

CRICKET COUNTY CHRISTMAS (MUSICAL)

Play by Eddie McPherson
Music by Lauren Mayer



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Cricket County Christmas

A musical version of
Christmas in Cricket County

play by Eddie McPherson
music by Lauren Mayer

CAST OF CHARACTERS

UNCLE ZEKE: Old, eccentric hillbilly; the voice of reason (also happens to be a ghost).

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 speaks with a slow Southern drawl.

GLENDIA MAE and BRENDA MAE: Identical twins who look nothing alike. They dress alike, but they look different. They both have eyes for Oswald.

DONNA JO: Shy but very wise.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Summary of Musical

It's the social clash of the Christmas season in this musical version of our popular play. City cousins Oswald, Mimi, Petunia, and Pete take a limo drive out to Cricket County for the reading of their Uncle Zeke's will on Christmas Eve. Their country cousins Elkin, Fester (an overgrown boy who likes to play with axes), shy Donna Jo and identical twins (who look nothing alike) Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae, greet their city family with open arms. After a deer head bobs across the window, Mimi decides she would rather go back home where civilized people keep their animals in cages. However, the city kids' greed keeps them hanging around until Christmas Eve. A box that holds the will mysteriously shows up, but a note specifies that the contents not be revealed until Christmas Eve. After the city kids receive only one hundred thousand dollars apiece, they throw a tantrum over getting such a "small" amount of money. However, their country cousins are thankful for the fifty dollars they each receive to buy new coats and shoes for the winter ahead. As a Christmas tradition, the country kids put on the Nativity story for their relatives and in a very simple way help them understand the true meaning of giving and receiving. The city kids leave with a new attitude about material things and realize that it just might be better after all to give a little rather than always receiving. Then, after their rich cousins leave, the Cricket County cousins discover there's more to the will than they originally thought in a delightful surprise twist that evens the score in the end.

Setting

The setting is a one-set interior of a log cabin. If possible, there needs to be two doors: one that comes in from the road, and another that goes out to the back porch and cornfield. 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 cut out so the deer and Mimi can be seen when they run past it. Anything from a fireplace to an old wood stove can be painted on the backdrop if desired. A picture of a fox hangs on the wall. Stockings hang at the fireplace and old-fashioned decorations, including mistletoe, hang about the stage. An old wooden table sits Stage Right and a few wooden chairs may be placed around the stage. Another small table sits against the backdrop for the Christmas tree. Uncle Zeke may appear to the side of the stage area or in front of the curtain.

Lights

If theatrical lights are not available, simply shut off the house lights during the scene transitions. For Uncle Zeke's appearances, try for a special lighting effect to indicate that he is a ghost. You may also heighten this effect with stage makeup.

Sound Effects

Dog barking, guitar playing.

Easy-to-Obtain Props

Luggage (City Cousins)

A pair of deer antlers or deer head

Two pails (Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae)

Purse with small mirror inside (Petunia)

An ax (Fester)

A tiny Christmas tree (Donna Jo)

A slingshot (Elkin)

A jar of jelly (Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae)

Rag doll (Donna Jo)

Purse with bottle of perfume inside (Mimi)

Bowl of green beans (Glenda Mae)

Large cloth bag (Fester)

Large picture of Mimi (Mimi)

Homemade Christmas tree decorations

Old wooden box (Elkin)

Three sheets of paper the will is written on in an envelope taped
to the lid of the wooden box

Twigs and leaves (Mimi)

Sleeping bags (all)

Flashlight (Mimi)

Rubber snake (Mimi)

Homemade Christmas card (Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae)

Watch (Elkin)

Fake money (Elkin)

Homemade cardboard star covered with foil on a stick
(Glenda Mae)

A towel (Fester as a camel and shepherd)

Four crudely wrapped presents: Fester's ax, Elkin's slingshot,
a jar of jelly, and Donna Jo's rag doll

Sign reading "Merry Christmas from Cricket County"

Costumes

Costuming can be really easy and fun for this production. The important thing to remember is that the City Cousins' sophisticated attire is in great contrast to the Country Cousins' simple clothing. Here are a few ideas:

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.

The Country Cousins may wear overalls, jeans with ropes as belts, and costumes made from gingham, denim, burlap (Donna Jo's dress), and/or gabardine material. Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae need to be dressed alike. They should wear shawls and their hair in pigtails. The Country Cousins could wear unlaced work boots or go barefoot.

Uncle Zeke's costume should be similar to the Country Cousins. Use special lighting or makeup to give him a "ghostly" appearance.

All the characters except Uncle Zeke need coats.

Although Scene 4 has the characters sleeping, it's easiest if they don't change into pajamas. This keeps the blackout from being too long between the scenes. Shoes and jackets may be taken off. Otherwise, they should sleep with their clothes on. Folks in Cricket County have their own unique ways of doing things!

SONG TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **What Christmas Means to Me —**
City Cousins and Country Cousins
2. **Remember the Money —**
Mimi, Oswald, Petunia, Pete, Brenda Mae
3. **Whatever Happened to Pete? —***Elkin, Oswald,*
Petunia, Mimi, Brenda Mae, Glenda Mae
4. **Fussin' and Fightin' —***Donna Jo, Company*
5. **Too Much Money —***Uncle Zeke*
6. **The Story 'Bout Mary and Joe —**
Elkin
7. **What Christmas Means to Me (Reprise) —**
Company

SCENE ONE

(Lights come up on one side of the stage or in front of the curtain if used, to show UNCLE ZEKE. If possible, use some sort of special lighting effect to indicate that Zeke is a ghost. As he talks, we see PETE, MIMI, OSWALD and PETUNIA appearing, looking for the cabin.)

1 UNCLE ZEKE: Howdy folks, merry Christmas and welcome to
2 Cricket County. Name's Zeke, and y'all are gonna learn
3 more about me later on, but first off you're 'bout to meet
4 some of my kin. *(He sees the CITY COUSINS coming.)* Got
5 some normal relatives who live right here, but this first
6 bunch comin' up is from the city, poor things, and hoo-ee,
7 are they ignorant cusses when it comes to the important

Song #1. What Christmas Means to Me

(City Cousins, Country Cousins) (Song starts as CITY COUSINS enter stage.)

12 PETE: It's the time of year when the presents appear,

13 MIMI: Fancy toys, designer clothes.

14 PETUNIA: You get lots of stuff,

15 OSWALD: People show you their love

16 If they're paying through the nose.

17 MIMI: If I don't get ev'ry gift that I wished for,

18 I'll be as upset as can be.

19 OSWALD: The only thought that counts is spending large
20 amounts.

21 ALL FOUR: That's what Christmas means to me!

22 That's what Christmas means to me,

23 And I know you so agree.

24 Say, it's our fav'rite time of year,

25 And my dear, it's nearly here.

(COUNTRY COUSINS enter on other side of stage.)

