CHRISTMAS TALES

BLIXON'S GREAT ADVENTURE

by Michel J. Duthin

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - NIGHT

It's a cold winter night. Moon lights the snowy scenery, sometimes hiding behind a cloud. Stars shine bright. Everything is quiet.

Increasingly, a JINGLE CHIME gets closer. But, no one is in sight. In fact, the jingle is coming-- FROM ABOVE Sliding by the moon, a weird vehicle appears.

A LARGE SLEIGH PULLED BY REINDEERS

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING BACK TO TOWN

There are RUDOLPH, DANCER, PRANCER, VIXON, COMET, CUPID, DONNER, DASHER, and BLIXON.

Clouds now hide the moon.

A DEEP and ROUGH VOICE RESOUNDS.

SANTA (V.O.)

No! No! Once again, Blixon! I said to the right!

A LOUD CRASH IS HEARD

As the moon reappears, it shows an unreal sight: Santa's sleigh is half upside down, suspended in the air, and the reindeers are tangled to each other.

SANTA looks furious.

SANTA

Blixon! When I say right, you ALL spin on the right!

Blixon is bashful. He lowers his head, not daring looking at Santa, his tiny tail between his rear paws. The other reindeers are staring at him, frowning.

SANTA

I don't think you know what's the difference between right and left tonight? What's wrong with you?

Blixon keeps staying silent.

SANTA

I don't think I'll be able to keep you for my tour tonight. Every child in the world is waiting for me. We're getting late. Don't you understand? Blixon stares at the ground.

SANTA

(with a sweet voice)
I have to leave you here for the night, and I'll pick you up tomorrow when I finish to give my toys.

Blixon stares at him, begging.

SANTA

Don't do that to me.

Santa unharnesses Blixon and rearranges his team of reindeers.

Slowly, like a light snowflake, Blixon descends to the ground. As soon as his hooves touch the snow, Santa's sleigh makes its way through the skies.

SANTA (V.O.)

Don't go too far, Blixon, I'll be there at dawn!!

His nose to the ground, Blixon is sadly walking.

BLIXON (V.O.)

I'll never be a part of his team again as long as I won't know the difference between right and left. I practiced, but I can make it.

Suddenly, his raises his head with a smile. He tries to take off, but can't. Santa's magic is gone.

Blixon is sadly hoofing to the nearest forest. His little bell attached to his collar gently tingles.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Blixon lifts a snowy bush with his nose and enters a forest. Snow is everywhere.

Blixon paces to the left, hesitates, goes to his right, and stops again.

BLIXON (V.O.)

Here it goes again. City is east. East is right. And I still can't remember where's this darn right.

He sits on the snow. A WHITE SNOW RABBIT comes to him, leaping in the snow.

WHITE SNOW RABBITT

Hi. You look sad. However, that a nice collar you've got.

BLIXON

I wanna go to the city, but I'm lost.

WHITE SNOW RABBITT

Well, that's easy. You see that pine tree? There, you turn left. Then left again and you'll find a path that'll lead you to the city. You really have a nice collar.

BLIXON

Left?

The white snow rabbitt stares at him, puzzled, jiggling his nose.

WHITE SNOW RABBITT

That's it.

(showing with his paw)
Left. But don't turn right or
you'll meet the hunter. If he
hears your bell.

Blixon's face is lighten with hope. He gets up and follows the white snow rabbitt direction.

The white snow rabbitt stares at him.

WHITE SNOW RABBITT

(to himself)

I'd like to have a collar like this-- with a bell.

He keeps on leaping in the snow and gets away.

EXT. FOREST - DAWN

Blixon reaches the pine tree and stops.

BLIXON

What, now?

He turns to his right.

BLIXON

This way?

He turns to his left.

BLIXON

That way? Let's wish upon my lucky star.

He makes his mind up and walks to the-- right.

The more he keeps advancing, darker the forest is.

Suddenly, he stops.

A CRACK NOISE

Blixon is listening.

ANOTHER NOISE

Blixon flattens himself in the snow.

It was about time. The HUNTER appears around a bush. He wears an animal skin jacket and has a rifle on his shoulder. Lying in wait and frowning, he has a big beard.

Blixon doesn't make a single move, but starts shivering. He quivers that much that his bell starts to tinkle.

