



Barks N Bits Bella

with our favorite Jack Russel Terrier...

The Trees Have Left the Building

Well, they're gone. I wondered how long they would get to stay. (They never stay very long.) I'm talking about the trees that the people brought in for Christmas. They were worth the trouble this year, though. I guess that Santa fellow doesn't have anyplace to put the presents if there is no tree.

As far as this Santa Claus guy is concerned, he is alright with me. I'll admit that I did sneak a peak when he was placing all the gifts under the tree. He's surprisingly quick for a fella with a little extra around the midsection. I didn't think he seen me until he turned and winked at me. BUSTED! I then proceeded to close my eyes and pretend to be asleep. He didn't buy it. I guess he sees you when your sleeping. Anyway, it must be ok for dogs to witness his Christmas outing, because then he walked over to me and scratched me behind my ears - right where I like it. He didn't try to pick me up (I hate that) and he didn't scratch

long. I guess he had other places to be, because when I opened my eyes he was gone.

I couldn't keep this encounter to myself. I told Freckles and Duke. They both said they woke up when there arose such a clatter, they thought about looking to see what was the matter. But they both like their sleep too much.

No matter, Santa was good to me this year! (He must've felt bad for me since I never got any popcorn strings.)

Let me tell you what I found that he left for me under tree this year. First of all, I got a new doggy bed! He must've heard that Freckles took mine. I guess I can't be too upset because the people gave hers to Duke in the garage and she isn't allowed on the furniture (I am...of course.)

Santa also left me a stocking full of treats. The people make us eat them a little at a time. If I had my say, that would change.

The best thing he left of all that he left for me was a chew toy. It's a stuffed wiener dog! It has a squeaker in the middle which gives

me a good reason to gnaw on it all day...of course that would be the only reason...nothing to do with the fact that it looks like Princess Annabelle.

All in all, it was a good Christmas. Freckles got some treats too and Duke got a new collar. (I guess that means that he is here to stay.)

One other thing, I've talked alot about this past year's Christmas and Santa, but I also want to make a note that we got to eat cake and celebrate a birthday on Christmas too. Thousands of years ago on the *first Christmas*, Jesus was born. He was born in a stable and I imagine there were animals there to witness this special first Christmas gift. How cool is that?

Hoping you all had as good a Christmas as me and that you have a very Happy New Year!

