

Outback Christmas Song Words

THE COMING BUSHMAN

1. Ours is a story of Christmas outback
when Jesus the Bushman was born,
a story of Mary and Joseph & Jesus,
good people like us from the bush,
good people like us from the bush,
2. We are the gamblers, the stockmen, the wise,
the women who battle the scrub,
the people who wear no airs on their face
and know the price of a grave,
yes, we know the price of a grave..
3. Years we have waited for someone to come,
born out of true country stock,
a bushman foretold by drovers of old,
a battler as straight as a die
a battler as straight as a die.
4. Late round the campfire we sang of our dream
a man who is one with the bush,
a man who would gamble
his life for his friends,
and know the silence of God,
he would know the silence of God.
5. Ours is a story of Jesus the Bushman,
born behind Bethlehem's pub,
a boy who was born
to be king of the bush,
and die for his mates in the end,
he would die for his mates in the end.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

A SIMPLE CARPENTER

1. He was a simple carpenter, an ordinary bloke;
though his hands were rough, his heart was good.
He was a simple carpenter, and others made their jokes,
but he kept his peace, he worked the wood.

*But Joseph didn't know,
Joseph didn't know,
Joseph didn't know
how she came by the child.*
2. He was a simple carpenter, she was a gentle girl -
as he drove the nails, she watched his hands.
He was a simple carpenter, she was the gentle girl
he would marry soon - they made their plans.
3. He was a simple carpenter who listened to his dreams,
though his doubts were strong, he still believed.
He was a simple carpenter who listened to his dreams,
so he wed his girl, he loved her child.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

THE SONG OF ELIZABETH

1. It's been a hard life, I'm not complaining,
but I've often known the bitter taste of death.
And I've been lonely and oh so weary,
but I've had to battle on with every breath.

*It's been a long drought out back,
it's been a long drought out back,
I've had a long drought within.*
2. I'd waited too long to hope for children,
when it seemed my tired womb began to grow.
But still I waited, oh how I waited
for a sign of life, a kick, so I could know.
3. That day I watched as my cousin Mary
walked over summer paddocks, bare and brown.
When she spoke simply – "Hullo, how are you?" –
my baby broke its six month sleep in leaps and bounds.
4. Being a woman with life inside me,
it was wonderful to live that day.
And knowing Mary, and who she carried,
I knew that I would never be alone again.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

THE RIDE TO BETHLEHEM

1. As we rode down to Bethlehem along the country track,
The sweat was on our faces and the flies were on our back;
The heat was simmering round us upon the burning sand.
But Mary still remembered the day it all began.

*“Don’t be scared, “the angel said,
“Don’t be scared at all.
The one who is inside of you
will never let you fall.”*
2. As we rode down to Bethlehem they watched us as we passed:
The dingoes and the bandicoots, the pink and white galahs.
They watched us winding slowly beneath the scorching sun.
But Joseph still remembered the day it was begun.
3. As we rode down to Bethlehem, we wondered how we’d fare;
For Mary’s child was coming, and we were miles from anywhere.
Then came the sight we’d longed for, when the sun was in the west:
the little town of Bethlehem inviting us to rest.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

THE BETHLEHEM PUB

1. A country pub is not a proper place for women,
the last place on earth to try and have a kid.
So when Mary and her tired old man arrived that night
I rustled up a bed of straw out in the shed.
2. I run the country pub in Outback Bethlehem,
a home away from home for stockmen interstate.
For when the picnic races stir the dust out here
a man will ride a hundred miles to meet his mate. (*music bridge*)
3. The pub In Bethlehem is rough as honed-head toads,
and what I've seen would turn a shearer green and white;
like the time young Bill fought Blue, the old man kangaroo
till beer, and blood, and fur flowed down the street.
4. I've seen men drive their horse in for a drink or two,
and with their stockwhip clear the beer-glass of its foam
while Fred, the pet galah, whose language turned the air dark blue,
would screech his old refrain, 'Well, stone the flamin' crows'. (*music bridge*)
5. You should have heard the cursing from the stockmen when I said,
'We have a pregnant woman with the horses in the stalls'.
You should have seen them drinking, mate, and heard them sing off-key:
'Why was he born so beautiful, why was he born at all?' (*music bridge*)
6. At first I also wondered if Mary's child belonged out here.
He may as well be born among the mulga bush out back.
Yet Mary seemed a sister to all who found her in the shed
and Jesus seemed a brother to drinkers, drovers, blacks. (*music bridge*)

