

A CRICKET COUNTY COLORADO CHRISTMAS

by Eddie McPherson



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A Cricket County Colorado Christmas

A country Christmas comedy

by Eddie McPherson

*To the many organizations that have produced the
Cricket County plays over the years.
You have breathed life into these characters,
and for that, I am grateful.*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

City Bunch:

OSWALD TIPPINHIMER: Leader of the city bunch, loves money, mid-twenties to mid-thirties

PETE: Oswald's younger brother, early twenties to early thirties

MIMI: Their city cousin on their mother's side

Country Bunch:

GRANDMA TAYLOR: A little crass but soft on the inside, late seventies to mid-eighties

FESTER: Naive, loves to play shepherds at Christmas, mid- to late twenties

BRENDA MAE: Loves to spout country "wisdom," early twenties to early thirties

GLENDIA MAE: Brenda Mae's twin sister who looks nothing like her, early twenties to early thirties

Others:

SABRINA RAINEY: Owns the ski lodge, mid-thirties to mid-forties

DONALD RAINEY: Sabrina's husband, mid-thirties to mid-forties

GRAMPS: Donald's grandfather, same age as Grandma Taylor

PRODUCTION NOTES

SYNOPSIS: Oswald Tippinhimer and his city family take their country cousins from Cricket County to the mountains in Colorado for Christmas this year. This trip, however, isn't exactly offered from the kindness of their hearts — it is an attempt to get on Grandma Taylor's good side so she will include them in her will since she and her Cricket County family inherited late Uncle Zeke's millions.

Once they arrive at the ski lodge, they find the owners are trying to get their aging grandfather back to the retirement home so they can better attend to their failing business. However, Gramps, as they call him, would rather stay and spend Christmas with the only family he has left.

Oswald gets an idea: If he can get Gramps to court lonely Grandma Taylor, she will surely be grateful enough to leave the city bunch some of her inheritance money.

It's a lesson in appreciating our elderly. We should love everyone in our world — even those who can't do anything for us in return.

This is a one-act play with a playing time of approximately forty-five minutes. The action is written to move at a fast pace for the many comic moments to work. At the end, however, when Gramps and Grandma are being appreciated, it's OK to slow the pace down a little.

COSTUMES: The City Cousins should wear clothes befitting a ski vacation — perhaps ski bibs or nice sweaters and khaki pants. Oswald and Pete can wear blazers. The City Cousins' coats should be leather or fur or trendy ski jackets with colorful scarves.

The Rainey's may also wear sweaters, perhaps with a holiday motif, with khaki pants or jeans.

The Country Cousins may wear their usual hodgepodge of “down home” clothes: overalls, jeans with ropes as belts, or clothing made from gingham, denim, burlap and/or gabardine material. Glenda Mae and Brenda Mae need to dress alike.

They could wear their hair in pigtails. Their coats should be out of style or worn. Fester also needs a shepherd costume consisting of a cloth headpiece, a robe, a shepherd's crook, and sandals.

Grandma Taylor and Gramps dress to suit their ages. Later in the play, Grandma Taylor changes into a bright green dress trimmed in tinsel. Battery-operated Christmas lights are on her dress (but they are not lit up to start). She also wears a yellow hat shaped like a star and earrings that look like bubble lights (or some other holiday-type earrings). The total effect is to make her resemble a Christmas tree. Gramps also changes his clothes. He wears a bathrobe and a shower cap

PROPS: Small radio or MP3 player with headphones, broom, bowl of dates, pillows, tiny near-naked Christmas tree, luggage (nice suitcases for the City Cousins, old, beat-up luggage for the Country Cousins), serving tray with glasses, stuffed toy dog (for Mimi — or a small real dog may be used), walker or walking cane, bottle of vitamins, glass of water, mistletoe, bowl of eggnog, out-of-tune old guitar, Christmas tree decorations including tinsel, clipboard with papers, decorated shoebox, sprig of a plant that might suggest poison ivy, bottle of Old Spice, beef jerky, bigger radio, tube of Bengay, dish towel, cell phone, telephone, tissue or handkerchief, scrubbing brush, rubber ducky.

