

THE CASE OF THE MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR

by Brian Bopp



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The Case of the Mysterious Benefactor

A comedy/mystery
church dinner theatre

by BRIAN BOPP

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Case of the Mysterious Benefactor is a dinner theatre featuring a four-course meal. The dramatic action is interspersed with the dining. Although times for the various courses and scenes are suggested, they are merely a guideline to assist in your planning. Actual times may vary.

6:30 p.m. — Guests arrive and are introduced.

Appetizers and punch

6:45 p.m. — Cast is introduced.

7:00 p.m. — Welcome by host/hostess.

Salad

7:07 p.m. — Scene 1 (“Note to Ms. Pippenpopple”)

7:20 p.m. — **Entree**

Scene 2 (“Amos and Eunice Love Scene”)

7:25 p.m. — Scene 3 (“Gifts for the Sweetwater Sisters”)

7:40 p.m. — Scene 4 (“Telephone for Mysterious Gentleman”)

7:45 p.m. — **Dessert and coffee**

Scene 5 (“Finale and Open-Ended Question Time”)

8:30 p.m. — Approximate departure time.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

GARCON: (gär-són') A smooth, confident man in his early fifties. No one knows his real name anymore — it's just Garcon. He should be dressed in a tuxedo, slightly graying hair, and perhaps a small, Clark Gable moustache. His main role will be to pass messages between tables, at times acting them out. Should have good sense of timing and "highbrow" attitude. A light French accent would be nice, or British, if you can't do French. Garcon should supervise the evening just as any good maitre d' would, watching over every guest and attending to their needs by commanding his waitstaff to do their jobs.

MS. PATRICE PIPPENPOPPLE: The wealthy heiress of the Pippenpopple Popcorn fortune. She is stuffy, prideful, arrogant, and considers herself altogether better than anyone in the room. Should be dressed very richly, furs, etc., fine hairdo, lots of gaudy jewelry, midforties to sixtyish or whatever.

MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN: Alias JOHN MARTIN. In his midforties to sixties (near the age of Ms. Pippenpopple), this man will keep everyone guessing. His manner should be very suave, sophisticated, and sneaky, always peering over his glasses at someone. He should possess that rugged, handsome quality that attracts people's attention. He should be dressed in a trench coat and hat with dark glasses.

MISSY and SISSY SWEETWATER: Two lovely young sisters, shy and innocent, syrupy sweet as can be, like the heroine in a melodrama. They are in their twenties or early thirties — just a few years apart or twins. They have devoted their lives to the work of spreading good cheer everywhere.

HIS HONOR AMOS ALLMAN: Long-time mayor of _____ (*Insert your town name*). He is an amiable old man, in his late sixties to early seventies, with gray hair and a mischievous gleam in his eye. Mr. Allman has also been the Sunday school superintendent at _____ (*Your church name*) since the dawn of civilization. He and Mrs. Allman should be made up to look fairly old — not to the point of senility, but in good taste.

MRS. EUNICE ALLMAN: Mayor Allman's wife of fifty-two years, Eunice should be late sixtyish, white-haired and

pleasant. She typifies that type of grandmother who has aged gracefully.

DELIVERY PERSON 1: This should be a young man in his early twenties, dressed in a typical delivery person uniform. He is kind of a Jerry Lewis type, but not to the point of being obnoxious.

DELIVERY PERSON 2: This should also be a young male adult — a macho, all-business type, stern but not to the point of being harsh. He should be dressed in a different uniform than Delivery Person 1.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

The following persons, though not part of the drama, are vital to the overall success of the evening.

KITCHEN HELPERS: Organizers and cooks to plan the menu and prepare the meal.

WAITERS/WAITRESSES: Serve the meal in courses and attend to the guests' needs. For added fun, they may dress alike — e.g., white shirts, black pants, black bow ties.

HOST/HOSTESS: Greets the guests and gives the welcome. May also assist the kitchen staff.

PASTOR: Prays before the meal and concludes the evening.

