

A GOOMBA CHRISTMAS

Salvatore wakes
He wakes to Christmas morn
Mass occurred but hours before
Where he prayed for *la famiglia*.

Uncle Tony brought the tree his year
It's plastic
With needles white like snow.

He'll stop by later
As he does each year
To bring the Christmas cheer.

Maria decorated
Oh, the saintly Maria
Who gave him (just) six children
He got sore
When she said, *No more!*
Now they sleep apart.

The miscreants
Surround the tree
Sal, Vinny, Enzo, Sonny
That's the boys
The girls, at least
Wait their turn.

When I was your age
Papa shouts
We were lucky to have presents!
All we had was love

Love we had for each other.

The boys,
They roll their eyes
They've heard it all before
He tells these stories
From Ancient Rome
We studied that in school!

Save the paper,
Fold it up,
We'll use it again next year!

But they're too busy
Ripping it
To hear what Papa says
Too busy ripping and clawing
To get to gold.

Each new thing discovered
Tossed aside for next
Barely a *Thank you, Papa!*
Can be heard above the din.

Make room for the girls
Animali!
As Papa clears the way
Salvatore and Vincent, I say
Enzo and Santino
Act like human beings!

Papa
Says Patricia sweetly

We'll wait till after supper
Won't we, Anna?
Oh, but yes, Papa, we will!
As she shakes her curls.

Such good girls I raised
Sighs Papa
But the boys, Madonna Santa!

Just then a car
A car pulls up
A car stuffed to the gills.

Salvatore thinks he hears
A siren
Wailing far away.

Uncle Tony!!
The boys all yell
And rush out on the walk.

Go wake Mama!
Papa tells the girls
As he joins the boys outside.

Antonio!
He shouts
Buon Natale!
To the man who makes things bright.

The food
The packages
The boxes of goods his brother brings

Turkey, ham, stuffing, fish
Whiskey, wine, beer.

*Where, oh where
Does he find such things?*

Mama stumbles
In her robe
The girls tug at her hands
Look, Mama! they cry
How beautiful the tree!

She sighs as she spies
Her brother-in-law
Yes, my darlings, lovely
Come help me with the meal.

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