SET: The set is a rustic ski lodge in Colorado. The door that goes to outside is Stage Right, the kitchen door is Upstage Center, and the door that leads to the rest of the lodge is Stage Left. A sofa sits Center Stage with a coffee table in front of it to hold the various trays of glasses. Decorate the lodge as desired as long as it doesn't look cluttered. Hang a mounted fish and perhaps some deer antlers. If room permits on your stage, you may want to add more lodge-style or antique-looking furniture here and there, and perhaps a coat tree.

MUSIC: In addition to some well-known Christmas carols, the script calls for Fester, Brenda Mae, and Glenda Mae to sing a country-type Christmas song. One suggestion is "Christmas Time's A-comin'," copyright © 1951 by Benjamin "Tex" Logan. It may be found on Emmylou Harris's Christmas album, *Light of the Stable*.

Sound Effects: Ringing telephone, Christmas carol on the radio (played over the P.A. system).

Scene 1

- 1
2 (*DONALD enters carrying a small radio with headphones*
3 *which he wears. He's sweeping the floor. SABRINA enters*
4 *with a bowl of dates. She sets the bowl on the coffee table*
5 *and speaks as she rearranges the pillows on the sofa.*)
- 6 **SABRINA:** Dear, have you mopped the kitchen? (*There is no*
7 *response from DONALD.*) **Have you taken out the trash?**
8 (*No response.*) **Donald?** (*She waves at him.*) **Donald!**
- 9 **DONALD:** (*Speaking loudly, waving back*) **Hello!**
- 10 **SABRINA:** *Have you shoveled the snow?*
- 11 **DONALD:** (*Pointing*) *Yes, dear — I hung the mistletoe!*
- 12 **SABRINA:** *Did you shovel the snow banks?*
- 13 **DONALD:** *What?!*
- 14 **SABRINA:** *Snow banks!*
- 15 **DONALD:** *You're welcome!*
- 16 **SABRINA:** (*Crossing to him and removing the headphones*)
17 **Donald, would you take off those headphones? What**
18 **are you listening to?**
- 19 **DONALD:** *Weather forecast. Looks like all the heavy snow*
20 *is finally moving out.*
- 21 **SABRINA:** *Good, then Aunt Joy should be able to get here*
22 *with no trouble.*
- 23 **DONALD:** *My thoughts exactly. (He sees the bowl and goes for*
24 *a date.) You got more dates from the store, great.*
- 25 **SABRINA:** *How could I forget? You've been reminding me*
26 *for weeks. I thought they would be good for our guests*
27 *to snack on. (Looking at her watch) Speaking of guests,*
28 *they should be arriving any moment.*
- 29 **DONALD:** *And everything needs to be perfect. Since they've*
30 *rerouted the highway, business has been slower than*
31 *ever.*
- 32 **SABRINA:** *And these people coming in are loaded, so don't*
33 *forget we can charge them what we used to charge*
34 *when everyone wanted to stay here. (Looking around) I*
35 *think everything is in order except ... Donald, I thought*

- 1 **I asked you to cut a Christmas tree.**
- 2 **DONALD:** *(Pointing)* **I did. It's right over there.**
- 3 **SABRINA:** *(Looking)* **Where?**
- 4 **DONALD:** **In the corner.** *(He puts his headphones back on.)*
- 5 **SABRINA:** *(She looks but sees nothing.)* **All I see is a mounted**
- 6 **fish.**
- 7 **DONALD:** *What?*
- 8 **SABRINA:** *Fish!*
- 9 **DONALD:** **Yes, dear, you're still a dish!** *(She gives up and crosses*
- 10 *to where DONALD pointed. She looks around then spots*
- 11 *something and picks up a small, bush-like tree from off the*
- 12 *floor. Still holding the tree, she stomps to DONALD and pulls*
- 13 *off his headphones.)*
- 14 **SABRINA:** **Donald, are you telling me *this* is the tree you**
- 15 **cut for the lodge?**
- 16 **DONALD:** **What's wrong with it? It will be charming once**
- 17 **we throw a few decorations on it.**
- 18 **SABRINA:** **If we throw decorations on it, it will die! That's**
- 19 **the puniest Christmas tree I have ever seen.** *(DONALD*
- 20 *puts his headphones back on.)* **What will our rich weekend**
- 21 **guests say when they see this shrub?**
- 22 **DONALD:** *What?*
- 23 **SABRINA:** **Never mind.** *(She sets the tree on a small table.)* **I'll**
- 24 **deal with this later — I must finish the decorations in**
- 25 **the hall.** *(She lifts up one side of the headphones and speaks*
- 26 *into DONALD's ear.)* **Dear, would you check on the hot**
- 27 **chocolate in the kitchen?**
- 28 **DONALD:** **Whatever you say, sweet thing.** *(DONALD exits*
- 29 *through the kitchen door as SABRINA exits to the hall Stage*
- 30 *Left. A few seconds later GRANDMA enters carrying a beat-*
- 31 *up suitcase.)*
- 32 **GRANDMA:** *(Turning and shouting behind herself, through the*
- 33 *door)* **Get in here, Fester! It's cold enough to stick your**
- 34 **tongue to a pump handle.**
- 35 **FESTER:** *(Off-stage)* **Comin', Grandma!**

