! What's next?

Music: Showbiz Theme

UC: Number seven.

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Habib: At number seven of the Christmas countdown... For the jolliest day, don't forget your Christmas jumpers!

UC: Ok, Habib. And is the aim to wear the worst Christmas jumper you can find?

Habib: That's what's fun about it!

UC: Ok adventurers, what's on your Christmas jumper?

Music fades out

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Mine's got Rudolph on it!

Adventurer: Spongebob Squarepants!

Adventurer: Mine's got real tinsel.

Adventurer: Mine has Spiderman in a Christmas hat!

Adventurer: Mine's got twinkling stars.

UC: What's yours like, Habib?

Habib: Mine has black and white stripes with Rudolph in the snow. When I press Rudolph's big red nose it sings Rudolph the red nose reindeer!

Gang: Had a very shiny nose!

Gill: Mine has a dog on the front and when you press his nose it barks Jingle Bells!

Katie: Katie woofing the tune

UC: I see. Sounds like musical jumpers are the way to go!

Julia: Or light up ones! Mine is covered in fairy lights!

UC: Brilliant! I'll add that to my shopping list.

Music: Showbiz Theme

Back to the Top Ten. In at Number Six...

Katie: Me!

UC: What've you got, Katie?

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Katie: To have the best Christmas ever, on Christmas Eve you have to leave a mince pie out for Father Christmas

Music fades out

Louise: And a carrot for Rudolph.

UC: Are they coming for supper at my house?

Katie: They've got a really long night. They need the energy!

UC: Ok!

Katie: When I was little, we didn't have a chimney, so I was really worried he'd have no way to come in.

UC: Did he manage it?

Katie: Course he did. Father Christmas always finds a way!

Chris: One Christmas I got a red BMX bike. And when I looked closely, there was a bit of white fur from Santa's coat attached to the wheel!

UC: Wow! Have any of you adventurers ever seen or heard Father Christmas or Rudolph? Do they always eat your Christmas Eve snacks?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I heard the rustling of presents as Father Christmas put them under the tree!

Adventurer: One year my big sister baked some mince pies specially and we left one out. When we came downstairs the next morning, Father Christmas had gone into the tin and finished them all!

Adventurer: I could hear the reindeers' hooves on the roof.

Adventurer: We left out some biscuits one year and I could hear him crunching them...

Adventurer: ...And slurping the sherry!

Adventurer: Then he did a massive burp!

SFX burp

UC: Speaking of burps and wind in general. Let's see how Gary's getting on. You ok, Gary?

SFX bottom burp

Gary: I'm ok, Uncle Chris!

UC: Still going, I hear!

Music: Showbiz Theme

UC: Quickly moving on, we're halfway through the charts at number five.

All: *(Singing)* Five gold rings!!!

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Chris: At number 5, for the most fun and festive day, you need... visits from your family!

Music fades out

UC: Well, I know all about that!

Chris: It's fun to see your family. My Auntie Jean used to stay at our house every Christmas and it was great to see her... but she took ages to get ready and I wasn't allowed to open my presents until Auntie Jean was ready!

UC: Ha. I suppose everybody might be on a different schedule. I like to sleep in when it's the holidays.

Mike: Not on Christmas day, Uncle Chris!

Anne: Everyone will be too excited to tear open their Christmas presents!

Paul: You'll have to set an alarm!

SFX alarm clock going off.

UC: Hmph. I suppose it's only for one day. Adventurers, what happens at your house when your family visits?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Well we have a snowball fight and we open lots and lots of presents under the tree.

Adventurer: We play boardgames – I always win.

Adventurer: My Gran makes us watch the King's speech. Boring!

Adventurer: My Auntie spoils us when she visits!

Adventurer: We have to take it in turns opening our presents. There are so many of us, I have to wait ages!

Music: Showbiz Theme

Julia: That brings me to number four, Uncle Chris!

UC: What's that, Julia?

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Julia: What else I like about Christmas is, you have to exchange presents!

Music fades out

UC: No problem! I'll order them all on Christmas Eve and they'll arrive in tidy brown boxes on Christmas day!

SFX doorbell

Danny: You can't do that, Uncle Chris!

Dan: And anyway, the delivery drivers get that day off, as well, you know?!

Katie: And you have to wrap them all up nice, Uncle Chris.

Louise: Not just keep them in the brown boxes they're delivered in!

Nicola: You need ribbons and bows. I'll show you. Stand still, Gill.

SFX Sellotape being pulled from the roll

UC: Ok. Right, well there's a garage near me that's open late on Christmas Eve. I'll get the pressies from there.

Julia: I have magical memories of gifts I've been given for Christmas!

UC: Do you? What like?

Julia: A Paddington Bear. To handle with care.

Mike: When I was 8 years old, I woke up on Christmas morning to two big sacks full of amazing presents!

John: It's not just about the presents you receive. It's those you give as well. I bought my dad a book about the history of where we lived then. He thought it was really thoughtful!

UC: Thanks John!

Julia: It's the nice things you do for people, too. It's not all about what you buy!

