



The Gardners

Christmas 2004



With apologies to Gilbert O'Sullivan and *Alone Again (Naturally)*

Thinking back on time that flew
Another year in review
And without much more of 2004
We're still mixing old and new
After spending summer here
Grant is back for his junior year
For a hefty fee he's now living free
With his new choice for a major
And Warren, having made KM grades
For UM quota
Arranged it so, he too, would go
To school in Minnesota
They left us all alone
In our big empty home
Just me and Meem, naturally



In January of the year
Just beyond the Christmas cheer
My employer said, "To avoid the red,
You're no longer working here."
So at 52 years old
I stood alone in the cold
And viewed the circumstance as a perfect chance
To have a go at independence
Making all the best of a test
That rearranges
The freedom to accommodate
Life's big and little changes
I'm making it on my own
Computer and a phone
With help from Meem, naturally





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And Marily's achieving more
As she's found what she was looking for
In a job that pays in so many ways
Even better than the one before
Though I suppose we're never done
The "kids" are 18 and 21
So it's Meem and me, letting boys go free
Taking care of spreading family
We've watched them as they grow, letting go
Without complaining
Avoiding trials and keeping smiles
For precious time remaining
Looking forward to each day
That they come home for a stay
With me and Meem, naturally
With me and Meem, naturally



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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