- 1 **GRANDMA:** (*Looking around*) Oooo! Look at this here fancy
 2 lodge. I've done died and went to rustic heaven. Fester,
 3 hurry up and take a gander at this place!
- 4 **FESTER:** (*Entering carrying a worn suitcase and a guitar thrown*
 5 *over his shoulder*) Yes, ma'am — it's real nice.
- 6 **GRANDMA:** Stuffed deer heads. Mounted bass. Makes me
 7 feel like I'm back in Cricket County.
- 8 **FESTER:** (*Shouting back through the front door*) Glenda Mae!
 9 Brenda Mae! Get on in here, you heifers!
- 10 **GRANDMA:** (*Taking off her coat*) Shut the door, boy. Was
 11 you raised in a barn?
- 12 **FESTER:** (*Pointing to the door*) But —
- 13 **GRANDMA:** Hurry before all the heat gets out.
- 14 **FESTER:** Yes 'm. (*He slams the door just as GLENDA MAE*
 15 *walks up to it. There's a pause then a knock at the door.*) I'll
 16 get it. (*He opens the door and finds GLENDA MAE standing*
 17 *holding her nose.*) Glenda Mae, Grandma says to hurry
 18 up and get in here.
- 19 **GLENDA MAE:** (*Still holding her nose, she enters pulling her*
 20 *bag behind her.*) I was tryin' to, knucklehead.
- 21 **GRANDMA:** And shut that door! (*GLENDA MAE slams. the*
 22 *door just as BRENDA MAE, her "twin sister," walks up to it.*
 23 *There's a knock at the door.*)
- 24 **GRANDMA:** Goodness gracious alive! (*She crosses and opens*
 25 *the door. BRENDA MAE is holding her nose.*) Ever' last one
 26 of you git in here right now all at one time! (*MIMI,*
 27 *OSWALD, and PETE enter behind BRENDA MAE, each*
 28 *carrying his/her own nice luggage.*)
- 29 **BRENDA MAE:** Why did you slam the door in my face,
 30 Glenda Mae?
- 31 **GLENDA MAE:** Grandma told me to, Brenda Mae.
- 32 **GRANDMA:** Both of you hush up before I break off a
 33 hickory switch.
- 34 **FESTER:** (*To the twins*) Yeah, hush up, you two!
- 35 **BRENDA MAE:** Be quiet, Fester! I'm already mad at you for

- 1 calling me ugly in the car.
- 2 **GLEND A MAE:** *(To FESTER)* Especially when you got a face
- 3 that could split kindlin'.
- 4 **FESTER:** Grandma, she's makin' fun of me again.
- 5 **GRANDMA:** And that "hush up" goes for you too, Fester
- 6 Taylor.
- 7 **FESTER:** *(To GLEND A MAE)* If I'm ugly, then you're ...
- 8 **GLEND A MAE:** *(Interrupting, making a fist)* I'm warning you.
- 9 **FESTER:** You look like you was hit by the ugly stick.
- 10 **GRANDMA:** Fester, you apologize this instant!
- 11 **FESTER:** OK, you wasn't hit by the ugly stick.
- 12 **GLEND A MAE:** That's more like it.
- 13 **FESTER:** You got the whole tree. *(He hides behind OSWALD.)*
- 14 **OSWALD:** Maybe we should try for a little peace and quiet.
- 15 We finally made it to Colorado, so let's enjoy it, shall
- 16 we? *(Setting down his suitcase and rushing to GRANDMA)*
- 17 Grandma Taylor, why don't you come on here and have
- 18 a seat? You must be tired.
- 19 **GRANDMA:** Leave me be, child. I've been sittin' for hours,
- 20 and my body's asleep from the waist down.
- 21 **OSWALD:** Well, if you need anything, and I do mean
- 22 anything, you be sure and let me know, *(Shouting)* you
- 23 sweet old thing, you!
- 24 **GRANDMA:** And quit that yellin' in my ear! I keep tellin'
- 25 you I ain't hard of hearin'.
- 26 **PETE:** It's been a long trip, but now that we're here, let's
- 27 try to enjoy our little Christmas vacation in the
- 28 mountains.
- 29 **MIMI:** *(Referring to the twins)* You didn't have to spend the
- 30 whole trip in the back seat with Bubba Mae and Ellie
- 31 Sue. *(Petting her little dog)* My poor FiFi will never be the
- 32 same again.
- 33 **PETE:** If we would have flown the way I suggested,
- 34 everyone wouldn't be irritated.
- 35 **GRANDMA:** *(Hands on her hips)* And I have told you a

