

RETURN TO CRICKET COUNTY

by Eddie McPherson



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Return to Cricket County

A homespun comedy
for Christmas

by Eddie McPherson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

CITY COUSINS:

Oswald: Very educated and somewhat conceited

Pete: He does pretty much what Oswald asks him to do

Mimi: The whiner; complains about everything

Petunia: She can tolerate a little more from her country
cousins than Mimi

COUNTRY COUSINS:

Elkin: The leader of the country bunch; the rest of his
country family looks to him for guidance

Fester: A rather large fellow who is loveable but dumb

Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae: Identical twins who look
nothing alike

Donna Jo: Shy but very wise

Ms. Basil: A con artist posing as an employee of the Cricket
County Housing Commission

PRODUCTION NOTES

The Story

The country kids invite their city cousins to return to Cricket County to watch Fester act in a Christmas play. The fun starts all over again. The city cousins see this trip as an opportunity to get their hands on a little of the loot their family members inherited from Uncle Zeke last Christmas, so it's back to the hills.

They still encounter mules, outhouses and wild animals, but this year there's a new surprise. Enter Ms. Basil, a high-society lady from the county seat who has shown up at the country cousins' cabin door, delivering a condemnation notice stating the cousins must be out of their home by Christmas Eve. But Oswald smells a rat and learns that Ms. Basil is working with "a neighborly man from New York City" to trick the country folk out of their inherited diamond mines, coal mines and oil fields that are worth millions. After the city kids reveal the culprits and their scheme to con money from their kinfolk, the country folks learn the city kids were there for the same reason. It's a lesson in forgiveness, reflecting the teaching that Christ came to earth to forgive us, so we can in turn freely forgive each other – especially at Christmas time.

The Set

The setting is a one-set interior of a log cabin. There needs to be two doors: one that comes in from the road, and another that goes out to the back porch. One successful production of the play had no doors at all. The actors simply walked around and disappeared behind the flats. There does need to be a window that the deer sticks its head through. Other characters use the window as well. Anything from a fireplace to an old wood stove can be painted on the backdrop if desired. Stockings hang at the fireplace, and old-fashioned decorations hang about the stage. An old wooden table sits Stage Left, and a few wooden chairs may be placed around the stage. Another small table sits against the upstage wall for the Christmas tree.

The first scene in the city takes place in front of the cabin set or off to the side if desired. All that is needed here is a stool, a few phone receivers and a TV remote control.

Costumes

The City Cousins need to dress preppie with sweater vests, ties, khaki pants, penny loafers, starched white shirts, navy blazers, black pantsuits with pearl necklaces, nice sweaters with dress pants, etc. They also wear coats at the beginning of Scene 2 but take them off as they get settled in.

The Country Cousins may wear overalls, jeans with ropes as belts, and costumes made from gingham, denim, burlap, and/or gabardine material. Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae may want to dress alike. They should wear shawls and their hair in pigtailed. The country cousins could wear unlaced work boots or go barefoot.

Ms. Basil dresses loud and tacky, with a loose-fitting dress with flowers all over it and maybe a hat with fruit on it. She wears glasses attached to a chain around her neck.

Sound Effects

Telephone ringing

A “clank” Off-stage when someone is kicked by the mule

“Silent Night” played softly on a guitar or piano

Easy-to-Obtain Props

Stool (Oswald), phone receivers (Oswald, Pete, Petunia), remote control (Oswald), letter (Mimi), scripts (Glenda and Brenda Mae), ax (Fester), piece of paper and a pen (Brenda Mae), purses and coats (Petunia, Mimi, Oswald and Pete), a deer head (Nothing more than a stuffed deer head you can borrow from your uncle, the deer hunter. He has one hanging on his wall you can use.), candy (Oswald), clipboard or notebook (Ms. Basil), condemnation notice (Ms. Basil), an ugly picture (that falls off the wall), star wrapped in aluminum foil on a stick (Glenda Mae), small bare Christmas tree (Donna Jo), a man’s wallet (Donna Jo), a handful of homemade ornaments (Donna Jo), gold-colored rock (Glenda Mae), a brown paper bag (Mimi), a doll wrapped in a blanket (Donna Jo), a long wooden staff (Fester), towels for biblical characters (Country Cousins).

SCENE ONE

(The following phone conversation takes place in front of the permanent set of the cabin. OSWALD is sitting on a stool holding a remote control, changing channels on a pretend TV which is somewhere over the heads of the audience. MIMI enters running, holding a letter.)

MIMI: Oswald, you'll never guess what we just got in the mail!

OSWALD: Not now, I'm watching TV.

MIMI: *(Grabs remote from him.)* Listen to me. You'll never guess what we have been invited to.

OSWALD: OK, what? The governor's ball?

MIMI: No.

OSWALD: The opera?

MIMI: No.

OSWALD: I give up.

MIMI: Listen to this. *(Reading)* Dear Cousin Oswald, Pete, Petunia, and Mimi. *(Stops reading.)* Mimi's spelled M-e-m-e.

OSWALD: *(Slapping his hand over his face)* Oh no!

MIMI: *(Continues reading in hillbilly twang.)* We was a-wonderin' if you might want to come see Fester in a Christmas play he's in come Christmas time. It is a real good play, and we think you would like it. You could stay with us if you would like to. Glenda Mae said she would make you some more frog liver jelly 'cause she knew how much you liked it last year. Well, I guess that's all. Hope you can come. Signed, Cousin Elkin.

OSWALD: Not again.

MIMI: Can you believe they have the gall to ask us back up to that snake-infested, bear-roaming, outhouse-using, Appalachian place?

OSWALD: I'm not surprised at anything those poor country bumpkins do. But hey — it would be a good laugh to see Fester act in a Christmas play.

MIMI: Now that's a scary thought. Our country cousins doing

1 theatre!

2 OSWALD: Maybe we *should* go and pay them a visit. I mean,
3 it's been almost a year now since we've seen them.

4 MIMI: Not on your life! I'll never forgive them for inheriting all
5 those coal mines, diamond mines and oil fields from Uncle
6 Zeke last Christmas.

7 OSWALD: That wasn't their fault. Besides, I guess we deserved
8 it since we never visited Uncle Zeke while he was alive.

9 MIMI: I don't care! All we got was a measly one hundred
10 thousand dollars apiece. And then you made us give it to
11 *them*.

