

## Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

By Peter Fraser Macdonald

Stately, plump;  
Santa Claus crashes down into the fireplace;  
In the lounge of the Omni Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida.  
Midnight, Christmas Eve;  
The place is deserted.  
He stumbles across the carpet,  
Dragging soot, bits of kindling, sand, mud, and God knows what else.  
Betraying his age, he leaps over the bar,  
Dislodges a ball peen hammer from his crimson suit, and proceeds to smash the liquor cabinets,  
Emptying the entire contents into a ragged sack;  
Kentucky Bourbon, Jack Daniels, Jose Cuervo Gold,  
And a bottle of Bordeaux,  
Appellation Medoc,  
Vintage 2006,  
For a very naughty girl.  
The next morning,  
Christmas morning,  
The beverage manager enters the Key Largo room.  
He peruses the catastrophe;  
A plate of reindeer cookies,  
And a glass of sour milk lay untouched on the bar.  
Smiling he says to himself,  
"It's a good thing Santa only comes once a year."

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