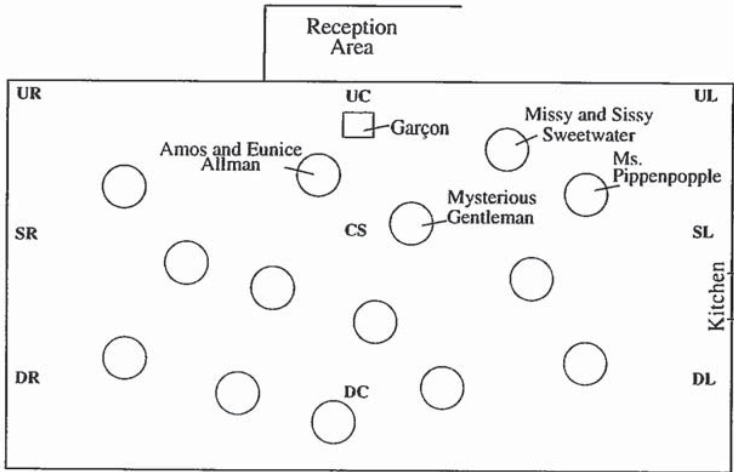
PRODUCTION NOTES

Setting:

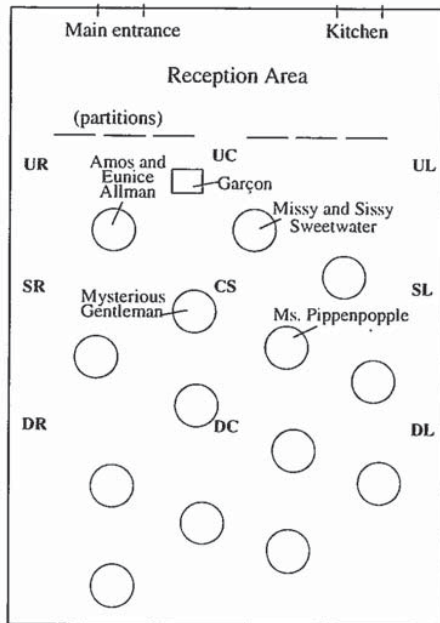
A fashionable restaurant in the finer section of Yourtown, U.S.A. called "Café Flambé." It is dinner time, and the tables are set, the candles are lit, the lights are low, and romantic dinner music is in the background. All is ready for the wealthy, prestigious residents of the city to arrive. They are greeted, as are all the dinner guests, by Garcon, the long-time maitre d'. As each couple enters, Garcon rings a small bell and announces their names to the group. Included among the guests are the actors and actresses who play major parts in the mystery. These cast members must stay in their character roles throughout the evening. They should speculate about their characters' backgrounds to enable them to ad-lib during dinner.

Dinner theatre happens in a variety of banquet halls, church basements, gymnasiums, and seldom on a regular stage. The directions provided are general and meant to be adapted to your specific setting. Since the setting is intimate, small tables seating two to four persons are suggested. Tablecloths, centerpieces, candles, etc. should be consistent with the Café Flambé motif.

MYSTERIOUS BENEFACTOR STAGING – PLAN A – FELLOWSHIP OR BANQUET HALL



PLAN B – GYMNASIUM



Mood Music:

Pleasant instrumental music should play continually except when the players have their scenes.

Microphones:

In a smallish banquet (fifty to seventy-five guests), this may not be necessary. With seventy-five or more guests, the ideal would be for each main character to wear a wireless lapel microphone which may be rented from an audio supply house.

Lighting:

Subdued lighting in general will add to the romantic mood. Lighting should be full at Garcon's station Up Center Stage. A follow spot, if available, could be utilized to follow the action during the scenes.

Sound Effects:

Ringing telephone (Scene 4).

As much as possible, the promotion and decoration of this event should hold to the "Café Flambé" motif. Put it on the tickets, posters, promo, etc. The promotional materials should say that each dinner guest will be part of a mystery/comedy/romance called *The Case of the Mysterious Benefactor*.

