

"WE WON'T HAVE TOO MANY OF THE RELATIVES AROUND – THEY'RE THE BAIN-MARIES OF OUR LIVES"



“Look at the troiee, look at the troiee...”

Getting organised for Christmas is quite a pavlova for Kath and Kim. But pressies done and dusted, these hornbags are preparing for Kel's feast, toot suite. Josephine Brouard found out what's on the gift list. Photographed by Nick Scott

**T**his is the night before Christmas, and Kath and Kim are late-night shopping at Fountain Gate, trawling the mall for rolls of festive silver foil, day-glo lights for the Chrissie tree – and a Santa suit for Sharon. Then they're heading home to wrap Epponnee Rae's presents and to prepare signature dishes to accompany Kel's gourmet sizzle come Christmas Day. Corks and buttons will be popping all round, as the Fountain Lakes gang toast each other with a "Chin chin, Kim" and a "Bottoms up, Mum". Pacifically, here is what the foxy girls are planning for the festive season. Happy Chrissie!

**Kath:** "This Chrissie, we're staying home and having a cold lunch. Sharon always plays Santa – it makes her feel wanted for once, which is lovely for her. Kel will be putting on a fine spread – his chevapchichis tend to fall apart, but there will be lots of other cold sausages – and Kim will be making her specialty: soggy nachos. And, of course, I'll be making my famous goat's cheesecake! We won't have too many relatives around; Kim's rubbed them all up the wrong way. Anyway, they're the bain-maries of our lives. Brett's mum's coming down from the Gold Coast; we're putting her up in a local motel. She puts on 'airs' and can be demanding. And I've got a hinkling some of Kel's former fiancées may arrive – they know what a great spread I put on."

**Kim:** "Sharon is the turkey at our lunch. And she's Santa, too: she's bleaching her mo' as we speak.

We won't be wearing Xmas gear, we think that's daggy. Mum and Kel will be wearing matching outfits (that's a given), maybe a Chrissie polo? I told them it's going to be as hot as buggery, but they insist. I don't think I'll be wearing my bumsters; it's not good at Xmas, because you eat so much, and then you have to undo a button. No, I think I'll wear my J.Lo tracksuit instead."

**Kath:** "We'll crack open a bottle of bubbles... pink bubbles – they're ny-ioce! – and we'll play some carols. My favourite is 'Ten White Boomers.'"

**Kim:** "As long as you don't play 'I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus', 'cause I once did and it was revolting in the extreme. I've had some pretty revolting Christmases. Last year was a bit of a white Chrissie: I ran out of fake tan and was lilywhite on the day. It was so embarrassing."

This year, I'm going to have a couple of piccolos, then move through to the cardonnay – and probably some Diet Tia Maria, too. Yeah, I'll hardly be drinking; pissed mothers are such a bad look."

**Kath:** "We've got a gorgeous little gro-suit for Epponnee Rae. It's in the shape of a Christmas tree, and her head is the star. Ny-oice! We've also got a lovely plastic Christmas tree. I'm a bit of an environmentalist at heart, so I think it's better to use plastic. You just plug in the tree and these fluoro lights come on. It creates a real Christmas atmosphere. When I think of Chrissie, I always think of a good old-fashioned French kiss under

the mistletoe! And, yes, we do go to a service on the day, and we sing Christmas carols the night before. I do think a lot of Christmas is very wasteful, though, I mean, all that wrapping paper! I unwrap my presents very carefully and recycle my giftwrap. I think it's the least you can do, don't you? And this Christmas, my Laughing Club is meeting in the local park for a special Chrissie morning laugh. We meet once a week in the park and we have a great laugh – it's so easy – and this Chrissie morning, Kimmy is going to be our communal laughing post."

**Kim:** "Laughing Club, oh ploi-se! Silly pack of grogans full of fake laughter! What I wish for Christmas, actually, is a little bit of respect. Some 'me' time, big time! I work my fingers to the bone; 'cause I'm popular, I have people at me 24/7. I've got Mum on my back, Kel up my gate and Brett in my face. I just want some peace... and heaps of presents: a little guitar; a Tamagotchi; and a laptop. Oh, and an Aquapet. They're so cute – you press a button and they sing. And if they die, you don't have to bury them."