27 DONNA JO: It's a joyful time

28 ELKIN: And a season when I'm

29 Glad to be with kin like you.

30 BRENDA MAE: Doin' chores can wait as we all celebrate

31 GLENDA MAE: With some fresh jackrabbit stew!

- 1 ELKIN: We'll sing us a couple'a carols,
 2 BRENDA MAE and GLENDA MAE: String popcorn to hang
 3 up on the tree.
 4 DONNA JO: We can forget our cares,
 5 FESTER: Keep the vittles from the bears.
 6 ALL FIVE: That's what Christmas means to me.
 7
 8 That's what Christmas means to me.
 9 And I know you folks agree.
 10 Say, it's our fav'rite time of year,
 11 And y'all, it's almost here!
 12
 13 *(At end of song, COUNTRY COUSINS exit and continue their*
 14 *errand while CITY COUSINS enter the cabin. They look*
 15 *around at the one-room cabin in disbelief that they have*
 16 *entered such a humble dwelling.)*
 17 MIMI: *(Speaking)* Please tell me we are not here.
 18 OSWALD: We're here all right, though I'm not sure exactly
 19 where *here* is.
 20 PETE: Do people actually live like this?
 21 MIMI: Really. Where's the Jacuzzi?
 22 PETE: Mimi, dear. I don't think we're going to find a
 23 Jacuzzi out here.
 24 PETUNIA: Oh, Pete, of course they have a Jacuzzi —
 25 otherwise how are they going to relax after a grueling
 26 game of tennis or a long day on their feet at the
 27 shopping mall?
 28 OSWALD: I'm not sure, Petunia, but somehow I don't think
 29 they have tennis courts and shopping malls out
 30 here, either.
 31 MIMI: Well, how totally primitive. I vote let's go back home
 32 right now.
 33 PETE: Me too.
 34 OSWALD: We can't go. The limousine dropped us off and
 35 won't be back until late Christmas Eve.

- 1 MIMI: We are trapped here? Oh, how did I get myself
2 into this?
- 3 PETE: Because of the money.
- 4 MIMI: Oh, yes. The money. I almost forgot.
- 5 OSWALD: That's why we're all here. To get what is
6 rightfully ours.
- 7 PETUNIA: But why did we have to come here to get
8 our money?
- 9 OSWALD: Because that's how Uncle Zeke wanted it. He
10 asked that the will be read here at his old birthplace
11 on Christmas Eve.
- 12 MIMI: I can't believe I had an Uncle named Zeke.
- 13 PETE: I can't believe he had money and lived here.
- 14 OSWALD: He was a miser. Rumor has it that he saved all
15 his money and hid it away someplace.
- 16 MIMI: That's so silly. Who can think of saving money when
17 there's all kinds of merchandise to be bought? (*Antlers,*
18 *or, if possible, a whole deer's head bobs across the window.*)
- 19 PETUNIA: Yikes! What is that?
- 20 PETE: Looks like a deer. (*The deer disappears.*)
- 21 PETUNIA: (*Hiding behind OSWALD*) There are wild
22 animals roaming freely about? Shouldn't it be in a
23 zoo somewhere?
- 24 MIMI: What's this world coming to? I want to go home now!
- 25 PETE: Stop being silly. It's just a harmless deer.
- 26 PETUNIA: But if there are deer, then there are other wild
27 creatures running wild too.
- 28 MIMI: Yes!
- 29 PETUNIA: Like foxes!
- 30 MIMI: Yes!
- 31 PETUNIA: And bears!
- 32 MIMI: Yes!
- 33 PETUNIA: And Big Foot!
- 34 MIMI: Yes! (*Pauses and turns back to PETUNIA.*) Big Foot?
- 35 OSWALD: Stop being silly. We've got to get settled. We had

1 a long drive in the limo.

2 PETE: I wonder where everybody is.

3 PETUNIA: It looks deserted. I think we've come to the

4 wrong old broken-down cabin.

5 OSWALD: We're at the right place. The name is on the door.

6 MIMI: Are you actually trying to tell me that the people

7 who live here have the same blood flowing through

8 their veins as I do?

9 PETE: Kind of scary, isn't it?

10 PETUNIA: All I can say is we'd better gets lots of money

11 from Uncle Zack.

12 OSWALD: Zeke.

13 PETUNIA: Zack, Zeke — who cares? I just want to get back

14 to my bedroom suite and silk pajamas.

15 OSWALD: Well, it's only for two days. I think we can

16 tolerate our hillbilly cousins for two lousy days.

17 *(GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE enter. They play*

18 *identical twins, but it's important that they look very*

19 *different. They're wrapped in shawls and both hold pails.*

20 *They see their guests. Nothing is said. They just stare at*

21 *them.)*

22 BRENDA MAE: *(Finally)* Who are they, Glenda Mae?

23 GLENDA MAE: I don't know, Brenda Mae.

24 BRENDA MAE: They sure do dress awful funny. Must be

25 from the city.

26 GLENDA MAE: *(Walks up to OSWALD.)* This one here sure

27 is pretty.

28 BRENDA MAE: *(Sniffs MIMI.)* And this one smells like a

29 honeysuckle vine.

30 MIMI: Oswald, she's sniffing me.

31 OSWALD: Excuse me, do you live here?

32 GLENDA MAE: Yep, this here is our home.

33 OSWALD: Who are you?

34 BRENDA MAE: We're the identical twins, Glenda Mae and

35 Brenda Mae.

- 1 **PETE:** You're identical twins? But you look nothing alike.
 2 **BRENDA MAE:** We don't? That's funny, nobody never told
 3 us that before.
 4 **MIMI:** Why can't you just look in a mirror?
 5 **GLENDA MAE:** What's a mirror?
 6 **MIMI:** It's a piece of glass ... that you look into ... and see
 7 yourself ... *(The twins just stand there with their mouths*
 8 *open and look at each other.)* OK, they're really scaring me
 9 now.
 10 **PETUNIA:** *(Has pulled a mirror from her purse.)* Here, look.
 11 Here's a mirror. *(BRENDA MAE looks in the mirror, then*
 12 *looks at GLENDA MAE.)*
 13 **BRENDA MAE:** They're right, Glenda Mae. We don't look
 14 nothin' alike.
 15 **GLENDA MAE:** *(Looking)* Nope, I'm much prettier.
 16 **BRENDA MAE:** I'm prettier.
 17 **MIMI:** You're both plain Janes, so stop it.
 18 **PETUNIA:** Do you live up here in the mountains all
 19 by yourselves?
 20 **GLENDA MAE:** Except for our cousins Elkin, Fester, and
 21 Donna Jo. They live here too.
 22 **BRENDA MAE:** *(Walks up to OSWALD.)* You're the prettiest
 23 thing I have ever saw in my life. Are you married?
 24 **OSWALD:** No. But it's probably because I'm only sixteen *(or*
 25 *whatever his age is).*
 26 **BRENDA MAE:** Do you wanna get married?
 27 **OSWALD:** Not today. No.
 28 **GLENDA MAE:** And even if he did, he wouldn't marry you.
 29 He would marry me because I'm the prettiest.
 30 **BRENDA MAE:** I'm prettiest!
 31 **PETE:** Look, we are here for the reading of Uncle Zeke's
 32 will. Our parents sent us up in the limo for the next two
 33 days. Whatever money he has left us we will take back
 34 to civilization with us.
 35 **PETUNIA:** Yes, and we don't want to bother you while

1 you're doing your chores, so if you will kindly show us
 2 where the bedrooms are, we will get settled in.

3 **GLEND A MAE:** Bedroom? What's a bedroom?

4 **PETE:** A bedroom. You know, a place with a bed. *(Pause)*
 5 Where you sleep.

6 **GLEND A MAE:** Oh, sleep. *(Throws out her arms.)* This is
 7 where we sleep.

8 **MIMI:** What?

9 **BREND A MAE:** This is our bedroom.

10 **OSWALD:** You mean, you all sleep in here?

11 **GLEND A MAE:** The boys over there and the girls over here.

12 **PETE:** OK. This is where *you* sleep. But where do *we* sleep?

