

A CRICKET COUNTY CITY EASTER

by Eddie McPherson



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A Cricket County City Easter

A comedy for the Easter season
by Eddie McPherson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

City Bunch:

Oswald: Head of the city clan. Hoping to make a big business deal at church.

Pete: Hoping to meet that pretty girl who sits in front of him at church.

Mimi: Can't wait to show off her new dress this Easter.

Petunia: Hoping to impress Fantasia Golding with her new wardrobe.

Pastor Green: Pastor of the First Church of Stained Glass. He thinks a lot of his "elegant" sermons.

Mrs. Green: Pastor Green's persnickety wife.

Mr. Quest: The church's treasurer.

Country Bunch:

Elkin Taylor: Head of the country bunch. Unpretentious and honest.

Grandma: She isn't afraid to tell you how it is. A great country cook.

Fester: Humble, naïve, and curious. He likes everybody.

Brenda Mae: One of a set of identical twins who look nothing alike.

Glenda Mae: The other one. They absolutely love their cousin Oswald.

SUMMARY: Mimi and Petunia are trying to look their fashionable best this Easter. The main reason for this is to impress Fantasia Golding, their church's high-fashion diva. She's always checking out what other girls are wearing so she can report her likes or dislikes of certain apparel. Oswald is hoping to land a contract with a company whose president attends Oswald's church. Pete is hoping to gain the attention of Cassandra, the pretty girl who sits in the pew ahead of him. Needless to say, their motives for attending their church's Easter service are less than honorable; however, they're dressed up and ready to walk out the door when they receive the surprise of the year.

Their humble hillbilly family from Cricket County shows up at their front door, yelling "Surprise!" They think the world of their city cousins, and they came to the big city to attend church with them. But how can the city bunch make an impression with all the "right people" if their hillbilly cousins tag along?

Oswald comes up with a plan: Grandma Taylor and the rest of the Cricket County gang can stay behind and cook Easter lunch while the city bunch attends their service. The country bunch agrees, so it's off to church the city dwellers go. But the country folks have their own secret plan and end up showing up at church anyway.

Oswald and his city family members come home horrified. We find out that not only did the Cricket County bunch barge in on their city family at church, but Fester also volunteered to read an original Easter poem in the middle of the service. Pastor Green is upset as well. After church, he and his wife show up at the Tippinheimers' front door wanting an explanation for this rude disruption to their elegant and classy Easter ceremony.

The city bunch tries to fib their way out of the crisis, but they are found out and expected to explain. They are literally saved by the bell when the pastor's cell phone rings and he receives astonishing news. This information gives the pastor a change of heart, and he begins to treat the hillbillies like royalty. But why? There's a message here about what motivates us to attend church in this crazy, fast-paced world of ours. The unassuming hillbillies come to the rescue once again!

PROPS: Coffee cup, danish or doughnut, cell phone, Bibles, box of wooden matches, comb, axe, candlestick, sprig of mistletoe, pair of 3-D glasses (real or homemade), hand towel, spoon, mixing bowl, cooking pot, telephone, other pots and pans, tissue, piece of bread, butter knife, church bulletin, flour, two pans of biscuits — one baked and the other uncooked, piece of paper for poem.

COSTUMES: The country bunch wears flannel shirts, blue jeans, cotton or gingham dresses, overalls, etc. You may choose to have Fester and Elkin wear tacky ties with their overalls. Grandma and the twins wear old-fashioned Easter bonnets or gaudy hats with fruit and/or flowers glued to them, an apron for Grandma.

The city characters wear dressy in-style clothing: suits and ties, nice fitting dresses, etc. Check production notes for ideas on the identical dresses Petunia and Mimi wear. Pastor Green wears a nice suit and his wife, a fancy dress.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The play takes place in a nice living room in the city. It should be decorated with style and elegance. The mirror everyone primps in front of is invisible to the audience. The “mirror” is in the fourth wall (the invisible wall between the actors and the audience). When they are looking into it, they are actually looking out over the audience. If you can’t find two identical dresses (or don’t want to pay for two dresses exactly alike) for Mimi and Petunia to wear, maybe the dresses could simply be the exact same color or the same pattern — these reasons would also keep Mimi and Petunia from wanting to look the same. If you don’t have or can’t find the old-fashioned Easter bonnets, tacky Easter hats with fruit, berries, flowers, etc., glued on them would suffice.

ONE LAST NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT:

I snuck into the back of a theatre once where a Cricket County play was being staged. I was pleased overall with the show; however, there was one thing that made me squirm in my seat: the play moved too slowly. I wanted the action to race along at breakneck speed with one line butting up against another. Remember, these plays are farces. The entrances and exits should be quick. Allow the actor to begin speaking as soon as he or she enters, not when he or she reaches center stage. You can’t imagine how minutes can add up when short pauses between lines are taken or slow entrances occur or a trip across the stage is slow when it’s supposed to be quick. Enjoy the silliness, and your audience will too.

1 *(It's the upscale and sophisticated living room of the city bunch.*
 2 *PETE enters looking a little sleepy and drinking a cup of coffee. He*
 3 *plops down into a chair and slouches. OSWALD enters eating a*
 4 *danish and talking on his cell phone.)*

5 **OSWALD:** *(Into the phone)* Tell Phillip those financial reports
 6 *must* be turned in by noon tomorrow. I realize it's Easter
 7 Sunday, but unfortunately there's nothing I can do about
 8 the calendar. He should have thought about that *before* he
 9 didn't have the reports ready. *(He hangs up and speaks to*
 10 *PETE.) Morning. (PETE grunts. OSWALD crosses and*
 11 *straightens his tie in the "mirror." See Production Notes.) Oh, and*
 12 happy Easter. *(PETE grunts.)* Can you believe Phillip didn't
 13 get those reports done? And on top of that, he attempted to
 14 use Easter weekend as an excuse. Something about
 15 spending time with his family. What's this world coming
 16 to? There. *(Arms out)* How do I look?

17 **PETE:** *(Without looking at him)* Beautiful.

18 **OSWALD:** *(Back to mirror)* You got that right.

19 **MIMI:** *(Off-Stage)* OK, is everyone ready?

20 **OSWALD:** *(To PETE)* Oh, I forgot to tell you — Mimi is about to
 21 show us her Easter dress. Be sure to go on and on about it.
 22 *(Shouting to MIMI)* Ready! *(MIMI enters like a model in a*
 23 *runway show. She crosses the stage, turns dramatically, then*
 24 *crosses back and strikes a pose.)*

25 **MIMI:** Well, what do you think?

26 **OSWALD:** Beautiful. You'll be the most beautiful girl in church.

27 **PETE:** *(As MIMI looks his way, PETE takes a sip of coffee.)* What he
 28 said.

29 **MIMI:** *(Twirling around)* It's an original design by _____.
 30 *(Names a recent famous designer.)* There isn't another one like
 31 it in all the world.

32 **OSWALD:** Everyone will be talking about your style. That is the
 33 goal, right?

34 **MIMI:** Of course it's the goal, silly boy. *(Looking around)* Petunia
 35 hasn't modeled yet?

36 **OSWALD:** Not yet.

