

## **CHRISTMAS GOOD WILL LIST**

**BY VICKI ENGLUND**

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In the spirit of good will to all earthlings this holiday season, I promise to try to tolerate the following people:

1. Motorists with enormous, hulking four wheel drives (SUVs) that block any view of oncoming traffic for people like me in regular sized cars.

It particularly applies to those four wheel drivers who overlap the parking space in shopping centre car parks, forcing me to gingerly back out with a limited turning area unable to see if anything is approaching. This is all with my child in the back seat who, in the event of a collision, would be hit by the vehicle first.

I'll try to curb my anger at you people for the complete disdain you have for others.

2. Cinema patrons who talk during the movie. And yes, the opening credits and pre-credits sequences do count as the movie.

Even my natural aversion to the death penalty can waver when confronted by movie-talkers. However, in this season of compassion I will check my desire to tell you that your very existence on this earth is a curse on all humankind and that you're not in your livingroom watching a DVD but a public place where people who've paid good money are trying to become involved in what's on the screen.

But could you shut up anyway?

3. Mobile phone users who constantly interrupt face-to-face conversations to answer calls.

I really will endeavour not to implore you to look inside yourself and ask what it is you think you're missing by just turning the phone off and taking the time to appreciate the person you're with in the here and now.

4. Computer repairers who make you feel like an idiot just because you don't know as much about computers as they do.

Could you please refrain from that smirk you give when a customer is bewildered by terms that sound like they're in Klingon?

As a writer, I don't expect you to know as much as I do about split infinitives or correct apostrophe usage, nor as a former piano teacher would I rattle on about the diminuendo towards the end of the Largo Appassionato movement of Beethoven's Piano Sonata in A Major, Opus 2 No.2 in a way that made you feel inadequate.

But group hug anyway.

5. Drivers who risk everyone else's lives by speaking on their mobile phones, and more often than not when they're behind the wheel of four wheel drives. Funny how frequently the two practices go together.

6. The committee (because only a committee could conjure up something so infuriating) responsible for the computer-generated voices in call centres that say things like, "I'm sorry, I didn't quite get that. Can you repeat the reason for your call?"

Who do you think you are kidding? We know that no-one is there and that the pre-recorded fake politeness is a pathetic ruse to try to make us think we're getting customer service.

You don't actually deserve Christmas cheer, but as Jesus did say to love your enemies I'm trying to feel the love.

7. Those undoubtedly balding, overfed, middle-aged-and-above men in charge of the major recording companies who have somehow managed to ensure that most females in music video clips act like pole dancers from a seedy strip joint. For your monotonous and insulting sexism, Santa had to check his list more than twice before coming to your house this year.

And hey girls, do you really think it's empowering to bump and grind your booty while wearing a G-string? Empowering, my a\*\*\*!

8. And speaking of a\*\*\*s, another person I'll try to forgive is whoever started the G-string craze as a piece of daily underwear.

Give me a VPL (visible pantyline) any day rather than the sensation of feeling garrotted in the posterior with a piece of dental floss while you're trying to watch a movie or eat in a restaurant.

For your sins against womanhood, it will take a lot to summon forgiveness, but under international yuletide law I'll try.

9. The makers of every so-called "reality" TV show. Don't you know the eleventh commandment, "Thou shalt not make banal television programs that numb the brain"? Even though the wrath of the Lord would normally be coming your way for your shameless exploitation of simple-minded folk, I'll extend the hand of friendship just one more time.

10. The first person to put Paris Hilton on the front cover of a magazine. In the name of humanity, haven't we suffered enough for your lapse in judgement?

'Tisn't the season to be self-righteousness, and I might even be guilty of having one or two annoying habits myself, but the above list does seem to have a theme – that occasionally it's nice to think about others and the impact your actions have on them.

If everyone kept that in mind – not just now but all year through – there might be a little less road rage, phone rage, movie rage and sore booty rage in 2005.

Peace.

ENDS

WORD COUNT: 900