



## "O Holy Night"

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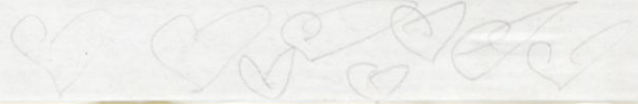
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O Holy night

The ~~the~~ curtains made of  
percale sheets — fresh and sweet smelling, — parted  
billed ~~shifter~~ ~~moored~~ wavered and  
to reveal

X Children in white perpieces filed through  
the parting. <sup>their</sup> Serious faces <sup>occasionally</sup> undone by a sock  
knee =

and flannel hair

Sliding down to an  
ankle. Or a bow tie

too far to the left. After a glance at Kate  
Galightly they took a uniform breath and sang

O Holy night, the stars are gently shining.  
(It is the night of our dear Savior's birth).

→ Question re: Billie Delea

The applause lasted until the <sup>last child</sup> ~~children~~  
disappeared behind the curtain. <sup>when</sup> Someone  
turned off the ceiling lights ~~and~~ <sup>quiet domesticated</sup> catching ~~the~~  
the darkness. ~~the~~ Slowly on a well-oiled (familiarized)  
pulley the curtain parted. ~~the~~ <sup>lights</sup> ~~positioned~~ Under  
lights positioned in the wings, the figures  
throwing large shadows behind them, four ~~the~~ figures  
stood at a table counting giant dollar bills.

feet hats  
and  
big suits

→ while a young clear voice sang Away in a manger

fix → Each one <sup>he</sup> ~~wore~~ a mask — yellow and white face  
mask with red eyes gleaming, red mouth snarling like blood

In pairs, <sup>up</sup> their heads bowed

Approaching <sup>the</sup> the masked figures from the right

were seven <sup>3</sup> couples dressed in rags

Dressed in torn clothes <sup>moving</sup> approaching the masked  
figures <sup>in a kind of slow two-step</sup> ~~approaching~~ a group of people  
were ~~approaching~~ the masked figures



Joseph boys/  
Mary girls

raggedy  
boy Josephs

basefont females  
girl Marys cuddled

The ~~boys~~ <sup>males</sup> carried staffs; the girls baby dolls.

(2)

→ Misner looked at them ~~and smiled~~ <sup>and gave himself time to think of a reply</sup> concentrated on identifying the ~~children on stage~~ <sup>the four little Cary girls: Hope, Chaste, lovely and pure. Dina Poole and <sup>one of pious Dupres</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>then the Josephs' Peggy and Solanine Jary's two grandsons; Joe-Thomas Poole; Drew and Harriett Persons' son, James; Payne Sands' boy Luke; and some of Timothy Seawrights boys. They ranged in</sup> age from 6 to 14 ~~and the son smiled~~</sup>

daughters - Linda

(3)

→ The tallest ~~Joseph~~ <sup>boy</sup> stepped forward:  
"Is there room?" he asked, his young voice breaking. The masked inn-keepers turned toward each ~~each~~ <sup>other</sup> then roared at the couples:  
~~Get Away! Get Away!~~ There is no room!

"But our wives are pregnant answers the ~~Joseph~~ <sup>boy</sup>. "Our children ~~would~~ <sup>gonna</sup> die of thirst" Shouts a ~~Mary~~ girl holding her doll aloft.

waag their heads menacingly and  
The masked-figures ~~roar~~

Get on  
way  
from  
here!  
get!

4

→ The masked figures reach under the table for cardboard pictures of food -

Here,  
"Take this. And get on out of here" They throw the pictures ~~at~~ on the floor.

and stood with  
the crowd turned around - stand  
each back one presenting his back to the



Africa as home - belongs

Anan approaching

Howe looks - eyelight

This was <sup>the</sup> first time he had  
attended the school pageant. It  
was always held two weeks before  
✓ Christmas when he usually  
returned to X to visit his family



children.  
The crowd jumps back, <sup>as the picture food were</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>the snakes were being tossed at them</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> chant  
Pointing ~~their~~ forefingers and waving fists. ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~chant~~  
God will Crumble you. God will Crumble you.  
~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> ~~chant~~ Their chant is picked up here  
And ~~there~~ there in the audience.  
"Into dust!" <sup>that was</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> home Dupres.