37 **MIMI:** That girl is purposefully keeping me in suspense.

38 **PETE:** *(Still sitting)* What do you mean?

39 **MIMI:** We never show each other what we're wearing until
 40 Easter Sunday morning.

41 **OSWALD:** *(Finishing off his danish)* You two are so competitive.

42 **MIMI:** I'm *not* competitive. I'm fine with anything she wears —
 43 as long as mine looks better.

44 **PETE:** *(Standing as he starts to wake up)* Just like a woman. You
 45 don't see Oswald and me competing with our wardrobe.

1 MIMI: That's because you two don't have Fantasia Golding
 2 watching every move you make.

3 PETE: Who's Fantasia Golding?

4 MIMI: She attends our church, silly willy. She thinks we don't
 5 notice how she's always checking out all the girls'
 6 wardrobes in church.

7 OSWALD: (*Feigning disbelief*) No!

8 MIMI: She sure does. She's always making notes on what we're
 9 wearing and who we're sitting next to.

10 PETE: (*Playing along with OSWALD*) You don't say.

11 OSWALD: (*Pretending to be shocked*) Every Sunday?!

12 MIMI: (*Recognizing the sarcasm*) Oh, you two have no sympathy
 13 for anyone.

14 PETUNIA: (*Off-Stage*) OK, is everyone ready?

15 MIMI: Here she comes. Now no matter how much you like my
 16 dress over hers, don't let it show. We don't want to hurt her
 17 feelings.

18 OSWALD: We'll try to be tactful.

19 MIMI: (*Shouting off to PETUNIA*) Ready, Petunia. (*PETUNIA enters*
 20 *wearing the identical dress as MIMI. *Check production notes.*
 21 *PETUNIA, without noticing MIMI's dress, does the same entrance*
 22 *and walks as MIMI did before, then ends up next to MIMI.*)

23 PETUNIA: Well, what do you think? (*MIMI, who is speechless,*
 24 *stands with her mouth wide open, pointing to PETUNIA's dress.*
 25 *PETUNIA, seeing MIMI's dress, also stands open-mouthed,*
 26 *pointing at the dress.*)

27 PETE: (*To OSWALD*) They're speechless.

28 OSWALD: Two women who can't talk? This might not be a bad
 29 Easter after all.

30 MIMI: (*Catching her breath*) Petunia, your dress!

31 PETUNIA: Mimi, your dress!

32 PETE: They're talking again.

33 OSWALD: I knew it was too good to last.

34 PETUNIA: Mimi, what are you doing wearing my dress?

35 MIMI: Your dress? You march back in there and change this
 36 instant!

37 PETUNIA: I was about to suggest you do the same thing.

38 PETE: (*Snickering*) It's Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

39 MIMI: (*Folding her arms*) I am *not* changing!

40 PETUNIA: (*Folding her arms*) Neither am I!

41 OSWALD: (*Looking at his watch*) Good, because there isn't time.
 42 (*Grabbing his jacket and heading for the door*) We need to get
 43 going before all the good parking spots are taken.

44 PETE: Have you lost your mind, Oswald? You know the girls
 45 like to make an entrance.

1 MIMI: *(Staring hard at PETUNIA)* It doesn't look as though we
 2 will be making an entrance at all.
 3 OSWALD: What do you mean?
 4 PETUNIA: You don't think we can attend an Easter service
 5 wearing the same dress, do you?
 6 PETE: Then one of you will have to change.
 7 PETUNIA: Did you hear that, Mimi? One of us will have to
 8 change. *(OSWALD grabs a box of wooden matches.)*
 9 MIMI: He was talking to you.
 10 OSWALD: Good grief. *(Removes two matches from the box and breaks*
 11 *one of them in two.)* OK, look, you can draw straws. The short
 12 straw will have to change. Agreed?
 13 PETUNIA: Well ...
 14 MIMI: *(After a moment)* I guess that will be all right.
 15 OSWALD: Good, now here. *(Holds up the two matches.)* Petunia,
 16 you draw.
 17 MIMI: Why does she get to draw first?
 18 OSWALD: OK, Mimi, you draw.
 19 PETUNIA: Why does she get to draw first?
 20 OSWALD: For Pete's sake.
 21 PETE: Yeah, for *my* sake.
 22 OSWALD: Quiet, Pete.
 23 PETUNIA: OK, Mimi can draw. *(OSWALD holds the matches out to*
 24 *MIMI.)*
 25 MIMI: I'll take this one. Wait, no, I think I want this one. Wait —
 26 PETE and OSWALD: *(Together)* Mimi! *(MIMI slowly draws a match*
 27 *and holds it up. OSWALD holds the other match up, which is*
 28 *longer.)*
 29 PETUNIA: I won!
 30 OSWALD: OK, Mimi, go change — and hurry up, please.
 31 MIMI: But I'll have to wear something I've already worn.
 32 PETE: So?
 33 MIMI: Fantasia will be watching.
 34 PETE: I'm sure Fantasia Golding will get over it.
 35 MIMI: *(As she storms out)* This will be the worst Easter in the
 36 history of the world. *(She's gone. OSWALD and PETE have a*
 37 *good laugh.)*
 38 PETE: You girls are so worried about what Fantasia Golding
 39 thinks of you.
 40 OSWALD: Tell me, Petunia, do you even know what last
 41 Sunday's sermon was about?
 42 PETUNIA: Of course I do. It was on ... Why don't you mind your
 43 own business?
 44 PETE: Oswald, you're just as bad. The only reason you've been
 45 going to church lately is because you're hoping to get that

1 contract from what's-his name.
 2 OSWALD: Mr. Krendle. And if I get that contract, it would mean
 3 a big bonus for me at work.
 4 PETUNIA: *(To OSWALD)* Aha! See, you're just as bad.
 5 OSWALD: So what? Pete only goes to church to flirt with that
 6 girl on the pew in front of us.
 7 PETE: Her name is Cassandra. *(Catches himself.)* I mean, I do not!
 8 PETUNIA: We're all hypocrites, so we might as well admit it.
 9 OSWALD: *(Rushing to the mirror fixing his tie, shouting)* Mimi, hurry
 10 up, please! It's Easter Sunday. The church will be packed!
 11 PETE: *(Rushes to the mirror with a comb.)* Move over. I need one
 12 more look at my hair.
 13 PETUNIA: Both of you move out of the way so I can see how I look
 14 in my new dress. *(They're all three trying to crowd out the others*
 15 *as they primp before the mirror. On the opposite side of the stage*
 16 *FESTER enters, tiptoeing and carrying an axe. He spots them, turns*
 17 *to someone Off-Stage, puts a finger to his lips, and shushes them. He*
 18 *enters the room followed by GRANDMA, ELKIN, GLENDA MAE,*
 19 *and BRENDA MAE. They're all tiptoeing. GRANDMA counts*
 20 *silently on her fingers as she holds them up. One, two, three.)*
 21 ALL: *(Shouting together)* Surprise! *(PETUNIA screams, PETE grabs a*
 22 *candlestick off the table and holds it into the air as OSWALD jumps*
 23 *up on the sofa.)*
 24 FESTER: *(Laughing)* See, Grandma? I told you we'd surprise 'em!
 25 ELKIN: Happy Easter, City Cousins!
 26 GRANDMA: Are you surprised? I bet you are, ain't you? Hot
 27 diggity, we sure got your goat!
 28 GLENDA MAE: *(Rushing to OSWALD, holding a sprig of mistletoe over*
 29 *his head)* Oh, look, Cousin Oswald, you're standin' under the
 30 mistletoe. *(She kisses his hand.)*
 31 BRENDA MAE: Hey, I wanted to kiss on Cousin Oswald! *(She*
 32 *kisses his other hand.)*
 33 ELKIN: Brenda Mae, Glenda Mae, y'all straighten up and act like
 34 somebody.
 35 GRANDMA: Besides, mistletoe is for Christmas, not Easter.
 36 GLENDA MAE: As long as I get some sugar, I don't care what day
 37 it is. *(She high-fives with BRENDA MAE.)*
 38 PETUNIA: *(Easing out of her shock)* Grandma Taylor, Elkin, what
 39 are you doing in the city?
 40 ELKIN: Well, it's like this, Cousin Petunia. Y'all are always comin'
 41 out to Cricket County to spend time with us ...
 42 GRANDMA: And get your grubby little hands on our money —
 43 ELKIN: *(Admonishing)* Now, Grandma. *(Back to PETUNIA)* So we
 44 thought the least we could do is come spend Easter with
 45 y'all.

