

A CRICKET COUNTY CHRISTMAS CRUISE

by Eddie McPherson



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

Copyright Notice

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Christian Publishers. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Christian Publishers. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Christian Publishers.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice: ***Produced by special arrangement with Christian Publishers.***

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Christian Publishers.

**A CRICKET COUNTY
CHRISTMAS CRUISE**

By Eddie McPherson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

7 men, 5 women, plus extras for other passengers, if desired

The Country Bunch:

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.

GLEND MAE AND BRENDA MAE: Identical twins who look nothing alike. They dress the same, but they look different.

The City Bunch:

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.

Cruise Ship Personnel:

DEBRA: The Cruise Director.

MAÎTRE D': Walks the ship offering the passengers food.

WISE MAN: An actor in the ship's Christmas Eve program.

MICHAEL: A seemingly wealthy passenger.

PRODUCTION NOTES

THEME: You can't judge a book by its cover.

SCRIPTURE BASE: Mark 6:1-3 — "He's just a carpenter." Jesus was teaching with authority but lived his life as a lowly carpenter and as a carpenter's son. The people couldn't see past the exterior.

STORY: The country folk from Cricket County head to the open seas this holiday season for their very first Christmas cruise. Talk about fish out of water! Once aboard, the country clan is mistaken for the ship's cleaning crew, an actor playing the wise man in a Christmas pageant is mistaken for the real thing and a simple farm boy is mistaken for a high-class millionaire. And is that Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae looking like supermodels?

But why all the confusion? Perhaps it's because everyone is only looking at what's on the outside. How does that relate to the Christ child in a manger? Find out when you read this latest Cricket County episode where the craziest, mixed-up bunch of passengers ever assembled set sail on the Seven Seas for a Christmas cruise. A script full of one-liners and sight gags but with a Christmas message that really hits home.

STAGING: There are no blackouts or scene changes. All the action happens in real time and should move along smoothly. As soon as one actor exits, another enters. An optional Nativity may be presented at the end of the play (as noted on the last page of the script). The Nativity isn't necessary, however, for the play to work. Consider it an alternative.

RUNNING TIME: Approximately 45 minutes.

SET: The set is the deck of a cruise ship. Three or four portholes are painted in the center of the upstage wall. A few life preservers and perhaps a large anchor hang about. Strings of tiny colored Christmas lights hang neatly about the stage area. A couple of lounge chairs sit against the wall. A rather large sign that reads "Nativity Pageant Christmas Eve" is placed in plain view. Don't go overboard decorating the stage. This is a high-class cruise line and it shouldn't look cluttered.

PROPS: Clipboard and pen; old, beat-up script; standard, bound script; tray with finger food; white dishtowel; handkerchief; cane fishing poles; bucket of fishing “bait”; sling shot; work rag; coin; mop; broom; a few Christmas shopping bags, one with a large elf head painted upside down on it (so it can be worn as a mask); child’s dress; large beach towel; glass of juice.

COSTUMING: You can get really creative with the costuming using the following as guidelines: The country bunch should wear simple denim clothing with a tropical touch, such as overalls with a bright Hawaiian shirt underneath. Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae have to change from a simple tomboy look to a beautiful, feminine appearance. For example, their hair can be put up in pigtails, then let down and brushed through for their “transformation.” There must be an evident change in their makeup and hair. Nice-fitting sundresses replace their worn overalls or denim dresses.

The maître d’ wears all white with a black apron that hangs from his waist. He may also wear a black bowtie and drape a white towel over his arm. He sports a black moustache.

Debra, the Cruise Director, looks professional yet comfortable.

Wise Man may wear casual attire at first. He later wears a biblical full Eastern king costume like the ones you see in large Christmas pageant productions consisting of a robe, a crown and sandals. He carries a small treasure chest.

Mimi and Petunia wear Hawaiian-looking outfits complete with leis, tropical earrings that dangle and perhaps flowers in their hair. Mimi might wear a large-rimmed hat, and she constantly cools herself with a dainty fan. Pete and Oswald wear pressed golf shirts neatly tucked into khaki shorts.

Michael should be dressed in a nice shirt with a button-down collar and long, white cotton slacks with a pair of stylish sandals. Sunglasses sit on top of his head.

1 *(If desired, the sound of ocean waves may play in the*
2 *background throughout the play. WISE MAN, holding both the*
3 *standard and tattered scripts, enters with DEBRA, the Cruise*
4 *Director. WISE MAN isn't yet dressed in his biblical costume.)*

5 **WISE MAN:** *(Center Stage)* Here — we should be safe here.

6 **DEBRA:** Is there something I can do for you, Mr. Peterson?

7 **WISE MAN:** Shhhh. *(Looking around, making sure no one is*
8 *around)* Listen, I overheard that some millionaires were
9 on board the ship. Is that true?

10 **DEBRA:** *(Looking through sheets of paper on her clipboard)*
11 Millionaires? I wouldn't know; there's nothing on the
12 passenger list concerning our patrons' financial status.

13 **WISE MAN:** I was just hoping that as the cruise director, you
14 would know.

15 **DEBRA:** Sorry, Mr. Peterson — I'm afraid I can't help you.

16 **WISE MAN:** That's all right — thanks anyway.

17 **DEBRA:** I see you're holding your script. How's the Nativity
18 pageant coming along?

19 **WISE MAN:** Pretty well. I hate to say this to you since you're
20 the one who booked the Christmas Eve performance,
21 but I'm becoming a little bored with this small-time
22 biblical play. I'm ready to perform in something — I
23 don't know ... more important.

24 **DEBRA:** I hear acting jobs are pretty hard to come by lately.

25 **WISE MAN:** That they are. But it's just that I have been
26 playing this wise man character for years, and it's taken
27 my acting career nowhere. I need something more —
28 something bigger. That's why I was looking for that
29 millionaire.

30 **DEBRA:** If I may ask, Mr. Peterson, what does a millionaire
31 being on board the ship have to do with you finding
32 better acting jobs?

33 **WISE MAN:** Because deep down, I'm actually a writer, *(Holds*
34 *up a beat-up script)* and I have written a hit show that the
35 whole world needs to see.

1 **DEBRA:** Really?

2 **WISE MAN:** It's a masterpiece just waiting to be discovered.

3 But I need lots and lots of money to get it produced right.

4 **DEBRA:** And you're willing to walk up to a total stranger

5 and ask him or her for money to fund your show?

6 **WISE MAN:** I've learned to seize opportunities when they're

7 right in front of me.

8 **DEBRA:** That's all very nice, but it's my job to make sure this

9 Christmas Eve Nativity pageant goes off without a

10 hitch. Just please be sure you're ready. I've already

11 spoken to your director inside.

12 **WISE MAN:** Oh, I'll be ready. *(Reciting one of his lines, pointing*

13 *up to the sky)* Look, there is the star we've been following,

14 hovering right over that simple stable. *(Coming out of*

15 *character)* I've done this simple, old-fashioned show so

16 many times, I know it like the back of my hand.

17 **DEBRA:** Old-fashioned is exactly what we are going after

18 this year. Our goal for our holiday cruises is to get back

19 to the basics of the Christmas season.

20 **WISE MAN:** Well, it doesn't get any more basic than a dirty

21 stable and a little baby lying in a feeding trough.

22 **DEBRA:** I guess you're right. At any rate, I have a few

23 passengers to check on if you'll excuse me. *(She exits.)*

24 **WISE MAN:** *(Shouting after her)* Don't forget to keep your eyes

25 peeled for that millionaire!

26 **MAÎTRE D':** *(He enters with a tray of food and a white towel*

27 *draped over his arm. He speaks with a strange, undetectable*

28 *accent.)* You like food to eat? Shrimp? Hammerhead

29 shark? Frog legs?