12 OSWALD: Wait a minute, that's right. Our country cousins *are*
13 loaded now, aren't they?

14 MIMI: It makes me want to cry every time I think about it.

15 OSWALD: Dear Mimi, get your bags packed. We are going to
16 the country!

17 MIMI: What? No sir, not me. Nothing will get me back out to
18 that agrarian place!

19 OSWALD: Not even your own oil field?

20 MIMI: (*Shaking her head*) Not even my own ... oil field?

21 OSWALD: Or maybe your very own coal mine? Or diamond
22 mine?

23 MIMI: Oswald, please don't tempt me. You know how weak I
24 am for material possessions.

25 OSWALD: (*To himself*) Of course, it's the idea of the century.
26 (*Picking up a phone receiver*) I'm going to call Pete and
27 Petunia. (*"Dials" phone.*)

28 MIMI: (*Thinking out loud*) Although coal mines would buy me a
29 lot of merchandise ... (*A telephone rings Off-stage.*)

30 OSWALD: Yeah, like the Taj Mahal.

31 PETE: (*Entering with a receiver to his ear*) Hello?

32 OSWALD: Pete, pack your suitcase. We're taking a trip.

33 PETE: A trip? Where? Paris? Egypt?

34 OSWALD: Cricket County.

35 PETE: Great! I've always wanted to go to ... Cricket County?

1 **Again? But why?**

2 **OSWALD:** I'll explain in the limo. Hurry. (*Hangs up and dials*
3 *again as PETE exits.*)

4 **MIMI:** Oswald, are you sure we have to do this? Can't we just
5 call them on the phone or write them a letter and ask if
6 we could please have a million dollars worth of oil?

7 **OSWALD:** No!

8 **PETUNIA:** (*The phone rings, and PETUNIA enters or stands up in*
9 *the audience with a receiver to her ear.*) Hello?

10 **OSWALD:** Petunia?

11 **MIMI:** Is that Petunia? Give me that phone. (*Grabs the receiver.*)
12 Petunia, Oswald wants to go back out to that ... that ...
13 place! Tell him you won't go.

14 **PETUNIA:** What place? What are you talking about?

15 **MIMI:** You know, the place with the outhouse.

16 **PETUNIA:** You mean ... ? But why?

17 **OSWALD:** (*Taking the phone*) Trust me, Petunia, this will be a
18 very profitable venture.

19 **PETUNIA:** Well ...

20 **OSWALD:** I'll arrange everything. Now get to packing. (*Hangs*
21 *up as PETUNIA exits or has a seat. OSWALD turns to MIMI,*
22 *rubbing his hands together.*) Everything is all set. Oh, and
23 Mimi, this time we try and be nice to our hillbilly cousins,
24 huh? Let's move it. Chop, chop! (*He exits quickly leaving*
25 *MIMI alone, looking out to the audience.*)

26 **MIMI:** (*Defeated*) Back to Cricket County? (*On the verge of tears*)
27 I don't think I can stand it. (*Lights blackout.*)

28

29 **SCENE TWO**

30

31 (*Lights come up on the cabin. BRENDA MAE and GLENDA*
32 *MAE are holding scripts, helping FESTER rehearse his lines for*
33 *the upcoming Christmas play.*)

34 **GLENDA MAE:** OK, Fester, now you go over your part, and me
35 and Brenda Mae will help you with your lines.

- 1 **BRENDA MAE:** We will read the other parts.
- 2 **FESTER:** I don't think I can be in this here play.
- 3 **GLENDA MAE:** Sure you can, Fester. Now just relax!
- 4 **BRENDA MAE:** Yeah, you're gonna be the star of Cricket
- 5 County.
- 6 **FESTER:** I don't want to be a star. *(Holding up an ax)* I just want
- 7 to play with my ax.
- 8 **BRENDA MAE:** Put that ax down, Fester. Now, you want to
- 9 make your family proud, don't you?
- 10 **FESTER:** I guess so, but ...
- 11 **BRENDA MAE:** OK, then be quiet and do what we tell you.
- 12 **GLENDA MAE:** Yeah, we're your director!
- 13 **FESTER:** But ...
- 14 **BRENDA MAE:** No, now don't say another word unless it's one
- 15 of your lines.
- 16 **GLENDA MAE:** We'll start with your first scene. *(With her arm*
- 17 *around his neck, helping him picture the scene)* You play the
- 18 youngest shepherd who is a little bit afraid to go see the
- 19 baby Jesus, 'cause you have never left home before.
- 20 **BRENDA MAE:** I'll be the other shepherd. *(Stands beside him.)* I
- 21 say, "Look at that bright star in the sky." *(FESTER's playing*
- 22 *with his ax.)*
- 23 **GLENDA MAE:** *(Pause)* Fester.
- 24 **FESTER:** Huh?
- 25 **GLENDA MAE:** It's your line.
- 26 **FESTER:** I forgot.
- 27 **GLENDA MAE:** You say, "That's the biggest thing I ever saw."
- 28 **FESTER:** That's the biggest thing I ever saw.
- 29 **BRENDA MAE:** I think we should foller it like the angel said.
- 30 **GLENDA MAE:** *(Pause)* Fester, that's your line again.
- 31 **FESTER:** That's the biggest thing I ever saw.
- 32 **BRENDA MAE:** No, this is where you say your *next* line.
- 33 **FESTER:** I don't know my *next* line.
- 34 **GLENDA MAE:** You say, "I'm scared to travel at night."
- 35 **FESTER:** But I'm *not* scared, 'cause I got my ax.

- 1 BRENDA MAE: Fester, you're a shepherd, not a lumberjack!
2 Now say the lines right!
- 3 GLENDA MAE: Say, "I'm scared to travel at night."
4 FESTER: I'm scared to travel at night.
- 5 BRENDA MAE: So let us go forth and see if what the angel said
6 is true.
- 7 FESTER: That was good, Brenda Mae.
- 8 GLENDA MAE: Fester! Say your line!
- 9 FESTER: That's the biggest thing I ever saw.
- 10 GLENDA MAE: Your *next* line!
- 11 FESTER: I don't know it!
- 12 GLENDA MAE: I'm scared to travel at night!
- 13 FESTER: Then get a lantern!
- 14 GLENDA MAE: That's *you're* line!
- 15 FESTER: (*Loudly*) I'm scared to travel at night!
- 16 BRENDA MAE: But we *must* go if we want to see the *baby* in
17 a *manger*!
- 18 GLENDA MAE: Fester, you say, "I reckon it's OK as long as you
19 go first."
- 20 FESTER: I reckon it's OK as long as you go first.
- 21 GLENDA MAE: So the shepherds traveled to Bethlehem to see
22 the baby Jesus.
- 23 BRENDA MAE: Golly, fellow shepherd, would you look at that
24 pretty baby?
- 25 GLENDA MAE: (*Pause*) I'm ...
- 26 FESTER: I'm ...
- 27 GLENDA MAE: Lookin' at it ...
- 28 FESTER: Lookin' at it ...
- 29 GLENDA MAE: Right now.
- 30 FESTER: Right now.
- 31 GLENDA MAE: I'm lookin' at it right now! Fester, have you not
32 studied your lines at all?
- 33 FESTER: Well ...
- 34 BRENDA MAE: You can't learn your lines if you don't study.
- 35 FESTER: But I can't do it! I'm no good!

