



A Mom's Holiday Songbook

Christmas carols, sung by a parent

By Kelli Wheeler

A few years ago, I was telling my dad how I feared that, with two young children, I wouldn't survive Christmas—or, more specifically, that my holiday decorations wouldn't survive. The Christmas tree had been tied to the wall with fishing line so my toddlers couldn't pull it over, my favorite breakable decorations were put up high and kid-safe ornaments had been put down low on the tree. But I still could not save Christmas from being broken, slobbered on or redecorated all over my house.

"You know," I said to my dad, "I could rewrite *The 12 Days of Christmas* about all the holiday decorations the kids have damaged, dismantled or destroyed." On the spot, I started reworking it. "On the first day of Christmas my toddler broke for me . . . the carrot nose off of Frosty."

We both had a good laugh, but then my creative gene kicked in and I added, "You know, I'm going to do it. I'm going to create a new song." And that's how it started. I ended up going through my childhood book of Christmas carols (which I had hidden from toddler hands) and one by one modified them from a mother's point of view.

Here are a few of my favorite carols from my collection, *Mommy Modified Christmas Carols*. I hope you'll sing along . . .

A Very Toddler Christmas (Sung to the tune of "The Twelve Days of Christmas")

On the first day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the second day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the third day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me three wise men,

two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the fourth day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me four wrapped-up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the fifth day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the sixth day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the seventh day Christmas, my toddler broke for me seven globes a-snowing, six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the eighth day of Christmas, my toddler broke for me eight reindeer prancing, seven globes a-snowing, six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the ninth day of Christmas my toddler broke for me nine trains derailing, eight reindeer prancing, seven globes a-snowing, six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the tenth day of Christmas my toddler broke for me ten carolers caroling, nine trains derailing, eight

reindeer prancing, seven globes a-snowing, six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my toddler broke for me, eleven lights a-blinking, ten carolers caroling, nine trains derailing, eight reindeer prancing, seven globes a-snowing, six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my toddler broke for me twelve heirloom ornaments. Eleven lights a-blinking, ten carolers caroling, nine trains derailing, eight reindeer prancing, seven globes a-snowing, six CDs playing, five angel wings. Four wrapped up presents, three wise men, two Christmas mugs and the carrot nose off of Frosty.

eBay Sells (Sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells")

Dashing to the store
For the season's hottest toy
Of course there is no more
Visions of sad boy (boo hoo hoo hoo)

Driving all over town
At each car I holler
Still none to be found
So on eBay pay top dollar.

Chorus:
Oh eBay sells, eBay sells, eBay sells it all!

Can't be found all o'er town, just point, click and avoid the mall! (Yay)

Oh eBay sells, eBay sells, eBay sells
it all!

Can't be found all o'er town, just
point, click and avoid the mall!

**O Christmas Tree (Sung to the
tune of "O Christmas Tree")**

O Christmas tree, O Christmas
tree, please survive 'til Christmas

O Christmas tree, O Christmas
tree, please survive 'til Christmas.

You try so hard to stay upright; as
kids and cat climb you each night.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas
tree, please survive 'til Christmas.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas
tree, your needles green desert us!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas
tree, your needles green desert us!

Too often your water well left dry;
caught the dog, his leg lifted high!

O Christmas tree, O Christmas
tree, your needles green desert us!

**Dark! Yet Still the Children
Sing (Sung to the tune of "Hark!
The Heralds Angels Sing")**

Dark! Yet still the children sing,
"Come and see what Santa brings!"

Eyelids sealed this Christmas
morn, when a raucous noise is born.

Joyful all the children rise, with
great hope for Santa's surprise;

With no heed to daybreak, a few
more winks let us take!

Chorus:

Dark! Yet still the children sing,
"Come and see what Santa brings!"

**Dress Up Baby Jesus (Sung to
the tune of "Away in a Manger")**

Where, Baby Jesus, have you
disappeared?

The last time I looked you were
right here

Oh, there you are, Lord, in my
toddler's crib

Dressed in pink ruffles and sporting
a bib.

Missing again from your nativity
scene

I've tried to explain what your
holiness means

But a 2-year-old just doesn't
understand

Why a boa doesn't work for the God
of man.

Tied you Baby Jesus into your
crèche

Explained to my toddler you needed
your rest

Finally she left you, and just let you
be

But Mary and the farm animals are
having tea.

*Kelli Wheeler lives in Arden
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information about obtaining a copy of
Mommy Modified Christmas Carols,
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