- 1 MIMI: Now that you mention it, did you happen to bring any of
 2 your money with you?
- 3 OSWALD: (*Admonishing*) Mimi!
- 4 MIMI: Well, they have millions. And you can certainly tell by
 5 looking at them, they sure aren't spending any of it.
- 6 GRANDMA: You're just mad 'cause Uncle Zeke didn't leave you
 7 any of his land chock-full of coal mines, diamond mines,
 8 and oil fields.
- 9 MIMI: Please don't remind me. I feel a migraine coming on.
- 10 FESTER: Grandma said we would be waitin' forever for an
 11 invitation, and that we should just come on out and
 12 surprise you. (*Throws out his arms.*) Surprise!
- 13 GRANDMA: We already yelled surprise, Fester.
- 14 PETE: (*At a loss for words*) Oh ... well ... it's just that ... well ...
- 15 OSWALD: (*Interrupting*) What Pete means is that we're really not
 16 prepared for company.
- 17 GLENDA MAE: Heck, we ain't company, we're kinfolk.
- 18 BRENDA MAE: Right, 'cause like we say in the country, "If it
 19 looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it must be time
 20 for supper, and I bet you a dollar we're havin' duck."
- 21 OSWALD: (*Fake smile*) Of course you're family, and we're glad to
 22 see you as always.
- 23 PETE: Unfortunately, it seems we're a victim of bad timing. We
 24 were just about to head off to church services.
- 25 GRANDMA: (*Pretending she didn't already figure this out*) Have
 26 mercy, did you hear that, clan? They're headin' off to
 27 Easter services.
- 28 ELKIN: (*Pretending*) Drat it all. Tell 'em, Fester.
- 29 FESTER: You mean I get to tell them?
- 30 ELKIN: Do the honors.
- 31 FESTER: (*Turning to his city family*) Guess what? We're goin' to
 32 church with y'all! (*PETE, OSWALD, and PETUNIA freeze like*
 33 *statues, wide-eyed.*)
- 34 COUNTRY BUNCH: (*Shouting together*) Surprise!
- 35 GRANDMA: (*Slaps her leg.*) Don't that just boil your grits? I bet
 36 y'all ain't never had this many surprises in one day.
- 37 PETE: Could you excuse us one moment, please? (*He pulls*
 38 *OSWALD and PETUNIA Downstage.*) What are we going to
 39 do?
- 40 OSWALD: If they show up at church with us, what will Mr.
 41 Krendle think?
- 42 PETE: Cassandra won't give me the time of day if she sees them
 43 with us.
- 44 PETUNIA: Fantasia will never let us live it down.
- 45 OSWALD: Follow my lead. (*They rush back to the COUNTRY*

1 *BUNCH.*) We would love to have you go to Easter services
 2 with us, but unfortunately we're already running a little
 3 late and we don't have time for you to change.

4 GRANDMA: Change?

5 OSWALD: Yes ma'am, into your church clothes.

6 FESTER: Silly boy, this *is* our church clothes.

7 ELKIN: We had 'em made up special for Easter Sunday.

8 GRANDMA: Don't they dress up fancy like this in the city?

9 PETUNIA: (*Quickly stepping in*) You know what I just thought
 10 about?

11 OSWALD: (*Appreciates her saving him.*) What did you just think
 12 about, Petunia?

13 PETUNIA: We forgot all about Easter lunch.

14 PETE: But we always eat over at the —

15 OSWALD: (*Pushing PETE out of the way to quiet him*) You are
 16 absolutely right, Petunia dear. We forgot all about Easter
 17 lunch. Drat it all.

18 PETUNIA: (*Overacting*) Whatever are we going to do?

19 OSWALD: If only we had someone to stay here and cook Easter
 20 lunch while we run off to the service.

21 PETUNIA: (*Standing next to GRANDMA and hinting broadly*) If only
 22 we knew someone who runs a *diner* and has lots of
 23 experience cooking for *lots* of people — you know, someone
 24 who's in the *cooking* business.

25 GRANDMA: Honey, how can I help you think of somebody with
 26 all that gabbin' you're doin' in my ear?

27 ELKIN: Hold on there a cotton-pickin' minute. Grandma is used
 28 to cooking for lots of people.

29 FESTER: Yeah, she runs her very own diner.

30 PETUNIA: (*Hugging her*) Oh, Grandma Taylor, that's so nice of
 31 you to offer.

32 GRANDMA: What did I offer?

33 PETUNIA: To stay here and cook our Easter lunch while we're
 34 at church.

35 GRANDMA: Did I do that?

36 BRENDA MAE: But we can't leave Grandma here all by herself
 37 while the rest of us go to church.

38 GLENDA MAE: That wouldn't be nice a-tall.

39 OSWALD: You're right, of course. Someone would need to stay
 40 here and help her. (*Stands between GLENDA MAE and*
 41 *BRENDA MAE.*) I wonder who it could be.