1 **GLENDA MAE:** You only have four lines, Fester. Now I know
2 good and well you can remember four lines.

3 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Sitting at the table*) Here, I'm gonna write your
4 lines down on this here paper and you'll have 'em all
5 together. Glenda Mae, read 'em off to me.

6 **GLENDA MAE:** (*Reading from the script*) His first line is "That's
7 the biggest thing I ever saw."

8 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Writing*) Got it.

9 **GLENDA MAE:** "I reckon it's OK as long as you go first."

10 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Speaking as she writes*) "... You go first."

11 **GLENDA MAE:** "I'm scared to travel at night." And his last one
12 is, "I'm lookin' at it right now."

13 **BRENDA MAE:** "I'm looking at it right now." (*Crosses to*
14 *FESTER and hands him the paper.*) Now, here. These are
15 what you say Fester. You have 'til tonight to memorize 'em.

16 **GLENDA MAE:** We can't have our only brother forgettin' his
17 lines in the Christmas play.

18 **FESTER:** (*Taking the notes and sticking them in his pocket*) Can I
19 go play with my ax now?

20 **BRENDA MAE:** Go on! And I want you studyin' them lines!
21 (*FESTER exits Stage Left, running. OSWALD, MIMI, PETE*
22 *and PETUNIA enter Stage Right.*)

23 **OSWALD:** Hello? Anybody home?

24 **GLENDA MAE:** Brenda Mae, look who just wandered in our
25 cabin door! It's our cousins from the city!

26 **BRENDA MAE:** What a nice surprise! (*Gives MIMI a hug.*)

27 **MIMI:** She's going to squeeze the life from me.

28 **GLENDA MAE:** Cousin Oswald, you're just as pretty as ever.
29 And you'll be glad to hear I'm still not married yet.

30 **BRENDA MAE:** What brings y'all out this way?

31 **PETE:** We were wondering where your coal mines ...

32 **OSWALD:** (*Interrupts.*) Pete, not so fast! (*Thinking on his feet*) We
33 came out to see Cousin Fester in his Christmas play.

34 **BRENDA MAE:** Cousin Elkin is goin' to be so happy to see y'all
35 again.

- 1 GLENDA MAE: This will mean so much to Fester — y'all comin'
 2 to see him in a play and all.
- 3 PETUNIA: And we would just love to see your diamond ...
- 4 OSWALD: (*Jumping in*) Petunia. Remember — we have come to
 5 see Fester in his *Christmas* play.
- 6 BRENDA MAE: Here, y'all have a seat. I know you're tired
 7 after such a long trip.
- 8 GLENDA MAE: Come on, Brenda Mae, let's go tell everybody
 9 our favorite cousins are back for Christmas! Now y'all just
 10 make yourselves at home, and we'll be right back!
- 11 BRENDA MAE: 'Bye, now. (*They wave frantically as they exit.*)
- 12 MIMI: (*Sarcastically*) Ta-ta. (*To herself*) Poor pathetic, hillbillies.
- 13 PETE: Oswald, if our country cousins inherited all those coal
 14 and diamond mines ...
- 15 PETUNIA: And don't forget the oil fields.
- 16 PETE: Then why are they still living here?
- 17 OSWALD: How should I know?
- 18 MIMI: Maybe they gambled it all away.
- 19 OSWALD: They don't know what the word "gamble" means.
- 20 PETE: Why don't we just grab a few diamonds and coal
 21 nuggets ...
- 22 PETUNIA: And a few million gallons of oil ...
- 23 PETE: And go home!
- 24 OSWALD: Because we don't want to insult them. We make them
 25 think we're here to see Fester in his Christmas play, and
 26 then we somehow make them think it's *their* idea to give
 27 us some loot.
- 28 MIMI: This is all just too bizarre. I mean, *me* asking *them* for
 29 money?
- 30 PETE: I really love the idea of running barefoot through my
 31 own diamond mine. (*MIMI is standing beside the window. A
 32 deer sticks its head through the window. MIMI doesn't see it.*)
- 33 MIMI: Just think — if I have my own oil field, I'll never have
 34 to ask Daddy for money again.
- 35 PETUNIA: (*Turning and seeing the deer*) *Mimi!* (*Pointing*) **Deer!**

- 1 **MIMI:** What, Petunia (*Pointing back to her mockingly*) dear?
- 2 **PETE:** Uh, (*Also pointing*) Mimi ... Ba- Ba- Ba- Bambi!
- 3 **OSWALD:** (*Backing away*) Just be calm. Everything will be all
- 4 right.
- 5 **MIMI:** What are you guys mumbling about? (*Takes off her coat*
- 6 *and turns to hang it on one of the antlers.*) Oh look, it's a deer
- 7 head coat hanger. (*She raises the coat to hang it up as the deer*
- 8 *turns and looks at her. She speaks calmly.*) Did that deer head
- 9 just turn and look at me?
- 10 **PETUNIA, OSWALD, PETE:** (*Together*) Yes.
- 11 **MIMI:** (*Still smiling*) That's what I thought. (*She faints into a*
- 12 *nearby chair.*)
- 13 **PETUNIA:** (*From a distance*) Shoo! Shoo, you deer! Go on! Go!
- 14 (*The deer stands there.*) Aren't you going to leave? (*The deer*
- 15 *shakes its head.*) What is it you want?
- 16 **PETE:** Petunia, you're talking to a deer.
- 17 **OSWALD:** Maybe it's hungry. (*Pulling some candy from his coat*
- 18 *pocket*) Here you go. Want some candy? (*He eases over to the*
- 19 *deer.*) Here little deer.
- 20 **PETUNIA:** Oswald, he's going to eat you.
- 21 **PETE:** We're all dead for sure. Good-bye, oil fields — good-bye,
- 22 diamond mines — good-bye ...
- 23 **OSWALD:** (*Almost to the deer now*) Shhhh, calm down. (*To the*
- 24 *deer*) There you go. (*As the deer eats from his hand*) See, it's
- 25 harmless. That's right, eat it all up.
- 26 **PETUNIA:** Hey, it's like they have their very own petting zoo.
- 27 **OSWALD:** (*To the deer*) Do you like that? (*The deer nods its head,*
- 28 *then leaves.*) That was kind of fun.
- 29 **PETUNIA:** Oswald, you might want to count your fingers.
- 30 **PETE:** (*Approaching MIMI*) Mimi? Mimi, wake up.
- 31 **MIMI:** (*Stirring*) What? What happened?
- 32 **PETUNIA:** You fainted. Are you all right?
- 33 **MIMI:** (*Starts to cry.*) Oswald, I want to go hoome.
- 34 **OSWALD:** With or without your very own diamond collection?
- 35 Now remember, you guys, we say we're here to see Cousin