1 million times over I'm never steppin' foot on one of
2 them there arrow planes.

3 OSWALD: Yes, ma'am. We'll get settled in and then try to
4 relax. I can't wait to hit the slopes tomorrow. I wonder
5 where you rent skis around here.

6 PETE: We've dished out a lot of money to be here, so we
7 might as well take full advantage of it.

8 GRANDMA: *(To PETE, with hands on hips)* What do you mean
9 "we" have dished out a lot of money? It's *my* family's
10 money that's payin' for this here Christmas ski trip, and
11 don't you forget it! *(Puts her arms around FESTER,*
12 *GLEND A MAE, and BRENDA MAE.)*

13 PETE: Yes, ma'am. I didn't mean to offend you. We
14 appreciate your money — I mean, your inheritance — I
15 mean, your *generosity*.

16 GRANDMA: I don't trust your side of the family any further
17 than I can throw you.

18 OSWALD: You can trust us, Grandma Taylor — we promise.

19 GLEND A MAE: Yeah, Grandma, you can trust them. By the
20 way, can you make a noise like a frog?

21 GRANDMA: Why would I do a thing like that?

22 GLEND A MAE: Cousin Oswald said that when you croak,
23 we're all goin' to Hawaii.

24 OSWALD: *(Embarrassed, he laughs nervously and puts his arm*
25 *around GLEND A MAE's shoulder.)* Now, Glenda Mae, you
26 must have misunderstood.

27 GRANDMA: She didn't misunderstand. You selfish city kids
28 ain't nothin' but greedy little snakes in the grass.

29 BRENDA MAE: Yeah, 'cause like we say in the country, "If
30 you buy a rainbow, don't pay cash for it."

31 GRANDMA: And don't you younguns forget it! *(Looking*
32 *around)* Now, I wonder where we sleep around here?

33 MIMI: *(Plopping down on the sofa with FIFI, sarcastically)* This
34 is going to be one fun trip. *(Speaks baby talk to FIFI.)* Is
35 my little FiFi tired? Yes, he is. *(SABRINA enters.)*

- 1 **SABRINA:** (*Carries a tray of hot chocolate and crosses to*
2 *OSWALD.*) **You're here!** (*Turns to PETE.*) **You're all here!**
3 (*Crosses to MIMI.*) **Look at this, you're here!** (*Turns and*
4 *sees GRANDMA and jumps back.*) **Gracious, what are you**
5 **doing here?**
- 6 **GRANDMA:** (*Looking SABRINA up and down*) **Who's askin'?**
- 7 **SABRINA:** (*Setting down the tray*) **My name is Sabrina**
8 **Rainey. My husband and I own this quaint little ski**
9 **lodge. There have been many important people who**
10 **have stayed here over the years.**
- 11 **GRANDMA:** (*With a touch of sass*) **Well, ain't we uppity? I**
12 **own a spit can, but you don't hear me braggin' about**
13 **it.**
- 14 **OSWALD:** (*Embarrassed*) **Now, Grandma Taylor. (To**
15 *SABRINA*) **She's with us.**
- 16 **SABRINA:** (*Looking around at the rest of the country bunch with*
17 *a haughty look*) **I see.**
- 18 **OSWALD:** **You'll have to excuse her. She's had a rather**
19 **rough trip.**
- 20 **SABRINA:** **Oh, bad flight?**
- 21 **OSWALD:** **We drove.**
- 22 **SABRINA:** **My, but that's such a long way.**
- 23 **GRANDMA:** **It's better than crashin' to the ground.**
- 24 **SABRINA:** **On the contrary. Flying is much safer than**
25 **driving. Did you know that in New York City alone a**
26 **man is hit by a car every thirty minutes?**
- 27 **FESTER:** **I bet he's gettin' sore by now. (SABRINA stares at**
28 *FESTER.)*
- 29 **SABRINA:** **I think I will ignore that.**
- 30 **OSWALD:** **Allow me to make introductions. (As they all shake**
31 *hands)* **This is my brother Pete, and our Cousin Mimi on**
32 **my mother's side. And from my father's side of the**
33 **family this is Fester, Brenda Mae, and Glenda Mae**
34 **Taylor, and their grandmother, Ms. Imogene Taylor.**
- 35 **PETE:** (*Pointing to the country bunch*) **They're the ones who**

