

The feminine vanity case is the grave of masculine illusions.

Helen Rowland.

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## A CHRISTMAS GIFT

11 year old Jordan was dressed as Santa Clause in a red robe, red hat with bells on the tassels and a bushy white beard. His helper was an Elf who was dressed in green trousers and top. Santa read out the names on the presents and the mischievous Elf ran to give them to the recipients.

"We'll bring the presents down to your house to-morrow. You've got so many this year." someone shouted.

Grandma went home by taxi about 7.00pm as she was tired. She lived in an old terrace house .It was over 150 years old and a listed building. Originally it had a black range on one wall with a huge cupboard at the side of it, where sheets, towels, clothes and soap had been stored.

A few years ago the range was taken out and the space blocked up. There was now a Combi boiler in the long narrow kitchen. There was one bedroom and a bathroom upstairs.

She had 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The family visited her in relays as there wasn't room for more than one family at once. Tonya was her favourite granddaughter. She called every week to shampoo her Grandma's hair. Tonya would bring her favourite cream cakes and have a chat. "Let me see your presents. You got so many. Where have you put them"

"They're in here. Look!" Grandma opened the very high cupboard, which had 6 shelves. It was packed. Tonya stood on a chair to reach the top shelf. It was full of neatly wrapped pyjamas. She counted 20 pairs.

"Put this pair in please. I got them this Christmas." Grandma said.

"I give them away to friends for their birthday, the Church to Jumble sales and anyone who wants a present. I don't need anything but the family still buy things for me. I've also got a chest of drawers upstairs filled with presents. Do you want any of them?"

Tonya was shocked at the hoard of presents "My God you could open a shop with that lot. How long have you kept them?"

"About 20 years. They're all Christmas gifts" Grandma replied.

Stella Rutherford.