- 1 Fester in his Christmas play. If we play this thing cool, we
2 can walk away with a small fortune — knock on wood.
3 *(There's a knock at the door.)*
- 4 **PETUNIA:** That was cute. How did you do that?
- 5 **OSWALD:** I didn't. All I said was we can walk away with a
6 small fortune, knock on wood. *(Knock heard again.)*
- 7 **PETE:** I think someone's at the door. *(Knock)* Should I answer
8 it?
- 9 **MIMI:** No! *(Hiding behind OSWALD)* It's that deer! It's come back
10 to get me! *(Knock)*
- 11 **PETUNIA:** Just stand there, why don't you? I'll get it.
- 12 **MIMI:** *(Covering her face)* I can't look.
- 13 **PETUNIA:** *(Answering the door)* Yes?
- 14 **MS. BASIL:** Hello, I'm Ms. Basil. Are you the lady of the house?
- 15 **PETUNIA:** Bite your tongue.
- 16 **OSWALD:** I'm afraid the lady of the house has stepped out.
- 17 **MS. BASIL:** *(Looking at her notes, then addressing PETUNIA)* Are
18 you Glenda Mae? *(MIMI laughs.)*
- 19 **PETUNIA:** *(Glaring at MIMI)* I don't think so.
- 20 **MS. BASIL:** *(Steps over to MIMI.)* Then you must be Glenda Mae.
- 21 **MIMI:** *(Wanting to have some fun)* Uh, yes, ma'am. I is Glenda
22 Mae, and this here is my country bumpkin sister, Brenda
23 Mae. We's sisters.
- 24 **MS. BASIL:** *(Looking over her glasses)* I see.
- 25 **MIMI:** We was just about to cook up a helpin' of collard greens
26 and pork innards. We sure would like for you to join us.
- 27 **MS. BASIL:** Maybe some other time. I'm here strictly on
28 business.
- 29 **MIMI:** Now, now. Don't be too hasty. We wants you to just plop
30 down in this here cheer and make yerself at home. *(Tries*
31 *to seat MS. BASIL.)*
- 32 **MS. BASIL:** I'm sorry, but I don't have time to stay.
- 33 **OSWALD:** Mimi, that's enough. *(To MS. BASIL)* Is there
34 something I can do for you?
- 35 **MS. BASIL:** *(Looking at her notes)* Are you Mr. Elkin? *(The girls*

1 *laugh.*)

2 OSWALD: No ma'am, I'm Oswald Tipinhimer the third. Elkin's
3 my *(Clears his throat)* cousin.

4 MS. BASIL: Dear, dear, I don't have much time. Could you
5 please inform them I have dropped by to deliver this
6 document? *(Hands him a piece of paper.)*

7 OSWALD: What's this?

8 MS. BASIL: A condemnation notice. I'm from the local housing
9 commission. They must be vacated from the premises by
10 *(Looks at her notes)* December twenty-fourth.

11 PETE: Wait a minute. You mean you're throwing them out of
12 their home?

13 MS. BASIL: This "home," as you call it, has been condemned
14 by the Cricket County Board of Housing. It's a hazard.

15 PETUNIA: It may not be the White House, but it's certainly not
16 hazardous.

17 MS. BASIL: According to the standards and regulations set
18 down by the county, this place is a dangerously scary
19 sight to behold.

20 MIMI: So is your dress, honey, but we're not asking you to
21 move out of it.

22 MS. BASIL: Well ... I never!

23 MIMI: That's obvious.

24 OSWALD: This is ludicrous. This cabin is in perfectly good
25 shape. *(A picture falls off the wall.)*

26 MS. BASIL: I don't have time to discuss this matter. I have
27 other notices to deliver. Remember, they must be out by
28 Christmas Eve, or the dozers will mow your cousins down
29 with the rest of the riffraff! *(Pause as she turns to them.)* Oh,
30 and have a nice day. *(Exits.)*

31 PETUNIA: Oswald, can they do that?

32 OSWALD: *(Reading the paper)* Looks like it.

33 PETE: But this place isn't dangerous. It doesn't make sense.

34 MIMI: That's exactly what I was thinking. It doesn't make
35 sense why someone would wear that outfit with heels.

1 **PETUNIA:** Mimi, that was a great imitation of the twins. Do it
2 again.

3 **MIMI:** You mean when I says I'll cooks up a mess of pork
4 innards and collard greens? (*PETUNIA laughs. GLENDA*
5 *and BRENDA MAE enter.*) Yeah, I'll just fetch some of that
6 thar well water and then go milk that thar cow in the barn
7 — if we had a barn. Shoot, all we gots is that thar
8 outhouse in the cornfield. That's where I hide so I can
9 chew my snuff. I love my snuff ... mmm. That sure is good
10 chewin' (*She turns to see the girls. Coming out of character*)
11 Well, well, well, look who's here.

12 **GLENDA MAE:** Brenda Mae, did you hear what I heard?

13 **BRENDA MAE:** I sure did, Glenda Mae.

14 **GLENDA MAE:** Cousin Mimi, I can't believe you would make
15 fun of my sister that way.

16 **BRENDA MAE:** Me? She was makin' fun of you!