- 1 inherited Uncle Zeke's oil fields and diamond and coal
2 mines a few years back.
- 3 **FESTER:** That's why they call us milky hares.
- 4 **GLENDA MAE:** That's millionaires, dummy. You'll have to
5 excuse him, ma'am. You can take the boy out of the
6 country, but you can't take the country out of the boy.
7 Anybody seen my snuff?
- 8 **SABRINA:** Well, uh, Fester, (*She tries to remain business-like*)
9 what would you say to a cup of hot chocolate?
- 10 **FESTER:** (*Shrugs.*) Depends on what the cup said to me
11 first.
- 12 **OSWALD:** (*Embarrassed yet again*) Perhaps we should get
13 settled in if that's all right with you, Mrs. Rainey.
- 14 **SABRINA:** Very well. Here are your keys. Your rooms are
15 through that door. (*Points Stage Left.*) Once you're
16 unpacked, it will be time for orientation. (*Everyone exits*
17 *but OSWALD.*)
- 18 **GRANDMA:** (*To MIMI, as everyone starts out with their luggage*)
19 And I'm warning you, keep that ugly mutt away from
20 me!
- 21 **MIMI:** I have told you a million times, my FiFi is *not* ugly.
- 22 **GRANDMA:** Honey, that dog is so ugly, when he's walkin'
23 around I can't tell if he's comin' or goin'.
- 24 **MIMI:** Grandma Taylor, you're merciless!
- 25 **GRANDMA:** That's the nicest thing you've said to me all
26 day. (*They're gone.*)
- 27 **OSWALD:** (*Flirting with SABRINA*) By the way, I'm Oswald
28 Tippenhimer the Third. You may call me Oz for short.
29 You know — as in wizard?
- 30 **SABRINA:** My name is Sabrina Rainey. You may call me
31 Mrs. Rainey. You know — as in I'm married?
- 32 **OSWALD:** See you around. (*Exits quickly as DONALD enters*
33 *from the kitchen helping his grandfather who walks with a*
34 *walker. DONALD no longer wears his earphones.*)
- 35 **DONALD:** Here we go, Gramps. (*To SABRINA*) He got into

- 1 the eggnog.
- 2 SABRINA: Gramps, that eggnog is for our guests. I do wish
- 3 Aunt Joy would hurry and get here.
- 4 DONALD: Gramps, you can relax in here until Aunt Joy
- 5 comes to pick you up. (*SABRINA crosses to the other side*
- 6 *of the walker.*)
- 7 GRAMPS: *What?!*
- 8 DONALD: *Joy! Joy!*
- 9 GRAMPS: *Oh! (Singing as he stands up straight) Joy to the*
- 10 *world, the Lord is come. (Yells.) Everybody sing!*
- 11 DONALD: We'll sing later, Gramps!
- 12 GRAMPS: *What?!*
- 13 DONALD: *Later!*
- 14 GRAMPS: *Trade her? (Looking at SABRINA) Good luck on your*
- 15 *swap.*
- 16 SABRINA: (*To DONALD*) Now you know how I felt with you
- 17 earlier. Gramps, turn on your *hearing aid!* (*She turns it*
- 18 *on for him.*) *Is that better?*
- 19 GRAMPS: Why are you yelling at me? I'm not deaf!
- 20 SABRINA: (*To DONALD*) You deal with him.
- 21 DONALD: We were just saying that you can stay in here
- 22 until Aunt Joy picks you up to take you home.
- 23 GRAMPS: I'm not going back to that old folks home, and
- 24 you can't make me.
- 25 DONALD: Gramps, we've been all through this. (*Blunt*)
- 26 You're going back today, and that's that.
- 27 GRAMPS: I don't know why I can't spend Christmas here
- 28 with you. You're the only family I have left.
- 29 SABRINA: There just isn't enough room now that our
- 30 guests are here.
- 31 DONALD: Besides, you'd be much happier spending
- 32 Christmas with people your own age.
- 33 GRAMPS: Those people at the home are nothing but old
- 34 fogies. I don't belong there.
- 35 DONALD: (*Pulling SABRINA aside*) There he goes again,