Scene 4

Nicola: Uncle Chris, have a look! What do you think of my wrapping?

SFX someone wrapped from head to toe in wrapping paper walking

UC: Wow, Nicola! You've wrapped Gill up like a present. I have to say, it's very neat work!

Nicola: Thanks very much!

UC: Adventurers, let's do some speed wrapping. Don't forget a ribbon and a bow!

SFX Ding

SFX Sellotape and paper folding and cutting at speed

Adventurer: Pass the scissors!

Adventurer: I need more tape.

Adventurer: I'm running out of paper!

UC: Lovely! Ok, we're into the top three now!

Music: Showbiz Theme

UC: What's at number three?

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Dan: At number three, the most magical way to spend Christmas Day is sitting down all together to watch a Christmas film!

Music fades out

UC: Oh yeah, that's where this all started. What's your favourite Christmas film, adventurer?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I love The Snowman.

Adventurer: Elf!

Adventurer: Muppet's Christmas Carol.

Adventurer: Home Alone!

Dan: They're all some of my favourites, too. Along with The Grinch, Jack Frost, Santa Claus The Movie, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation... I love films!

Music: Showbiz Theme

UC: I like the idea of sitting down and giving my feet a rest! Excellent. Ok, we're getting there. These ingredients are coming together. What's in the top two?

Paul: I've got it!

UC: What've you got, Paul?

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Paul: At number two, what the best Christmas day EVER can't be without, is... Christmas Dinner!

Music fades out

All: Mmmm.

Katie: Delicious!

UC: Thank goodness it's not just a whole plate of sprouts! Ok, so you started a shopping list earlier. You said turkey, roast spuds, parsnips, stuffing, Christmas pudding –

Danny: Yeah, don't eat that with your dinner though. Eww! That's for afterwards.

UC: Noted. Cranberry sauce. What else?

Mike: Gravy. A must-have.

Julia: Red cabbage.

John: Pigs in blankets.

UC: Pardon?

John: You need to try them, Uncle Chris!

Nicola: More roasties, just to make sure.

SFX stomach rumbling

UC: This does sound delicious!! My tummy's rumbling now. Adventurers!
What else must your Christmas dinner not be without?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Cauliflower cheese.

Adventurer: Ketchup.

Adventurer: Mashed potatoes.

Adventurer: Loads of roast chicken!

UC: Now my tastebuds are really tingling. It must be time for number one.

SFX bottom burp coming to an end...

Gary: I'm back, Uncle Chris!

UC: Good to see you, Gary!

Gary: That's the last time I'll be eating 30 sprouts all in one go. I think I need a little lie down!

Scene 5

Music: Showbiz Theme

UC: We're at number one now, Gary. And the suspense is too much for me.
Let's recap what we've got so far...

Danny: At Number Ten, it's Christmas Cracker Jokes!

Gary: Brussel sprouts at number nine. (*Sigh*)

Gill: Number eight is decorating the tree. The tree, not me, Nicola!

Habib: Seven is Christmas jumpers.

Katie: Six is putting out the mince pie and carrot for Santa and Rudolph.

Chris: At number five it's family visiting.

Julia: Four is exchanging presents.

Dan: Number three, it's Christmas films.

Paul: Number two is Christmas dinner.

SFX sleigh bells jingling to underscore the announcement

Mike: And at number one... to make sure you have the best Christmas Day EVER! You need... drumroll please...

SFX drumroll

Mike: Christmas Songs!!!

Music fades out

UC: Brilliant!! So I'm DJing as well. Adventurers, what top pop Christmas classics should I add to my festive playlist?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: Rocking around the Christmas tree.

Adventurer: Jingle Bells.

Adventurer: Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

Adventurer: We're walking in the air.

UC: Nice. Some traditional and some for dancing to.

Mike: You've got novelty, one hit wonders, classics, jingle bells, All I want for Christmas, The little drummer boy, Feliz Navidad, Stay another day...

UC: Ok, Mike. You really do know your Christmas songs!

Mike: (*Singing*) Christmas time, mistletoe and wine...

Louise: And don't forget to add my favourite. The Christmas number one!

UC: Of course! How could I forget? My favourite track of all year! Thank you for all of your contributions, adventurers. This really is going to be the best Christmas day ever! I've got all the ingredients to make my first-time hosting go down a storm. A snowstorm! And now, playing us out with their number one single, it's The Armchair Adventures Christmas Crackers, with 'It's Christmas Time!'

Music: It's Christmas Time

UC: And cut! Fantastic show, everyone!

Adventurers: Merry Christmas!

Gang: Merry Christmas everybody!

SFX a TV crew packing away.

UC: And now it's time to say goodbye to the imaginary world and get back to reality.

Byes from the ensemble

UC: End. Call. Now.

SFX phone down

UC: Great. Well, now I have a to-do list as long as my very long arm, so I'd better get on with it. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! Bye for now!

Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune

Outro

Ian: Armchair Adventures is a Made By Mortals production. Thanks for listening!

The End.

