

Comma gets a cure

Well, here's a story for you:

wɛl 'hiːəz ə stɔːri 'fɔː jʊ//

Sarah Perry was a veterinary nurse

'seɪə 'pɛəri/ wəz ə 'vɛtɪnəri 'nɜːs/

who had been working daily

hʊ ədˈ biːn 'wɜːkiŋ 'deɪli/

at an old zoo

ət ən 'oʊld 'zʊ/

in a deserted district of the territory,

ɪn ə dɪ'zɜːtɪd 'dɪstɪkˌt əv ðə 'tɛrɪtɔːri//

so she was very happy

səʊ ʃi wəz 'veəri 'hæpi/

to start a new job

tə 'stɑːt ə 'nju 'dʒɒb/

at a superb private practice

ət ə su'pɜːb 'praɪvət 'præktɪs/

in North Square

ɪn 'nɔːθ 'skwɛə/

near the Duke Street Tower.

niə ðə 'dʒʊk stɪt 'taʊə//

That area

'ðæt 'eəriə/

was much nearer for her

wəz 'mʌtʃ 'niəə fɔː hæ/

and more to her liking.

əm 'mɔː tə hæ 'laɪkɪŋ//

Even so,
'ivən 'soʊ/

on her first morning,
ən həɪ 'fɜːs 'mɔːnɪŋ/

she felt stressed.
ʃi 'feɪt 'stɹɛst//

She ate a bowl of porridge,
ʃi 'eɪt ə 'bɔʊl əv 'pɔːrɪdʒ/

checked herself in the mirror
'tʃɛkɪd hɜːsɛlf ɪn ðə 'mɪrə/

and washed her face in a hurry.
ən 'wɔʃt həɪ 'feɪs ɪn ə 'hʌrɪ//

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

and a fleece jacket,
ən ə 'flis 'dʒækət/

picked up her kit
'pɪkt ʌp həɪ 'kɪt/

and headed for work.
ən 'hedɪd fɜː 'wɜːk//

When she got there,
'wen ʃi 'gɔt ðə/

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

waiting for her.
'weɪtɪŋ fɜː həɪ//

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

an official letter from the vet.
ən ə'fɪʃl 'letə fɹəm ðə 'vet//

The letter implied
ðə 'letə ɪm'plaɪd/

that the animal could be suffering
ðæt ði 'æniməl 'kʊd bi 'sʌfɪŋ/

from a rare form of foot and mouth disease,
fɹəm ə 'rɛə fɔ:m əv 'fʊt ən 'maʊθ dɪ'zɪz/

which was surprising,
wɪtʃ wəz səɪ'praɪzɪŋ/

because normally
bɪkəz 'nɔ:məli/

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

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

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

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

for the beautiful bird.
fɜ: ðə 'bjutɪfəl 'bɜ:rd//