

Comma gets a cure

Well, here's a story for you:

wel/ 'hi:z ə 'stɔ:ɪ fɔ: ju//

Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse

'se:rə 'pɛ:ɪ/ wəz ə 'vɛtɪnəri 'nɜ:s/

who had been working daily

hu əd bi:n 'wɜ:kɪŋ 'deɪli/

at an old zoo

ət ən 'old 'zu/

in a deserted district of the territory,

ɪn ə dɪ'zɜ:tɪd 'dɪst:ɪkt əv ðə 'tɛ:ɪtɔ:ɪ//

so she was very happy

so ʃi wəz 'vɛ:ɪ 'hæpi/

to start a new job

tə 'stɑ:t ə 'nju 'dʒɒb/

at a superb private practice

ət ə su'pɜ:b 'praɪvət 'præktɪs/

in North Square

ɪn 'nɔ:θ 'skweɪ/

near the Duke Street Tower.

niə ðə 'dʒuk streɪt 'taʊə//

That area

'ðæt 'eɪə/

was much nearer for her

wəz 'mʌtʃ 'ni:ə fɔ: hə/

and more to her liking.

ən 'mɔ: tə həɪ 'laɪkɪŋ//

Even so,
'ivn 'so/

on her first morning,
ɒn həri 'fɜːst 'mɔːnɪŋ/

she felt stressed.
ʃi 'fɛlt 'stɹɛst//

She ate a bowl of porridge,
ʃi 'et ə 'bɒl əv 'pɔːrɪdʒ/

checked herself in the mirror
'tʃɛkt həri'sɛlf ɪn ðə 'mɪrə/

and washed her face in a hurry.
ən 'wɔʃt həri 'fes ɪn ə 'hʌri//

Then she put on a plain yellow dress
'ðen ʃi 'pʊt ɒn ə 'pleɪn 'jeləu 'dres/

and a fleece jacket,
ən ə 'fliːs 'dʒækɪt/

picked up her kit
'pɪkt ʌp həri 'kɪt/

and headed for work.
ənð 'hɛdɪd fɔː 'wɜːk//

When she got there,
'wɛn ʃi 'gɒt 'ðeə/

there was a woman with a goose
ðeə wəz ə 'wʊmən wɪð ə 'gʊs/

waiting for her.
'weɪtɪŋ fɔː həri//

The woman gave Sarah
ðə 'wʊmən 'geɪv 'seɪə/

an official letter from the vet.
ən ə'fɪʃl 'letəɪ frəm ðə 'vet//

The letter implied
ðə 'letəɪ ɪm'plaɪd/

that the animal could be suffering
ðæt ði 'ænɪməl 'kʊd bi 'sʌfəriŋ/

from a rare form of foot and mouth disease,
frəm ə 'ɪəɪ 'fɔ:m əv 'fʊt ən 'maʊt̩ dɪ'zɪz/

which was surprising,
wɪtʃ wəz səɪ'praɪzɪŋ/

because normally
bɪkəz 'nɔ:məli/

you would only expect to see it
ju wəd 'ɒnli ɪks'pekt tə 'si ɪt/

in a dog or a goat.
ɪn ə 'dɒg ɔɪ ə 'gəʊt//

Sarah was sentimental,
'seɪə wəz 'sentɪ'mentl/

so this made her feel sorry
so ðɪs 'meɪd həɪ 'fi:l 'sɔ:ri/

for the beautiful bird.
fɔ: ðə 'bjʊtɪfəl 'bɜ:ɪd//