- 1 hinting that we should let him stay here for Christmas.
2 **SABRINA:** No! Now Donald, like I've told you before — we
3 must be strong about this. Our business is very
4 important and, though he won't mean to, Gramps and
5 his walker will scuff up my expensive antique
6 furniture.
7 **DONALD:** You're right. Besides, riding back with Aunt Joy
8 will cheer him up. She always cheers him up.
9 **GRAMPS:** *(He has walked up behind them.)* No, she doesn't!
10 She gets on my nerves with all that idle prattle. Yak,
11 yak, yak!
12 **SABRINA:** *(To DONALD)* I forgot we put new batteries in his
13 hearing aid.
14 **DONALD:** *(To SABRINA)* He's all yours. *(Pulling on his coat*
15 *and scarf)* I'd better tackle that driveway. Now Gramps,
16 remember not to make trouble. *(He exits out the front*
17 *door.)*
18 **SABRINA:** And I need to go over my notes for orientation.
19 Gramps, we need this business, so stop being stubborn.
20 *(Pointing a judgmental finger at GRAMPS, she exits to the*
21 *kitchen.)*
22 **GRAMPS:** *(To himself)* Treat me like a child, would ya? *(He*
23 *looks up.)* Dear Lord, I have but one request to ask you
24 this Christmas. Could you please arrange it so I could
25 spend Christmas here with my family this year? *(Snow*
26 *starts falling outside the window.)* Amen. *(GRAMPS sits.*
27 *GRANDMA enters carrying a bottle of vitamins. She sees the*
28 *snow.)*
29 **GRANDMA:** Whoooo-eeee! Look at that snow fallin' out
30 there. Reminds me of back home. *(She closes the curtain*
31 *at the window.)* I'll close these here curtains to keep out
32 the draft. There. *(She turns and sees GRAMPS looking*
33 *sad.)* Well, well, well. Who do we have here? *(She takes*
34 *one of her vitamins and chews it viciously. She makes her*
35 *way toward GRAMPS.)* Howdy there. You must be the

- 1 reason for global warming, 'cause you're hot. (*GRAMPS*
2 *is silent.*) Merry Christmas to you. (*She spies the*
3 *mistletoe.*)
- 4 **GRAMPS:** (*Sad*) What's so merry about it? (*GRANDMA slowly*
5 *makes her way to the mistletoe and stands under it. She*
6 *clears her throat, but GRAMPS just sits there.*)
- 7 **GRANDMA:** (*Looking up at the mistletoe*) Well, what do we
8 have here?
- 9 **GRAMPS:** (*Snapping out of his fog*) Did you say something?
- 10 **GRANDMA:** I was just standin' here under this here sprig
11 of festive greenery. I wonder what it is.
- 12 **GRAMPS:** (*Standing with the aid of his walker or walking cane*)
13 They call it mistletoe.
- 14 **GRANDMA:** Mistletoe, huh? (*Feigning ignorance*) I wonder
15 why they have it hanging from the ceiling like that.
- 16 **GRAMPS:** I'll show you.
- 17 **GRANDMA:** You will? (*She pops another vitamin and quickly*
18 *chews it up. GRAMPS crosses to GRANDMA.*) Be gentle,
19 old geezer.
- 20 **GRAMPS:** (*Reaches up and yanks the string of mistletoe down and*
21 *throws it to the floor.*) I hate Christmas! (*He crosses and exits*
22 *Stage Left.*)
- 23 **GRANDMA:** (*Taken aback*) Wait just a cotton-pickin' minute!
24 That ain't what mistletoe is for! Get back here! (*To herself*)
25 How do you like that? (*Holding up her bottle of vitamins*) A
26 plumb waste of good vitamins. (*SABRINA enters with a*
27 *bowl of eggnog and sets it down.*)
- 28 **SABRINA:** See here, what's all this shouting?
- 29 **GRANDMA:** It's personal. Hey, who's that nice-lookin' old
30 man who was in here just now?
- 31 **SABRINA:** Gramps? His real name is Henry. He's my
32 husband's grandfather. His wife passed away fifteen
33 years ago, so he always gets a little sad around
34 Christmas.
- 35 **GRANDMA:** Wife passed away, huh? (*She pops another vitamin.*)