30 **WISE MAN:** No thanks. I'm saving myself for the

31 smorgasbord later this evening. But thank you just the

32 same. *(WISE MAN exits.)*

33 **MAÎTRE D':** *(Shouting after him)* But taste good! You like! *(He*

34 *shrugs his shoulders and exits with his tray. After a few*

35 *seconds ELKIN, OSWALD and PETE enter.)*

- 1 **OSWALD:** (*Referring to the deck of the ship*) **And here we are.**
 2 **This is one of the many swimming areas.** (*ELKIN looks*
 3 *around with wide eyes. OSWALD looks out to the audience.*)
 4 **And just look out there at that vast body of water. No**
 5 **land to be seen anywhere.**
 6 **ELKIN:** (*Also looking out*) **Gol-lee, Cousin Oswald — that sure**
 7 **is the biggest catfish pond I ever saw.**
 8 **PETE:** **That's the ocean.**
 9 **ELKIN:** **What do you know about that? Is there any good**
 10 **catfish in that there Lake O-shun?**
 11 **OSWALD:** **There's sharks, octopi, whales — just about every**
 12 **kind of creature you could imagine.**
 13 **ELKIN:** (*Points to an unsuspecting but good-natured audience*
 14 *member.*) **What kind of creature is that right there?**
 15 **PETE:** (*Rubbing his chin, looking at the hapless audience member*)
 16 **Hmmmm — hard to tell; I'd have to look that one up.**
 17 **ELKIN:** (*Staring the audience member down*) **I'd hate to come**
 18 **face to face with that in the middle of the night.**
 19 **OSWALD:** **Don't worry. Most of the creatures in the ocean**
 20 **aren't that scary.**
 21 **ELKIN:** **Boy, Fester's sure goin' to enjoy this boat trip.**
 22 (*Rushes over and shouts Off-stage.*) **Fester, over here!**
 23 (*ELKIN crosses back to OSWALD and PETE.*) **Me and my**
 24 **family are much obliged to you bringin' us on this here**
 25 **fancy houseboat.**
 26 **OSWALD:** **It's our pleasure. Elkin, do you realize that since**
 27 **you have inherited all those millions from Uncle Zeke,**
 28 **you and your family can afford to see the world?** (*Puts*
 29 *his arm around ELKIN'S shoulder.*) **And as your favorite**
 30 **city cousin, I'd be glad to be your personal guide.**
 31 **PETE:** (*On the other side of ELKIN, placing his arm around*
 32 *ELKIN's other shoulder.*) **And as your second most favorite**
 33 **cousin, I'd be glad to be your personal guide's personal**
 34 **assistant.**
 35 **ELKIN:** (*Pulling a handkerchief from his pocket and wiping his*

1 *eyes*) City Cousins, I just can't get over how nice you all
 2 have been to us simple country folk ever' since Uncle
 3 Zeke left us his fortune. It's like you just crawled out of
 4 the woodwork.

5 **OSWALD:** Well, what is family for?

6 **FESTER:** *(Enters carrying a couple of cane poles and a bucket of*
 7 *bait.)* Hey, ever'body. Is this the side of the boat we're
 8 fishin' off of, Cousin Elkin?

9 **ELKIN:** Sure is, Fester. Cousin Oswald said there's all kinds
 10 of strange critters in this here Lake O-shun.

11 **FESTER:** *(Pointing at the same audience member)* You mean like
 12 that one right there?

13 **ELKIN:** Right, but Cousin Oswald says there's pretty
 14 critters in there too.

15 **FESTER:** *(Holding up his provisions)* Well, I got my supplies.

16 **ELKIN:** It sure will be nice to fish here at Christmas time
 17 without having to cut a hole in the ice.

18 **OSWALD:** *(Crossing to FESTER, referring to the fishing pole)*
 19 Uh — Fester, I don't believe they allow marine trawling
 20 off the ship.

21 **FESTER:** Good, 'cause it might get in the way of my fishin'.
 22 *(Opens the bucket and shows OSWALD.)* I even brought my
 23 own bait. See?

24 **PETE:** You brought live worms?

25 **FESTER:** Yep! I should catch a whopper of a bass with these
 26 here danglin' on my hook. *(Starts to put his hand inside the*
 27 *bucket.)*

28 **OSWALD:** *(Rushes to FESTER and grabs his hand.)* Uh —
 29 perhaps you can fish later. Don't you want to see the
 30 rest of the ship?

31 **ELKIN:** You mean there's more?

32 **PETE:** Oh yes, there's the casino, gift shops, dining room ...
 33 that's where we eat.

34 **ELKIN:** *(Patting his stomach as he sticks it out)* Oh, we like to eat.

35 **FESTER:** What kind of vittles do they serve here, Cousin Pete?

- 1 **OSWALD:** *(Rubbing his hands together)* They'll serve a
2 delicious smorgasbord. Enough to keep a ship full of
3 people eating for weeks.
- 4 **ELKIN:** Gol-lee.
- 5 **PETE:** Then tomorrow, we'll get up nice and early and take
6 you skeet shooting.
- 7 **ELKIN:** We're goin' shootin' too? Doggone, and I didn't bring
8 my shotgun.
- 9 **OSWALD:** Don't worry, they'll provide all the firearms you'll
10 need.
- 11 **FESTER:** *(Taking a slingshot from his back pocket)* If they don't,
12 I'll just shoot 'em with my homemade slingshot.
- 13 **MIMI:** *(Off-stage)* Oswald! Pete! Could you help us with our
14 luggage?
- 15 **PETE:** That's Mimi. We'd better go help Ms. Spoiled City
16 Slicker with her things.
- 17 **ELKIN:** We'll help too.
- 18 **OSWALD:** That's OK, Elkin. You and Fester look around and
19 enjoy yourselves; we'll be right back. Come on, Pete.
- 20 **PETE:** *(To ELKIN and FESTER)* Just think about it:
21 Smorgasbords at midnight, skeet shooting all morning!
22 I bet you never spent a Christmas like this in Cricket
23 County. *(OSWALD and PETE rush out.)*
- 24 **FESTER:** Ain't they the nicest cousins anybody could ever
25 ask for?
- 26 **ELKIN:** They surely are. *(Rubs his stomach.)* All that talk about
27 food has done went and made me powerful hungry.
- 28 **FESTER:** Me too. You want me to bait my hook and see if I
29 can catch us one of them there smorgasbords Cousin
30 Pete was talking about?
- 31 **ELKIN:** I ain't sure that cane pole could support one, Fester.
32 Cousin Pete said them things was big enough to feed a
33 whole ship for weeks.
- 34 **FESTER:** *(With wonder, as he stares off into space)* That sure is a
35 awful big fish.

1 ELKIN: As for me, I can't wait to get in some good shootin'.
2 FESTER: Me too — but what was it that Cousin Pete said we
3 was goin' to shoot tomorrow?
4 ELKIN: Somethin' called a skeet.
5 FESTER: What's a skeet?
6 ELKIN: Best I can figure, skeet must be short for skeeter.
7 FESTER: You mean they shoot skeeters out here? Don't
8 sound too sportin' shootin' a insect that way. Heck, I can
9 kill a skeeter with one slap of my hand.
10 ELKIN: The skeeters out here must be a lot bigger than the
11 ones that bite us back home. That's why they shoot 'em.
12 ELKIN: Makes sense to me. (*GLEND A MAE and BRENDA MAE*
13 *run in.*)
14 BRENDA MAE: Cousin Elkin, have you ever seen such a big
15 boat in all your born days?
16 GLEND A MAE: When are they goin' to throw out the anchor
17 so we can take a quick dip?
18 BRENDA MAE: This warm sunshine sure feels good, but it
19 just don't seem like Christmas time.
20 ELKIN: It probably takes longer to cool off in these parts. I
21 figure the cold snap will start movin' in any minute.
22 FESTER: Hey, Glenda Mae — I'm goin' fishin' later and catch
23 me a smorgasbord.
24 GLEND A MAE: What's a smor-gas-bord?
25 ELKIN: We ain't sure — but I wager it beats the largemouth
26 basses back home.
27 FESTER: Tomorrow mornin' Cousin Pete's goin' to take us to
28 shoot some skeeters.
29 ELKIN: Skeets for short. What you girls up to?
30 BRENDA MAE: We asked that lady who works on the ship
31 what we should do and she said we might enjoy some
32 window shoppin'.
33 ELKIN: Window shoppin', huh? That's good. Look for a good
34 one to replace the one Fester broke in the kitchen.
35 GLEND A MAE: OK, Cousin Elkin; be glad to.