13 **BREND A MAE:** Well, if you don't want to sleep in here, you
 14 can always go through that door there *(Points to the door*
 15 *that leads to the cornfield)* and ...

16 **PETE:** That's all I wanted to hear, thanks. *(He heads for the*
 17 *door and exits through it.)*

18 **MIMI:** Wait; now I get a room too! Peter!

19 **PETE:** *(Re-entering)* That's the back porch.

20 **GLEND A MAE:** You're welcome to sleep there, but you
 21 might get cold during the night.

22 **MIMI:** Oswald, get my things. I'm calling Mummy and
 23 having the limo sent back for me immediately. *(To*
 24 *GLEND A MAE)* Where's your phone?

25 **GLEND A MAE:** Phone?

26 **MIMI:** Yes, phone. Where's your telephone?

27 **GLEND A MAE:** What's a tel-e-phone?

28 **MIMI:** *(Looks back at OSWALD.)* Oh no, we're stranded here.
 29 For three days we're deserted with the Beverly
 30 Hillbillies. *(MIMI backs up to the window. The deer goes by*
 31 *again. She shuts her eyes and clenches her fists and whines.)*
 32 The wild animal is back. We're going to be eaten alive.
 33 Take-me-home!

34 **OSWALD:** Remember the money, Mimi. Remember the
 35 money.

1 MIMI: *(To herself)* The money. The money.
 2
 3 *Song #2. Remember the Money (City Cousins, Brenda Mae)*
 4 MIMI: Remember the money,
 5 OSWALD: Just dwell on the dough.
 6 PETUNIA: We can't go back till Uncle Zack
 7 BRENDA MAE: *(Speaking)* Zeke!
 8 PETUNIA: *(Singing)* Says it's time to go.
 9 PETE: We'll endure this and be heroes,
 10 For checks with plenty of zeroes.
 11 ALL FOUR (City Cousins): We can put up with them,
 12 If we remember the money!
 13
 14 PETUNIA: This place will make me nervous,
 15 PETE: I can't believe I'm here;
 16 MIMI: Just to read a will on some dumb hillbilly hill,
 17 Being attacked by killer deer.
 18 OSWALD: No way to get room service,
 19 MIMI: How can I survive without a mall?
 20 PETE: No wide screen and no Play Station,
 21 PETUNIA: But we'll deal with deprivation,
 22 PETE: Cause we answered Uncle's call!
 23 ALL FOUR (City Cousins): Remember the money,
 24 Just dwell on the dough.
 25 We can't go back till Uncle Zack
 26 BRENDA MAE: *(Speaking)* Zeke!
 27 ALL FOUR: *(Singing)* Says it's time to go.
 28
 29 We'll endure this and be heroes,
 30 For checks with plenty of zeroes.
 31 We can put up with them,
 32 If we remember the money!
 33
 34 OSWALD: They're grossly unrefined here.
 35 MIMI: No class or savoir-faire.

1 **PETUNIA:** I bet no one knows where to find designer
2 clothes.

3 **PETE:** Is there cable?

4 **OSWALD:** Au contraire.

5 **PETUNIA:** But we will be resigned here,

6 **PETE:** We can bravely face our fearful task.

7 **MIMI:** Well, as long as I could borrow just a smidge of
8 caviar,
9 Oh, would that be too much to ask?

10

11 **ALL FOUR (City Cousins):** Remember the money,
12 There won't be a hitch.
13 We only came cause Uncle What's-His-Name

14 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Speaking*) Zeke!

15 **ALL FOUR:** (*Singing*) Died and made us rich.

16 **PETUNIA:** Ugh, this place, it's awfllly grim, oh

17 **OSWALD:** But we'll face it, then race back to the limo.

18 **MIMI:** We shall ignore the stink,

19 **PETE:** And try to think of the money.

20 **ALL FOUR:** Yes we'll put up with them, cause we remember
21 the money!

22

23 **OSWALD:** (*Speaking to BRENDA MAE*) Where are your
24 parents? Are they here?

25 **BRENDA MAE:** Well, Mama and Papa went with our aunts
26 and uncles over to the holler in Cowpoke County to kill
27 us a turkey for Christmas dinner.

28 **PETE:** When will they be back?

29 **BRENDA MAE:** If they walk real fast, they'll be here early
30 Christmas morning.

31 **PETUNIA:** Then who's going to read the will on
32 Christmas Eve?

33 **GLENDA MAE:** I think Elkin will do that. He has the bestest
34 education of all of us. Him and Fester and Donna Jo
35 will be here any time. They are out gettin' a Christmas

1 tree.
2 MIMI: I think I'm getting sick at my stomach. Where's
3 your bathroom?
4 BRENDA MAE: Let's see. If a bedroom is a room with a bed
5 in it, a bathroom must be a room with a bath in it.
6 GLENDA MAE: Sorry, we take our baths out on the porch.
7 MIMI: But it's ten degrees out there.
8 BRENDA MAE: I know. We've been thankin' the good Lord
9 for this warm spell we've been havin'.
10 GLENDA MAE: Yeah, it's hard to take a bath when you
11 have to scrub a little then break the ice, scrub a little
12 then break the ice, scrub a little ...
13 PETUNIA: All right, we don't need a play-by-play.
14 BRENDA MAE: Well, if you'll excuse us, we gotta go pour
15 this water up for Glenda Mae's bath. Come on, Glenda
16 Mae. (*As they exit with their pails*) Y'all just make
17 yourselves at home. Y'all are family too. (*They exit.*)
18 PETE: I feel like I'm in the twilight zone and we've entered
19 a different dimension.
20 OSWALD: Can you imagine not having a telephone?
21 PETUNIA: Or a bathroom?
22 MIMI: Or a Polo store?
23 PETE: Everybody just remember that as soon as we get our
24 part of the inheritance, we're outta here.
25 PETUNIA: Why have we never heard of this part of our
26 family tree until Uncle Zeke died?
27 OSWALD: The way I figure it, our parents were too
28 ashamed to have them around in the city.
29 MIMI: (*Sarcastically*) Wonder why.
30 OSWALD: Then when old Unc died, suddenly they were
31 dear members of the family.
32 PETUNIA: But did all of this have to happen at
33 Christmas time?
34 OSWALD: OK, everybody. We all agree to be nice to our
35 hillbilly cousins and see this thing through until after

1 the will is read, right? *(Pause)* Right? *(Everybody mutters*
 2 *their OKs, disgruntled.)* Now, I guess everybody should
 3 just stake their claim on a part of the floor and get as
 4 comfortable as possible.

5 **MIMI:** Well, I'm not sleeping under the window. I don't want
 6 that deer gawking at me all night. *(She walks to the*
 7 *window. FESTER steps in front of the window, looking in.*
 8 *MIMI and PETUNIA both see him and start screaming,*
 9 *holding on to each other. FESTER disappears.)*

10 **OSWALD:** *(Calming them down)* What? What is wrong with
 11 you two?

12 **MIMI:** Outside! It's a monster!

13 **PETUNIA:** And it was leering at us!

14 **OSWALD:** *(Looking out the window)* Now you're seeing things.

15 **PETUNIA:** Oswald, please! Mimi's right. Let's forget the
 16 money and just go home.

17 **PETE:** Bite your tongue, Petunia.

18 **OSWALD:** Besides, we couldn't go home even if we wanted
 19 to. There's no phone.

