The waiting kit

Ladies and gentlemen, you all hate waiting,
so we present your personal waiting kit :
vouchers for tea or coffee, hot or cold snacks,
and drinks from the bar, served to you where you sit ;

free cigarettes (for use in the smokers' annexe),
complimentary chocolates, personal screens
and headsets, with a range of music and videos
or computer games. NB : for under-18s

and mothers-to-be, alcohol and tobacco
are not on offer ; also we can't provide
chocolates in dental surgeries—the dentists
ban them : instead fresh fruit will be supplied.

So just relax : enjoy. But what did you say ?
We must be joking ? Yes, that's true - you've guessed :
The goodies weren't for real : but in the ways
that really matter truly we'll do our best.

Fleur Adcock

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