1 **BRENDA MAE:** Then the nice lady said we might want to
2 shoot some golf.

3 **ELKIN:** What's a golf?

4 **BRENDA MAE:** Some kind of bird, I reckon. We heard some
5 fellers talkin' who shoots golfs and they said they sure
6 hope they can get a few birdies tomorrow.

7 **FESTER:** That sounds like a lot more fun than shootin'
8 skeeters. *(To ELKIN)* Can we shoot some golfs too,
9 Cousin Elkin?

10 **ELKIN:** I don't see why not.

11 **FESTER:** We'll be the talk of Cricket County. Come on,
12 Cousin Elkin — I'll fish later. Let's go see what other
13 kind of shootin' there is on this boat.

14 **ELKIN:** OK. See you girls later. And remember, if you find a
15 window that'll fit in the kitchen, go ahead and get it.

16 **BRENDA MAE:** OK, Cousin Elkin. 'Bye. *(ELKIN and FESTER
17 exit.)*

18 **GLENDAMAE:** You ready to go window shoppin', Brenda Mae?

19 **BRENDA MAE:** Only if you are, Glenda Mae. *(The MAÎTRE D'
20 enters with his tray and crosses to the girls.)*

21 **MAÎTRE D':** Shrimp?

22 **GLENDAMAE:** *(Hands on her hips)* What did you call me?

23 **MAÎTRE D':** *(Not understanding)* Shrimp?

24 **GLENDAMAE:** You better take that back, *shorty*.

25 **MAÎTRE D':** *(Confused, he turns to BRENDA MAE)* Hammerhead?

26 **BRENDA MAE:** *(With a fist in his face)* If I'm a hammer head,
27 then you're a mallet face! *(MAÎTRE D' smiles, confused.)*

28 **GLENDAMAE:** It's Christmas time, and we're supposed to
29 be kind to each other! Like we say out in the country,
30 "Always drink upstream from the herd!"

31 **BRENDA MAE:** And I agree! I don't have a clue what it
32 means, but I agree! *(To MAÎTRE D')* Now, you goin' to say
33 somethin' nice or ain't you?

34 **MAÎTRE D':** *(Doesn't understand, lifts the tray a little higher and
35 smiles.)* Frog legs?

- 1 **BRENDA MAE:** That does it — grab him, Glenda Mae! (*To*
 2 *MAÎTRE D'*) You asked for it, thunder thighs! (*MIMI and*
 3 *PETUNIA enter, dressed to the hilt.*)
- 4 **MIMI:** Brenda Mae, what's the matter? Let that steward go!
- 5 **GLEND MAE:** (*Lets MAÎTRE D' go as he runs off quickly.*) He
 6 was callin' us all kinds of names.
- 7 **MIMI:** You must have misunderstood him.
- 8 **PETUNIA:** Remember, girls — you're on vacation.
- 9 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Patting her hair like a lady*) She's right, Glenda
 10 Mae. We're sorry, Cousin Petunia. We lost our ladylike
 11 ways there for a minute.
- 12 **MIMI:** (*Crossing Downstage Center, closing her eyes*) What a way
 13 to spend Christmas: sun on our faces, warm breeze
 14 blowing through our hair ...
- 15 **GLEND MAE:** (*Placing an arm around MIMI*) Don't fret none,
 16 Cousin Mimi — Cousin Elkin said the cold weather
 17 should start movin' in any time now.
- 18 **BRENDA MAE:** Once the snow starts fallin', it'll really feel
 19 like the holidays.
- 20 **PETUNIA:** Snow? On the contrary; the balmy, tropical
 21 weather shall persist straight through to the crooning
 22 of "Auld Lang Syne."
- 23 **GLEND MAE:** (*Turns to BRENDA MAE.*) What did she say?
- 24 **BRENA MAE:** A blizzard's comin'.
- 25 **GLEND MAE:** Glory be! Then it will feel just like back home!
- 26 **BRENDA MAE:** When the lake freezes over, we can go skatin'
 27 on it.
- 28 **MIMI:** (*Fake laugh*) You silly country bumpkins; how you
 29 make me laugh. (*Stops laughing abruptly.*) Oh well, that's
 30 enough laughing for now. We'll see you girls around.
 31 Come, Petunia.
- 32 **BRENDA MAE:** Wait, Cousin Mimi. Me and Glenda Mae was
 33 wonderin' if you and Cousin Petunia wanted to go
 34 window shoppin' with us.
- 35 **MIMI:** Um, excuse us a moment. Petunia, may I converse

1 **with you?** (*Grabs PETUNIA'S elbow and pulls her*
 2 *Downstage.*) **Petunia**, how can we begin to find quality
 3 **gentlemen with whom to spend our days on the ship if**
 4 **the hillbillies tag along?**

5 **PETUNIA:** I guess you're right. I suppose we wouldn't gain
 6 **much attention if they're hanging around.**

7 **MIMI:** So we'll make our excuses and take off.

8 **PETUNIA:** Oswald won't like it if he finds out. We're
 9 **supposed to be showing our cousins a good time.**

10 **MIMI:** That's just my point. Do you really think the twins
 11 **would enjoy standing around while we flirt ... I mean,**
 12 **converse intellectually with the other passengers? They**
 13 **would feel totally left out.**

14 **PETUNIA:** OK, but I feel guilty trying to dodge them this way.

15 **MIMI:** Shhhh. (*Approaching the TWINS*) **Glenda Mae, Brenda**
 16 **Mae, we would love to go shopping with you, but we're**
 17 **so tired, we thought we would lie down for a few**
 18 **minutes before dinner tonight.**

19 **GLEND MAE:** Okey-doke, then. Come on, Brenda Mae —
 20 **we better go if we're goin' to find that there kitchen**
 21 **window for Elkin.**

22 **BRENDA MAE:** OK. (*Turns back to MIMI.*) **Say hello to Mr.**
 23 **Sandman.**

24 **MIMI:** Huh? Oh — yes, we will. Well, tootles. (*GLEND MAE*
 25 *and BRENDA MAE exit.*)

26 **PETUNIA:** I won't be able to enjoy the day now that we've
 27 **been so sneaky.**

28 **MIMI:** Feel bad later because here comes someone. Look
 29 **presentable.** (*They try and strike a pose, but look a little*
 30 *ridiculous. MAÎTRE D' enters with his tray. MIMI deflates.*)
 31 **Oh, it's just the help.**

32 **MAÎTRE D':** Shrimp? Hammerhead? Frog legs?

33 **MIMI:** (*Snubbing him*) **No thank you. Run along, now; I'm sure**
 34 **you have plenty of work to do.**

35 **MAÎTRE D':** Shrimp?

- 1 **MIMI:** Go! Go! (*MAÎTRE D' bows slightly and exits. DEBRA enters*
 2 *with MICHAEL, a sophisticated passenger.*)
- 3 **DEBRA:** (*To MICHAEL*) And here you'll find more lounge
 4 chairs where you can catch a quick nap.
- 5 **MICHAEL:** Very nice indeed. (*To MIMI and PETUNIA*) Hello.
 6 (*MIMI and PETUNIA grow wide-eyed as they behold the*
 7 *sophisticated gentlemen before them.*)
- 8 **PETUNIA:** He — he — hello.
- 9 **MIMI:** (*Looking MICHAEL over*) Very nice ... (*PETUNIA gives*
 10 *her an elbow in the ribs*) ... to meet you. Very nice to meet
 11 you ... *indeed.*
- 12 **DEBRA:** (*To MICHAEL*) And we have many opportunities for
 13 you to meet people on the ship. There's shuffleboard,
 14 golf and even a Christmas Eve Nativity pageant
 15 complete with old-fashioned carols.
- 16 **MIMI:** (*Eavesdropping*) That sounds wonderful. (*PETUNIA*
 17 *pulls MIMI back toward her.*)
- 18 **MICHAEL:** Old-fashioned? Sounds quite dull. I'm a man of
 19 the world! Give me glitz and bright lights any day.
- 20 **MIMI:** Glitz and bright lights are even better.
- 21 **MICHAEL:** Golf sounds interesting, though. I play a lot of
 22 golf at the country club back home.
- 23 **MIMI:** I just love golf.
- 24 **PETUNIA:** (*To MIMI*) But I thought you said you hated ...
- 25 **MIMI:** (*With big eyes to PETUNIA*) I said I *love* golf!
- 26 **PETUNIA:** (*Catching the cue, PETUNIA turns to MICHAEL.*) She
 27 *loves* golf.
- 28 **MICHAEL:** (*Throws his shoulders back and struts to MIMI.*) Oh,
 29 really? (*Extends his hand.*) My name is Michael Dupree
 30 the Fourth — honorary graduate of Harvard University.
- 31 **MIMI:** I'm Mimi the lonely ... I mean the only. Only Mimi —
 32 Mimi...the first. Graduate of Tillsdale School of Fashion.
 33 My senior year I was voted Most Likely to Dress Better
 34 than Anyone Else on Earth.
- 35 **DEBRA:** (*To MICHAEL, getting his attention with a tap on his*