Yes he will. Yes he will. — ~~various~~  
males & female voices agree. Tell em, honey. "Fier than sand  
he'll grind you" ↓

Mission Couldn't help glancing over to  
the chairs where Dick and Joane, Stanford and  
Dorothy sat.

And sure enough the marched  
figures wobbled and collapsed to the  
floor, while the raggedy ones turned their backs  
on them singing "Something within me that  
banishes pain" "Something within me I can not  
explain. ~~the~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~first~~ <sup>voices</sup> were ~~accompanied~~  
by ~~hundreds~~ <sup>from</sup> stranger ones ~~from~~ the audience  
~~and no one~~ <sup>and it was clear</sup>

by the last note more than a few ~~with~~ <sup>not a few</sup> were moved to tears.  
The mood shifted while the children gathered <sup>camp-fire style</sup> singing

"Away in the Manger," sang the children  
"No crib for his head" until X, <sup>wearing</sup> ~~wearing~~ <sup>a wide</sup> ~~hatted~~  
~~in~~ carrying a satchel entered. He knelt down  
and drew ~~from~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~satchel~~ <sup>packages</sup> he carried,

5 →

Take top  
June 26 1954

Cuba  
Angela



and have to keep everybody  
locked in or out. <sup>real home</sup>

Well Try to imagine what it must feel like to have  
<sup>true</sup> a home. ~~Not some fortress you bought and built up,~~  
~~place you went to and invaded and slaughtered~~  
people to get. ~~Not some place you~~ <sup>and snatched</sup> ~~claimed~~ =  
cause you got the guns, ~~Not some place you~~  
stole. But your own home where if you go  
past <sup>back</sup> past your great great grandparents,  
past the whole of Western history, past the  
beginning of organized knowledge, past pyramid  
and poisoned bow, on back to when rain was  
new before plants forgot they could sing and birds  
when <sup>back</sup> God said Good! Good! <sup>there</sup> right there  
~~you would find your~~ <sup>original</sup> <sup>ancestors</sup> <sup>were born</sup> in that place.  
Who was God talking to if not to my <sup>that</sup> <sup>home</sup> people living in my home?

thought  
they  
were  
fish

You preaching, Reverend.

No I'm talking to you, Pat. I'm talking  
to you.

and lived there and  
died there.

The clapping ~~that began when~~ <sup>when</sup> ~~as~~  
~~the children lined up for their bows~~

<sup>fx</sup> ~~Good~~ Stood <sup>when</sup> the audience did ~~and~~  
~~Anna~~ pushing her way through the ~~aisles~~  
~~to~~ to where Pat & Richard stood ~~speaking~~  
~~each other~~ in intense conversation. Both  
women had been subjected to speculation  
about which ~~you~~ one the <sup>new and</sup> young and single and  
handsome preacher would ~~choose~~ <sup>favor</sup>, Anna &



Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
In a shower of gold <sup>paper</sup> stars, the couples  
lay down the dolls, the stuffs and  
formed a ring. The audience stood.  
I once was lost <sup>but</sup> and now am found.  
was blind but now I see

Do they?

They are better than you think

~~Nobody's better than I think~~

They are better than ~~you~~ <sup>they</sup> think. Why are  
they satisfied with so little?

This is their home - mine too. Home is  
not a little thing.

→ Pat being the only single woman of a certain  
age available. Unless the new preacher liked  
them much younger, he'd have to choose  
between these two. ~~Three~~ <sup>Two</sup> years ago Anna  
won - She was sure of it - hands down, but  
so far. So she moved toward Richard  
smiling and hoping to freeze ~~any~~ <sup>the</sup> tongues  
of anyone who ~~that~~ might think otherwise - seeing him choose  
Pat's company rather than her to see the  
Christmas play. Richard's <sup>uppermost in her mind was</sup> delight.  
It seemed dull to her ~~recently~~ <sup>lately</sup>. - as though →

supper  
fr. ✓ They were careful in their courtship -  
never touching in public. When she cooked  
for him they made sure the parsonage  
blazed and he drove or walked her  
home by 7:30 for Al Ruby to see.  
Still. ~~They~~ <sup>They</sup> having set no date, tongues  
might get restless.



success depended on ~~the~~<sup>his</sup> Bible class

~~his thoughts lay elsewhere~~

Pat in hallway  
behind her  
Cookin' it  
on tables  
of unit the wall,