

Andrea M. Hutchinson

Home for Christmas



Audio CD



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Home for Christmas

Activities by **Laura Clyde**

Additional activities by **Robert Hill**

Illustrated by **Alessandra Scandella**

A stylized illustration of two women sitting in a car. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a plaid jacket. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket with a white fur collar. They are both looking towards each other. The background shows a blurred city street with cars and buildings. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the illustration, containing the text 'DUBLIN PORT'.

**DUBLIN
PORT**



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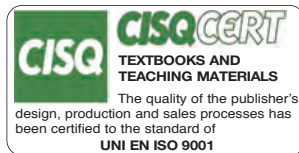
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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages

linked to the listening activities

The Characters



Vanessa



Shauna



Harminda


~~LXZ 207 PARIS ONLY CANCELLED~~

~~AZX 263 MILAN Linate CANCELLED~~

ZXY 247 LONDON Stansted CANCELLED

CHAPTER ONE

Going Nowhere

Harminda looked at her watch and then at the traffic outside.  The airport was 10 kilometres away and it was already 5.15 p.m.

‘Isn’t there a quicker way to get to the airport? My plane leaves in less than two hours,’ she asked the taxi driver.

‘Are you going home for Christmas?’ he smiled. The taxi was full of decorations; there was green tinsel on the steering wheel and mistletoe under the mirror.

‘Yes...’ said Harminda. But there was no Christmas spirit in her voice.

Harminda looked out of the window, trying not to cry. She remembered the phone call from her Mum earlier that day. She missed her parents so much.

Their argument, ¹ four years ago, seemed stupid now.

Thirty minutes later, they arrived at Galway airport.

1. **argument** : when people do not agree and get angry.



‘How much is it?’ she asked.

‘Fifteen euros for you, sweetheart,’ said the taxi driver with a smile.

Harminda gave him a twenty-euro note and got quickly out of the taxi.

‘Don’t forget your change...’ shouted the taxi driver, with a five-euro note in his hand, but Harminda was already inside the airport terminal.

There were a lot of people, and Harminda pushed through the crowd to look at the screens for her flight...

‘Cancelled? Stay calm and read it again, slowly. You’ve read it wrong, that’s all,’ she thought.

‘Flight ZXY 247... destination, London Stansted... cancelled!’

All flights from Galway were cancelled because of bad weather.

‘I’m sorry, but tomorrow’s flight to London is fully booked. ¹ Christmas is a busy time of year,’ said the man at the ticket office when Harminda tried to find another flight.

‘What about another airport? Dublin perhaps?’

‘Sorry...’

‘You don’t understand,’ said Harminda, ‘I have to get to London as soon as possible. My Dad’s ill.’

‘I really am very sorry...’ the man said sympathetically. ² ‘You could hire a car. It’s a long journey, but if you need to get there quickly...’

As Harminda ran towards car hire, she saw that there were only two women waiting and she started to feel hopeful.

1. **fully booked** : full; there are no free places.

2. **sympathetically** : in a way that shows he knows how Harminda is feeling.

'I'm sorry, but this is the last car,' she heard the assistant say.

'But I was here first!' shouted a tall, blonde woman.

'Only because you pushed in front of me! I'm getting married in three days. I have to get to London,' shouted an Irish girl in her late twenties.

'And I've got a very important audition!' ¹ said the blonde woman.

'Excuse me,' interrupted Harminda. 'Did you say that there's only one car?'

'Yes, and it's mine!' said the blonde arrogantly. ²

'No it's not!' The argument continued.

Harminda wanted to cry. But then she had an idea.

'If you two are going to London, we can share the car! What do you think? We can share the driving and the cost.'

The two women looked at her in silence.

'They probably think I'm mad,' thought Harminda. But that didn't worry her. The only thing that worried her was getting to London to see her family.

'Well, if *you* want to get to your audition,' Harminda said to the blonde, 'and if *you* want to get married,' she said to the other woman, 'well... you've got no choice!'

Harminda was speaking angrily, and after a moment, the two women reluctantly ³ agreed.

'Mr O'Flaherty will be pleased,' thought Chrissie, the car hire assistant, as she showed the women their car.

1. **audition** : a short performance by an actor, dancer or musician to show if they are good enough for a film/show, etc.
2. **arrogantly** : in a way that shows she thinks she is more important than other people.
3. **reluctantly** : in a way that shows they don't really want to do it.

The text and **beyond**

KET 1 **Comprehension check**

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B)? If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' or 'Wrong', choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Harminda has a good relationship with her parents.
 A Right **B** Wrong C Doesn't say
- 1 The flights to London are fully booked for the next three days.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 2 Harminda wants to get to London quickly to see her father.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 3 There are lots of cars for hire.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 4 The other two women agree to hire a car together.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 5 Mr O'Flaherty is happy that Chrissie has hired the car to the three women.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 6 The three businessmen are criminals.
 A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

2 **Vocabulary – adverbs to show attitude**

Match the following adverbs from Chapter One to their definitions.

- 1 angrily 3 nervously 5 sympathetically
 2 arrogantly 4 reluctantly

- A showing that you are doing something that you don't want to do
 B showing that you are worried or frightened
 C showing that you are not happy with someone/something
 D showing that you understand how someone feels
 E when you think that you are better or more important than other people

3 Characters

Now match an adverb from the previous task with the character who says or does something in that way. There is one extra character who you don't need to use.

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| A | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | the tall blonde woman | D | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Harminda |
| B | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | the man at the airline desk | E | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chrissie |
| C | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | the Irish girl in her late twenties | F | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr O'Flaherty |

TRINITY 3

4 Speaking: the weather

The story takes place in winter, at Christmas, and snow and bad weather make travelling difficult for the three girls. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner.

- What is the weather like in winter in your country?
- Does it snow in your country? If so, do you like it when it snows?
- What's your favourite season and why?

5 London airports

Find London's five airports on the map below. Which do you think are the nearest to and the farthest from the centre of London?

- 1 Stansted 2 Luton 3 Heathrow 4 Gatwick 5 City