- 1 *shoulder*) And there are lots of things for couples to do
2 together as well.
- 3 **MIMI:** (*To MICHAEL*) Activities for couples. You and your
4 wife should have a great time.
- 5 **MICHAEL:** I'm not married.
- 6 **MIMI:** Your girlfriend?
- 7 **MICHAEL:** I'm all alone.
- 8 **MIMI:** (*Taking a step closer to him*) Did I mention I love golf?
- 9 **PETUNIA:** She *adores* golf!
- 10 **MIMI:** I just had the most spur-of-the-moment idea. I've been
11 on these cruises dozens of times. I could show you
12 around if you'd like.
- 13 **MICHAEL:** I'd love that tremendously. (*Presents his arm.*)
14 Shall we?
- 15 **MIMI:** (*Takes his arm.*) We shall.
- 16 **PETUNIA:** But Mimi, you and I were supposed to ...
- 17 **MIMI:** (*Speaking to PETUNIA through her teeth*) I'm showing
18 Michael around, *Petunia*. Tootles. (*MIMI and MICHAEL*
19 *exit.*)
- 20 **DEBRA:** (*Watching them leave*) I just love watching young
21 couples enjoying themselves.
- 22 **PETUNIA:** (*Sarcastically*) Yes, wonderful. But, now what am I
23 supposed to do?
- 24 **DEBRA:** Oh, there are events for wallflowers — I mean, single
25 people — too. Bingo starts at three. Have fun. (*She exits.*)
- 26 **PETUNIA:** Bingo? (*WISE MAN enters, dressed in his biblical*
27 *costume. He stops, takes a dramatic stance and readies himself*
28 *to recite.*)
- 29 **WISE MAN:** Hark! Look at the star up in the sky. It shines
30 much brighter than all the rest. It must be leading me
31 to the Christ child.
- 32 **PETUNIA:** (*Approaching with curiosity*) Hello there.
- 33 **WISE MAN:** Hello.
- 34 **PETUNIA:** You must be one of the actors in the Nativity
35 pageant.

- 1 **WISE MAN:** Yes, I play ...
- 2 **PETUNIA:** Let me guess: the wise man. But aren't there
3 three wise men in the Christmas story?
- 4 **WISE MAN:** In the Bible there are thought to be three
5 because of the three gifts. But our budget was so limited
6 they could only afford one. So I bring the Christ child
7 gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 8 **PETUNIA:** Sounds like a lonely two-year journey for *one* man.
- 9 **WISE MAN:** Oh, you're familiar with the Christmas story.
- 10 **PETUNIA:** I learned most of what I know from my country
11 cousins who live in Cricket County.
- 12 **WISE MAN:** *Cricket County?*
- 13 **PETUNIA:** That's right — they grew up going to a little
14 country church and studying the Bible. In the last few
15 years, they've taught a lot to us city-dwellers about
16 what Christmas truly is all about. They're really good
17 people. Well, I won't bother your rehearsal. I guess I'll
18 go play a little bingo ... or solitaire ... or something. It
19 was nice meeting you, and break a leg!
- 20 **WISE MAN:** Thank you. (*PETUNIA exits.*)
- 21 **WISE MAN:** (*Back to his rehearsal*) Hark! Look at the star up in
22 the sky. It shines much brighter than all the rest. It
23 must be leading me to the Christ child. (*He sits down*
24 *going over his script quietly. FESTER and ELKIN enter.*)
- 25 **FESTER:** We wound up back where we started from.
- 26 **ELKIN:** (*Looking around*) Well, we sure did.
- 27 **FESTER:** Shoot, Cousin Elkin! I wanted to hurry and see me
28 some of them giant skeeters. (*DEBRA enters, going over*
29 *notes on a clipboard.*)
- 30 **ELKIN:** We'll just have to wait 'til tomorrow. Now, be patient.
31 (*To DEBRA*) Howdy there, sophisticated-lookin' lady.
- 32 **DEBRA:** (*Looking FESTER and ELKIN up and down*) Well, I
33 never! What are you two custodians doing out here? You
34 should be inside mopping down the halls!
- 35 **ELKIN:** We should?

- 1 **DEBRA:** All the cleaning personnel are to stay *indoors*.
 2 (*Looking at her clipboard*) What section of the ship have
 3 you been assigned to?
 4 **FESTER:** Assigned to?
 5 **DEBRA:** Yes, where are you supposed to be working?
 6 **ELKIN:** Oh, we're not workin', ma'am. We're just goofin' off.
 7 **DEBRA:** (*Hands on hips*) Oh, you are, are you? Well, I'll just
 8 have to tell the captain about this.
 9 **FESTER:** Why, does he want to goof off with us?
 10 **DEBRA:** (*Sarcastic*) Aren't you the funny one.
 11 **FESTER:** Oh, yes ma'am — I crack 'em up back home.
 12 **ELKIN:** He sure does. Tell the nice lady a joke, Fester.
 13 **DEBRA:** I do not want to hear ...
 14 **FESTER:** What's the difference between a hunter and a
 15 fisherman?
 16 **ELKIN:** (*Helping him out*) I don't know, Fester; what *is* the
 17 difference between a hunter and a fisherman?
 18 **FESTER:** A hunter lies in wait, and a fisherman waits and
 19 lies.
 20 **ELKIN:** (*Laughing*) That's a good one, Fester. Waits and lies!
 21 You're a hoot!
 22 **DEBRA:** Perhaps you two would like to be put on probation.
 23 **ELKIN:** That's OK, ma'am — this here boat is just fine.
 24 **DEBRA:** Not only are you lazy, but you're arrogant as well.
 25 (*Writing on her clipboard*) Rest assured this will get
 26 reported, so don't think you're getting away with
 27 anything. I suggest you get back to your rounds.
 28 (*Storms off.*)
 29 **ELKIN:** Sakes alive — maybe she needs a dip in that there
 30 chilly water to cool down.
 31 **WISE MAN:** (*Stands and rehearses his line.*) Hark! Look at the
 32 star up in the sky. It shines much brighter than all the
 33 rest. It must be leading me to the Christ child. (*He tries*
 34 *again as FESTER watches with wide eyes.*) Hark! Look at
 35 the star up in the sky. It shines much brighter than all

1 the rest. It must be leading me to the Christ child.
2 **FESTER:** *(With wide eyes, pointing to WISE MAN)* Elkin, do you
3 see what I see?
4 **ELKIN:** Who is it?
5 **FESTER:** Don't you know a wise man when you see him? I
6 recognize him from them pictures in our Sunday school
7 lessons.
8 **ELKIN:** That's impossible, Fester. If he was a wise man from
9 the Bible, he'd have to be two thousand years old.
10 **FESTER:** You never did listen in Sunday school, did you?
11 People in the Bible live a lot longer than people do in
12 modern times. It's a scientific fact.
13 **ELKIN:** Now I remember. This sure is a rare opportunity.
14 Why don't you ask him for his autograph? It ain't ever'
15 day you see a famous person from the Bible.
16 **FESTER:** I ain't sure I should bother him; he looks awful
17 busy lookin' for that bright star.
18 **ELKIN:** Just ask him real quick-like, then we'll leave him
19 alone.
20 **FESTER:** Well, OK, but you go with me. *(They cross nervously*
21 *to the WISE MAN.)* Excuse us, mister, but ain't you from
22 the East?
23 **WISE MAN:** Yes, I'm from Rhode Island.
24 **FESTER:** *(Turns to ELKIN.)* That's just across the desert from
25 Bethlehem.
26 **ELKIN:** Gol-lee. Hurry up and ask him.
27 **FESTER:** *(Back to WISE MAN)* I was wonderin' if we might ...
28 if you would be kind enough ...
29 **ELKIN:** Fester wants to know if we could get your autograph.
30 **WISE MAN:** My autograph? You mean you know who I am?
31 **ELKIN:** Oh, yes sir. We've known about you ever since we
32 was kids. We used to hang your picture up ever' year in
33 our cabin back home.
34 **WISE MAN:** Really? I can't believe someone actually
35 recognizes me. Heck, I didn't even realize I was famous.