20 **MIMI:** Then let's hitchhike! *(FESTER enters carrying an ax on*
 21 *his shoulder and stands just inside the door. He is a very tall*
 22 *and/or big fellow.)*

23 **OSWALD:** Now, we all agree to stick together on this.
 24 There's nothing out there. *(He's still looking at PETUNIA,*
 25 *MIMI, and PETE as he points toward the door they entered*
 26 *through. His hand hits FESTER. He feels FESTER's chest,*
 27 *shoulders, and face. Then he turns and looks at FESTER.*
 28 *He yells and runs behind MIMI.)* Get them! Get them! I'm
 29 just their dumb brother! I haven't done anything!
 30 *(ELKIN and DONNA JO enter. DONNA JO holds a tiny*
 31 *Christmas tree. A dog is heard barking Off-stage. ELKIN*
 32 *tries to keep the dog back when he enters.)*

33 **ELKIN:** Git back! Git back, you ol' bird dog, you! *(He pushes*
 34 *against the door as though the dog is trying to come in.)* I
 35 said, stay back!

- 1 MIMI: Oswald, it's going to eat us.
 2 PETUNIA: We're going to die!
 3 ELKIN: Howdy. Who, Tiny? Oh shucks, he won't hurt you
 4 none. He just gets excited around supper time. Fester,
 5 put that ax down before you hurt somebody!
 6 FESTER: (*Speaking with a slow drawl*) You said I could play
 7 with it.
 8 ELKIN: You can play with it after while. We got company.
 9 (*Sticks his hand out to MIMI.*) I'm cousin Elkin ...
 10 MIMI: (*Looking at the palm of his hand*) Oooo, you have
 11 calluses.
 12 ELKIN: This is Donna Jo. (*DONNA JO turns her back and*
 13 *drops her head.*) She's a little on the shy side. And this
 14 is
 15 cousin Fester.
 16 FESTER: I like to play with axes.
 17 OSWALD: Well, we're very glad to meet you, and we just
 18 know this is going to be a very money Christmas ... I
 19 mean, Merry Christmas, as we celebrate this joyous
 20 season together.
 21 ELKIN: We was out cuttin' us a Christmas tree to put up
 22 in here ...
 23 FESTER: I cut it with my ax.
 24 ELKIN: We don't usually get one this nice, but we knew
 25 you all was comin' and we wanted to really put on the
 26 dog. (*TINY barks outside.*) Be quiet, Tiny! (*GLENDA MAE*
 27 *runs in.*)
 28 GLENDA MAE: Cousin Elkin, cousin Elkin! Come quick!
 29 Brenda Mae is in trouble down at the outhouse!
 30 ELKIN: What is it?!
 31 GLENDA MAE: That little wooden shack in the cornfield.
 32 ELKIN: No, I mean what's wrong with Brenda Mae?
 33 GLENDA MAE: A black bear chased her in there and won't
 34 let her out!
 35 OSWALD: A bear?!

- 1 MIMI: An outhouse?!
- 2 ELKIN: Donna Jo, grab my slingshot!
- 3 FESTER: I'll get him with my ax!
- 4 ELKIN: No, Fester! You stay here. (*DONNA JO hands him a*
5 *slingshot.*) The bear may attack!
- 6 OSWALD: (*Grabs ELKIN's arm as he starts to exit.*) Wait
7 a minute. You can't go out there with nothing but
8 a slingshot!
- 9 ELKIN: Cousin Oswald, if David can kill a nasty ol' giant
10 with a sling, then a bear ain't nothin'! Besides, I've
11 killed plenty of bear before! (*He rushes out.*)
- 12 FESTER: (*Yelling after him*) If he kills you, I'll come out with
13 my ax!
- 14 OSWALD: This is ludicrous! He can't go out there all alone
15 with an attack bear on the loose! Pete!
- 16 PETE: Yes?
- 17 OSWALD: Go out and help him!
- 18 PETE: (*Starts to go, then stops.*) Wait a minute. Why don't
19 you go?
- 20 OSWALD: Because I've got to stay here and protect
21 everybody in the cabin!
- 22 PETE: Oh. (*Starts to go but then stops again.*) Wait a minute.
23 Why can't I stay here and protect everybody in the
24 cabin?
- 25 OSWALD: Because you're going to be busy helping Cousin
26 Elkin with the bear.
- 27 PETE: Oh, yeah. (*Runs over to FESTER.*) May I borrow your
28 ax?
- 29 FESTER: No, it's my ax!
- 30 MIMI: (*Crosses to FESTER and makes a fist.*) Give him the
31 ax, Jethro.
- 32 FESTER: My name is Fester.
- 33 MIMI: I don't care if it's the Jolly Green Giant. Give the boy
34 the ax.
- 35 FESTER: (*Runs out the opposite door.*) No, no, no! It's my ax,

1 my ax, my ax!

2 **PETE:** (*Quickly*) I have an idea. Mimi, give me your perfume.

3 **MIMI:** How can you think of smelling nice at a time like

4 this!

5 **PETE:** Not for me, silly. One shot of that on the bear, and

6 he'll keel over dead! (*PETUNIA has gotten the perfume*

7 *from MIMI's purse and hands it to PETE. He runs out.*)

8 **OSWALD:** Good luck, Pete!

9 **MIMI:** (*Shouting after PETE*) You owe me \$63.95!

10 **PETUNIA:** If he doesn't come back, I get his part of

11 the inheritance.

12 **MIMI:** Petunia, that's a terrible thing to say.

13 **PETUNIA:** I'm sorry, you're right.

14 **MIMI:** I think you should split it with me.

15 **OSWALD:** I can't believe you are talking about splitting his

16 inheritance while he's out there risking his neck for us.

17 **PETUNIA:** How much do you want?

18 **OSWALD:** A third. (*DONNA JO is over in the corner, sitting*

19 *alone.*)

20 **MIMI:** Have you noticed that girl hasn't said a word since

21 she's been in here?

22 **OSWALD:** Why don't you girls go over and say something

23 to her?

24 **MIMI:** I wouldn't know what to say. It's obvious we have

25 nothing in common.

26 **OSWALD:** Ask her about her family.

27 **PETUNIA:** What is there to ask? (*In a hillbilly twang*) They're

28 all down at the outhouse, killin' a bear.

29 **OSWALD:** You girls are farcical. OK, I'll talk to her and give

30 her a thrill in her otherwise humdrum existence. (*He*

31 *crosses to DONNA JO.*) Hello there. (*DONNA JO turns and*

32 *faces the other way. It's plain to see she's bashful.*) My name

33 is Charles Oswald Tipinhimmer the Third ... I'm

34 president of my class ... and just because I'm handsome

35 doesn't mean I'm arrogant. Have you noticed my

1 superior physique? (*Flexes his muscles.*) I work out. I
 2 know what you're thinking, "Wow, what a good-looking
 3 piece of flesh." That's OK. That's what all the girls say.
 4 So ... what do you think? (*Nothing*) Speechless, huh?
 5 That's understandable. Most women are when they're
 6 with me. See ya. (*He crosses back to the GIRLS, who have*
 7 *been looking out the window.*)

8 MIMI: Well?

9 OSWALD: I left that girl with memories she'll take to the
 10 grave. Now it's your turn. Go talk to her.

11 MIMI: I don't think ...

12 OSWALD: Come on, just once in your life try to be nice.

13 MIMI: OK, but it's not going to be easy. Come on, Petunia.
 14 (*They cross to DONNA JO.*) Uh, my name is Mimi.
 15 (*DONNA JO looks at the floor.*) This is Petunia. (*No*
 16 *response*) So, is that a Polo dress you're wearing?