17 **GLENDA MAE:** Naw, she wasn't makin' fun of me, she was
18 makin' fun of you! (*They ad-lib an argument.*)

19 **OSWALD:** Hold it! Hold it! Mimi, apologize.

20 **MIMI:** Oswald!

21 **OSWALD:** Mimi!

22 **MIMI:** (*Pause, reluctantly*) I'm sorry you caught me mocking you.

23 **OSWALD:** Mimi!

24 **MIMI:** All right, all right! I'm sorry, I'm sorry. (*ELKIN and*
25 *DONNA JO enter.*)

26 **ELKIN:** Well, Donna Jo, look what we have here. This is a nice
27 surprise. (*DONNA JO drops her head.*)

28 **GLENDA MAE:** Elkin, our dear cousins from the city have
29 come back to see Fester in his Christmas play.

30 **ELKIN:** That sure is a mighty fine thing for you to do.

31 **BRENDA MAE:** Me and Glenda Mae are Fester's directors.

32 **GLENDA MAE:** Yeah, and I wrote the play they're doin'!

33 **MIMI:** (*Sarcastically*) Say hello to Tennessee Williams for me.

34 **GLENDA MAE:** It's about how baby Jesus grew up to be a man
35 who died to forgive us of our sins.

- 1 **BRENDA MAE:** We call it our “forgive and forget” play.
- 2 **ELKIN:** That’s ’cause when God forgives us of our sins, he
3 forgets about ‘em. (*DONNA JO whispers to him.*) Donna Jo
4 wanted me to tell you that she has a part in the play too.
- 5 **PETUNIA:** (*Crossing to DONNA JO*) That’s nice. What part do
6 you play?
- 7 **DONNA JO:** I hold up the star so the shepherd can follow it to
8 baby Jesus.
- 9 **MIMI:** (*Under her breath*) Broadway, here she comes.
- 10 **GLENDA MAE:** Donna Jo has one of the most important lines
11 of all. She plays the angel that tells Joseph about Mary
12 having the baby Jesus. Go ahead and recite that Scripture
13 verse, Donna Jo. (*Hands her the star on the stick.*)
- 14 **DONNA JO:** (*Holding up the star*) “She will give birth to a son,
15 and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will
16 forgive his people of their sins” (Matthew 1:21, author’s
17 paraphrase).
- 18 **OSWALD:** Very nice. (*Turns to his cousins, trying to sound sincere.*)
19 We are certainly looking forward to seeing Fester and
20 Donna Jo in their “forgive and forget” play. (*FESTER*
21 *enters.*)
- 22 **BRENDA MAE:** Where you been, Cousin Fester?
- 23 **FESTER:** That dumb ugly mule wandered into the woods
24 again.
- 25 **GLENDA MAE:** How does that thing keep gettin’ loose?
- 26 **BRENDA MAE:** Fester, have you been studyin’ your lines?
- 27 **FESTER:** (*Looking at MIMI*) I’m scared to travel at night.
- 28 **MIMI:** What?
- 29 **FESTER:** I’m scared to travel at night.
- 30 **MIMI:** Honey, you have lost your marbles.
- 31 **FESTER:** I don’t have any marbles.
- 32 **BRENDA MAE:** He’s memorizing his lines for the play. That
33 was good, Fester.
- 34 **FESTER:** That’s the biggest thing I ever saw.
- 35 **ELKIN:** We’re all so proud of our star.

- 1 **DONNA JO:** I'm a star too.
- 2 **MIMI:** You're not a star. You *hold* a star. There's a difference.
- 3 *(She laughs at her little joke.)*
- 4 **OSWALD:** They're both stars, right Pete?
- 5 **PETE:** *(Has been reading the condemnation notice)* Huh? Oh yeah,
- 6 stars.
- 7 **FESTER:** *(Right in PETUNIA'S face)* I reckon it's OK as long as
- 8 you go first.
- 9 **BRENDA MAE:** Why don't you go on outside and study some
- 10 more, Fester?
- 11 **GLENDA MAE:** Yeah, 'cause you need to be able to say it
- 12 without your notes.
- 13 **FESTER:** *(As he leaves)* I'm lookin' at it right now. *(Exits.)*
- 14 **PETE:** *(Holding up the notice)* Oswald, shouldn't we say
- 15 something about ...
- 16 **OSWALD:** *(Interrupts.)* Glenda Mae, Brenda Mae, wouldn't you
- 17 like to show the girls something ... outside?
- 18 **BRENDA and GLENDA MAE:** Huh?
- 19 **OSWALD:** They've never seen the barn. *(To MIMI)* Wouldn't you
- 20 girls like to see the barn?
- 21 **MIMI:** I don't think so.
- 22 **OSWALD:** Sure you would. *(Nodding his head to her)* While we
- 23 guys have a talk. *(Grabs the paper from PETE and holds it*
- 24 *up.)*
- 25 **PETUNIA:** *(Catching on)* We would love to see the barn. Come
- 26 on, Mimi.
- 27 **MIMI:** What did I do wrong to deserve this?
- 28 **GLENDA MAE:** Come on, Donna Jo, you can go with us. *(They*
- 29 *exit. As they do, FESTER sticks his head through the window.)*
- 30 **FESTER:** I'm scared to travel at night.
- 31 **ELKIN:** Fester! Go to the barn with the rest of 'em!
- 32 **FESTER:** *(As he does)* I'm lookin' at it right now.
- 33 **ELKIN:** *(Putting an arm around OSWALD and PETE)* Well, well,
- 34 well, ain't this somethin'? All back together on Christmas.
- 35 Who would've thought it?

- 1 OSWALD: Cousin Elkin, has anyone from the county seat been
2 up here speaking with you recently?
- 3 ELKIN: You mean from town?
- 4 OSWALD: Yes, serving you papers for any reason?
- 5 ELKIN: Not that I know of, Cousin. Why do you ask?
- 6 OSWALD: Before you arrived, a lady was here and gave us this.
- 7 PETE: She said to make sure you read it.
- 8 ELKIN: Well, I'll read it later. Shoot, I want to spend time with
9 my family.
- 10 OSWALD: I think you need to know what it says. It's a
11 condemnation notice.
- 12 ELKIN: Con - dem - na ...
- 13 PETE: That means they've judged your house to be too
14 dangerous to live in and you must move out.
- 15 OSWALD: By Christmas Eve.
- 16 ELKIN: Who says?
- 17 OSWALD: The county. It's a legal document. They've
18 supposedly inspected your place and have declared it to
19 be condemned.
- 20 ELKIN: We're goin' to have to move from our home? But this
21 was my Uncle Zeke's home place. His daddy's daddy built
22 it for his family.
- 23 OSWALD: Cousin Elkin, have you seen anybody up here
24 inspecting the structure, checking the foundation?
- 25 ELKIN: Not that I know of, Cousin Oswald.
- 26 OSWALD: See, that's what I mean. This is not making much
27 sense. I think we need to have a serious talk with this Ms.
28 Basil.
- 29 PETE: If we don't, there's not going to be much of a Christmas
30 for you and your family.
- 31 ELKIN: Out by Christmas Eve? But where are we gonna go?
- 32 PETUNIA: (*Coming up to the window*) Oswald, you might want
33 to come to the barn.
- 34 OSWALD: What is it?
- 35 PETUNIA: That big wooden building out back.