The hunter turns his head to him.

HE SEES HIM

A GUNSHOT RESOUNDS THROUGH THE FOREST

The bullet EXPLODES in the snow two feet from Blixon.

His cheeks are redden by fear. Blixon gets up in a jump and starts to flee back.

ANOTHER GUNSHOT

A bullet whistles by his ear. Running faster, Blixon zigzags.

Sprinting back on his tracks in the snow, he reaches the pine tree again, panting.

BLIXON (V.O.)

Wind is blowing from the East, Santa said. East is left. Follow the wind!

He turns left, his breathless course in rhythm with his tinkling bell.

Blixon keeps running.

When he turns back, he realizes the hunter is nowhere to be seen.

Then, he finds the path that leads to the city.

EXT. BIG CITY - NIGHT

Blixon is now walking in a big city empty streets. White snow has turned to some black heavy mud.

BLIXON (V.O.)

The city is different the way I know it from the sky.

He crosses a snowman made on the sidewalk.

BLIXON

Hi, Frosty.

Suddenly, a HONK resounds behind him.

He has just the time to throw himself on the side, when a cab drives by spiting black smoke.

Blixon gazes at it.

BLIXON (V.O.)

What a weird sleigh. Hope Santa won't see that. There wouldn't be anymore work for reindeers.

(grimacing)

And it stinks.

As he wanders in the streets, in the shops windows, he sees Christmas decorations where there is Santa's sleigh and his reindeers.

BLIXON (V.O.)

After all, it's all my fault. Tell me, Blixon, why did you need to fall in love?

A tear starts to run on his fur. He sniffs and, as to try to take over, he keeps walking.

FLASHBACK - EXT. CITY - NIGHT

SUPER: ONE YEAR BEFORE

Night is over the snowy city. Everything is quiet.

A Ho-Ho-Ho is heard, followed by tinkling bells.

Santa's sleigh appears and flies over the roofs, zigzagging between the chimneys.

Blixon is among the other reindeers and looks like knowing his right and his left.

Santa pulls the reins.

SANTA

Wahoo! Easy pals! We're gonna land there. This is where little Nicholas is living!

The sleigh gently lands on the snowy roof by the chimney.

Santa takes a rolled paper out his pocket, unrolls it, and reads it.

He gets off the sleigh, chooses two presents in his bag, and snaps his fingers.

By magic, the two presents raise in the air and disappear into the chimney.

At this moment, Blixon notices something.

On the opposite building, a window with red shutters.

Through the windows, Blixon can see a beautiful reindeer female's head.

She doesn't move, sadly looking down the street.

Blixon looks bewitched.

The steam blown from his nose takes a heart shape.

THAT'S WHERE THE TROUBLES START

And now Santa orders to take off and turns right, Blixon commingles his hooves and goes left.

END OF THE FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Snow is falling.

Blixon keeps walking down the streets.

BLIXON (V.O.)
I have to find her. I have to tell her my love and ask her if, maybe, she would join me to the North Pole.

Suddenly, his eyes get bright.

At the end of the street, the house with the red shutters he was looking for.

He gallops to the house, but the windows are too high to allow him to see inside.

With his nose, Blixon gathers some snow and climbs on it. He puts his hooves on the window and blows on the frost glass.

He peeps inside.

No one is there.

However, on the wall, above the fireplace, an animal trophy.

A STUFFED REINDEER HEAD

A man enter the room.

The hunter.

Blixon lets himself sit on the snow, upset.

BLIXON (V.O.)

So, that was it. Blixon, you were in love with an animal trophy.

(sigh)

You're so stupid. What's wrong with you, buddy?

The window opens.

Panicking, Blixon gets scared and flees away, not noticing the hunter is just closing his shutters.

Blixon reaches the end of the street.

BLIXON (V.O.)

To the left!

And he turns-- left!

He is surprised.

A large smile wears his face now.

BLIXON (V.O.)

Right?

He finds his right.

He keeps running when, suddenly, he finds himself -- flying.

The magic is back.

He flies in the sky, among the snowy flakes to his left, to his right, zigzagging at will.

A powerful laughter resounds in his back.

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Blixon turns back.

Santa Claus and his sleigh are here.

FADE OUT:

THE END