

**Crimbo on number 7 bus**  
**By Sarah Feldman**

Grey dreads  
nails outlined with grime  
gruesomely long, hideously snagged  
everything stained and frayed

No-one will sit with him  
until the pretty in pink girl does  
she doesn't mind him  
nor do her mum and nan sat behind  
but he doesn't like happiness sitting so close  
it makes him fidget, ready to bolt  
he turns his back to her  
his face reflects the Christmas lights  
JOY PEACE HO HO HO

A mother loved him once, a brother too

Next stop the Royal Sussex County Hospital  
mum, nan and girl file past when they leave  
he puts his rucksack on her empty seat  
so nobody else can sit there

Doors close, bus goes