PROPS
(By scenes)

Cast Introductions:

Small bell, plain handkerchief — Garcon.

Lacy feminine handkerchief — Ms. Pippenpopple.

Cellular pocket phone — Amos.

Scene 1:

Telegram, fifteen dollars cash — Delivery Person 1.

Lacy hanky, note pad and pen — Ms. Pippenpopple.

Two dollars cash for tip — Garcon.

Scene 2:

Small, gift-wrapped package — Amos. (This package should contain a jewelry box that may or may not contain a gold brooch.)

Scene 3:

Bouquet of flowers, box of chocolates, card with poem — Delivery Person 2.

Scene 4:

Cordless telephone — Garçon.

Scene 5:

Cellular pocket phone — Amos.

The Introductions

(6:30 p.m. — *Guests begin arriving for appetizers and punch in a reception area before being seated. As each couple enters Up Center Stage, GARCON asks their names, rings his bell, and says: "Café Flambé welcomes Rev. and Mrs. Billy Graham" [inserting their real names, of course]. He then escorts them to a table. He must escort each couple to their seats. A "Please wait to be seated" sign should help to keep people from going in on their own. When most of the real guests are seated, the players make their entrances. They should be seated in conspicuous places so the rest of the guests can see what's going on.*)

(*At 6:45 p.m., MS. PATRICE PIPPENPOPPLE arrives at GARCON's desk. If wireless microphones and follow spot are used, they should begin now.*)

GARCON: *Café Flambé welcomes Ms. Patrice Pippenpopple.*

(*As GARCON announces her arrival and says her name, he looks at her. On "Pippenpopple," small beads of spit fly out. She looks aghast and wipes her cheek with a hanky, looking very shocked at GARCON.*)

MS. PIPPENPOPPLE: (*Wiping her cheek*) **I beg your pardon!**

GARCON: **I am so sorry, Madam.** (*Pulls his own hanky out to dry her off.*) **Please forgive me, Ms. Poopenpipple . . .** (*He spits on these names too.*) **I mean Pickenpickle, I mean . . .**

MS. PIPPENPOPPLE: (*Clears her throat to get his attention.*) **Ahem! The name is** (*Spitting at GARCON*) **Pippenpopple! Get it right, please!**

GARCON: (*Accepts this payback with resignation, wipes his own face.*) **Yes, Madam. May I escort you to your table?** (*He shows her to a table for one Down Left.*)

(*Other guests enter and are escorted to tables by GARCON. At 6:50 p.m., MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN arrives to be introduced. MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN enters Up Center to GARCON's stand and looks around sneakily. Whispers his name to GARCON.*)

- 1 **GARCON:** (*Rings his bell Up Center.*) **Café Flambé welcomes**
 2 **Mr. . . .** (*To MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN*) **I'm sorry, sir, I**
 3 **didn't quite catch your name. Would you tell me again?**
 4 (*He listens as MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN pronounces his*
 5 *name with his hand over his mouth to muffle the sound.*) **I see.**
 6 (*To MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN*) **Did you say Mmmphgh?**
 7 (*MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN nods.*) **Café Flambé welcomes**
 8 **Mr.** (*Hands over mouth*) **Mmmphgh. Please, come this way,**
 9 **sir.** (*GARCON leads MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN to his table*
 10 *for one Center Stage.*)
 11 (*As more guests arrive, GARCON announces and seats them. At*
 12 *6:52 p.m., the SWEETWATER SISTERS arrive.*)
 13 **GARCON:** (*At Up Center after asking their names and ringing the*
 14 *bell*) **Café Flambé welcomes . . .** (*Just as GARCON puts down*
 15 *his bell, MISSY and SISSY each take one of his arms and smile.*
 16 *The following lines are said under his nose.*)
 17 **MISSY:** (*Cutting GARCON off*) **Ooooooh, Sissy, isn't this**
 18 **exciting?**
 19 **SISSY:** (*To MISSY*) **Yes, oh, yes, it is exiting, Missy!** (*To*
 20 *GARCON*) **Ooooooh, Mr. Garcon, aren't you just tickled**
 21 **to be here?** (*On the word "tickled," they both tickle him lightly*
 22 *in the ribs.*)
 23 **GARCON:** (*No response to the tickling, speaks to SISSY.*) **Yes,**
 24 **Miss . . .**
 25 **SISSY:** (*Laughing*) **Ohhh, Mr. Garcon, you're such a card. I'm**
 26 **not Missy. I'm Sissy! That's Missy over there!** (*Points across*
 27 *him to MISSY.*)
 28 **MISSY:** **That's right!** (*She laughs too. GARCON is not amused,*
 29 *but SISSY and MISSY don't seem to notice.*) **I'm Missy . . .**
 30 **SISSY:** **. . . and I'm Sissy.**
 31 **MISSY and SISSY:** (*They both point and say their names in*
 32 *unison.*) **Missy, Sissy, Missy, Sissy, Missy, Sissy . . .** (*As they*
 33 *point back and forth, GARCON follows them like he's watching*
 34 *a tennis match. Finally he gets fed up.*)
 35 **GARCON:** **Ladies, please!** (*They stop.*)

