

With just a week to go before Christmas, Santa Claus was still one reindeer short of the eight he would need to pull his sleigh. He searched for weeks for a final reindeer for his team strong enough to complete his worldwide mission-but to no avail.

Frustrated, he headed to the local tavern to take his mind off his predicament. He bellied up to the bar and perused the shelves of single-malt whiskies, grappas, and amaros from around the world. Just then, an unfamiliar voice called out to him from behind, "Hey pal, what'll it be?" Startled, Santa turned around and was surprised to see the tavern's new bartender.

"You must be new," Santa replied.

"The name's Blitzen."

"How long you been tending bar?"

"Not long at all-this is a brand new gig for me," replied Blitzen. "I had a full-ride to Greenland University pulling for the Men's Sleigh Team, but grades were never my strong suit. Nor was going to class."

"Ever think about getting back into sleigh racing?"

"No, I figured I'd just work at this grimey dive bar for the rest of my life,"the reindeer said with an eye roll. "Of course I think about it! It's been my dream since I was a calf."

"What if I told you I was in the business of making dreams come true?" replied Santa.

"Yea, sure you do, pal. Now, what can I get you to drink? Or did you just come here for the small talk?"

"Something strong, but maybe a little fruity?" said Santa sheepishly.

"I've got just the thing," said Blitzen confidently.

 \bigcirc