42 BRENDA MAE: Heck, me and Glenda Mae is purdy handy in the
 43 kitchen. (*Elbows OSWALD.*) Hint, hint.

44 GLENDA MAE: Yeah, hint, hint. (*She elbows him a little too hard*
 45 *causing him to double over.*)

- 1 GRANDMA: Now ever'body just hold your horses a minute. I
 2 was lookin' forward to goin' to the Easter service this
 3 mornin'.
- 4 PETE: That's just it, Grandma Taylor — you can still worship at
 5 our church.
- 6 GRANDMA: How do you figure?
- 7 OSWALD: Our worship service is broadcast on television on
 8 Sunday afternoons. You can watch it on our seventy-five
 9 inch TV screen.
- 10 PETE: (*Holds up a pair of 3-D glasses.*) We even offer 3-D glasses so
 11 it's like you're right there in the worship center. (*They're all*
 12 *looking closely at GRANDMA.*)
- 13 GRANDMA: (*Big smile*) Well, OK, if you like my cookin' that
 14 much.
- 15 OSWALD: Good girl.
- 16 PETE: I can't wait to taste it.
- 17 PETUNIA: It will be delicious, I just know it.
- 18 GLENDA MAE: You'll love Grandma's cookin'.
- 19 BRENDA MAE: Yeah, in Cricket County, she was voted Cook of
 20 the Year for the month of April.
- 21 BRENDA MAE: And don't fret none, Grandma. We'll be glad to
 22 help.
- 23 GLENDA MAE: (*Flirty, to OSWALD*) Like I said, we're *real*
 24 domestic.
- 25 BRENDA MAE: I'm just like the girl next door.
- 26 GLENDA MAE: If you happen to live next door to a dog pound.
 27 (*BRENDA MAE pulls GLENDA MAE's pigtail.*)
- 28 MIMI: (*Off-Stage*) All right, is everyone ready?
- 29 OSWALD: (*Closely to PETE and PETUNIA*) We forgot about Mimi!
- 30 PETUNIA: She'll go ballistic if she knows they're here. (*Shouting*
 31 *off*) Hold on a second, Mimi!
- 32 OSWALD: Grandma Taylor, the kitchen is right through there.
- 33 GRANDMA: Come on, family — let's take a gander at their fancy
 34 kitchen.
- 35 PETE: Right through that door. That's right. (*They exit and he*
 36 *shuts the door behind them.*)
- 37 MIMI: Ready or not, here I come! (*She enters wearing a different*
 38 *dress and does a different runway walk.*)
- 39 MIMI: Well?
- 40 PETUNIA: Mimi, that's my dress.
- 41 MIMI: (*Adjusting the sleeves*) I know.
- 42 PETUNIA: But I haven't worn it yet.
- 43 MIMI: (*With a smile*) I know.
- 44 PETUNIA: You can't wear my dress before I wear my dress.
- 45 MIMI: It was your idea that I change, remember?

- 1 OSWALD: Under the circumstances, I think it's OK, Petunia.
- 2 PETE: Besides, we'll be late if we don't get going.
- 3 MIMI: (*Holding up FESTER's axe*) What's this?
- 4 OSWALD: (*Quickly*) OK, everybody, let's go to church. (*FESTER*
5 *enters calmly, crosses to OSWALD, takes his axe then exits again*
6 *to the kitchen. MIMI is wide-eyed.*)
- 7 MIMI: (*Pointing where FESTER exited*) Wha, wha, wha — who,
8 who, who —
- 9 PETUNIA: Mimi, stay calm.
- 10 MIMI: But, but, but — (*FESTER enters.*)
- 11 FESTER: Oh, howdy, Cousin Mimi, I didn't see you standin'
12 there. Cousin Oswald, Grandma was wonderin' where the
13 wood is for the stove.
- 14 OSWALD: There is no wood, Fester.
- 15 FESTER: (*Shouting*) He says there ain't no wood!
- 16 GRANDMA: (*Entering with a hand towel thrown over her shoulder*
17 *and tying on an apron*) How in sam hill do you expect me to
18 cook without wood for the stove?
- 19 PETE: It's electric.
- 20 GRANDMA: (*Sees MIMI.*) Land sakes alive, if it ain't old Moo
21 Moo. Happy Easter, child. And I do love that dress. Honey
22 child, you look like one of them there movie stars.
- 23 MIMI: (*This perks her up.*) I do?
- 24 PETUNIA: (*Taken aback*) She does?
- 25 GLENDA MAE: (*Entering with a mixing bowl*) Grandma, how much
26 flour do we need to deep fry ... (*Sees MIMI.*) Land sakes
27 alive, it's Cousin Mimi. (*She hugs her.*) Whhhhhoouo-eeee,
28 look at that there dress. You're prettier than a deer
29 standin' in the middle of a field who gets shot, gutted, and
30 stuffed, then put on somebody's wall above the fireplace.
- 31 FESTER: Now *that's* pretty.
- 32 MIMI: I am? I'm pretty?
- 33 PETUNIA: She's pretty?
- 34 GLENDA MAE: Brenda Mae! Brenda Mae! Come a-runnin' and
35 take a gander!
- 36 BRENDA MAE: (*Running in holding a pot*) What is it, Glenda Mae?
- 37 GLENDA MAE: It's Cousin Mimi, and look at the dress she's
38 a-wearin'.
- 39 BRENDA MAE: My oh my, that is some purdy duds, Cousin
40 Mimi. You're prettier than a deer standin' in the middle of
41 the field —
- 42 GLENDA MAE: (*Interrupting*) I already told her that.
- 43 PETUNIA: Hold on a minute, everyone! What about my Easter
44 dress? (*BRENDA MAE and GLENDA MAE turn silently, look at*
45 *PETUNIA's dress, look her up and down, then look at each other.*)

- 1 GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE: (*Together*) Bless her heart.
 2 OSWALD: Well, I do hate to rush everyone, but the old clock is
 3 ticking right along.
 4 MIMI: Wait a minute — are they going to church with us?
 5 PETE: No, Mimi. They've been kind enough to stay behind and
 6 cook dinner while we go to church. (*Winks at her.*)
 7 MIMI: Thank goodness.
 8 GRANDMA: What?
 9 OSWALD: What she means is, thank goodness someone thought
 10 about the Easter meal.
 11 ELKIN: Grandma, we'll see you after the preachin'. Let's go,
 12 Cousin Oswald.
 13 OSWALD: I'm sorry, but where are you going?
 14 FESTER: (*Laughs.*) You don't expect us menfolk to help cook, do
 15 you?
 16 ELKIN: (*Laughs.*) Of course they don't, Fester. Ever'body in the
 17 free world knows that cookin' is women's work.
 18 PETE: But I cook all the time.
 19 OSWALD: So do I.
 20 FESTER: (*Shrugs.*) OK, y'all can stay here and help Grandma,
 21 and we'll go to church with the women folk.
 22 PETUNIA: Would everyone please wait a minute? Now, it's
 23 clear to see that someone needs to stay here and help
 24 Grandma Taylor by setting the table and lighting the
 25 candles and all that.
 26 GRANDMA: Right as rain. Elkin, you and Fester can stay here
 27 and help me get ever'thing ready.
 28 ELKIN: OK, as long as I don't have to put on no apron.
 29 GRANDMA: You city folk get a move on or you won't get to hear
 30 any preachin' a-tall.
 31 BRENDA MAE: Ain't nobody goin' to be doin' anything except
 32 lookin' at how pretty Cousin Mimi is in her fancy Easter
 33 dress.
 34 GLENDA MAE: Yeah, 'cause like we say in the country, "When
 35 you dress up the prize heifer, the rest of the animals just
 36 can't hold a candle."
 37 BRENDA MAE: (*Looking at MIMI*) And I ain't never saw a more
 38 prettier heifer in all my born days.
 39 OSWALD: So, we'll see you all after church.
 40 PETE: And thanks again for your help with the food.
 41 GRANDMA: Now, off you go. (*Pushes them out.*) Have a good time.
 42 We'll have the meal all ready when you git back. There you
 43 go. Bye now. (*They are gone.*)
 44 ELKIN: Grandma, I'm a little surprised you're takin' all this so
 45 lightly. I never thought in a million years you would ever

1 miss Easter Sunday preachin’.

