

## **Coal For Christmas**

By Dana Hall

**Synopsis: When Santa goes missing the Reindeer go through extreme paranormal measures to try and find him.**

**Cast: 9 open casting**

### **Characters:**

Dasher- fast athletic

Prancer- preppy artist/ eccentric

Comet- peace, hippie

Cupid- love, romantic

Ruddy- formerly bullied trying to fit in, naive

Vixen- focused on appearances, but a heart of gold

Dancer- performer, diva

Donner- stick in the mud, curmudgeon

Bliz: The boss

**Notes:** All reindeer have antlers (headbands are fine). All reindeer dressed in accordance with their personality. Written for virtual or stage performance.

**Location:** Santa's workshop after dark.

**Blitz:** All right- thank you all for coming. The elves have retired for the evening so I thought meeting here in the workshop made sense.

**Donner:** This better be good - I was about to soak my hooves.

**Blitz:** Yes, well it's very important. I asked you all here tonight because Santa/ (is)

**Cupid:** is the sweetest man/

**Blitz:** Well yes- I mean no- I mean that's not why I asked you here/

**Ruddy:** And he believes in you when no one else does-

**Blitz:** Sure. Ruddy that is inspirational and all but what I'm trying to say is... You see-

**Vixen:** I did it!

**Blitz:** What?

**Vixen:** My hair-I'm trying something new. Is it working or not so much? I was so nervous but the stylist said it accentuates my antlers.

**Cupid:** It's so cute - I think it makes you look more sophisticated.

*Reindeers overlap comments- yeah, I can see that, looks the same to me, etc. Blitz is getting frustrated.*

**Donner:** Uh- I think the boss deer over here is trying to tell us something-

**Blitz:** Yes, thank you Donner. So as I was saying we are all here today because/

**Dasher:** Oh hold that thought I'm starving this will just take a second.

*Dasher leaves and comes back with a full meal.*

**Dasher:** There. Ok. I hate meeting on an empty stomach.

*Dasher eats like a reindeer who is starving.*

**Blitz:** Dash did you just make that whole meal? Nevermind. Ok. Well-

*Dasher continues shoveling food into their mouth very quickly.*

**Blitz:** Where was I...

**Dancer:** I know why we are here.

**Blitz:** Wait-You do?

**Dancer:** And it's a great travesty.

**Blitz:** Oh Dancer I know- I'm at a loss for words/

**Dancer:** Santa and I had so much to look forward to/

**Blitz:** Truly I all feel the same way-

**Dancer:** Now I'll never get to do my death drop on stage/

**Blitz:** Your what on the who?

**Dancer:** Yeah ever since I got the email about the holiday party being canceled- I just haven't been the same.

**Blitz:** Wait-you're upset because they canceled the holiday party/

*Everyone is upset. Overlap of Reindeer responses - oh man, me too, sucks, I was looking forward to that, ugh etc.*

**Blitz:** And do you all know why they canceled it?

**Donner:** The economy? It's been in the tank- probably budget cuts by elves in upper management they can care less about deer morale -

**Prancer:** At least everyone got to see the flyer I made- anyone can do red and green but did you see the presents - that's the stuff! It's what the holidays are all about -right there-our beautiful presents front and center.

**Blitz:** I'm not sure that's what Santa would say the holidays are about Prancer. If he were

here he'd likely tell you it's about so much more but unfortunately, he isn't here to tell you that himself because.../

**Comet:** OLIVE!-

**Blitz:** Santa. I know Comet I love Santa too.

**Comet:** No Olive- Olive The Other Reindeer isn't here either- where are they?

**Blitz:** Well- that's part of what I wanted to talk about-- you see Santa and Olive, The Other Reindeer, are not coming/

**Dancer:** Poor guy! He's really taking this holiday party news seriously. We had this whole number together it was a Single Ladies remix/

*Dancer shows a bit of the dance and the lyric remix of Single Ladies lyrics- Ho ho ho ho*

**Blitz:** As lovely, and festive as that is - that's not it. He's missing.

**Dasher:** He couldn't have gone far. He never goes anywhere far without the sleigh and we're all here soooo...

**Blitz:** *(prompting Dasher)* soooo-

**Dasher:** *(realizing)* ohhh - that's not good.

**Blitz:** No, no it is not my fast-footed friend. They canceled the party because no one can find Santa.

*Reindeer all have reactions of worry.*

**Vixen:** Maybe he and Mrs. Claus had a little getaway- the holidays can be so stressful/

**Blitz:** She hasn't seen him either - I hate to tell you all this way but -he's presumed to be dead.

*All react- gasps, oh no, not Santa, it can't be, no, what!*

**Ruddy:** Dead?

**Vixen:** No! You must be mistaken.

**Cupid:** What happened!

**Blitz:** Well, from what Mrs. Clause says it appears Olive wandered off in the storm and Santa went to find them but reports are they got lost in the blizzard- no one can survive these temperatures and the shifting ice--... it's been days with no sightings of him.