- 1 **MISSY:** *(To Sissy)* I think he's got it straight now.
- 2 **SISSY:** Yes, yes of course. *(They quiet down.)*
- 3 **GARCON:** *(Said straight ahead)* Café Flambé welcomes Sissy
4 *(She tilts her head and smiles)* and Missy, *(She does same)* the
5 Sweetwater sisters. *(As GARCON finishes, Sissy and*
6 *MISSY kiss him on each cheek, turn, and smile to the other*
7 *guests. These should be "hands on the shoulder, pick one leg up,*
8 *pecks on the cheek."* GARCON reacts with bewilderment.) **This**
9 **way, ladies . . .** *(He leads them to a table for two just left of*
10 *Center Stage. At 6:56 p.m., AMOS and EUNICE ALLMAN*
11 *arrive to be introduced. GARCON rings his bell Up Center.)*
- 12 **AMOS:** *(To EUNICE)* Hey, is that the telephone?
- 13 **EUNICE:** No, dear, it's Gar-con. *(Rhymes with phone.)*
- 14 **AMOS:** Our phone, that's what I said. Better answer it. *(Pulls*
15 *a cellular phone out of his pocket.)* Hello? Hello? Must have
16 hung up. *(EUNICE exchanges glances with GARCON.)*
- 17 **GARCON:** As always, Café Flambé is proud to welcome the
18 Honorable Mayor Amos Allman and his lovely wife,
19 Eunice.
- 20 **AMOS:** *(To EUNICE)* What'd he say?
- 21 **EUNICE:** Same thing he always says, Amos . . .
- 22 **AMOS:** *(To GARCON)* You should learn to speak up, son. Hard
23 to hear with that telephone ringing all the time . . .
- 24 **GARCON:** Yes, Your Honor . . .
- 25 **AMOS:** *(Recognizing GARCON)* Say, didn't I have you in third
26 grade Sunday school class?
- 27 **EUNICE:** *(Cautioning)* Now, Amos, don't start that . . .
- 28 **GARCON:** Please, this way. *(Starts for their table just right of*
29 *Center Stage, but AMOS holds him back.)*
- 30 **AMOS:** *(Won't be put off.)* You don't fool me with that fancy suit
31 and phony accent. I had you in '42 when the third grade
32 met in the furnace room. We had a hot time that year,
33 I'll tell you.
- 34 **EUNICE:** Amos, the heat must have fried your brain cells.
35 **Mr. Garcon** isn't from around here. You can tell by his

1 right before you. When this happens, it will be in your
 2 best interest to listen intently. These scenes will be your
 3 only clues to the mystery, and you will be asked to supply
 4 your answers before we leave.