**Kath:** "What I wish for this Christmas is a little peace for the world. I read a lot, I know what's going on, and I think what the world needs now is a little 'down time'. If the world would just go to a day spa and have a massage, facial and moisturising body wrap, I think the world would be a damn better place."



## Chrissie presents...

**Kath for Kim:** "Bratz by name and Bratz by nature, that's Kimmy for you. I'm buying her a Bratz doll; they've got a huge head and big feet... just like Kim. And I bought her a Bratz pumpkin coach. I got that early: when I saw the coach at Kmart, it reminded me of my wedding day. I mortgaged my house to buy that pumpkin coach for our wedding - but what a day it was. I'll be able to play with Kimmy's coach and reminisce about my own big day. When I went to Kmart this week, all the coaches were sold out. So I was so pleased I got in early."

**Kim for Kath:** "I'm not going to spend money on Mum. I got a whole lot of things out of the rubbish bin and I've made her something. I got some silver foil - that's always festive - a toilet roll, I plucked a few feathers from the feather duster, got a couple of Mum's plastic takeaway containers (they still smell of Pad Matmawang) and an old can of spaghetti, and I've made... a rocket."

**Kath for Kel:** "Kel and I have had a beaut year. In our first year of marriage, the love light went out, but in our second year, the globe's been replaced, and we're at it, hell for leather, like a couple of rabbits. And, of course, it all flows through; I've got a 'smile on my dial' as they say. As an early Chrissie present, I had Kel's George Foreman Grill repaired, but on Chrissie day, he'll be getting a Barbra Streisand DVD - it's a superb compilation and the film *Nuts* is a truly erotic movie. That always gets Kel going."

**Kim for Brett:** "Brett, as you know, is a huge Dire Straits fan, but they weren't doing any shows, so I thought two tickets to the Eagles would be just as good. I was trawling through the dustbins all over town for present ideas for everyone, and I found these tickets to an Eagles concert. They're a month old but, you know, it's the thought that counts. Brett can buy an Eagles CD - I'm not stretching that far! - and sit on the patio and listen

to it. That's as good as a concert as far as I'm concerned. And as for Cujo, I'd like to give her some snail bait in a meatball. That would be a really great Christmas for me!

**Kim for Sharon:** "Well, Sharon used to be my fourth-best friend, but she's my second-best friend now, she's wormed her way into my afflictions. Tina's my best friend, but we don't see her much because she's off doing cosmetical procedures; she's just had her boob job reversed. I'm getting Sharon a Shane Warne doll: he has zinc on his nose, a red ball-rub on his pants and gel for his hair. The doll's just come out - Sharon's gonna love it!"

**Kath for Sharon:** "I had trouble choosing something for Sharon this Chrissie, and then I heard about that book, *The Rules*. It's a book about how to catch your man. Sharon has no idea; when she sees a guy she likes, she jumps on him. That tends to scare them away. Kim and I have been telling her to back off a bit, and that's why I thought the book would be good. It's so practical! I also got her some hydrocortisone for her hives and carbuncles. I get flak for such useful presents, but when I bought her perfume once, she had an allergic reaction, and it just went to waste. Sharon's always scratching to buggery, I thought the cream would be much more useful!"

**Kim for Epponnee Rae:** "I've bought Epponnee Rae all sorts of things - but I'm keeping the lot. She's only one year old; how would she know? I need cheering up, anyhow; I've had an *anus horribilis*. Having a baby doesn't make it easy to fit my *anus horribilis* into bumsters, you know!"

**Kath for Epponnee Rae:** "I don't like to think of myself as a grandmother - I'm too foxy for that - but I am very proud of my Epponnee Rae. She's got my genes; very expended, accelerated and enhanced. Kim, as you know, is not the sharpest tool in the shed, and Brett is as thick as two planks, but my Epponnee Rae can do things with her *Baby Einstein* DVD that I can't do. They show balls on the telly, then say the word "ball". Then they show a cat, and they say the word "cat". It's all very hi-tech, I could never keep up. But Epponnee is so gifted and talented! She's even beginning to grow a little frizzy perm like her granny!" ■

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