17 DONNA JO: (*Still holding her head down*) My mama made it.

18 MIMI: (*Pauses. She has no idea what to say.*) Oh. It's amazing
 19 what people can do with burlap these day. (*She motions*
 20 *to PETUNIA to say something.*)

21 PETUNIA: Uh, yes. I've never seen a potato sack look quite
 22 that nice.

23 DONNA JO: My mama made it for me before she died.
 24 (*Everything grows quiet. This information comes quite*
 25 *by surprise.*)

26 PETUNIA: Your mother ... died?

27 DONNA JO: My mama used to make all my dresses. She
 28 made me this doll, too. (*She holds up an old rag doll to*
 29 *MIMI.*) That's OK, you can hold it. (*MIMI takes it.*)

30 MIMI: Petunia, her mama made this.

31 DONNA JO: Did your mama ever make you a doll?

32 MIMI: My mother can't open a can of sardines. If it couldn't
 33 be gotten with a credit card, we did without.

34 DONNA JO: What's a credit card?

35 PETUNIA: A little piece of heaven, little cousin, a little

- 1 piece of heaven.
- 2 DONNA JO: If I had a credit card, could I see my mama?
- 3 MIMI: What do you mean?
- 4 DONNA JO: Well, you said that a credit card is a little piece
- 5 of heaven. They said my mama went to heaven, so if I
- 6 could get a credit card, maybe I could talk to my
- 7 mama again.
- 8 MIMI: (*Turns to PETUNIA.*) Petunia, are my eyes getting
- 9 all watery?
- 10 PETUNIA: I think so.
- 11 MIMI: Oh, great, my mascara will run.
- 12 DONNA JO: I'm really sorry.
- 13 PETUNIA: Sorry? For what?
- 14 DONNA JO: That her mama never made her a doll.
- 15 MIMI: (*Wondering how it could be true, but not in a snooty way*)
- 16 *You feel sorry for me?* (*Pause. MIMI hands the doll back to*
- 17 *DONNA JO.*) I'm beginning to feel a little sorry for
- 18 me, too.
- 19 OSWALD: (*He's been staring out the window the whole time.*)
- 20 Hey, here they come!
- 21 PETUNIA: (*Rushing to the window*) Do you see any blood?
- 22 OSWALD: There's Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae. There's
- 23 Elkin.
- 24 MIMI: What about Pete? Do you see Pete?
- 25 OSWALD: No. (*ELKIN, GLENDA MAE, and BRENDA MAE*
- 26 *enter hurriedly in a frazzle.*) What happened?! What
- 27 happened?! Where's Pete?
- 28 PETUNIA: Yes, where's Pete?
- 29 MIMI: Where is my perfume?
- 30 ELKIN: It was the biggest bear I've ever seen.
- 31 OSWALD: Forget the bear! Where's Pete?
- 32 GLENDA MAE: He was such a brave boy down at the
- 33 outhouse.
- 34 PETUNIA: (*Becoming impatient*) What is it?!
- 35 GLENDA MAE: That little wood house in the cornfield.

1 OSWALD: No! What happened to Pete?

2 ELKIN: Cousin Oswald, Cousin Petunia, Cousin Mimi, I'm
3 afraid I got some bad news.

4

5 *Song #3 Whatever Happened to Pete?*

6 *(Elkin, Brenda Mae, Glenda Mae, Oswald, Mimi, Petunia)*

7 OSWALD: *(Speaking)* What?

8 PETUNIA: *(Speaking)* When?

9 OSWALD: *(Speaking)* Where?

10 MIMI: *(Speaking)* What happened?

11 ELKIN: We don't know — that's what we're tryin' to tell you.

12 Alls we know is that there was a *bear* involved!

13 MIMI: Agghh! *(She faints.)*

14

15 OSWALD: *(Singing)* Whatever happened to Pete?

16 Is his disappearance completely complete?

17 BRENDA MAE: We shouldn't have let him go out in the wood,

18 GLENDA MAE: And now our poor cousin's done vanished
19 for good!

20 PETUNIA: Oh, oh, woe is me,

21 OSWALD and PETUNIA: Whatever happened to Pete?

22

23 ELKIN: What did the bear do to him?

24 PETUNIA: Was he merely eaten or torn limb from limb?

25 BRENDA MAE and GLENDA MAE: If he doesn't make it,
26 Oh what shall we do,

27 OSWALD: I'll just have to split his inheritance with you!

28 MIMI: *(She revives for a minute and speaks.)* Goody!

29 ALL: *(Singing)* Oh, oh, woe is me,

30 Whatever happened to Pete. *(MIMI faints again.)*

31

32 BRENDA MAE: Now Pete was so brave that he battled a
33 bear,

34 ELKIN: Defending us all through thin and thick now,

35 GLENDA MAE: He's proba'ly flatter'n a brick now,

1 **OSWALD:** I think that I'm going to be sick now!

2 **BRENDA MAE:** *(Speaking)* Eww,

3 **PETUNIA:** *(Speaking)* Yuck,

4 **GLENDA MAE:** *(Speaking)* Gross,

5 **OSWALD:** *(Singing)* That's disgusting!

6

7 **MIMI:** *(Speaking)* If he comes back all dirty and bloody, I'm
8 not cleaning him up.

9 **ELKIN:** *(Speaking)* Look on the bright side, maybe he won't
10 come back all messed up.

11 **BRENDA MAE:** *(Speaking)* Yeah, maybe he won't come back
12 at all!

13 **MIMI:** *(Speaking)* Agghh! *(She faints.)*

14 **GLENDA ME:** *(Speaking)* Not agin!

15

16 **OSWALD:** *(Singing)* What will we do without Pete?

17 **BRENDA MAE and GLENDA MAE:** His poor bloody body
18 gone down to defeat,

19 **PETUNIA:** Don't panic, he could have survived the attack,

20 **ELKIN:** If that bear were hungry, Pete ain't comin' back!

21 **ALL:** Oh, oh, woe is me,

22 Whatever happened to Pete,

23 Poor Pete?

24 **BRENDA MAE:** Did he get stomped on,

25 **ELKIN:** Or just sorta chomped on,

26 Oh whatever happened to Pete?

27 **MIMI:** *(Speaking)* Agghh! *(She faints. No one catches her. She*
28 *gets up, annoyed, arranged herself, then faints again*
29 *dramatically. The lights fade to blackout.)*

30

31 **SCENE TWO**

32

33 *(Lights back up. GLENDA MAE is sitting on the floor snapping*
34 *green beans. OSWALD is staring out the window. BRENDA*
35 *MAE is standing right beside him, looking lovingly at him.)*

1 *MIMI sits in a chair beside PETUNIA, who is asleep and has*
 2 *her head on MIMI's shoulder. ELKIN sits working on his*
 3 *slingshot.)*

4 **MIMI:** *(Shaking PETUNIA off her shoulder, waking her up.)*
 5 **Petunia, get off me. You're drooling all over my**
 6 **new blouse.**

7 **PETUNIA:** **What? Are we home? Where's Mummy?**

8 **MIMI:** **No, we're not home. We're still in the woods with our**
 9 **hillbilly cousins who just fed our brother to a wild**
 10 **bear.**

11 **PETUNIA:** **Oh yeah.**

12 **ELKIN:** **Now, I didn't say Pete got ate by a bear.**

13 **OSWALD:** **You said the bear chased him into the woods.**

14 **ELKIN:** **I also said I got a whack at his back paw with a**
 15 **good-sized rock. That bear was limp'in'.**