2 GRANDMA: And we ain’t goin’ to miss it this year.

3 FESTER: You mean we’re goin’ to watch it on TV later today? *(He*
4 *puts on the 3D glasses.)* Gol-lee, these things really work.
5 *(Reaches out for ELKIN’s face.)* It’s like you’re standin’ right in
6 front of me.

7 GRANDMA: *(Grabs the glasses off FESTER.)* Nope, we’re goin’ to
8 watch it live and in person.

9 GLENDA MAE: What do you mean, Grandma?

10 GRANDMA: I wanted it to be a surprise, so I did ever’t thing real
11 secret-like.

12 ELKIN: Did what?

13 GRANDMA: Well, late last night after ever’body left my diner, I
14 cooked up a whole slew-full of vittles, covered ’em up in
15 bowls, and hid ’em in the back of the pickup truck.

16 ELKIN: You mean the whole Easter dinner is in the back of our
17 truck?

18 GRANDMA: We’ll just take ever’t thing out of the truck, put it in the
19 kitchen, and ever’t thing will be ready to warm up when we
20 get back from church.

21 BRENDA MAE: So we do get to go to church with our City
22 Cousins! I get to sit by Cousin Oswald!

23 GLENDA MAE: I want to sit by him too!

24 GRANDMA: So, we’ll wait ’til they get seated in their pew, then
25 we’ll walk right in and shout “Surprise!”

26 BRENDA MAE and GLENDA MAE: *(Together, clapping wildly)* Yay!

27 BRENDA MAE: But wait! We forgot our Easter bonnets.

28 GRANDMA: Never fear, Grandma is here. *(Produces three bonnets.*
29 *She and the TWINS put them on.)*

30 FESTER: I can’t wait to see the surprised look on their faces.

31 ELKIN: Well, family, shall we go to church?

32 FESTER: *(Singing)* Up from the grave he arose ...

33 ALL: *(Joining in on the song)* With a mighty triumph o’er His foes! La
34 la la la la la ... *(They exit single file, dancing a little as the lights*
35 *fade to a blackout.)*

36

37

38 Scene 2

39

40 *(It’s after the service. OSWALD, PETE, PETUNIA, and MIMI enter.*
41 *They’re wide-eyed and walking like zombies. They look as though they*
42 *are in shock. Each one plops down, sitting and looking straight out to*
43 *the audience. Finally someone speaks.)*

44 OSWALD: Did that just happen?

45 PETE: Please tell me it was all just a bad dream.

1 PETUNIA: Then why can't I wake up?
 2 MIMI: I pinched myself all the way home.
 3 OSWALD: That could only mean one thing.
 4 PETE: It actually happened.
 5 ALL: *(In unison)* They came to our church.
 6 MIMI: *(As though in a trance)* They sat with us.
 7 OSWALD: They shouted "Surprise!" at the top of their lungs.
 8 MIMI: They *sat* with us.
 9 PETUNIA: They volunteered to recite an Easter poem.
 10 MIMI: They *sat* with us.
 11 PETE: Fester actually stood up in front of our church and recited
 12 a poem he wrote for Easter.
 13 PETUNIA: Fantasia Golding saw them.
 14 OSWALD: Mr. Krendle saw them.
 15 PETE: Beautiful Cassandra saw them. *(MIMI sobs loudly.)*
 16 PETUNIA: There, there, Mimi. It'll be all right.
 17 MIMI: *(Through her teeth)* No! It will never be all right again as long
 18 as I live! *(She blows her nose.)*
 19 OSWALD: How can we ever face our pastor again?
 20 PETUNIA: We'll just have to move to another city. It's that simple.
 21 MIMI: Somewhere far, far away from the judgmental eyes of
 22 Fantasia Golding.
 23 PETUNIA: What made Fester think he could stand up in the
 24 middle of a sacred service and recite an Easter poem that *he*
 25 wrote?
 26 MIMI: There he was, standing there in that atrocious hillbilly
 27 wear and reciting that rustic verse, surrounded by the most
 28 sophisticated, wealthy, intelligent parishioners in the city.
 29 PETE: But the worst part, the very worst part of the whole ordeal,
 30 is when everyone realized they were with us. *(The phone rings.)*
 31 OSWALD: Someone get that. I'm too weak to move.
 32 PETE: *(Answering)* Hello? *(Straightens up quickly, as though he were*
 33 *speaking to the caller in person.)* Oh, hello, Pastor Green. *(Covers*
 34 *the mouth piece.)* It's Pastor Green. *(Back to the phone as*
 35 *OSWALD, MIMI, and PETUNIA jump up and surround PETE.)*
 36 Yes, sir. *(Pause)* Yes, sir. *(Pause)* Yes, sir. *(Pause)* Thank you, sir.
 37 *(PETE hangs up the phone.)*
 38 OSWALD: Well? *(PETE is looking as though he is in shock.)*
 39 PETUNIA: Pete, what did Pastor Green say?
 40 PETE: *(Speaks nervously)* Well, he said, "Is this Peter?" And I said,
 41 "Yes, sir." And he said, "Is your family home?" And I said,
 42 "Yes, sir." And he said, "Would it be all right if my wife and I
 43 pay you a visit?" And I said, "Yes, sir." And he said, "We're on
 44 our way." And I said, "Thank you, sir." And that's when I
 45 hung up.

- 1 OSWALD: Pete, what were you thinking?
 2 MIMI: They can't come here!
 3 PETUNIA: The hillbillies will be back any minute.
 4 OSWALD: Everyone just stay calm. We don't know why the pastor
 5 of the most prestigious megachurch with the most beautiful
 6 stained glass windows in the city is coming over. Pete, when
 7 you talked to him, did he sound mad?
 8 PETE: No, he didn't sound mad.
 9 OSWALD: There, you see?
 10 PETE: He sounded furious!
 11 MIMI: I'll bar the front door.
 12 PETE: (*Stopping MIMI*) Everyone in the car. We have to get out of
 13 here!
 14 OSWALD: We can't run away after telling the pastor we're here.
 15 It isn't ethical. It isn't moral!
 16 PETE: Then what do we do?
 17 OSWALD: We lie.
 18 OSWALD, PETE, and MIMI: (*Together*) Lie?
 19 OSWALD: We'll explain that these hobos came into the worship
 20 service from off the street pretending they knew us.
 21 PETE: Do you think it will work?
 22 OSWALD: Of course it will work. What do you think I have up
 23 here in my head? (*He knocks on the side of his head three times.*
 24 *Simultaneously we hear three knocks at the door.*)
 25 PETE: It sounds pretty hollow to me.
 26 OSWALD: (*Short, to PETE*) Get the door! (*PETE crosses and opens the*
 27 *door, and there stands the COUNTRY CLAN.*)
 28 GRANDMA: (*As she rushes in, followed by the others*) Silly boy. You
 29 locked the door by mistake!
 30 PETE: Sorry, Grandma Taylor. Come in.
 31 FESTER: Cousin Oswald, it sure is a good thing we was there to
 32 liven up your church today.
 33 BRENDA MAE: Bless y'all's heart, I ain't never been to somethin'
 34 more borin' in all my born days.
 35 OSWALD: We prefer to consider it reverent.
 36 GRANDMA: Honey child, I don't know how to put this, but your
 37 church was as cold as a mother-in-law's kiss.
 38 FESTER: Yes sir, it was pretty as all get out, but it sure was cold.
 39 PETUNIA: (*To FESTER*) But Fester, you stood up and recited a
 40 poem without permission. That was presumptuous.
 41 FESTER: I'm glad you liked it. Much obliged.
 42 MIMI: Much obliged? (*Louder*) Much obliged? (*Louder still*) Much
 43 obliged?
 44 FESTER: You're welcome.
 45 MIMI: Oswald, I can't stand it a minute longer.