5 Now I will invite Pastor _____ (Insert name)
 6 to bless our meal. (PASTOR prays.) Thank you, Pastor. We
 7 wish you all a pleasant experience this evening at Café
 8 Flambé. (The meal begins as the waiters serve the salads.)
 9

10 Scene 1 — Note to Ms. Pippenpopple

11
 12 (Begin this scene about 7:07 p.m., or shortly after all the guests
 13 have received their salads.)

14 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** (Enters Up Center and rings GARCON's
 15 little bell to get everyone's attention.) Telegram! Telegram for
 16 Ms. Patrice (Reads carefully) Pippen-pimple — uh, Pimple-
 17 popper — uh . . .

18 **GARCON:** (Coming to the rescue, he approaches DELIVERY
 19 PERSON 1.) Thank you. I'll see to it that Ms. Pippenpopple
 20 receives the message.

21 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** You're not Ms. Pickleflipper . . .

22 **GARCON:** (Getting upset) The name is Pippen-pokker — Piffen —
 23 never mind! I will deliver the message!

24 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** I'm afraid I can't let you do that,
 25 mister . . .

26 **GARCON:** (Incredulous) Why not?!

27 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** It's a singing telegram.

28 **GARCON:** Oh, I see. Please follow me. (GARCON leads
 29 DELIVERY PERSON 1 to MS. PIPPENPOPPLE's table Down
 30 Left.) I am sorry to disturb you, Ms. . . . Madam, but you
 31 have been sent a telegram.

32 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** (Elbowing GARCON out of the way)
 33 Yeah. And the sender wants me to refund the cost of your
 34 dinner tonight. (Hands her some money in bills.)

35 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** (Offended) I don't want this money! Do

- 1 you know who I am?
- 2 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** *(Looking at telegram)* Well, it says here
- 3 Ms. Pa . . .
- 4 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** *(Stands, cutting him off.)* Patrice
- 5 Pippenpopple, heiress to the Pippenpopple Popcorn
- 6 fortune. *(DELIVERY PERSON 1 ducks to avoid the spit on*
- 7 *MS. PIPPENPOPPLE's percussive p's.)* I don't need anyone's
- 8 paltry pennies! *(She throws the money down.)*
- 9 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** Look, lady, I'm just doing my job. Do
- 10 you mind?
- 11 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** *(Sits down, still flustered.)* Well, I suppose not.
- 12 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** Good. Well, here goes. *(Sung badly to*
- 13 *the tune of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart.")*
- 14 Let me pay your bill, dear, for I love you so.
- 15 Please enjoy your dinner, and receive the dough.
- 16 You have everything that your vast wealth can buy,
- 17 Still, you long for something more, and I know why.
- 18 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** *(Reacts to song as it is sung, then pulls out*
- 19 *hanky. She is obviously touched. Sniffs.)* Why, I must say, that
- 20 is very touching. But whoever could have sent it? How
- 21 is the telegram signed?
- 22 **DELIVERY PERSON 1:** *(With GARCON looking over his shoulder)*
- 23 It's blank!
- 24 **GARCON:** *(To DELIVERY PERSON 1)* Thank you. This way to
- 25 the door. *(During MS. PIPPENPOPPLE's next speech, he leads*
- 26 *DELIVERY PERSON 1 out and gives him a tip.)*
- 27 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** Blank?! *(Scanning the room)* Perhaps
- 28 it's someone here, in this very room. *(As she looks, she*
- 29 *ad-libs comments like, "Hmmm. Can't be him," or "Goodness,*
- 30 *not him, he's married," or "Who would know me so well?" Finally*
- 31 *she spots the MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN.)* That man over
- 32 there . . . I've never seen him before at Café Flambé. It
- 33 *must* be him. I must return his kindness with a note. *(She*
- 34 *hastily scribbles a note and calls for GARCON.)* Oh, Garcon,
- 35 Garcon!

