

A Christmas Carole: Jane Hanson

Two days before Christmas Carole was feeling decidedly 'podgeymoo'. She always invented her own words to describe how she was feeling. Her cat Yuyu had disappeared. She was Carole's best friend, not just a pet, and it was strange that she was nowhere to be found.

No one else seemed to care. In fact they were all 'tingleysprink', getting ready for the festivities. The house was a hive of activity. Her dad was unloading shopping from the car and her mum called, 'Come on Carole. Give me a hand to decorate the tree.'

But Carole's heart wasn't in it, and as the day went on she felt 'tremblytear'. She looked around the garden in all Yuyu's hiding places and sunbathing spots but she wasn't there.

On Christmas Eve the house was all 'jollybolly' - candles were lit and Christmas music played in the background. All Carole's relatives had arrived and were sitting in the lounge chatting and laughing.

Underneath the Christmas tree there were packets and parcels in coloured paper tied with ribbon. Normally, Carole would be sitting near the tree dreaming about what was inside the parcels, but this time all she wanted was her beautiful, white cat.

She went to bed and looked at the moon feeling very 'missymissy Yuyu'. The adults were having fun downstairs and she felt quite sad, despite her mum's efforts to 'chirpycheep' her up.

During the night she heard a noise outside so she got up and went to the window. In the garden she thought she saw something white moving near the bushes. This was very 'winklewonder'.

She crept down to the front door and went barefoot onto the lawn. She heard a rustle among the leaves and mewing sounds.

Suddenly, there was Yuyu strutting across the grass. And she was not alone! Behind her, wobbling along, were three tiny, fluffy white kittens.

This was 'miraclepopsqueek'.

Carole couldn't believe her eyes. She gently helped the kittens make their way to the house. Yuyu miaowed loudly as if to say, 'I'm back. Look at me!'

All the lights went on and everyone rushed down to greet the new arrivals. Carole placed a basket near the Christmas tree for Yuyu and the kittens and she sat near the tree with the only Christmas present she wanted.

It was a fabdabbydozey' Christmas.