16 **OSWALD:** **Oh, that's even better. Make the bear good and**
 17 **mad before he attacks my brother.**

18 **ELKIN:** **That bear was crippled. Pete has a good chance to**
 19 **outrun that bear.**

20 **GLENDA MAE:** **I outrun bears all the time.**

21 **PETUNIA:** **You do?**

22 **ELKIN:** **Shoot, we all have.**

23 **OSWALD:** **Has a bear ever caught you?**

24 **GLENDA MAE:** **Only once. But boy, was he ever worried.**

25 **OSWALD:** *(Getting his jacket)* **Well, I can't just stand around**
 26 **here and wait one minute longer. I'm going out there.**
 27 *(The dog barks outside the door.)*

28 **ELKIN:** **Somebody's coming.**

29 **PETUNIA:** **Is it Pete?** *(Everyone runs for the door. About that*
 30 *time the door opens and FESTER enters, dragging a large*
 31 *cloth bag behind him.)*

32 **FESTER:** **Git back dog! Git back!** *(He fights the invisible dog,*
 33 *pulls in the bag, and closes the door.)* **Hey, everybody.**

34 **ELKIN:** **Fester, it's only you. Where have you been?**

35 **FESTER:** **Went down to my trap to see if I'd caught**

- 1 anything for supper, and I found this here critter all
2 wrapped up.
- 3 **ELKIN:** It's too little to be a bear or elk.
- 4 **FESTER:** I figure it's a fox.
- 5 **MIMI:** (*Hiding behind PETUNIA*) It's still moving.
- 6 **OSWALD:** Whatever you have in there is still alive.
- 7 **FESTER:** Back up, and I'll hit it in the head with my ax.
8 (*PETE's voice is heard from inside the bag.*)
- 9 **PETE:** Get me out of here! Get me out of this bag.
- 10 **BRENDA MAE:** It's talking.
- 11 **FESTER:** That's funny, I've never heard a fox talk before.
- 12 **ELKIN:** Fester, put down that ax. You got a person in here.
13 (*ELKIN bends down and helps PETE out of the bag.*)
- 14 **MIMI:** Pete?!
- 15 **OSWALD:** Pete, it *is* you! You're alive!
- 16 **PETE:** Of course I'm alive!
- 17 **PETUNIA:** We were afraid you were eaten by the bear.
- 18 **PETE:** (*Very excited*) You guys won't believe this, but I outran
19 that old bear.
- 20 **ELKIN:** How?
- 21 **PETE:** (*Very excited and speaking very fast*) Well, I ran through
22 this cornfield, then I headed for the woods, with that old
23 bear right on my heels. (*Illustrating*) I dodged this way, I
24 dodged that way, I ran through a creek to lose my scent,
25 but nothing worked. That bear was still right on me.
26 Then I got to this hill and I tripped and fell and started
27 rolling through the snow! Rolling, rolling, rolling ...
- 28 **OSWALD:** And?
- 29 **PETE:** I rolled right into that animal trap, and it wrapped
30 me in that tarp and took me to the top of a walnut tree.
31 I was just dangling there, thirty feet up in midair. That
32 old bear was standing on his hind legs, trying his best
33 to get to me. He tried for a good forty-five minutes but
34 finally gave up and trotted off. Next thing I knew,
35 Fester here had cut me down.

- 1 GLENDA MAE: Fester, you're a hero.
 2 BRENDA MAE: You saved cousin Pete's life.
 3 FESTER: I did?
 4 PETE: *(Still telling his story)* And anyway, I was a short three
 5 feet from the jaws of death ...
 6 MIMI: *(Sarcastically)* That's nice. *(Turns to OSWALD.)* Oswald,
 7 where is our luggage?
 8 PETUNIA: Still out on the porch. We haven't brought it in.
 9 PETE: *(Trying to keep their attention)* And once I slipped, that
 10 bear was right on top of me. But my superior
 11 knowledge of the outdoors kicked in right at the
 12 precise moment —
 13 MIMI: Fester, would you mind bringing in my luggage first?
 14 ELKIN: I'll get them. Our hero needs to rest.
 15 MIMI: I'll show you which ones are mine. *(MIMI and*
 16 *ELKIN exit.)*
 17 PETE: I came this close to death, but I wasn't ready to give
 18 up. I wrestled that grizzly to the end.
 19 BRENDA MAE: I'll get your luggage, cousin Oswald.
 20 OSWALD: You don't have to do that.
 21 BRENDA MAE: I don't mind. If I'm goin' to be your wife, I
 22 need to practice being your slave. *(She exits.)*
 23 PETUNIA: Donna Jo, why don't you and I put up the tree?
 24 All this excitement has put me in the Christmas spirit.
 25 *(She grabs DONNA JO who is still holding her rag doll and*
 26 *takes her to the tree, where they busy themselves decorating it*
 27 *with homemade ornaments.)*
 28 PETE: *(Talking to himself now)* I got the most terrible scratch
 29 right here on my elbow.
 30 OSWALD: *(Still ignoring Pete)* Well, Fester, how does it feel to
 31 be hero of the day?
 32 FESTER: Oh, shucks.
 33 GLENDA MAE: Sure, Fester, if it wasn't for your trap, Cousin
 34 Pete would've been that there bear's Christmas supper.
 35 PETE: Hey, what about me? I wrestled and outran that

1 bear, you know.

2 **OSWALD:** Get your luggage, Pete. (*PETE throws up his arms*
3 *as if to say "I give up" and exits just as ELKIN and MIMI*
4 *enter. ELKIN carries a couple of suitcases and MIMI is*
5 *carrying a large picture.*)

6 **MIMI:** Now, where shall I put this? (*She sees a picture of a fox*
7 *hanging on the wall.*) Here, this will work nicely. (*She*
8 *removes the picture of the fox and replaces it with the picture*
9 *she's holding of herself.*) There. This place feels more
10 comfortable already. (*BRENDA MAE and PETE re-enter*
11 *with luggage.*)

12 **PETE:** Hey, I'm getting hungry. What are we going to eat
13 for dinner?

14 **GLEND MAE:** I just finished making some of my famous
15 frog liver jelly. That's what we usually eat for supper.

16 **OSWALD:** Frog ...

17 **PETE:** Liver ...

18 **MIMI:** Jelly?

19 **ELKIN:** Ummm, with fresh-baked biscuits. Sounds mighty
20 fine.

21 **BRENDA MAE:** And I cooked up a right nice jackrabbit
22 earlier this evenin'.

23 **ELKIN:** Jackrabbit and frog liver jelly. And it ain't even
24 Christmas day yet.

25 **BRENDA MAE:** My jackrabbit is better than your old liver
26 jelly any day. (*To OSWALD*) I'm the best cook in all of
27 Cricket County.

28 **GLEND MAE:** I'm the best cook.

29 **BRENDA MAE:** I am!

30 **PETUNIA:** (*Still working on the tree with DONNA JO*) You
31 two sound like Mimi and me. Always arguing about
32 something.

33 **MIMI:** Like what?

34 **PETUNIA:** Oh, I don't know ... (*Remembers something.*) Like
35 the time you thought Charles Junior called the house

1 to speak to you.

