

## **How Father Christmas got his name**

(2005)

It's been a mystery, all these years  
how Father Christmas got his name;  
some – I think – still harbour fears  
that *fathering* was, in part, to blame.  
For after all, what is he up to  
when not aboard his trusty sleigh?  
Rudolph waits, like Leporello,  
while his master's making hay.

He thinks – because his suit is silly –  
he's safe from husbandly suspicion  
but even though his hands are chilly  
the truth is that he's on a mission.  
Chimneys come and chimneys go:  
our superhero, dressed in red,  
leaves the mince pies in the glow –  
tiptoes up to find your bed.

So when you wake up late at night  
and kiss the one whose just appeared,  
something's odd, you think... That's right –  
your partner does not have a beard!  
And that is why old Father Christmas  
spends each Christmas on the skids  
distributing his gifts among us  
in case we are his long-lost kids.

*Happy Christmas 2005*

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