1 FESTER: Oh, you're real famous. We think you givin' that
2 baby all them gifts was real neighborly.

3 WISE MAN: So you caught my Christmas gig. It's been quite
4 a journey, that's for sure. And to be recognized is
5 extraordinary.

6 ELKIN: I know people don't seem to remember you the way
7 they used to. But don't worry, Mr. Wise Man — you're
8 still *real* famous in Cricket County.

9 WISE MAN: If I could find those millionaires, I could be
10 famous everywhere.

11 ELKIN: What was that about millionaires?

12 WISE MAN: Never mind, you wouldn't understand. Of
13 course you may have my autograph.

14 FESTER: (*Pulls a rag from his back pocket.*) Just write it on my
15 work rag. I keep that with me all the time.

16 WISE MAN: Who should I make it out to?

17 FESTER: Fester and Elkin and Brenda Mae and Glenda Mae
18 and Donna Jo — she couldn't go ridin' on this houseboat
19 on account of she's afraid of water. (*WISE MAN writes all*
20 *this down frantically.*)

21 ELKIN: So you study the stars a lot, don't you, Mr. Wise Man?

22 WISE MAN: Oh, yes. All the great ones: _____,
23 and _____. (*He names three currently famous movie stars.*)

24 ELKIN: Well, what do you know about that? They give the
25 stars names now. What will they think of next?

26 FESTER: The only star names I've heard of is the Big
27 Dipper, the Little Dipper, the ...

28 WISE MAN: You're quite the joker, aren't you?

29 FESTER: Yes, sir — What's the difference between a hunter
30 and a ...

31 ELKIN: (*Interrupting*) Fester, the nice wise man don't have
32 time for jokes right now.

33 FESTER: Sorry.

34 ELKIN: If you don't mind me askin', where's your two
35 buddies?

- 1 WISE MAN: My two buddies? Oh, the other two wise men.
2 I'm afraid I'm forced to travel alone these days because
3 of financial woes.
- 4 FESTER: Got lost from the others, huh?
- 5 WISE MAN: At any rate, money is pretty tight these days —
6 so for now it's just me.
- 7 ELKIN: If it's just money you're needin', we can help you
8 with that.
- 9 WISE MAN: I appreciate the sentiment, gentlemen — but
10 I'm afraid it will take more than twenty dollars to get
11 me where I want to be.
- 12 FESTER: But we got all kinds of money.
- 13 WISE MAN: (*Laughs.*) There you go being funny again. You
14 two had better get back to your duties before your boss
15 catches you. I'm sure you have lots of scouring to do.
- 16 ELKIN: Oh, yes sir — scorin', skeet shootin', smorgasbord
17 catchin' ... Well, let's go, Fester, and let this nice wise
18 man get back to his star studyin'.
- 19 FESTER: (*To WISE MAN*) But didn't you know that the Christ
20 child was found two thousand years ...
- 21 ELKIN: (*Interrupting*) Fester! (*Turns to WISE MAN.*) Well, good
22 luck in your search. I'm sure you will find what you are
23 lookin' for. Catch you later! That's just a little fisherman
24 talk.
- 25 WISE MAN: (*Looking oddly at the pair*) Good-bye. (*WISE MAN*
26 *exits.*)
- 27 FESTER: Cousin Elkin, why didn't you want me to tell the
28 wise man that Jesus has already been found?
- 29 ELKIN: I just couldn't hurt him like that, Fester. This feller
30 is on a quest, and he has spent all these years lookin' for
31 the baby Jesus. When he got lost from the others, he
32 never got word that Jesus was found. I think he needs
33 to be let down real easy-like. You know, so he's not so
34 frustrated that he's wasted his time when he finds out.
- 35 FESTER: That's a real good idea, Cousin Elkin. You sure

1 **have a kind heart.** (*DEBRA enters.*)

2 **DEBRA:** (*Sees FESTER and ELKIN and places her hands on her*
3 *hips.*) **You two must be fishing for a reprimand.**

4 **FESTER:** No ma'am, we're fishin' for a smorgasbord.

5 **ELKIN:** Then we're goin' to go shoot us some skeets.

6 **DEBRA:** Consider this your last warning. Either you grab
7 those mops and get to work, or I'll see to it you are
8 awarded your pink slips. Then you'll be free to shoot all
9 the skeets your little hearts desire.

10 **FESTER:** That's awful nice of you, ma'am.

11 **DEBRA:** (*Thinks FESTER is being sarcastic.*) **One more remark**
12 **from you, and you'll get that pink slip today.**

13 **FESTER:** Make it as quick as possible, please. The faster we
14 can go to shootin' skeets, the better.

15 **DEBRA:** Trying to be funny again, are you?

16 **FESTER:** Sorry, ma'am — but I only know the one joke.
17 (*DEBRA clenches her fists and teeth and exits quickly.*)

18 **FESTER:** Did she seem upset to you?

19 **ELKIN:** Just a mite. Must be the hot weather. She's probably
20 not used to this tropical climate. (*MIMI and MICHAEL*
21 *enter.*)

22 **MIMI:** (*Holding on to MICHAEL'S arm*) **Oh, Michael — how**
23 **clever and witty you are.**

24 **MICHAEL:** So true, so true, and I'm only getting started.

25 **ELKIN:** Howdy there, Cousin Mimi — I ain't seen you since we
26 got on the houseboat. (*Laughing*) If a feller didn't know
27 better, he'd think you was avoidin' us. Ain't that silly?

28 **MIMI:** (*Quickly to ELKIN*) **Hello there, nice, kind stranger ...**
29 (*Pulling MICHAEL*) **Well, let's keep walking, Michael —**
30 **shall we?**

31 **FESTER:** (*Blocks her.*) **You want to shoot some skeeters with**
32 **us tomorrow, Cousin Mimi? I hear they're real big in**
33 **these parts.**

34 **MIMI:** (*Pretending she doesn't know him*) **No thank you, young**
35 **man. Well, I guess we'd better run along.**

1 **MICHAEL:** *(With his nose held up in the air)* Mimi, do you know
2 these — these custodians?
3 **ELKIN:** Of course she does. But we ain't the custodians.
4 We're the Taylors. Fester and Elkin Taylor of the
5 Cricket County Taylors.
6 **MIMI:** *(Giggles nervously.)* Aren't they cute? Well, let's keep
7 walking, shall we?
8 **ELKIN:** Fester, we'd better go find us a mop and broom so
9 we can earn us some pink slips and go skeeter shootin'.
10 *(To MICHAEL)* Nice to meet you, city feller. Catch you
11 later, Cousin Mimi. Let's go, Fester. *(They exit.)*
12 **MIMI:** Isn't that cute how the employees of the ship consider
13 their customers family?
14 **MICHAEL:** It's a little inappropriate, if you ask me. The
15 custodial staff should never be allowed to speak to the
16 first class passengers.
17 **MIMI:** Now that I think about it, you are absolutely right.
18 Enough about that, let's talk more about you.
19 **MICHAEL:** My favorite subject. *(WISE MAN enters, reading*
20 *over his lines.)*
21 **MIMI:** So what is it that you do to make all your millions?
22 *(WISE MAN hears this and becomes interested.)*
23 **WISE MAN:** *(To himself)* Millions?
24 **MICHAEL:** Real estate. Investments. I've set it all up so all I
25 have to do now is watch the money come in every
26 month. *(WISE MAN moves a little closer to eavesdrop.)*
27 **MIMI:** Sounds absolutely wonderful.
28 **MICHAEL:** But you know it isn't always easy being a
29 millionaire. When people are nice to you, you don't
30 know whether it's your charm or your money they're
31 attracted to.
32 **MIMI:** Your money.
33 **MICHAEL:** Huh?
34 **MIMI:** I mean your charm ... your charming money ... I
35 mean ...