1 OSWALD: I mean what's wrong?
2 PETUNIA: Mimi stood behind the ugly mule, and she kicked
3 her.
4 PETE: Mimi kicked the mule?
5 PETUNIA: No, the mule kicked Mimi. She's in pain.
6 OSWALD: I'll be right there. (*Turns to ELKIN.*) Listen, Cousin,
7 don't worry about anything. We'll figure out something.
8 PETE: Look on the bright side — you could always live in the
9 barn.
10 OSWALD: Pete, don't help.
11 PETE: I hear hay keeps you nice and warm.
12 OSWALD: Let's go, Pete. (*They exit. ELKIN stares at the paper. The*
13 *deer head comes through the window. ELKIN pets its nose.*)
14 ELKIN: What are we gonna do, Gertrude? I've lived here all my
15 life. How can they just throw us out like that right here at
16 Christmas time? This ain't good. This ain't good at all. (*The*
17 *deer shakes its head as the lights slowly fade to a blackout.*)

20
21 *(Lights up on an empty stage. Suddenly PETE and OSWALD*
22 *enter. OSWALD is snickering, and PETE is laughing quite*
23 *loudly.)*
24 PETE: I've ... I've never heard of anything so funny in my life.
25 *(Laughs.)*
26 OSWALD: I wish I could have been there to see it. *(Laughs.)*
27 PETE: It was worth the trip up here. We really shouldn't be
28 laughing, though. *(They look at each other, pause, then burst*
29 *out laughing again.)*
30 PETUNIA: *(Running in)* Hey guys, I thought ... *(Sees them*
31 *laughing.)* Uh ... I would stop laughing if I were you.
32 Mimi's on her way in.
33 PETE: I can't help it. I can just imagine the look on her face
34 when that mule kicked her in the leg.
35 PETUNIA: Pete, I'm warning you.

- 1 **OSWALD:** Hey Pete, stand behind me. (*PETE does and OSWALD*
2 *pretends to kick him.*) Hee haw! Hee haw!
- 3 **PETE:** Settle down, you old mule. Settle down, Bessie!
- 4 **PETUNIA:** Guys, (*Beginning to laugh*) I'd settle down if I were
5 **you.** (*MIMI enters and stands right inside the door. Everyone*
6 *settles down and tries to hold back their laughter. They all stare*
7 *at her.*) **Mimi, are you all right?** (*MIMI says nothing. She*
8 *stands there and crosses her arms.*)
- 9 **OSWALD:** (*Pulling out a chair from the table*) **Here, come have a**
10 **seat, Mimi.** (*MIMI stands there for a second, then hobbles over*
11 *to the chair with a very bad limp. OSWALD, PETE, and*
12 *PETUNIA can't hold it back. Their laughter is uncontrollable.*
13 *MIMI stares them down as she has a seat.*)
- 14 **MIMI:** (*Sarcastically*) I'm glad my physical ailment delights all of
15 **you so.**
- 16 **OSWALD:** We're sorry, Mimi. We know you're in pain.
- 17 **PETUNIA:** But Brenda Mae *did* tell us not to stand behind the
18 **mule.**
- 19 **MIMI:** I was just trying to pet the stupid animal. I was trying
20 to be civil. I was trying to be nice. (*Starts to cry.*)
- 21 **PETUNIA:** And let this be a lesson to you. When a mule kicks
22 **you, don't kick it back.**
- 23 **MIMI:** Like I was going to stand there and be done in by a
24 **dumb, ugly animal!**
- 25 **FESTER:** (*Sticking his head in the window*) **Did somebody call?**
- 26 **PETE:** No, Fester. Just go learn your lines!
- 27 **FESTER:** (*Pointing up, becoming quite dramatic*) **That's the biggest**
28 **thing I ever saw!**
- 29 **PETUNIA:** That's very good, Fester. Run along now. (*He does.*)
- 30 **OSWALD:** Pete, were you able to make any sense out of that
31 **condemnation notice?**
- 32 **PETE:** Not much. I'm not sure it's even legal.
- 33 **PETUNIA:** You mean this Ms. Basil is not from the county
34 **housing whatever?**
- 35 **OSWALD:** Not likely.

- 1 PETE: But what reason would she have to get rid of our
2 cousins?
- 3 OSWALD: I'm not sure, but I intend to find out. Where's Elkin?
- 4 MIMI: Hopefully shipping that stupid mule to Canada.
- 5 PETUNIA: He and Donna Jo were cutting down a Christmas
6 tree.
- 7 MIMI: Who feels like celebrating Christmas anyway? I say let's
8 con some money out of our stupid cousins and go home!
- 9 OSWALD: Mimi, don't use that word while we're here!
- 10 MIMI: What's wrong with the word cousins?
- 11 OSWALD: No, "con." Don't use the word "con." (*DONNA JO*
12 *enters holding a tiny Christmas tree.*) If they know we're here
13 to bluff them out of an oil well or diamond mine, they'll
14 never recover from the hurt.
- 15 MIMI: (*Not realizing DONNA JO is there*) Oh, we can't say "con,"
16 but we can say "bluff."
- 17 PETUNIA: (*Sees DONNA JO.*) Uh ... guys ...
- 18 OSWALD: No, now I'm serious. We have to be very careful
19 about *what* we say and *when* we say it. They're not smart
20 enough to catch on to our scheme, so we'll play our little
21 parts, get a nice little Christmas bonus and move on.
22 They'll never be the wiser.
- 23 PETE: (*Jumping in quite loudly*) Hello, Donna Jo, how are you?
- 24 DONNA JO: Fine. (*Holding up a tiny tree with bare limbs*) Look, I
25 got us a Christmas tree to put up in here. And I found this.
26 (*Holds up a man's wallet.*)
- 27 OSWALD: (*Nervous*) Donna Jo, how long have you been
28 standing there?
- 29 DONNA JO: (*Setting down the Christmas tree on a table*) I don't
30 know.
- 31 PETUNIA: (*Changing the subject*) Oswald, look — she brought a
32 Christmas tree for us to decorate.
- 33 PETE: (*Nervous*) Oswald didn't say a word about us deceiving
34 you.
- 35 OSWALD: Pete!