1 OSWALD: Mimi, settle down.

2 MIMI: But Grandma Taylor, you promised you were going to

3 stay here and cook Easter lunch for us.

4 GRANDMA: That's our second surprise. We brought all the food

5 with us. It won't take but a second to warm it all up.

6 FESTER: Surprise!

7 ELKIN: Fester, I think we done said surprise enough.

8 MIMI: But our distinguished pastor and his wife are on his way

9 right now for a visit.

10 GRANDMA: That ain't no problem. We'll just set two extra

11 plates.

12 OSWALD: Uh, family, can I see you a moment, please? (*The CITY*

13 *BUNCH huddles Stage Left. The COUNTRY BUNCH forms their*

14 *own huddle on the opposite side of the stage.*)

15 MIMI: We cannot allow our illustrious pastor to see the

16 hillbillies.

17 PETUNIA: He'll know for sure they're really part of our family.

18 PETE: We'll have to keep them in the kitchen. (*They continue to*

19 *talk in pantomime.*)

20 FESTER: Elkin, their preacher is comin' over.

21 ELKIN: This ain't good a-tall.

22 GLENDA MAE: How can we face him?

23 BRENDA MAE: He's bound to ask us if we liked the service.

24 FESTER: We'll have to tell him that sittin' through that service

25 was like watchin' paint dry.

26 ELKIN: We'll do no such thing. Remember what Mama always

27 taught us: "If you cain't say nuthin' nice, keep yer trap

28 shut."

29 GRANDMA: Right, if he brings up his borin' sermon, we just

30 don't say nothin'.

31 FESTER: Say nothin', got it!

32 OSWALD: Operation Keep-Them-in-the-Kitchen is now

33 underway.

34 ELKIN: Operation Zip-Your-Lip starts now. (*They pantomime*

35 *zipping their lips.*)

36 CITY BUNCH: (*Joining hands in the middle of their circle like a sports*

37 *team*) Break!

38 COUNTRY BUNCH: (*Doing the same*) Break! (*They come back*

39 *together at Center Stage.*)

40 OSWALD: Well, Grandma Taylor, my stomach sure is rumbling.

41 PETE: We can't wait to sink our teeth into some of them there

42 vittles you brought. Right, girls?

43 MIMI and PETUNIA: (*Together, with fake smiles*) Right, y'all!

44 OSWALD: (*Holds his hand to his ear as he leans in toward the kitchen*

45 *and shouts as though he were talking to someone.*) What's that?

1 Oh, OK, they're on their way!

2 ELKIN: Who you talkin' to, Cousin Oswald?

3 OSWALD: The stove just called wondering when someone
4 would be starting lunch. (*Laughs, but no one else does.*) That
5 was a little joke.

6 GRANDMA: Even though that joke wasn't a bit funny, don't fret
7 none — we just got to warm it up. Except for the biscuits. I
8 couldn't make them ahead of time.

9 OSWALD: (*Gently pushing GRANDMA toward the kitchen*) Take all
10 the time you need. We're not all that hungry.

11 BRENDA MAE: I thought your joke was funny, Cousin Oswald.

12 GLENDA MAE: We was laughin' on the inside. (*The COUNTRY*
13 *BUNCH exits.*)

14 PETE: (*Turning to the rest*) Remember, we have got to keep them
15 in the kitchen. (*The doorbell rings.*)

16 MIMI: There they are. I think I might faint.

17 FESTER: (*Re-entering*) I think I heard a cow bell ring. I didn't
18 know y'all raised cattle.

19 OSWALD: It's the doorbell, Fester. That bell means someone is
20 at the door. (*Ushering ELKIN back to the kitchen.*) I'll get it. Go
21 on. That's it. (*ELKIN exits.*)

22 PETE: Oswald, get the door.

23 OSWALD: Why me?

24 MIMI: I'm certainly not going to answer it.

25 PETUNIA: For heaven's sake. I'll answer it. Everyone sit down
26 and act normal. (*EVERYONE sits but looks anything but*
27 *normal. PETUNIA straightens her dress, takes a breath, smiles,*
28 *and answers the door. There stands PASTOR and MRS. GREEN.*)
29 Hello, hello! What an honor to have you in our humble
30 little home. Welcome, welcome! (*She stands staring at them*
31 *with her big, fake smile.*)

32 PASTOR: (*After a beat*) May we come in?

33 PETUNIA: I'm sorry. Of course you may come in. How rude of
34 me. (*She steps aside.*) Won't you come in? Look, Oswald, it's
35 Pastor Green and his gracious wife. (*To MRS. GREEN*) I love
36 that dress you're wearing.

37 MRS. GREEN: Thank you, and I do love ... (*Looks at PETUNIA's*
38 *dress, then turns to MIMI.*) I do love *your* dress.

39 MIMI: (*Posing*) This old thing? I wear it when I don't care how I
40 look. (*PETUNIA crosses her arms and pouts quietly.*)

41 OSWALD: (*Crossing to PASTOR GREEN*) Come in, Pastor. May I
42 take your jacket?

43 PASTOR: No thank you. We won't be staying long.

44 PETE: Have a seat, won't you? (*PASTOR and MRS. GREEN have a*
45 *seat as OSWALD, behind their backs, looks over at his family and*