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Outback Christmas Song Words

HE WAS BORN

1. After the ride,
the long anxious ride;
after the ride was over,
he was born, he was born.
In the silence of the dawn
he was born.
2. After the night,
the long fearful night;
after the night was over,
he was born, he was born.
In the silence of the dawn
he was born.
3. After the pain,
the long vicious pain;
after the pain was over,
he was born, he was born.
In the silence of the dawn
he was born.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

REPORT OF THE STOCKMEN

1. We found the baby Jesus
wrapped in strips of rag
and lying in a feed-box in a shed.
His hands were red, newborn red,
his hands were newborn red.
2. We heard the baby Jesus
lying in the straw
and crying for his mother in the shed.
His face was red, newborn red,
his face was newborn red.
3. We believe the baby Jesus
dreaming in the hay
was God who came to find us in a shed.
His flesh was red, newborn red,
his flesh was newborn red.
4. So we told the world about him,
Jesus way out back.
We said that God was crying in a shed
His flesh was red, like ours was red,
His flesh, like ours, was red.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

ANNA'S SONG

1. Lift this child to the sun,
raise this child to the sky,
God has come from above,
come to earth from on high.
Lift this child, lift this child to the sun.
2. Lay this child on the ground,
one with us, one with earth;
let God know in his Son
human clay, human birth.
Lay this child, lay this child on the ground.
3. Place this child in the shade,
hang this child 'neath a tree;
with his hand on the wood
may this child set us free.
Place this child, place this child in the shade.
4. Give this child to the world,
let him be common folk;
God has come to be born
as an ordin'ry bloke.
Give this child, give this child to the world.
5. Send this child down the road,
let him ride hard the track;
to be king of the bush
and the harsh world outback.
Send this child, send this child down the road.
6. Lift this child to the night,
to the Silence of God;
let this child cry for us
and the silence be heard.
Lift this child, lift this child to the night.

Outback Christmas Song Words

WE WERE GAMBLERS

We were gamblers, we were fools
chasing a star in the night;
droving gamblers, droving fools
was the star just a trick of the light?

*But we took the chance as gamblers must
that this new star was a sign
that would lead us to the Bushman who
was foretold in another time.*

Were we dreamers, was it wise
chasing a light in the sky?
Was there madness in our eyes?
Well you never really know until you try.

So we took the chance ...

And we left our mates by the campfire
and we rolled our swags as they laughed:
'Bet you never make it alive!' they said.
'Bet you ten beers we do!' we replied.

[Instrumental verse; repeat bridge]

How could we have known that the star would lead
to a boy born in a country pub,
a boy as poor as any unknown child
lost in the mallee scrub.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

WHAT DO YOU GIVE TO A KID FROM GOD?

What do you give to a kid from God?

1. Here is a nugget from the gold-rush days,
it's a beauty that my father found;
it looks a little green, but it's gold inside,
perhaps you could make a crown.
2. Here is a nice drop of vintage port
I collected on the Southern run;
I was saving it for some sorta special day,
it'll keep till you're twenty one.
3. This here is the hide of a wallaby,
I tanned it through the winter days;
I know it smells a bit like tanning bark,
but that'll keep all the mossies away.
4. And this is a stone with secret signs;
for we who are the blacks know well
that you have the spirit of the crying tree
from the dreaming tracks you crossed, we can tell.

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Outback Christmas Song Words

WILL YOU BE COMING HOME THIS CHRISTMAS?

1. Will you be coming home this Christmas
before this lonely year is done?
Will you be born a child among us
to make our family one?
2. Will you be driving through the desert
across the wastes where dingoes roam?
Will you return, our drover brother,
to heal our broken home?

*Will you be coming home a swagman,
your billy slung across your back,
and set our weary feet in rhythm
along the homeward track?*
3. Will you be coming home with Mary,
brown girl with child upon her knee?
Will you be home to reunite us
beneath a Christmas tree?

*Will you be coming from the outback,
a traveller sent from God above,
to stir the goodness deep among us
with silent human love?*
4. Will you be coming home this Christmas
before this lonely year is done?
Will you be coming from the outback
to make our family one?

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