

I Want a Little Cuckoo Clock

Brendan Gallagher



I want a lit-tle cuckoo clock for Christ-mas. Nothing but a cuckoo clock will do — And



when he strikes the hou - r the bir-dy in the tow-er will stick his lit-tle neddy out and go cuckoo cuc-



koo. We've got-to be care-ful of the cuc-koo clock for Chirst-mas 'cos if it breaks the bir-dy wont cuc-



koo, ——— And then we'll have to take it back to Fath - er Christ - mas



shack so that he can make the bir - dy go cuc-koo cuc - koo ———



shack so that he can make the bir - dy go cuc-koo cuc - koo. ———

I Want a Little Cuckoo Clock for Christmas

1. I want a little cuckoo clock for Christmas
Nothing but a cuckoo clock will do.
And when it strikes the hour,
The birdy in the tower.
Will stick its little neddy out and go cuckoo, cuckoo.
2. We've gotta be careful of the cuckoo clock for Christmas,
'Cos if it breaks, the birdy won't cuckoo.
And then we'll have to take it back,
To Father Christmas' shack.
So that he can make the birdy go cuckoo, cuckoo.

Repeat, ending differently on the second time through.

When I was seven or eight, Dad brought the family a cuckoo clock for Christmas. It hung on the living room wall, pendulum swinging, powered by pair of weights dangling down on chains. Each hour, the mechanism would whirr, the door would lurch open, and the cuckoo would emerge and call the required number of times.

We were taught about caring for the delicate mechanism – that was one of the song's functions. The teaching worked, for the clock ran for years without trouble.

Source:

Lyrics by Brendan Gallagher. Tune by John Rox.

When we were kids, we thought Dad made everything he sang. While preparing this book, on the internet I discovered that the song uses the tune from John Rox's: *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*. This was a popular song on the radio in 1953, sung by Gayla Peevey, which I now remember hearing as a kid.

I checked the internet for instances of Dad's lyrics. The string: "*cuckoo clock for Christmas*" turned up only:

- i. a Mickey Mouse Cuckoo Clock for Christmas on eBay.
- ii. a recent account by someone who, having been sent a cuckoo clock for Christmas, felt alarmed when the box started ticking.
- iii. a recent account by someone of the satisfaction felt after purchasing a real Black Forest cuckoo clock for Christmas for his parents.

Dad wrote our lyrics after buying a cuckoo clock for his kids.