1 **MICHAEL:** *(Laughs.)* You are so innocently naive. Look at
2 you. You look as if you have money as well.

3 **MIMI:** Well, *(Giggles)* I'm not a millionaire by any stretch of
4 the imagination, but I do all right. I was educated in the
5 best schools, I shopped in the best stores ...

6 **MICHAEL:** I can see you are a very refined lady. *(Kisses her*
7 *hand. MICHAEL and MIMI silently move their mouths to give*
8 *the illusion of continuing their conversation. DEBRA enters.)*

9 **DEBRA:** I see you are diligently studying your lines.

10 **WISE MAN:** *(Crossing secretly to DEBRA)* I found him.

11 **DEBRA:** I beg your pardon?

12 **WISE MAN:** The millionaire I was talking about earlier.
13 *(Pointing to MICHAEL)* He's right over there. This is my
14 big break.

15 **DEBRA:** I'm still not convinced approaching him on his
16 vacation is the best strategy.

17 **WISE MAN:** I know exactly what I'm doing. Just stand there
18 and watch me work my magic.

19 **MIMI:** *(To MICHAEL)* I think a refined lady like me goes well
20 with a sophisticated boy like you. Like two perfect
21 pearls in an oyster ...

22 **MICHAEL:** Like two rich people on a cruise ship.

23 **MIMI:** *(Giggles.)* How utterly clever you are.

24 **MICHAEL:** I am, aren't I?

25 **WISE MAN:** *(Moves toward MICHAEL and MIMI, speaking rather*
26 *loudly so they will hear.)* Hark! Look at the star up in the
27 sky. It shines much brighter than all the rest. It must be
28 leading me to the Christ child. *(Out of character)* Oh,
29 excuse me. I didn't know anyone was out here.

30 **MIMI:** That's all right. We were just walking around.

31 **WISE MAN:** *(Steps in their way and speaks rather melodramatically.)*
32 Could that be the star? The one and only star that leads
33 us to hope and eternal life?

34 **MICHAEL:** He must be one of those street actors. *(Hands him*
35 *a coin.)* Here's a quarter.

1 **WISE MAN:** Oh, no sir. I was just rehearsing my lines for the
2 Christmas Eve Nativity pageant that will be presented
3 to the passengers.

4 **MICHAEL:** That's nice, but I don't think we will be
5 attending. (*Starts to leave again with MIMI, but WISE MAN*
6 *cuts them off.*)

7 **WISE MAN:** I don't blame you. It's a second-rate show. But if
8 it's a *first-rate* show you're looking for, then look no
9 further.

10 **MICHAEL:** And just where, pray tell, would the first-rate
11 show be?

12 **WISE MAN:** (*Holds up his tattered script.*) Well, what do you
13 know; I happen to have it right here. If I do say so
14 myself, it's quite the masterpiece. Of course, it takes
15 *money* to put on a first-class show. And when a show
16 becomes a blockbuster sellout, everybody involved
17 makes *lots* of money, if you catch what I'm saying.

18 **MICHAEL:** No, I'm sorry — I don't. Now, if you'll excuse us.

19 **MIMI:** (*Points out toward the audience.*) Oh look, Michael!
20 Dolphins swimming alongside the boat! (*MICHAEL and*
21 *MIMI stop and look out to the audience as WISE MAN crosses*
22 *back to DEBRA.*)

23 **DEBRA:** Well?

24 **WISE MAN:** I've got him eating out of my hand. I guarantee
25 that by Christmas Eve I will have the money I need
26 from Mr. Millionaire over there. Did you see how his
27 eyes lit up when he saw me perform? I've got to see to
28 it that he comes to the pageant and really sees me in
29 action. He'll loan me the money for sure.

30 **ELKIN:** (*Runs in with FESTER. ELKIN holds a mop, FESTER a*
31 *broom.*) Mr. Wise Man, I'm glad you're still here.

32 **DEBRA:** Well, it's good to see that at least you have started
33 cleaning.

34 **WISE MAN:** Not you again. Look, I appreciated all the
35 compliments earlier, but I've got some important

- 1 business to take care of. Now, run along please.
- 2 **ELKIN:** But as we was cleanin', I got to thinkin' more about
3 the money that you was needin' for your journey. I just
4 wanted to tell you that we want to help you get all the
5 money that you need.
- 6 **WISE MAN:** I told you I'm busy with something very
7 important. Go swab the deck or whatever it is you do
8 and leave me alone to think.
- 9 **ELKIN:** But ...
- 10 **DEBRA:** *(To ELKIN)* You heard him. Get back to work! And
11 take that dirty implement with you!
- 12 **FESTER:** What did she call me?
- 13 **ELKIN:** Shhhh, Fester; don't let her get to you. We're sorry,
14 Mr. Wise Man — we didn't mean to bother you. Come on,
15 Fester.
- 16 **FESTER:** I ain't dirty! I take a bath ever' mornin'! *(ELKIN*
17 *and FESTER exit.)*
- 18 **WISE MAN:** *(To DEBRA)* I must figure out a way to get that
19 millionaire to my show. *(Exits.)*
- 20 **DEBRA:** The job of a cruise director is never done. *(Exits.)*
- 21 **MIMI:** *(Still looking out to the audience)* Look at those dolphins
22 go. *(Waves.)* Hello, little dolphins! Isn't this exciting?
- 23 **MICHAEL:** Somewhat boring, if you ask me.
- 24 **MIMI:** You're right — what's so thrilling about watching a
25 group of overgrown mammals swimming in the ocean?
- 26 **MICHAEL:** *(Sappy)* I'd much rather watch the sunlight dance
27 in your eyes.
- 28 **MIMI:** *(Giggles like a schoolgirl.)* Oh, Michael.
- 29 **MICHAEL:** I mean it. How do you remain so distinguished?
30 So sophisticated? So refined?
- 31 **MIMI:** That's simple. I make a point to surround myself with
32 only the most well-bred people of the world. *(BRENDA*
33 *MAE and GLENDA MAE enter.)*
- 34 **GLENDA MAE:** There you are, Cousin Mimi!
- 35 **BRENDA MAE:** Whoooo-weeee — I'm sweatin' like a pig out

1 here in this bright sunshine.
2 **GLEND A MAE:** Have you been sweatin' too, Cousin Mimi?
3 **MICHAEL:** *Cousin* Mimi?
4 **BRENDA MAE:** You sure did take a mighty quick nap.
5 **MIMI:** Girls, I thought you were going to go window-shopping.
6 **BRENDA MAE:** We did, but we couldn't find a soul that
7 would sell us a window.
8 **GLEND A MAE:** They kept wantin' us to buy jewelry and
9 clothes and makeup.
10 **MICHAEL:** Mimi, you seem to know *all* the ship's servants.
11 **MIMI:** Well, as a matter of fact ... (*Knows she's found out*) yes, I
12 do. Michael, this is Brenda Mae and Glenda Mae, my
13 cousins from Cricket County.
14 **GLEND A MAE:** We're identical twins.
15 **MICHAEL:** *Identical* twins? But you look nothing alike.
16 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Prissing to the other side of the stage*) I know. It's
17 easy to tell us apart because I'm the pretty one. (*Strikes*
18 *a pose.*)
19 **GLEND A MAE:** (*Also prissing and standing beside her sister*)
20 That don't matter, 'cause I'm the most suffocated.
21 **MICHAEL:** Suffocated?
22 **MIMI:** She means sophisticated.
23 **MICHAEL:** (*To the TWINS*) But you're nothing but country
24 bumpkins.
25 **GLEND A MAE:** Mimi, you didn't tell us your friend was a flirt.
26 **MIMI:** You see, Michael, Brenda Mae and Glenda Mae and
27 the rest of their little unpretentious family members
28 have come into quite a bit of money since our Uncle
29 Zeke died a few years back.
30 **MICHAEL:** Uncle Zeke?
31 **MIMI:** Yes. He secretly owned several coal mines, diamond
32 mines and oil fields back in Cricket County. But now all
33 those things belong to — (*Swallows a gulp*) them.
34 **MICHAEL:** Wait a minute; did you say *our* Uncle Zeke?
35 **MIMI:** That's right.