**Cupid:** My heart is broken-

**Dancer:** What about all the children? The holiday spirit//

**Donner:** We have to go look for them/

**Ruddy:** Have you seen it out there not even my nose will help.

**Vixen:** We've got to do something- it's almost Christmas!

**Prancer:** No Santa- no Christmas-- no need for us.

**Comet:** Tell us you have a plan Blitz-

**Blitz:** Well, I think I have a way we can reach him/

**Cupid:** I'm texting the elves now they'll want to help/

**Blitz:** Not yet. Don't get them all worked up. This is an 'alternative' plan.

*Blitz lays out an Ouiji board.*

**Vixen:** A board game?

**Blitz:** It's a vehicle to the other side.

**Comet:** A Oijui board?

**Ruddy:** That's dark magic I don't think we should be messing with this Blitz.

**Prancer:** If he kicked the candy cane bucket this will tell us.

**Blitz:** Not exactly how I might've phrased it but yes- Exactly. We have to know/

**Comet:** Ok - well I'm going to light some candles get the energy right-

**Donner:** This is ridiculous this board is nothing but a child's toy-

**Vixen:** All I know is the elves refuse to make these-

**Comet:** Probably because it's a powerful tool to make paranormal connections. If he's crossed over we should get a message. We just have to be careful not to disturb the 'bad' spirits.

**Dancer:** I can see why the elves don't make these- nothing says Merry Christmas like a poltergeist.

**Blitz:** We're only asking about Santa- that's it. But we need everyone in. The more energy the greater the signal strength. Who's in?

*Comet puts a hoof on the pointer everyone else is reluctant.*

**Blitz:** Come on- everyone put their hoof on the pointer.

*Everyone puts their hooves on the pointer.*

**Donner:** We should call the authorities not trust a piece of plastic-

**Cupid:** It's actually called a planchette- I googled it- that's the small heart-shaped piece of plastic we're touching right here.

**Donner:** I mean this in the jolliest of ways shhhhhut the/

**Blitz:** Hey. I know it's out of the norm but we're desperate and there's an alert out already for him but no luck. Christmas is counting on us.

**Comet:** Don might be on to something though- we should be careful- there's much debate in spiritual communities about the powers of the board some think it may cause spiritual possession no one take their hoof off or they can become a target/

**Prancer:** I'm not afraid of some parlor trick- it's copyrighted to Hasbro come on!

*Ruddy takes his hoof off to comfort the board then puts it back on.*

**Ruddy:** Don't upset it! Hey - we are just here to talk to Santa- don't listen to him, demonic alphabet board-

**Comet:** Ruddy what did I just say- hoof on.

**Ruddy:** Sorry- I didn't want it to have hurt feelings.

**Vixen:** Are we supposed to feel something?

**Prancer:** I think we have to wait.

**Donner:** Maybe all the spirits are on with other people.

**Comet:** Shhh -let's just be still.

*After a long intense pause Jingle bells starts playing. All react as if they have made contact then they are immediately disappointed to learn it was Dashers phone.*