2 MIMI: He did call to speak to me.

3 PETUNIA: He called to speak to me.

4 MIMI: Charles Junior wouldn't give you the time of day ...

5 PETUNIA: I beg your pardon?

6 PETE: *(To FESTER, who is playing with his ax)* Would you put
7 that thing down? You're going to hurt someone with it.

8 FESTER: I want to play with it.

9 OSWALD: That's not the way to talk to the cousin who just
10 saved your life.

11 PETE: I had a part in my escape too, you know!

12 GLENDA MAE: When Cousin Oswald marries me, he'll tell
13 you who's the best cook.

14 BRENDA MAE: He's not marryin' you, he's marryin' me.
15 *(They all jump in yelling at one another. DONNA JO crosses*
16 *to Center Stage and screams.)*

17 DONNA JO: Quiet! Quiet! *(Everyone grows quiet.)* It's
18 Christmas. It's Christmas, and we're all fussin'! Why
19 can't we all just get along?

20

21 *Song #4. Fussin' and Fightin' (Donna Jo, Company)*

22 DONNA JO: *(Speaking)* Ain't no use for fussin' and fightin',
23 That ain't the way to be.

24 *(Singing)* Lay off of all yer hollerin' and bitin',

25 Put down yer fist and listen to me.

26 Good grief, Christmas Eve, d'ya need ta be violent?

27 This night ain't holy or real silent!

28 I don't care who's right or wrong,

29 But can'tcha manage to get along?

30

31 DONNA JO: Ain't no time for fightin' and fussin'

32 Why can't you all behave?

33 ELKIN: If Zeke could hear us arguin' and cussin'

34 He would be turnin' round in his grave.

35 DONNA JO: This here, ain't it clear's, a night to remember,

- 1 **FESTER:** (*Spoken*) The uh, twenty-fourth of December!
- 2 **DONNA JO:** (*Singing*) So ferget it, let's be friends,
 3 Here's where the fussin' and fightin' ends!
 4
- 5 **PETUNIA:** Let's get along,
 6 Can't we get along here?
- 7 **DONNA JO:** Join in my song
 8 Think what we're missin',
 9 We're cousins, we should be kissin'!
- 10 **GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE:** How neat that we found
 11 new family here
- 12 **DONNA JO:** Instead of feudin' and fightin', hootin' and hatin',
 13 Let's all be smart and start celebratin'!
- 14 *Dance Break (Starts with DONNA JO, ELKIN, FESTER,*
 15 *GLENDA MAE, and BRENDA MAE, then PETUNIA and*
 16 *PETE. Gradually MIMI and OSWALD reluctantly join in*
 17 *and then become more enthusiastic.)*
- 18 **MIMI:** (*Singing*) Let's get along,
 19 **PETE:** Let's all get along here.
 20 **OSWALD:** We'll join your song.
- 21 **GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE:** Think what we're
 22 missin',
 23 We're cousins, we should be kissin'! (*GLENDA MAE and*
 24 *BRENDA MAE try to kiss OSWALD. He squirms away.)*
- 25 **OSWALD:** (*Speaking*) Yuck!
- 26 **PETUNIA:** (*Singing*) How neat that we found new family
 27 here.
- 28 **GIRLS:** Instead of feudin' and fightin', hootin' and hatin',
 29 **GUYS:** Let's all be smart and start celebratin'!
- 30 **FESTER:** (*Speaking*) Hooeey!
- 31
- 32 **ALL:** (*Singing*) Shake, make up and say that you're sorry,
 33 We oughta be ashamed
- 34 **DONNA JO:** We ain't a passle'a wrasslers, are we?
 35 No one'll go and no one gets blamed.

- 1 ELKIN: You know Donna Jo is right and I'm mighty
 2 Glad she set us straight, all righty,
 3 COUNTRY COUSINS: So don'tcha know by now we're
 4 kinfolks,
 5 CITY COUSINS: The type who can stick it out thru thick
 6 and thin folks,
 7 ALL: No more stormy weather, the skies 'r' lookin' clear,
 8 As long as we're together, ain't no fussin' and fightin',
 9 DONNA JO: Just fun and excitin',
 10 ALL: But ain't no fussin' and fightin' here!
 11 FESTER: (*Speaking*) Group hug!
 12
 13 OSWALD: She's right, you know. We shouldn't be arguing
 14 like this.
 15 PETUNIA: Mimi, I'm sorry I brought Charles Junior up.
 16 PETE: Go ahead, Fester. Play with your ax. And thanks for
 17 saving my life.
 18 OSWALD: I'm sorry I snapped at you, Pete.
 19 PETUNIA: Come on, Mimi. Let's go see if we can find
 20 Donna Jo and apologize to her.
 21 MIMI: OK. Wait! I can't go out there with a live deer and
 22 bear running loose.
 23 PETUNIA: We won't go far. Come on.
 24 MIMI: Well, OK, but if I die, nobody's getting my
 25 inheritance. I'm taking it with me. (*They exit.*)
 26 GLENDA MAE: (*Crossing to OSWALD*) Cousin Oswald, you're
 27 standing under the mistletoe.
 28 BRENDA MAE: (*Grabbing the other arm*) And you know what
 29 that means?
 30 OSWALD: I'm going to have a lucky new year?
 31 GLENDA MAE: Nope.
 32 OSWALD: I get the largest portion of the inheritance?
 33 BRENDA MAE: Nope. (*GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE*
 34 *close their eyes and pucker up.*)
 35 OSWALD: Hey, Pete?

- 1 **PETE:** Yes?
- 2 **OSWALD:** (*Looks up as though he sees something interesting.*)
- 3 Come here. (*PETE does.*) Well, I'll be.
- 4 **PETE:** What is it?
- 5 **OSWALD:** (*Slowly placing PETE between the girls*) I've never
- 6 seen anything like it.
- 7 **PETE:** What are you talking about?
- 8 **OSWALD:** Right up there, see?
- 9 **PETE:** Where?
- 10 **OSWALD:** (*Changing places with PETE*) Right up there. Here
- 11 — you can see it better from here.
- 12 **PETE:** I still don't see anything. (*Now PETE is standing*
- 13 *between the GIRLS.*)
- 14 **OSWALD:** Oh, it's just a bunch of mistletoe. OK, girls, let me
- 15 have it! (*The GIRLS, still with their lips puckered and eyes*
- 16 *closed, come close to PETE's face. PETE holds his hands up*
- 17 *and stops them.*)
- 18 **PETE:** Wait! I'm not a kissing cousin. (*The dog barks outside*
- 19 *again. Then ELKIN, DONNA JO, and PETUNIA enter,*
- 20 *dragging a large wooden box with them.*)
- 21 **OSWALD:** What in the world?
- 22 **ELKIN:** Hey, everybody, look what we found on the
- 23 front porch!
- 24 **OSWALD:** What is it?
- 25 **ELKIN:** That wooden thing attached to the front of our
- 26 house!
- 27 **OSWALD:** No! (*Pointing to the box*) What is that?!
- 28 **ELKIN:** Some kind of old box. Somebody must have
- 29 delivered it just now.
- 30 **PETUNIA:** But who, I wonder?
- 31 **OSWALD:** You didn't see anyone out there?
- 32 **ELKIN:** No, just footprints leadin' away.
- 33 **OSWALD:** Now, that's mysterious.
- 34 **PETE:** Where's Mimi?
- 35 **PETUNIA:** Well, that's funny, she was right behind us.