- 1 **GARCON:** *(Hears her call and returns to her table Down Left.)* Yes,
 2 **Ms. Popcornpopper . . .**
- 3 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** Garcon, would you please deliver this
 4 message to the man over there in the dark glasses and
 5 trench coat?
- 6 **GARCON:** *(Takes note.)* Yes, Madam, of course. *(Turns to leave.)*
- 7 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** Oh, and Garcon, could you tell me his
 8 name please?
- 9 **GARCON:** His name?
- 10 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** Yes.
- 11 **GARCON:** *(With hand over mouth)* Mmmphgh.
- 12 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** I beg your pardon?
- 13 **GARCON:** His name is Mmmphgh.
- 14 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** Did you say *(Hand over her mouth)*
 15 Mmmphgh?
- 16 **GARCON:** Yes, Madam.
- 17 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** I thought so. And Garcon, you will
 18 read the note aloud, won't you?
- 19 **GARCON:** *(Looks at the note, reacts painfully, smiles at MS.*
 20 **PIPPENPOPPLE.)** Yes, Madam, of course. *(He heads for*
 21 **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN's table.)**
- 22 **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE:** Mr. Mmmphgh. Do I know any
 23 Mmmphghs? What an odd name.
- 24 **GARCON:** *(Arriving at MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN's table)* I
 25 beg your pardon, sir, but I have a message from Ms.
 26 Piggenpickles — uh, the lady at the far table, sir. *(He points*
 27 *to MS. PIPPENPOPPLE. She waves and smiles at MYSTERIOUS*
 28 **GENTLEMAN. MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN** doesn't smile, just
 29 *looks around nervously.)* Here it is, sir. *(He reads from the*
 30 *note.)* "My dearest, you have plumbed the depth of my
 31 soul this night. How is it that you know my heart so well?
 32 Truly, all the money I possess could not purchase the joy
 33 my heart desires. Will you show me that joy? Signed, very
 34 truly, Ms. Patrice Pippenpopple." *(MYSTERIOUS GENTLE-*
 35 **MAN** *wipes spit off face from "Pippenpopple," then beckons*

GARCON to come close. **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN** whispers in **GARCON**'s ear, gesturing emphatically for a short time. **GARCON** reacts accordingly. The unheard comment would go something like this: "I haven't the slightest idea who that woman is. How could I plumb the depths of her soul? I've never laid eyes on her. Tell her I did NOT write that telegram.") **I see. Yes, Mr. Mmmphgh. I will give her that message right away.** (Leaves **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN** and heads for **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE**'s table. She is still smiling and making eyes at **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN**.) Uh, **Ms. Pickenpocket, I have a return message from Mr. Mmmphgh.**

MS. PIPPENPOPPLE: (Flattered) Already? The dear, sweet man . . . What is it? (**GARCON** whispering in **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE**'s ear as **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN** did to him, with same gestures. **MS. PIPPENPOPPLE** is obviously stunned.) Well, if he didn't write the telegram, who did? (**GARCON** simply shrugs his shoulders and returns to his station. The meal continues; the salad plates are cleared, the main course is served, romance is in the air . . . After some time, when all have their entrees, begin Scene 2.)

Scene 2 — Amos and Eunice Love Scene

(7:20 p.m. This entire scene takes place at their table.)

EUNICE: (Reflecting) Oh, Amos, isn't it simply grand? Just look at all the couples enjoying themselves. Why, it's just like the old days, isn't it, Amos? (She bats her eyes at him.)

AMOS: Well, not exactly . . . (Brings out small gift-wrapped package.) In the old days, I wouldn't have been able to give you this . . .

EUNICE: (Surprised) Why, Amos, what in the world? (She unwraps package and opens a small jewelry box.) How beautiful! Amos, it must have cost a fortune!

AMOS: You're worth every cent, my little cupcake.