1 **MICHAEL:** (*Getting a little excited*) **Meaning your Uncle Zeke**
 2 **as well?**

3 **GLENDA MAE:** (*Still on the opposite side of the stage, posing*)
 4 **Yeah — but Cousin Mimi already spent the money she**
 5 **inherited from dear old Uncle Zeke.**

6 **MICHAEL:** *All of it?*

7 **BRENDA MAE:** **Yes sir, she bought herself what you call a**
 8 **diamond bracelet with her inheritance.**

9 **MIMI:** **It seems my side of the family wasn't quite as**
 10 **appreciated by dear, rustic, old-fashioned, penny-**
 11 **pinching, city-hating Uncle Zeke as my country cousins**
 12 **here.**

13 **MICHAEL:** (*Soaking it all in*) **Let me get this straight.** (*Pointing*
 14 *to the twins, who stand on the opposite side of the stage from*
 15 *MIMI.*) **They inherited Uncle Zeke's millions and you**
 16 **inherited a diamond bracelet?**

17 **MIMI:** (*Giggles nervously.*) **Rather ironic, isn't it?**

18 **MICHAEL:** **I'll say.**

19 **MIMI:** (*Taking MICHAEL's elbow*) **Well, shall we go lounge by**
 20 **the swimming pool with the other well-to-dos?**

21 **MICHAEL:** **I think that's a marvelous idea.** (*Crosses and*
 22 *stands between the TWINS and puts an arm around each of*
 23 *them.*) **What do you say, girls — want to take a stroll up**
 24 **to the** (*In an affected hillbilly twang*) **cee-ment pond?**

25 **MIMI:** **Michael, you can't mean it. What about dinner? What**
 26 **about our midnight stroll around the ship?**

27 **MICHAEL:** **First of all, I'm not that hungry.** (*Looks up.*)
 28 **Second of all, it looks as if rain might be moving in later.**
 29 **I'll be around tomorrow, so look for me then.** (*Holds out*
 30 *his elbows.*) **Ladies?** (*GLENDA MAE and BRENDA MAE each*
 31 *take an arm.*)

32 **GLENDA MAE:** **Did you hear that, Brenda Mae? He called us**
 33 **ladies.**

34 **BRENDA MAE:** **Yeah, that's better than bein' called frog legs**
 35 **any day.**

1 **GLEND A MAE:** (*Holding tightly to MICHAEL'S arm*) Like we
 2 say in the country, "If you're ridin' ahead of the herd,
 3 take a look back ever' now and then to make sure it's
 4 still there." (*As they stroll off, GLEND A MAE looks back to*
 5 *MIMI.*) Cousin Mimi, ain't you comin' with us?

6 **MIMI:** I don't think so, (*Through her teeth, faking a smile*) dear
 7 Cousin. Like we say in the city, "Letting the cat out of
 8 the bag is a great deal easier than putting it back."

9 **GLEND A MAE:** I hate to say it, Cousin Mimi, but sometimes
 10 you don't make a lick of sense. Well, tattles!

11 **BREND A MAE:** It's "tootles," dimwit!

12 **GLEND A MAE:** Sorry. (*Back to MIMI*) Tootles, dimwit! (*They*
 13 *exit with MICHAEL.*)

14 **MIMI:** (*Looking off after her*) But ... (*PETUNIA and PETE enter at*
 15 *the opposite side of the stage. PETUNIA carries a couple of*
 16 *shopping bags. A child's dress should be in the elf head bag,*
 17 *and an extra-large beach towel should be in another bag.*)

18 **PETUNIA:** There you are. I dragged Pete to some of the
 19 dress shops. (*She pulls out the child's dress from the bag with*
 20 *a large head of an elf printed on it.*) Look at this precious
 21 dress I bought for Kyla Prather's little girl. Isn't it the
 22 cutest thing?

23 **MIMI:** (*Not looking at the dress*) Pete, dear — do me a favor and
 24 pinch me.

25 **PETE:** Pinch you? Why?

26 **MIMI:** I must be dreaming. Yes, that's it — it's all nothing but
 27 a terrible, horrible nightmare!

28 **PETUNIA:** What are you talking about? Where is Michael?

29 **MIMI:** With the twins.

30 **PETUNIA:** What twins?

31 **MIMI:** What do you mean, "what twins"? *The twins! Our*
 32 *twins! Daisy Duke and Elly Mae Clampett!*

33 **PETE:** Brenda Mae and Glenda ...

34 **MIMI:** (*Interrupting*) Those hillbillies stole him right out from
 35 under my perfect little surgery-sculpted nose!

1 **PETUNIA:** That doesn't make sense; why would they do
2 something like that?

3 **MIMI:** I know it doesn't make any kind of logical sense, but
4 there they went, arm-in-arm, off to the swimming pool,
5 leaving me standing here like a mere commoner.
6 *(Putting her hand to her forehead)* I feel faint.

7 **PETE:** *(To PETUNIA)* She's having one of her panic attacks.
8 *(PETUNIA takes the little dress out of the elf head shopping*
9 *bag and places the bag over MIMI'S head like a mask.)*

10 **PETUNIA:** We'll just put this bag over your head, and you
11 just breathe slowly. Breathe in ... and breathe out. In ...
12 out. *(WISE MAN rushes in.)*

13 **WISE MAN:** Where is he? *(To PETUNIA)* The millionaire who
14 was standing here earlier. I got him front row tickets to
15 the Christmas Eve show. *(He turns and sees MIMI with the*
16 *bag still over her head. It looks as if she's wearing an elf mask.*
17 *MIMI whines underneath the paper bag.)* Poor girl, are you
18 feeling seasick?

19 **PETUNIA:** The man you're looking for is on his way up to
20 the swimming pool.

21 **WISE MAN:** Thank you. I feel pretty good about this. *(Turns*
22 *back to MIMI.)* Try breathing into a bag — that always
23 helps me. *(He rushes out.)*

24 **PETE:** *(Speaking rather loudly to MIMI)* How are you feeling?

25 **MIMI:** *(From inside the bag)* Not too well.

26 **PETUNIA:** *(Helps her sit in a lounge chair.)* Here, lie back and
27 relax. *(She takes out an extra-large beach towel that she*
28 *bought and covers MIMI with it.)* Help me, Pete. *(To MIMI)*
29 Put this towel over you. Just breathe and relax. Breathe
30 and relax. That's it. Breathe ... and relax.

31 **PETE:** Maybe she needs something cold to drink.

32 **PETUNIA:** You're right; let's go see if we can find some nice
33 cold pineapple juice. *(To MIMI)* That will make you feel
34 better. We'll be right back. *(She and PETE exit quickly. MIMI*
35 *keeps breathing in slowly, then letting it out. FESTER enters with*

1 *his cane fishing pole and bucket of bait. He sets his bait down and*
 2 *stands right of MIMI. He's singing a Christmas song.)*

3 **FESTER:** *(Singing)* God rest ye, merry gentlemen, let nothing
 4 come this way. Jesus Christ our Savior was born on
 5 Christmas day. To save us all from Satan's hair when we
 6 have gum ashtray. *(He throws his fishing line out at the*
 7 *"ocean" — really the audience — as he sings. After he sings*
 8 *through it once, he begins humming the same tune.)* Come on,
 9 you smorgasbord, I know you're out there. *(He hums the*
 10 *tune again, looking around. He spots MIMI with the bag on her*
 11 *head, sitting on the lounge chair.)*

12 **FESTER:** Howdy, sir; nice day, ain't it? *(MIMI raises up when*
 13 *she hears FESTER. She slaps her hand to her forehead and lies*
 14 *back down, as if to say, "That's all I need." FESTER continues*
 15 *to make conversation.)* This is my first time on Lake O-
 16 shun. It sure is big. It's a little hard, though, to stake out
 17 a spot to fish without no stumps or rocks stickin' out of
 18 the water. *(Pause)* Are you from around these parts?
 19 *(MIMI slumps farther down into the chair. ELKIN enters.)*

20 **ELKIN:** There you are, Fester. Caught any of them ugly
 21 creatures yet?