- 1 **FESTER:** Open the trunk, open the trunk!
- 2 **ELKIN:** Just calm down, Fester. We need to check this
3 out closer.
- 4 **BRENDA MAE:** Looks like a letter taped to the top of the
5 lid.
- 6 **FESTER:** Open the letter, open the letter!
- 7 **ELKIN, PETE, and OSWALD:** Fester! (*MIMI runs by the*
8 *window, screaming. The antlers are behind her.*)
- 9 **GLENDA MAE:** What was that?
- 10 **BRENDA MAE:** Sounded like a coyote.
- 11 **ELKIN:** (*Taking the letter*) Look, there's writin' on the outside.
- 12 **GLENDA MAE:** Let me see. (*Grabs the letter and reads the*
13 *envelope.*) Do-not-open-till-Christmas Eve.
- 14 **OSWALD:** (*Grabs the note.*) And it's signed "Uncle Zeke."
- 15 **FESTER:** I thought he was dead.
- 16 **BRENDA MAE:** He is. (*MIMI runs by again in the opposite*
17 *direction, still screaming and again followed by the antlers.*)
- 18 **FESTER:** Those coyotes are getting closer.
- 19 **PETE:** (*Referring to the box*) Do you think it's the inheritance?
- 20 **OSWALD:** I think so. Before he died, he probably asked
21 someone to deliver it to the cabin.
- 22 **PETE:** Then let's open it. Fester, give me your ax!
- 23 **ELKIN:** No, Cousin Pete. The letter says Christmas Eve.
24 That's not until tomorrow. We must do as the directions
25 tell us. (*MIMI runs by and stops at the window this time.*
26 *She looks through at everybody and screams. The next few*
27 *lines are said as MIMI is screaming.*)
- 28 **OSWALD:** Cousin Elkin is right. We should wait like the
29 letter says.
- 30 **GLENDA MAE:** What did you say?
- 31 **OSWALD:** I said, we should wait until Christmas Eve to
32 open the letter!
- 33 **BRENDA MAE:** We can't hear you for the coyotes! (*MIMI*
34 *runs off again.*)
- 35 **ELKIN:** We're not touching this trunk until Christmas Eve as

- 1 agreed! Now, Glenda Mae, Brenda Mae, fetch us our
2 supper so we can go on to bed and get a good night's
3 sleep.
- 4 **GLENDIA MAE:** OK, Cousin Elkin. Come on, Brenda Mae.
- 5 **PETUNIA:** Donna Jo, let's finish the tree. *(They cross back to*
6 *the tree. The dog barks. The door swings open. There stands*
7 *MIMI out of breath with some straw and weeds sticking out*
8 *of her hair. The dog keeps barking.) Mimi!*
- 9 **OSWALD:** Are you all right?
- 10 **MIMI:** I really appreciate my family coming to my rescue.
- 11 **ELKIN:** Rescue? You weren't chased by that bear, was you?
- 12 **MIMI:** *(Very agitated)* No, I was chased by a friend of Rudolph
13 the Red-Nosed Reindeer! Didn't you hear me screaming?
- 14 **FESTER:** We couldn't hear nothin' for those coyotes
15 surrounding the house.
- 16 **MIMI:** I'm having a nervous breakdown. If I could only
17 watch some of my favorite music videos to calm my
18 nerves. *(To FESTER, as the rest settle back down with their*
19 *chores at hand)* I don't suppose you have MTV, do you?
- 20 **FESTER:** No, I had my shots.
- 21 **MIMI:** Oh, I'm a nervous wreck. *(To herself)* Remember the
22 money, Mimi. Remember, the money, Mimi. *(She starts*
23 *to sit on the trunk. Everyone shouts at the same time.)*
- 24 **EVERYONE:** Mimi, No! *(She jumps back up.)*
- 25 **MIMI:** What?!
- 26 **ELKIN:** Don't sit on the trunk!
- 27 **OSWALD:** That's our inheritance.
- 28 **MIMI:** *(She starts fanning herself.)* I need to calm down, I
29 need to calm down. *(She crosses back to her picture and*
30 *stares at it.)* There, I feel better. *(Then she turns back*
31 *around.)* Did you say that was our inheritance?
- 32 **PETUNIA:** Yes. Before he died, Uncle Zack arranged to
33 have it delivered.
- 34 **MIMI:** *(Runs over to the chest and tries to open it.)* Give me my
35 money! Give me my money so I can get out of this

1 **place!** (*Everyone runs over and tries to stop her. The*
2 *following lines are all said at the same time.*)

3 **OSWALD:** Mimi, stop!

4 **PETUNIA:** You don't know what you are doing!

5 **GLENDA MAE:** Stop her, y'all! Stop her!

6 **BRENDA MAE:** We got to wait till Christmas Eve!

7 **PETE:** She's going to mess up everything.

8 **ELKIN:** The poor girl is goin' crazy!

9 **MIMI:** I've got to have my money! I've got to have my
10 **money!** (*MIMI fights them off and opens the trunk.*
11 *Everyone quickly gathers around the trunk and looks inside*
12 *it.*)

13 **FESTER:** Goooolleee.

14 **ELKIN:** (*Slamming the lid shut*) We have got to respect Uncle
15 **Zeke's wishes.**

16 **OSWALD:** You're right, Cousin Elkin. It's just that the
17 suspense is killing us.

18 **MIMI:** (*Pulling PETUNIA Downstage as everyone else gathers*
19 *around the chest*) Petunia, I can't stand this one minute
20 longer.

21 **PETUNIA:** I know what you mean, but there's nothing else
22 left to do but wait.

23 **MIMI:** That's what you think.

24 **PETUNIA:** What do you mean?

25 **MIMI:** Tonight, as soon as everyone is asleep, we are
26 looking at that will.

27 **PETUNIA:** Mimi, we can't go against their wishes.

28 **MIMI:** You can join me or not, but I've got to make sure that
29 I leave this place with more than a nice run through
30 the forest. I am breaking into that trunk tonight. Are
31 you with me?

32 **PETUNIA:** OK, OK, but I still don't feel right about it.

33 **MIMI:** Tonight at midnight we meet at the trunk. (*The lights*
34 *go down on the main action and come up on UNCLE ZEKE.*)
35

SCENE THREE

ZEKE: OK folks, I'm back —d'ja miss me? In case you were wonderin', now it's my turn to tell y'all what's goin' on.

Song #5. Too Much Money (Uncle Zeke)

ZEKE: *(Singing)* I'm Uncle Zeke, the dearly departed
With somethin' I gotta do.
Before the scene that's comin' up gets started,
I wanna tell you my point of view.

Too much money ain't good for no one.
Too many belongings, make you long for more.
Your possessions shouldn't possess you.
Cravin' more is gonna stress you.
Live the simple life and yes,
You can turn out just like me!

(Speaking) Okay, not exactly like me. I mean, I'm dead, which is kind of a drag, although being a ghost has certain advantages — it sure is fun to make folks jump when you rattle a couple'a chains and all. Whoo-ee! But what I'm tryin' to say is, I lived just fine while I was alive, but I didn't let money rule my life — like certain relatives of mine who are beginning to get on my nerves! That is, if a ghost has any nerves ... hmmm ... anyhow;

(Singing) Those city kids are too big for their britches.
But they're gonna learn someday
That bein' happy don't depend on riches.
I'm hopin' that they
Learn to see things my way.

Too much money ain't good for no one.

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MIMI: I'm so nervous; my hands are shaking.

PETUNIA: Just hurry and look at the will before anybody wakes up.

MIMI: Nobody's going to wake up. Stop worrying. Here, hold the flashlight.

PETUNIA: This is so exciting! I can't stand it!

MIMI: Shhhh. *(She slowly opens the trunk, reaches in, and pulls out a rubber snake. The girls scream wildly. Everyone jumps up as ELKIN runs over and turns on the light. MIMI throws the snake toward OSWALD, who then jumps around and*



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