- 1 **PETUNIA:** It's a lovely tree, Donna Jo.
- 2 **DONNA JO:** (*Holding up the wallet*) And look, I found this too.
- 3 **PETUNIA:** (*Trying to pacify her*) Oh, and you found a little toy
- 4 wallet. Donna Jo, why don't we decorate your little
- 5 Christmas tree (*Looking at OSWALD, throwing a hint his way*)
- 6 because we're here to help you celebrate this most festive
- 7 season?
- 8 **PETE:** What about the condemnation notice? (*ELKIN enters.*)
- 9 **OSWALD:** Elkin, come on in and have a seat. We need to talk
- 10 to you a minute.
- 11 **ELKIN:** Sure thing, Cousin. I'd like that. Cousin Mimi, is your
- 12 leg feelin' all right?
- 13 **MIMI:** (*Sarcastically*) Oh, sure, it always feels its best when it's
- 14 swollen double the normal size. (*PETUNIA and DONNA JO*
- 15 *begin decorating the tree.*)
- 16 **PETE:** Elkin, we've got to get to the bottom of this paper that
- 17 has been served.
- 18 **OSWALD:** You say no one from the county has been up here
- 19 checking the place out?
- 20 **ELKIN:** Not that I know of. Not since that nice man from New
- 21 York City was here.
- 22 **PETUNIA:** New York City?
- 23 **ELKIN:** Yes'm. He was real friendly-like. He come to help us
- 24 clean up them oil fields Uncle Zeke left us in his will last
- 25 year.
- 26 **OSWALD:** (*Sitting beside him, getting concerned*) Help you clean
- 27 them up?
- 28 **ELKIN:** He said he would go in there and get rid of that nasty
- 29 oil. So they took what they call a pump and sucked that
- 30 stuff right out of there. Wasn't that neighborly?
- 31 **PETE:** Was there money involved?
- 32 **ELKIN:** That's what was so nice about it. He didn't charge us
- 33 one penny to clean up them oil fields.
- 34 **MIMI:** I don't like where this story is heading.
- 35 **OSWALD:** Elkin, don't you realize you gave away your oil

1 fields?

2 ELKIN: Oh, no I didn't, Cousin. The field is still ours. It's the
3 oil that's gone. I figure now we can grow a few vegetables
4 in it. You know, tomatoes, cucumbers, and the like.

5 PETUNIA: (*Stops with the tree.*) But that was a swindler, a con
6 artist, a ... a ...

7 ELKIN: Don't forget neighborly.

8 OSWALD: What about the diamond mines?

9 ELKIN: This is where it gets excitin'—he comes back
10 later — you know, that nice neighborly man from New
11 York City, and he says he would like to help us get rid of
12 those diamonds too.

13 PETE: You didn't let him take your diamonds for free, too, did
14 you?

15 ELKIN: No sir, Cousin Pete. I told him I couldn't just let him
16 come in and clean up them diamond mines ...

17 OSWALD: Good for you.

18 ELKIN: I says, "This time I'm gonna pay you." And do you
19 know he got rid of those old diamonds out of them caves
20 for only fifty dollars?

21 MIMI: (*Almost in a trance*) Fifty dollars? He gave away millions
22 of dollars worth of diamonds and he paid them fifty
23 dollars?

24 ELKIN: I didn't have the heart to tell him them diamonds
25 wasn't worth eatin'. Now almonds, there's some good
26 chompin', but diamonds are as hard as a rock. Can't chew
27 'em, can't shell 'em, can't crush 'em up and put 'em in a
28 cake. Shoot, Fester broke two teeth trying to chomp on
29 them there things.

30 OSWALD: (*To PETE in disbelief*) He gave away *all* the diamonds.

31 PETE: And oil. What's left?

32 OSWALD: (*To ELKIN*) Don't tell me he came back and cleaned
33 up those coal mines too.

34 ELKIN: OK, I won't tell you.

35 OSWALD: But he did?

- 1 **ELKIN:** The nicest man in the whole world.
- 2 **GLENDA MAE:** (*Rushing in holding a gold-colored rock*) Elkin,
3 look at this. Now you promised that man was comin' up
4 here to get this stuff out of here.
- 5 **ELKIN:** He'll be back, Glenda Mae. Just be patient.
- 6 **PETE:** (*Taking the rock and looking at it with eyes wide open*)
7 Oswald, do you see what I see?
- 8 **OSWALD:** (*Taking it*) It can't be.
- 9 **PETUNIA:** Is it what I think it is?
- 10 **MIMI:** (*Hobbling over to them*) It is! It's ...
- 11 **ALL:** (*Together*) *Gold!*
- 12 **GLENDA MAE:** Uncle Zeke left us them caves out back in his
13 will. You know, as a place to keep extra animals
14 in ...
- 15 **ELKIN:** The way they did in Bible times.
- 16 **GLENDA MAE:** But the sides of the cave are covered with this
17 yellow shiny rock. We're afraid the cows might try to lick
18 it off the walls and get sick.
- 19 **MIMI:** (*Close to hysteria*) They have a gold mine in their back
20 yard!
- 21 **OSWALD:** Elkin, don't you know what this means?
- 22 **ELKIN:** Sure, Cousin, that means we got to get rid of that stuff
23 to protect the animals.
- 24 **MIMI:** Oswald, nobody is this dumb.
- 25 **OSWALD:** Did you say that man from New York City was
26 coming back up here?
- 27 **ELKIN:** (*Holding up the gold-colored rock*) Said he'd be back and
28 get rid of all this yellow rock for us. (*He sets the rock on the*
29 *table.*)
- 30 **MIMI:** (*With hand to chest*) I don't think I can breath.
- 31 **OSWALD:** (*Taking ELKIN by the shoulders*) Elkin, listen to me
32 very closely. This man is a thief! He stole your oil, he stole
33 your diamonds and coal and now he wants to come back
34 and take your gold.
- 35 **ELKIN:** He does?

