

MR HIGGINS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mick Geelan

*"Will you order us a turkey dear?
And please now do remember,
Something small", said Mrs. Higgins
One day early in December.
"Ah yes" said Mr. Higgins "dear
I'll cut back on the ham,
But the only bird worth cooking
Is a nice sixteen pound hen".*

*"Now you know" said Mrs Higgins,
"Dear, our family have grown
And something less might do us, dear,
Now that we're on our own".
But Mr Higgins was a man
Who liked to have his way
So he confirmed his order
At the butcher's shop next day.*

*Mrs Higgins was a mighty cook
And that there was no doubt of
On Christmas Day she served a meal
Any head chef could be proud of
The legs were stuffed with sausage meat,
The breast with fruit and almonds
There was red wine in the gravy
Cloves and cherries glazed the gammon.*

*Mr Higgins wasn't given to
Excesses of expression
But you could tell that she'd impressed him
With such luxury, in recession
So when the meal was over
He sat back and rubbed his belly
He said "you know that wasn't bad dear
Is there anything on the telly".*

*Mrs Higgins gave a little smile
So faint you'd scarce perceive it
Those familiar with the female guile
Would cringe if they'd received it.
They say the female of the species
Is deadlier than the male
And Mrs Higgins' "herbal remedies"
Were never known to fail.*

And the sad verse.
*There's a wild and lonely graveyard
Where the trees do gently wave
There's a "broken hearted" widow
Kneeling at a new made grave
"Oh my Albert she is saying
I've such freedom since you've gone
If you'd only once said thank you
I think we'd have got on".*

3rd PRIZE

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'A great poem, well crafted with skilful scene-setting, whimsical language and a great twist at the end. This writer has real talent in both prose and poetry, he should persevere with both and seek wider publication.

■ Glencar Waterfall PHOTO BY BLÁITHÍN GALLAGHER

