

Santa Tells a Story
by Tami Canaday

At rise: ROB is sitting on top of a table decorated with a single string of Christmas lights. Next to him is a laundry basket and a box of laundry detergent. He is waiting for his clothes to dry. SANTA is standing next to him. ROB is politely listening to SANTA.

SANTA

I saw this old movie once. Well, I saw it more than once. Say a few times. It was Christmas Eve, just like tonight. They showed snow falling outside. There was this man and he had this Charlie Chaplin look. You know Charlie Chaplin?

SANTA does a "Charlie Chaplin" swing of the cane.

ROB

Yeah.

SANTA

The man, well, he was sitting at this bar, decorated with Christmas lights. He was having a martini drink. It was in the 1940's, so the drink was in a martini glass. With an olive. This was the 1940's. Did I say that? You understand all the men are dressed in black tuxedos. The women are wearing dresses, high heels. But the bar isn't crowded. It's Christmas Eve, so most of them are at home or something.

SANTA looks at ROB to make sure he is listening. ROB nods.

SANTA

So, the man at the bar with just a flick of his finger gets the bartender to hustle the woman a drink. He did this.

SANTA flicks his finger in an exaggerated manner.

SANTA

That's all it took. Martini on the counter. With an olive. Just a flick of the finger.

ROB stands.

SANTA

Did I tell you I saw this movie once?

ROB sits back down.

SANTA

Well, I saw it more than once. A few times. It was Christmas Eve, just like tonight. They showed snow falling outside. There was this man and he had this Charlie Chaplin look. You know him?

ROB does a "Charlie Chaplin" swing of the cane.

SANTA

Yes, that's it. Well, he was sitting at a bar, decorated with Christmas lights. Sorta like these ones.

HE indicates Christmas lights on the table.

SANTA

He was having a martini drink. It was in the 1940's, so the drink was in a martini glass. With an olive. All the men are dressed in black tuxedos. The women are wearing dresses, high heels. It's Christmas Eve, so most of them are home. The man at the bar with just a flick of his finger---

ROB mimics SANTA's exaggerated flick of the finger.

SANTA

(Stunned)

Yes, just like that. You've seen the movie?

(continued . . .)