- 1 **PETUNIA:** He only told you the gold was dangerous so you'd
 2 agree to let him have it!
- 3 **GLEND A MAE:** Not that kind man!
- 4 **OSWALD:** I wonder why he hasn't shown up yet? *(There's a knock*
 5 *at the door.)*
- 6 **MIMI:** If it's that old mule, don't answer it.
- 7 **GLEND A MAE:** *(Opening the door)* Yes?
- 8 **MS. BASIL:** *(Entering with clipboard)* May I please come in?
- 9 **MIMI:** I told you not to answer it. *(Laughs at her joke.)*
- 10 **MS. BASIL:** Has the owner of this ... "house" shown up yet?
- 11 **OSWALD:** *(Referring to ELKIN)* This is the one you're wanting to
 12 see, I believe.
- 13 **MS. BASIL:** *(Crossing to ELKIN)* Hello, I'm Ms. Basil. I gather
 14 you have been thoroughly enlightened of the
 15 condemnation notice I presented previously this fine day?
- 16 **ELKIN:** That all depends.
- 17 **MS. BASIL:** On what?
- 18 **ELKIN:** On what you just said.
- 19 **PETE:** Elkin, this lady is who told us about you having to leave
 20 your home by Christmas Eve.
- 21 **MS. BASIL:** Yes, and I don't like small talk, so if you could just
 22 sign these papers ...
- 23 **BREND A MAE:** *(Entering, pulling FESTER behind her)* Now,
 24 Fester, I want you to get yourself in here and work on
 25 them lines for the play.
- 26 **FESTER:** But I want to swing on my new swing.
- 27 **BREND A MAE:** *(To GLEND A MAE)* I caught him out there
 28 playing on a tire swing.
- 29 **GLEND A MAE:** *(With hands on hips)* Fester!
- 30 **ELKIN:** But we don't have a tire swing.
- 31 **BREND A MAE:** He made one out of a tire he found.
- 32 **FESTER:** I can swing real high on it, Cousin Elkin.
- 33 **GLEND A MAE:** You was supposed to be studyin' your lines!
- 34 **FESTER:** But I've been learnin' 'em all day!
- 35 **GLEND A MAE:** I can't handle this. I'm gonna go check on that

- 1 mule. (*Exits.*)
- 2 PETUNIA: Brenda Mae, please. We have a very important
3 visitor.
- 4 BRENDA MAE: Oh yeah, the lady down by the creek bank I
5 saw a while ago. (*To MS. BASIL*) Hey, where's that nice
6 man from New York City?
- 7 MS. BASIL: I don't know what you're talking about, silly girl.
8 I wasn't with any man. (*Turning to ELKIN*) Now, Mr. Elkin
9 ...
- 10 BRENDA MAE: Sure you was. Y'all was talkin' and stuff. Don't
11 you remember?
- 12 MIMI: You know how your memory goes when you get old.
- 13 OSWALD: Wait a minute, Brenda Mae. Are you saying you saw
14 Ms. Basil talking to the man from New York City?
- 15 MS. BASIL: She's evidently seeing things. I just drove up in my
16 car.
- 17 DONNA JO: (*Presenting a wallet*) Then I wonder who dropped
18 this.
- 19 MS. BASIL: (*Rushing to her*) Let me see that!
- 20 OSWALD: (*Intercepting the wallet*) Wait just one moment there, if
21 you don't mind.
- 22 MS. BASIL: I insist you give me that this very minute.
- 23 MIMI: Sounds like somebody with a secret to me!
- 24 FESTER: (*To MS. BASIL, staring at her*) Do you have a secret,
25 lady?
- 26 MS. BASIL: Would you please get out of my face?
- 27 FESTER: I gotta practice my lines for the play. (*Saying his lines*
28 *quite loudly*) I'm scared to travel at night.
- 29 MS. BASIL: (*To FESTER*) I have an idea — why don't you go
30 take a long walk on a short pier?
- 31 FESTER: I reckon it's OK as long as you go first.
- 32 OSWALD: (*Opening the wallet and showing ELKIN a driver's license*)
33 Elkin, is this the neighborly man you were telling us
34 about?
- 35 ELKIN: That's him, Cousin Oswald.

- 1 **OSWALD:** Donna Jo, where did you find this wallet?
- 2 **DONNA JO:** Down by the creek when I was fetchin' the
3 Christmas tree. I tried to tell 'em.
- 4 **PETE:** So that's what this is all about. She's working for the
5 swindler.
- 6 **OSWALD:** Pete, let me handle this. So that's what this is all
7 about. She's working for the swindler.
- 8 **PETUNIA:** (*To MS. BASIL*) And you come in here with your
9 nose stuck up in the air.
- 10 **MS. BASIL:** Keep my nose out of this — it's perfect the way it
11 is.
- 12 **FESTER:** (*In MS BASIL's face*) It's the biggest thing I ever saw.
- 13 **MS. BASIL:** Well, I never! (*Throws her hands up to her chest.*
14 *GLEND A MAE runs in.*)
- 15 **GLEND A MAE:** Cousin Elkin, the donkey! It's gone again!
- 16 **FESTER:** (*In MIMI's face*) I'm scared to travel at night.
- 17 **ELKIN:** How did that thing get loose this time?
- 18 **GLEND A MAE:** (*With hands on hips*) OK, everybody just freeze
19 and give me your attention. Has anyone seen that old ugly
20 mule?
- 21 **FESTER:** (*Looking at MS. BASIL*) I'm lookin' at it right now.
- 22 **MS. BASIL:** Get away from me, you ... you bumpkin! (*She backs
23 up to the window. Our deer friend has stuck his head back in.*)
24 I've never been so insulted in all my life! Now, I have the
25 condemnation notice right here, and I mean to see that it
26 gets carried out!
- 27 **OSWALD:** You'll not get away with this!
- 28 **MS. BASIL:** We already have your oil, coal and diamonds, and
29 now we want the gold! And it's all legal, so I would suggest
30 everyone vamoose and have a very merry Christmas! I
31 know I will. (*Holds up the condemnation notice. MS. BASIL
32 turns and sees the deer.*) It's ... it's a creature ... a ... a
33 monster! I think I'm going to be sick! (*She faints into the
34 same chair MIMI fell into earlier.*)
- 35 **OSWALD:** (*Running over and grabbing the notice from MS. BASIL's*



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