EUNICE: (Examining the jewelry closely) Look, there's some

- 1 writing here. It looks like names . . .
- 2 AMOS: That's right dear. I had all the names of our grand-
3 children microscopically engraved on those little gold
4 leaves. I know what a treasure they are to you.
- 5 EUNICE: *(Looking fondly at him)* Oh, Amos, you're the real
6 treasure. *(She reaches across the table and takes his hand.)*
- 7 AMOS: Now Eunice, calm down. I know what you're thinking
8 when you get that look in your eyes . . .
- 9 EUNICE: Amos, can't you just feel the love in the air?
- 10 AMOS: I do feel a draft . . .
- 11 EUNICE: *(Scoots her chair closer to AMOS.)* Well, we can take
12 care of that, now can't we? *(She snuggles up close to AMOS.)*
- 13 AMOS: That's more like it . . . You always did fall for that old
14 "draft" line.
- 15 EUNICE: Oh, Amos . . . There are so many people who have
16 never enjoyed the warmth we share, like Ms. Pippenpopple
17 over there.
- 18 AMOS: Yes. She's been too close to that cold, hard cash of hers.
19 I suppose someone will get through to her someday.
- 20 EUNICE: And the Sweetwater sisters! They're so busy doing
21 good deeds, I don't suppose they'll ever slow down long
22 enough to fall in love.
- 23 AMOS: A fella would have to move pretty quick to even catch
24 them.
- 25 EUNICE: *(Looks at MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN.)* Say, isn't
26 that someone new? Maybe he could . . .
- 27 AMOS: *(Cuts her off.)* Eunice, if I've told you once, I've told you
28 a thousand times not to meddle. Besides, when you've
29 made the perfect match, what else is there to shoot for?
- 30 EUNICE: *(Coyly)* Oh, Amos, we do have a great marriage. I
31 just wish everyone did.
- 32 AMOS: I understand, my little Tollhouse Morsel . . . I under-
33 stand. *(Lights fade out on them.)*
- 34
- 35

Scene 3 — Gifts for the Sweetwater Sisters

- 1
2
3 *(7:25 p.m. This scene should follow almost immediately after*
4 *Scene 2. DELIVERY PERSON 2 enters Up Center carrying a*
5 *bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates. GARCON is near his*
6 *desk, yet has his back turned when DELIVERY PERSON 2*
7 *enters. DELIVERY PERSON 2 sets stuff down, rings bell,*
8 *GARCON jumps.)*
9 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** *(Loudly)* Delivery for Missy and Sissy
10 Sweetwater!
11 **GARCON:** *(Reacting to surprise)* Oh! I beg your pardon. Can't you
12 see we are having dinner here? You can't just come
13 barging in like this!
14 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** Sorry, mister . . .
15 **GARCON:** Garcon.
16 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** Yeah, Mr. *(Mispronouncing it)* Gar-cone,
17 well, I just do what I'm told. See, I've got to deliver this
18 stuff to the Sweetwater sisters. *(He looks around, spots them,*
19 *and heads to their table at Left Center with GARCON close behind.)*
20 **MISSY:** *(To Sissy)* Oh, dear, dear Sissy, look. *(Points to*
21 *DELIVERY PERSON 2.)*
22 **SISSY:** *(Surprised)* Whatever could this be?
23 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** *(To MISSY and Sissy)* Missy and
24 Sissy Sweetwater?
25 **MISSY and Sissy:** *(Together, in musical tones)* Ye-essss?
26 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** I've got this stuff for you.
27 **MISSY:** *(Undeservingly)* For us?
28 **SISSY:** Little old us? Whatever for?
29 **MISSY:** *(To Sissy)* I know. I know, Sissy. I'll bet dear Mr.
30 Cooper sent this to thank us for shampooing his sheepdog
31 the other day. *(SISSY nods happily.)*
32 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** No, no. It's . . .
33 **SISSY:** *(Cutting DELIVERY PERSON 2 off)* Maybe it's from the
34 _____ *(Insert name of your town here)* road maintenance
35 crew to thank us for bringing them homemade cookies

