

SupplyChainDigest™

Twass the Night Before a Supply Chain Christmas 2021

*Twass the night before Christmas, and I was alone in the DC.
Not much inventory left - we forecast right, I can see.*

*Our performance reports were hung by the office with care,
And it looked like 2021 bonuses soon would be there.*

*As VP of Supply Chain, the buck stops right here.
But I would say got through this strange crazy year.*

*Now the job's never easy - for me or my team.
But this year's challenges were as great as I've ever seen!*

*The extreme variability in supply and demand,
Still you just have to execute no matter what you had planned.*

*The reported labor shortage was clearly quite real,
Despite pay hikes and signing bonuses to sweeten the deal.*

*And the need for supply chain resilience hit us right in the face,
As disruption and spikes became commonplace.*

*So we're re-optimizing our network for whatever is next,
Both to lower our costs, and to give us more flex.*

*Please don't get me started about port congestion -
The dwell time at LA/Long Beach was beyond comprehension.*

*And Omnichannel, my goodness, I need a magic wand
With spells to keep our company from being Amazon'ed.*

*As I pondered our tough year, there quick arose such a sound,
I feared a tall bay of reserve rack had just fallen down!*

*I jumped into my Cushman, raced past each and every dock door,
Towards the back of the DC - what would I find on the floor?*

*But as I swung round bulk storage, I saw I had nothing to dread,
For there sat St. Nick, on a new Crown truck, green and red.*

*The red matched his bright suit, which could not have been finer,
Though a small tag in the back did say "Made in China."*

*He was hanging some stockings from the racking's first beam,
And I could see on each one the names of my team.*

*On a pallet nearby sat a large sack, which he grabbed with a laugh,
And I wondered what Santa could have in store for my staff.*

*He said, "I brought you the gifts that will help you to achieve,
Supply chain excellence and agility in 2021, I believe.*

*"For your director of transportation, I think he will have luck,
If I pre-order for him a new electric Tesla Semi truck.*

*"For your planning team, real-time demand visibility,
And a new IBP process to drive much greater agility.*

*"For your inventory group, I can remove much of their pain,
Through true optimization across every echelon in the chain.*

*"For your DC manager, a mobile robot fleet,
For order picking productivity that cannot be beat.*

*"For you, a new dashboard, with all the metrics you want,
So you can see by the second who's performing, and who's not!"*

*Then he paused for a second, and put a finger to his lips,
Reached in his bag, and pulled out a fistful of chips.*

*"And the greatest gift of all, as I'm sure you'll agree,
Is for everyone, everywhere - lots of RFID!"*

*He dropped the tags in the stockings, turned round with some flair,
Pushed a button on the Crown, and it took off in the air!*

*"Thank you Santa," I shouted, "These are really great tools!
But we'll need help to deploy them, configure business rules!"*

*Santa yelled back, "The value from tech is sometimes not resultant.
But my elves are just coders – better hire lots of consultants!"*

*And I heard him exclaim, as he floated high above,
"Yes supply chain's sure hard, but it's the business we love!"*

Merry Christmas from Supply Chain Digest!