1 *shrugs as though to say, "I can't imagine why they're here.")*
2 PASTOR: To be quite honest with you, this visit is ... how shall
3 I say? Quite awkward.
4 OSWALD: Awkward, sir?
5 PASTOR: It's about your visitors at church today.
6 PETE: You must mean those hillbillies this morning? You
7 thought they were with us? No sir, we've never seen them
8 before today.
9 PASTOR: *(Unbelieving)* You haven't?
10 MIMI: Oh, no. They just wandered in ...
11 PETUNIA: We couldn't have very well asked them to leave,
12 could we?
13 WIFE: Of course not.
14 PASTOR: It's just that ... well, at First Church of the Stained
15 Glass, we pride ourselves in ... it's just that people like
16 that ... I'm not sure they can fully appreciate our way of
17 doing things, if you know what I mean. I do tend to use
18 lavish wording in my sermons. They probably wouldn't
19 understand a word I said.
20 MRS. GREEN: We're afraid that could result in confusion for
21 them.
22 PASTOR: And the Bible *does* say that God isn't the author of
23 confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33).
24 PETUNIA: You're absolutely right, Pastor Green. Simpletons
25 off the street would be lost trying to keep up with your
26 sophisticated prattle ... uh, rhetoric ... uh, sermons.
27 PASTOR: I'm glad you understand.
28 MRS. GREEN: And it does make us feel better that you
29 appreciate where *we're* coming from.
30 OSWALD: No worries. I'm sure we'll never hear from those poor
31 souls again. *(The sound of pots and pans being dropped is heard*
32 *Off-Stage.)*
33 MRS. GREEN: *(Standing with her hand to her chest)* Oh dear, what
34 was that noise?
35 OSWALD: *(Thinking on his feet)* Mimi, did you remember to tie
36 up — uh —
37 PETE: *(Jumping in)* The dog! *(PETE is proud of himself and gives*
38 *OSWALD a secret thumbs up.)*
39 OSWALD: Right! The dog! Did you tie up the dog?
40 MIMI: Huh?
41 PETUNIA: *(Catching on)* I bet he got loose. Come on, Mimi, we'll
42 go check on the dog. *(She pulls MIMI by the arm toward the*
43 *kitchen door. As soon as they arrive at the door, FESTER enters*
44 *holding a couple of pots and pans. PETUNIA covers his mouth and*
45 *pushes him back into the kitchen followed by MIMI. All this is*

1 unnoticed by PASTOR GREEN and his WIFE.)
2 OSWALD: (*Overacting*) That silly *dog* is always knocking things
3 over.
4 PASTOR: I happen to be an avid dog lover.
5 MRS. GREEN: What's the dear thing's name?
6 PETE: Bob!
7 OSWALD: (*At the same time*) Rover!
8 PETE: Rover!
9 OSWALD: (*At the same time*) Bob!
10 PETE: Actually, his full name is Rover Bob. (*Shouts to the*
11 *kitchen.*) Quiet in there, Rover Bob!
12 MRS. GREEN: Awwww, he sounds so cute. May we see him?
13 (*Heads to the kitchen.*)
14 OSWALD: (*Heading her off*) I wouldn't go in there if I were you.
15 PASTOR: Why not?
16 PETE: Yeah, why not? (*OSWALD stomps PETE's foot.*) Ahhhh!
17 OSWALD: I tell you what, I'll bring Rover Bob in here. He needs
18 to get out of the kitchen anyway.
19 PETE: I have always said, if you can't stand the heat, stay out of
20 the kitchen. (*Laughs nervously.*)
21 OSWALD: (*Turns to PETE and speaks through his teeth.*) Don't help
22 me, Pete. (*He rushes through the kitchen door, then enters*
23 *immediately again.*) I'm terribly sorry, but I'm afraid Rover
24 Bob is sleeping. Maybe you could meet him the next time
25 you stop by.
26 MIMI: (*Rushes in.*) Oswald, Fester told me to tell you —
27 OSWALD: (*Quickly*) Not now, Mimi.
28 MRS. GREEN: Who is Fester?
29 MIMI: Oh ... uh ... that's the name of our dog.
30 PASTOR: I thought his name was Rover Bob.
31 OSWALD: (*Thinking quickly*) Fester is our *other* dog. (*Shouting*
32 *toward the kitchen*) Sit, Fester, sit!
33 PASTOR: Wait a minute — you said Fester *told* me ... so this
34 Fester dog *talks*?
35 OSWALD: Well ...
36 PASTOR: Something strange is going on here.
37 MRS. GREEN: (*Turns to her husband.*) Isn't Fester the name of
38 that hillbilly who recited that dreadful poem in this
39 morning's service?
40 FESTER: (*Enters stirring something in a pot.*) Did I hear somebody
41 call me? Oh, howdy. Y'all must've been the ones at the door
42 when we heard the bell ring. (*To MRS. GREEN*) I thought
43 you was a cow.
44 MRS. GREEN: I beg your pardon?
45 FESTER: I said, (*Loudly*) I thought you was a cow!

- 1 PASTOR: Excuse me, Mr. Tippinheimer, but could you please
2 ask whomever is in your kitchen to come here?
- 3 OSWALD: But ... (*Knows he's been found out.*) Yes, sir. (*He exits to the*
4 *kitchen.*)
- 5 PETE: Don't blame them, sir. They really didn't mean any harm.
- 6 MRS. GREEN: (*Hiding behind her husband*) Dear, I'm afraid of
7 them.
- 8 GRANDMA: (*Entering with OSWALD, GRANDMA butters a biscuit.*)
9 What in tarnation is going on? I have *got* to get vittles on
10 the table.
- 11 FESTER: (*Entering behind them*) And I got to clean up that mess I
12 made.
- 13 ELKIN: (*Also entering*) What's the matter, Cousin Oswald? (*All the*
14 *COUNTRY BUNCH has entered by now.*)
- 15 OSWALD: Pastor Green, Mrs. Green, I'd like you to meet Fester,
16 Elkin, Brenda Mae, Glenda Mae, and Grandma. Our family
17 from Cricket County.
- 18 MRS. GREEN: Family?
- 19 PASTOR: This explains a lot of things, doesn't it? (*Rubbing his*
20 *hands together and speaking to GRANDMA as she focuses on her*
21 *biscuit the whole time*) The first thing I want you to clarify is
22 this: Are you or are you not the rabble-rousers who
23 intruded upon our morning's Lenten celebration by
24 hastening your entry and discoursing such a rustic elegy
25 as the one you recited in my sacred pulpit? Explain that.
- 26 GRANDMA: (*As she holds up the biscuit to examine it*) First, explain
27 what you just said.
- 28 PASTOR: Aha! Just as I thought. Someone who can *not*
29 appreciate the fine art of syntax construction. What do you
30 have to say for yourself, Mr. Tippinheimer?
- 31 GRANDMA: (*Waving the butter knife in the PASTOR's face*) Look, if
32 you're mad 'cause you wasn't invited to Easter vittles, just
33 hold on to your britches. We'll set a couple of extra plates.
34 (*PASTOR GREEN's phone rings.*)
- 35 PASTOR: Excuse me. (*He crosses Downstage and answers his phone*
36 *while everyone in the background pantomimes a conversation.*)
37 Hello? (*MRS. GREEN is in the background looking with interest*
38 *at GRANDMA's biscuits.*)
- 39 MR. QUEST: (*Stepping out extreme Stage Left or Stage Right holding*
40 *his own cell phone*) Pastor Green?
- 41 PASTOR: Yes, who is this?
- 42 MR. QUEST: Sir, it's Mr. Quest, church treasurer.
- 43 PASTOR: I'll have to call you back, I'm in the middle of
44 something important.
- 45 MR. QUEST: I think you'll want to hear this.