- 1 and pink lemonade all summer. (*MISSY nods.*)
- 2 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** No, it's not from the road crew . . .
- 3 **MISSY:** (*Thinking she has it*) Oh, Sissy, it's from our precious
- 4 pastors at the _____ (*Insert your church name*) church.
- 5 They were so happy when we erased the pencil markings
- 6 from all the hymnals the other day . . .
- 7 **SISSY:** . . .and they really seemed to like our full-size
- 8 needlepoint rendition of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel
- 9 frescoes.
- 10 **DELIVERY PERSON 2:** Ladies, ladies! It's not from your
- 11 pastors. Listen. (*Reads card.*)
- 12 Here is a gift for the sisters so sweet:
- 13 Some flowers to look at, some candy to eat.
- 14
- 15 You could not have earned them, or won them, you see,
- 16 The gifts that I give are not earned, they are free.
- 17
- 18 I know you have done many deeds, as you should.
- 19 But doing good deeds in itself is not good.
- 20
- 21 These gifts are a sample, to offer a taste
- 22 Of gifts that I give — not for works, but for grace.
- 23
- 24 Signed, your Mysterious Benefactor.
- 25 **MISSY and SISSY:** (*Together*) Mysterious Benefactor?!
- 26 Whoever could it be? (*DELIVERY PERSON 2, GARCON,*
- 27 *MISSY and SISSY exchange looks of bewilderment. GARCON*
- 28 *and DELIVERY PERSON 2 leave. MISSY and SISSY "lock*
- 29 *on" to the MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN.*)
- 30 **MISSY:** (*To SISSY*) Sissy, are you thinking what I am?
- 31 **SISSY:** I think so, Missy. That dear, sweet gentleman at the
- 32 other table *must* be the one!
- 33 **MISSY:** Oh, Sissy, we must *thank* him.
- 34 **SISSY:** Come with me, Missy. (*They leave their table and tiptoe*
- 35 *to the table of the MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN. Sneaking up*

- 1 *behind him, they approach and give him the same kind of*
 2 *“sandwich kiss” they gave GARCON earlier. Spotlight, if*
 3 *available, should follow this action.)*
 4 **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN:** *(Taken completely by surprise)*
 5 **What? What’s happening?**
 6 **MISSY:** **Thank you, sir. You really shouldn’t have done it.**
 7 **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN:** *(Mumbled)* **Done what?**
 8 **SISSY:** *(Coyly)* **Oh, you sweet, sweet man. Your gifts were so**
 9 **thoughtful.**
 10 **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN:** **Gifts?**
 11 **MISSY:** **We really don’t deserve them.**
 12 **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN:** **Deserve what?**
 13 **SISSY:** *(To MISSY)* **Look, Missy, he’s blushing. Isn’t he cute?**
 14 **I could just pinch those little red cheeks!** *(MISSY and*
 15 *SISSY each pinch one of MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN’s cheeks.)*
 16 **MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN:** **Garcon! Garcoooooon!** *(A cry for*
 17 *help)*
 18 **GARCON:** *(Comes rushing from Up Center, pulls MISSY and*
 19 *SISSY off MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN.)* **Ladies, ladies —**
 20 **what are you doing?**
 21 **MISSY:** *(Innocently)* **Why, Garcon, we were just showing our**
 22 **gratitude.**
 23 **SISSY:** **Yes. This is the kind, sweet, darling of a man who sent**
 24 **us the flowers . . .**
 25 **MISSY:** **. . . and the chocolate.** *(MYSTERIOUS GENTLEMAN*
 26 *whispers into GARCON’s ear, again using strong gestures. The*
 27 *unheard comment would be something like this: “I don’t KNOW*
 28 *these people, I gave them NOTHING. PLEASE send them back*
 29 *to their table!”)*
 30 **GARCON:** *(To MISSY and SISSY)* **Ladies, please! This man**
 31 **doesn’t know you, and he did not give you anything.**
 32 **MISSY and SISSY:** *(Bewildered)* **But . . . who did?**
 33 **GARCON:** **Ladies, please return to your table.** *(To MYSTER-*
 34 *IOUS GENTLEMAN)* **I’m so sorry, Mr. Mmmphgh.**
 35 *(GARCON returns to his station, MISSY and SISSY return to*



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