**Dasher:** Sorry just my ring tone.

**Blitz:** Turn that thing off. Everyone clear your minds and think about Santa.

*Dancer starts doing the Single Ladies dance while humming the tune.*

**Blitz:** Dancer! What are you doing?

**Dancer:** Sorry it was my last memory of him.

**Blitz:** We have to focus.

**Comet:** I think we're ready for you to ask it a question.

**Blitz:** Ok. Dear Ojiou board should we worry about Santa *crossing over*?

**Donner:** See Nothing. It's a hoax.

*They all get jerked to YES*

**Blitz:** It said Yes- Dasher was that you?

**Dasher:** No- I swear.

**Ruddy:** This can't be- he can't be gone.

**Comet:** Well- technically energy never dies it just shifts/

**Donner:** Oh stop with your hippie-dippie stuff already.

**Cupid:** Donner - Comet just wants to help. We're all hurting let's not lash out at each other.

**Prancer:** *(in a scary voice)* Ohhhhh... sacred cardboard - What messages do you behold for us -

**Blitz:** Maybe we shouldn't condescend the spiritual guide?

*Ouji board pulls them into spelling.*

**Ruddy:** C

**Cupid:** O

**Dasher:** It may be telling us where Santa is!

**Comet:** Or it wants to talk to me because I'm so in tune with my energy guides -I'm here C-O- (predicting) M/

**Donner:** Easy there. Oh look no M - looks like it's an A-

**Comet:** You moved it because you're jealous and cynical.

**Donner:** Well- I'm not some flower-child with my head in the dirt.

*The pointer moves while they are arguing.*

**Vixen:** Uhh- guys. Hey- It just moved to the L.

**Ruddy:** What does that spell? C-O-A-L/

**Blitz:** Coal- what does that even mean?

**Donner:** It's what we're all getting in our stocking for this nonsense. Can we stop now?

**Blitz:** Yes- I think that's all it has for us. What could it mean?

**Cupid:** Maybe it's a sign there will be no Christmas this year/

**Ruddy:** No. Santa once told me that coal is a gift. It's left for those that need to keep their fire burning it's not a punishment but an offering to keep family coming together to feel the joy and warmth within. It's a sign that means we have to stay together and as long as we do we can save Christmas.

*Donner starts slow clapping.*

**Donner:** That's a nice little story you got there but without the big guy Christmas is sunk.

**Cupid:** Ruddy is right- Santa is reminding us Christmas is bigger than any one person that- it's about love.

**Dasher:** Still- I can't believe he's gone.

**Comet:** He can never leave our hearts.

**Vixen:** No matter what we will keep the magic of Christmas alive and well.

*A somber moment befalls the group but then the voice of Santa saying, 'Ho ho ho Merry Christmas' is heard. Everyone looks around.*

**Dancer:** Santa!

**Blitz:** Sorry just my ring tone. Really bad timing I know- I should've changed it...

*Blitz is talking on the phone.*

I gotta take this-- Uh huh yes it's Blitzen I'm meeting with the others now. News? No, I haven't heard. Wait what- they found him? Where? ....Oh- that's such a relief - ok thanks I'll let them know.

**Comet:** They found him?

**Blitz:** Yes-an elf told Mrs. Claus his hat was found outside the tavern at the far end of town- turns out after he found Olive The Other Reindeer they had a few too many rootbeer floats and decided to sleep it off when the storm came in!

**Ruddy:** I'm so relieved!

**Dancer:** Oh thank Jingle Bells!

**Prancer:** Ruddy, your nose isn't glowing.

**Ruddy:** All this must've just worn me out/

**Donner:** It's been one hell of a night.

**Vixen:** I smudged my makeup! I must look a wreck!

**Cupid:** What a relief- to think what would've happened to the magic of the holidays - all those sad childrens' faces.

**Dasher:** No need to think about that now thankfully-

**Prancer:** They'll be ripping into gifts on Christmas morning- not that -that's the most important thing.

**Comet:** Hey-outside of Xmas eve this is the first time we've really come together-

**Prancer:** We should get together more often - outside of work/

**Dancer:** It's not too late we can have a little party/

**Dasher:** Great idea - we need to celebrate.

**Blitz:** The lodge is still open.

**Vixen:** I just need a moment to freshen up.

**Dancer:** Oh you're going to love my routine.

**Donner:** How far is it to the snowy tavern where no one could reach Santa?

**Blitz:** Very funny Don but we're in this together. How about we all meet across the way in a few? And- no one go wondering off!

*Everyone is leaving just Blitz and Ruddy are left.*

**Blitz:** Ruddy- you ok?

*Ruddy has a grey nose. He is visibly agitated.*

**Ruddy:** Sure - I'm fine.

**Blitz:** I know how close you and Santa are- what you said about the coal was really beautiful.

**Ruddy:** The what?

**Blitz:** The meaning of it - all of us coming together like a family around the fire, supporting each other...

**Ruddy:** Yes- that was something- uhh- ooh is it getting hot in here?

**Blitz:** You don't look so good maybe you should lie down before coming over. Hey-I'm proud of you kid. You really kept us together. Rest up - see you in a few.

*Blitz leaves. Ruddy is having an internal struggle depicted by moments where Ruddy uses a different voice as if possessed by something.*

**Ruddy:** Whose there?... What? ....*Kill Santa* - who said that - me? What?- I love Santa why would I want to - '*crash the sleigh*' no- no all my friends and the presents it would ruin Christmas- get out of my head- stop yelling at me- what's happening to me...am I being possessed!? Wait, I know who you are - you're **coal** - the dark side of Christmas- you're what makes naughty children naughty - get out of me- I won't *hurt my friends!* I won't-

*Ruddy starts singing Jingle Bells in a creepy tone and picks up a knife. He holds it as he leaves to go to the party.*

**-End-**