- 1 PASTOR: Very well. What is it?
- 2 MR. QUEST: That hillbilly, the one who recited the poem this
3 morning. Wasn't his last name Taylor?
- 4 PASTOR: I don't remember. (*To FESTER*) Excuse me, sir, but do
5 you have any I.D.?
- 6 FESTER: About what?
- 7 PASTOR: I.D. You know, identification? (*FESTER gives him a
8 blank look.*) Never mind. What is your last name?
- 9 FESTER: Taylor, sir. Fester Taylor.
- 10 PASTOR: (*Back to the phone*) Taylor, that's right. Why are you
11 asking?
- 12 MR. QUEST: We were counting the offering from this morning's
13 service and came across a check.
- 14 PASTOR: Please get to the point.
- 15 MR. QUEST: Pastor, this check was written for fifty thousand
16 dollars.
- 17 PASTOR: What's so special about a thousand dollars?
- 18 MR. QUEST: No, sir. This check was written for *fifty* thousand
19 dollars. And it was signed by Elkin Taylor.
- 20 PASTOR: Elkin Taylor?
- 21 ELKIN: (*Turns to PASTOR GREEN.*) Yes, sir? (*PASTOR GREEN
22 ignores him.*)
- 23 MR. QUEST: I took it upon myself to conduct a little research
24 on his family. It seems they were at the receiving end of a
25 large inheritance left to them by a late uncle. They're
26 worth millions. (*PASTOR, in shock, glances over at the
27 COUNTRY BUNCH.*)
- 28 PASTOR: Thank you for the information. (*Hangs up as MR.
29 QUEST exits.*)
- 30 OSWALD: Pastor, how can you ever forgive us for deceiving you
31 this way?
- 32 PASTOR: (*Ignoring OSWALD, he moves to ELKIN.*) Now, where was
33 I? Oh, yes. (*Puts his arm around ELKIN.*) I was just saying
34 what a privilege it was to have you and your precious
35 family visit our humble little parish this morning.
- 36 MRS. GREEN: A privilege? Dear, what are you saying?
- 37 PASTOR: I am saying we would *love* to stay and break bread
38 with these fine people this Lord's day.
- 39 OSWALD: But sir, if you would only allow me to explain ...
40 (*Surprised*) You would?
- 41 GRANDMA: (*To PASTOR GREEN*) Well, you sure took your sweet
42 time sayin' so. I got to get back in the kitchen.
- 43 PASTOR: (*Heading her off*) Oh, but dear lady, you shouldn't be
44 working so hard on this beautiful Easter Sunday. You're a
45 guest.

- 1 GRANDMA: Then would you mind tellin' me how all the food in
2 there is goin' to git on the table?
- 3 PASTOR: (*Rushing to his WIFE and ushering her to the kitchen door*)
4 My wife will do it.
- 5 MRS. GREEN: That's right, his wife will do it. (*Realizes*) Wait a
6 minute, that's me.
- 7 PASTOR: You don't mind, do you, dear? After all, you and I are
8 servants of the Lord's people.
- 9 MIMI: Oswald, we can't let her do that.
- 10 OSWALD: Of course we can't, can we, Pete?
- 11 PETE: I should say not.
- 12 OSWALD: Pete will do it instead.
- 13 PETE: That's right. I will do it instead. (*Realizes*) Me?
- 14 OSWALD: You're a real sport.
- 15 PETE: But I don't know how —
- 16 GLENDA MAE: (*Has been stirring something in a bowl.*) We'll help
17 you, Cousin Pete.
- 18 BRENDA MAE: Yeah, we'll show you ever'thing.
- 19 PASTOR: (*To GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE*) Nonsense. You
20 two make yourselves comfortable.
- 21 MRS. GREEN: But dear, what's this all about? (*He whispers in her*
22 *ear. Lighting up like a firefly, she pushes GLENDA MAE into a*
23 *nearby chair.*) Like my husband said, make yourself
24 comfortable.
- 25 GLENDA MAE: If you insist.
- 26 MRS. GREEN: I insist, I insist!
- 27 GRANDMA: Glenda Mae, git yourself back in the kitchen.
- 28 GLENDA MAE: But she insisted.
- 29 OSWALD: The pastor's wife is right, Grandma Taylor. You're
30 our guest. (*OSWALD is confused about why the change of heart*
31 *has occurred in their pastor all of a sudden. He's just going along*
32 *with it. OSWALD turns to PETE and shrugs.*)
- 33 PETUNIA: (*To GRANDMA*) You have a seat too. Put your feet up.
34 That's it. Would you like for me to get you a fan?
- 35 GRANDMA: Get away from me! (*Turns to PASTOR GREEN*) Let
36 me get this straight, Preacher Blue.
- 37 PASTOR: It's Green.
- 38 GRANDMA: Whatever. You're the pastor of that fancy church
39 we went to this mornin'?
- 40 PASTOR: Yes ma'am, that is I. (*He kneels to her.*)
- 41 MRS. GREEN: We would love to know what your family thought
42 of the service this morning. (*Turns to FESTER.*) What about
43 you, young man? What did you think of our church?
44 (*FESTER, remembering GRANDMA's words, blatantly ignores*
45 *MRS. GREEN. He turns away from her. MRS. GREEN crosses to*

1 *his other side.)* Young man? (*FESTER turns his head suddenly*
2 *away from her.)* That's funny, he doesn't seem to hear me.

3 FESTER: Oh, I hear you just fine, ma'am, I'm just plumb
4 ignorin' you.

5 GRANDMA: (*Admonishing*) Fester, hush up!

6 FESTER: (*Innocently*) It was your idea, Grandma.

7 GLENDA MAE: Fester Taylor, you're slower than erosion. You
8 ain't supposed to tell 'em you're ignorin' 'em, you just do it.

9 PASTOR: But we would really like to know what you thought.

10 GRANDMA: Preacher man, you really want to know what we
11 thought about your church? 'Cause I'm gonna lay it all out
12 on the table, if you want the truth.

13 OSWALD: Now, Grandma Taylor, you don't have —

14 PASTOR: Of course we want you to be honest. We spend a great
15 deal of time and money on public relations research and
16 aesthetic beauty in an effort to build our church. So, if you
17 could sum up our little parish in one word, what would it
18 be?

19 GRANDMA: One word?

20 PASTOR: One word.

21 GRANDMA: (*Not holding back*) Stuffy.

22 FESTER: Borin'.

23 GLENDA MAE: Cold.

24 BRENDA MAE: Rude.

25 GRANDMA: It seems like your church members has been
26 starched and ironed, but not many of them has been
27 washed.

28 ELKIN: (*Embarrassed*) But other than that, we liked it just fine.

29 PASTOR: (*To GRANDMA, as he becomes overly friendly*) So, Ms.
30 Taylor, exactly what part of your visit this morning did
31 you find stuffy?

32 GRANDMA: Well, it started when we walked in and it ended
33 when we walked out.

34 GLENDA MAE: Not one person said it was good to have us at
35 that there church.

36 MRS. GREEN: Our people don't want to seem intrusive.

37 GRANDMA: When y'all had that part when ever'body turned
38 around and shook each other's hand, not one person shook
39 ours.

40 MRS. GREEN: Maybe they didn't see you.

41 GRANDMA: Honey, we was wearin' our bonnets. I don't think
42 they could miss us.

43 MRS. GREEN: Touché.

44 GRANDMA: That's not all, preacher. Somethin' else that
45 bothered me was your sermon.



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