22 **FESTER:** Not yet... *(Taking a step closer to ELKIN)* But I think
 23 the ugliest creature is already on the boat. *(Nods his head*
 24 *toward MIMI and giggles.)*

25 **ELKIN:** Fester, that ain't very nice. *(He giggles in spite of*
 26 *himself.)* All of God's children is beautiful.

27 **ELKIN:** *(Turns to MIMI.)* Howdy, sir — nice day, ain't it?

28 **FESTER:** There ain't no use talkin' to him, Cousin Elkin. All
 29 he does is sit there real still-like.

30 **ELKIN:** Poor feller. If I was that ugly, I wouldn't want to talk
 31 to nobody either. That ain't no way to spend Christmas ...
 32 all by your lonesome that way. *(Turns to MIMI.)* Would you
 33 like to do some smorgasbord fishin' with us? *(MIMI throws*
 34 *the beach towel over her head.)*

35 **FESTER:** Tell him about the Christmas play; maybe he'll

1 **want to go.**

2 **ELKIN:** *(Turns back to MIMI.)* There's a Christmas play about
3 **Jesus bein' born and how the shepherds and wise men**
4 **find and worship him. Would you like to go?** *(MIMI*
5 *uncovers her head and shakes it "no.")* **You think about it,**
6 **and I'll look for you later on.** *(MIMI shakes her head*
7 *again.)* **Now, there's nothin' to be shy about. Jesus loves**
8 **you no matter what you look like.** *(MIMI stands and runs*
9 *off. ELKIN turns to FESTER.)* **That didn't come out right.**

10 **FESTER:** **Elkin, I just had an idea to pop into my head.**

11 **ELKIN:** **I bet it's lonely in there all by itself.**

12 **FESTER:** **If we invite the wise man to see the Christmas**
13 **play, he will see that the baby Jesus has been found**
14 **already, and he won't have to raise money to follow the**
15 **stars no more.**

16 **ELKIN:** **Fester, that is a great idea! I was just kiddin'**
17 **earlier — you are very smart! Like your mama used to**
18 **tell us, "He may not be much to look at, but he's ours."**
19 *(FESTER looks at him, confused.)* **Or somethin' like that.**

20 **DEBRA:** *(Enters with her clipboard and points her ink pen at*
21 *them.)* **This is the last straw!**

22 **ELKIN:** **No ma'am, I believe that there's a ink pen.**

23 **DEBRA:** **I am appalled!**

24 **FESTER:** **Well, good — at least you're feelin' better.**

25 **DEBRA:** **Both of you are nothing but loiterers, sluggards,**
26 **malingers ...**

27 **ELKIN:** **No ma'am, like I told you before, we're Taylors.**

28 **FESTER:** **Ma'am, would you mind givin' us our pink slips**
29 **now in case we don't see you again before we go skeeter**
30 **shootin'?**

31 **DEBRA:** **Who's your supervisor?**

32 **ELKIN:** **Our who?**

33 **DEBRA:** **The person responsible for putting you on this boat.**

34 **ELKIN:** **That would be Cousin Oswald; he's the reason we're**
35 **here.**

- 1 **DEBRA:** *Cousin*, huh? I should have known. You can just tell
 2 your *Cousin Oswald* that I am officially giving you the
 3 boot.
- 4 **ELKIN:** Bless your ever-lovin' heart; first pink slips and
 5 now a free boot. Make mine a size twelve and a half; I
 6 have an awful big foot. (*OSWALD enters.*)
- 7 **FESTER:** (*Excited*) Cousin Oswald, guess what? The nice
 8 people on this boat is givin' us all kinds of Christmas
 9 presents.
- 10 **OSWALD:** Presents like what?
- 11 **ELKIN:** Pink slips and free footwear.
- 12 **OSWALD:** I don't understand.
- 13 **DEBRA:** (*To OSWALD*) Are you responsible for these men?
- 14 **OSWALD:** Yes, why — did they do something wrong?
- 15 **DEBRA:** (*Dripping with sarcasm*) They've only been standing
 16 around all day doing nothing, that's all.
- 17 **OSWALD:** But isn't that what you're supposed to do on a
 18 cruise ship?
- 19 **DEBRA:** (*Becoming even more angry*) No wonder they have a
 20 slacker's work ethic — they got it from you! Well, you
 21 can just take them home because they are fired!
- 22 **OSWALD:** Fired? Wait a minute — you mean you think these
 23 gentlemen are employees of the ship line?
- 24 **DEBRA:** You mean *were* employees!
- 25 **OSWALD:** Look, Ms., Elkin and Fester here are patrons.
- 26 **ELKIN:** We're Taylors!
- 27 **DEBRA:** (*With disbelief*) You mean they are ...
- 28 **OSWALD:** (*To FESTER and ELKIN*) Excuse us, gentlemen.
 29 (*ELKIN and FESTER look around, searching for gentlemen.*
 30 *OSWALD directs DEBRA to Downstage Center.*)
- 31 **OSWALD:** Not only are they passengers, but they are
 32 *wealthy* passengers. Very, *very* wealthy.
- 33 **DEBRA:** (*At a loss for words*) But why are they dressed so ...
 34 and why do they speak with such crass ...
- 35 **OSWALD:** Let's just say they're *eccentric* millionaires. I

1 assure you they could buy this entire cruise line if they
2 so desired.

3 DEBRA: They wouldn't do that, would they? Oh dear, why
4 did I have to be so mean to them?

5 OSWALD: (*Bluffing*) I don't know if they will have your job or
6 not, but if I were you, I would do some fast apologizing.

7 DEBRA: Of course! Of course I will apologize. (*She rushes over*
8 *to ELKIN and FESTER.*) Well, gentlemen — I'm afraid it's
9 time I eat a little crow.

10 ELKIN: Hot diggity, it's about time they start servin' vittles
11 on this here ship.

12 OSWALD: No, Elkin — what the nice cruise director means
13 is she has put her foot in her mouth.

14 ELKIN: Foot? I ain't *that* hungry.

15 OSWALD: She needs to *apologize*.

16 ELKIN: Apologize? For what?

17 DEBRA: For being on your backs all day.

18 FESTER: Cousin Elkin, did y'all play leapfrog and not tell
19 me about it? (*DEBRA looks back at OSWALD, confused.*)

20 OSWALD: *Eccentric.*

21 DEBRA: (*Back to FESTER and ELKIN*) Look, what I'm trying
22 to say is I'm sorry and I take back all that stuff about
23 the pink slips.

24 FESTER: Indian giver, huh? That's just like a city gal.

25 ELKIN: Now, Fester — maybe the nice lady has a reason for
26 takin' back her promise.

27 DEBRA: You can shoot skeets all day if you'd like. As a
28 matter of fact, I'll reserve a special spot just for you and
29 your family. Please don't buy the cruise ship and have
30 me discharged.

31 OSWALD: They won't, now that you have apologized.

32 DEBRA: (*Rushes back to FESTER and ELKIN.*) Thank you!
33 Thank you! Thank you! (*She rushes out.*)

34 FESTER: (*Shouting after her*) But what about our free boots?

35 ELKIN: (*Also shouting off to her*) And when are they serving



*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from:
CRICKET COUNTY CHRISTMAS CRUISE
by Eddie McPherson.*

*For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script,
please contact us at:*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS
P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011
customerservice@christianpub.com