- 1 **SABRINA:** (*Picks up the bowl of dates from the table.*) **Would**
2 **you like a date?**
- 3 **GRANDMA:** (*Looking toward the door where GRAMPS exited*) **I**
4 **would if I could get him to ask me.**
- 5 **SABRINA:** **I beg your pardon?**
- 6 **GRANDMA:** **Nothin'. You think Gramps there is still**
7 **interested in dates at his age?**
- 8 **SABRINA:** **Oh, yes — he loves them.**
- 9 **GRANDMA:** **You don't say. I do like a challenge.** (*She pops a*
10 *vitamin.*) **'Bye.** (*She quickly exits Stage Left.*)
- 11 **SABRINA:** (*To herself*) **Remember, Sabrina. We need the**
12 **money. We need the money.** (*She sets the bowl of dates on*
13 *the coffee table. FESTER enters with his guitar.*)
- 14 **FESTER:** **Howdy there, Ms. Ringy.**
- 15 **SABRINA:** **It's Rainey.**
- 16 **FESTER:** (*Points to the window.*) **No, ma'am — I'd say it's**
17 *snowy.*
- 18 **SABRINA:** (*To herself*) **Remain professional.** (*With a fake*
19 *smile, she turns to FESTER.*) **Fester, what would you say**
20 **to a glass of eggnog?**
- 21 **FESTER:** (*Shrugs.*) **Depends on what the glass said to me**
22 **first.**
- 23 **SABRINA:** (*Sarcastically*) **That's right — I forgot.** (*Pointing to*
24 *his guitar*) **What do you have there?**
- 25 **FESTER:** **Just an old gee-tar I've had since I was a kid.**
- 26 **SABRINA:** **Do you know how to pick?**
- 27 **FESTER:** **Yes ma'am, but my mama taught me not to do it**
28 **in public.**
- 29 **SABRINA:** **I mean, can you play the guitar?**
- 30 **FESTER:** **Does a grizzly bear have claws?** (*He strums his*
31 *terribly out-of-tune guitar.*)
- 32 **SABRINA:** (*Puts hand to her chest.*) **Oh dear, that was**
33 **atrocious.**
- 34 **FESTER:** **Much obliged. Can you believe I've only been**
35 **playin' for one year?**

1 **SABRINA:** Yes. Yes, I can. (*Looking up at the ceiling*) Now,
2 what happened to that mistletoe I hung?
3 **FESTER:** Is it not where you left it?
4 **SABRINA:** No, it isn't.
5 **FESTER:** Then it must be gone. (*Strums his guitar.*)
6 **SABRINA:** (*Sarcastically*) Thank you for clearing that up.
7 **FESTER:** You're welcome. (*GLEND A MAE and BRENDA MAE*
8 *enter.*)
9 **GLEND A MAE:** We're all unpacked and ever'thing.
10 **SABRINA:** (*To BRENDA MAE*) Hello again, Glenda Mae.
11 **BRENDA MAE:** I'm Brenda Mae, she's Glenda Mae.
12 **GLEND A MAE:** Don't worry though, ever'body makes that
13 mistake with identical twins.
14 **SABRINA:** But you look nothing alike.
15 **BRENDA MAE:** Maybe we're Chinese twins. I keep forgettin'.
16 **GLEND A MAE:** Anyway, we're ready to do some skiin'.
17 **SABRINA:** I'm sorry, but you can't ski without orientation.
18 **BRENDA MAE:** Well, she'd better get here if she's goin' with
19 *us.*
20 **SABRINA:** Who?
21 **GLEND A MAE:** Orientation.
22 **SABRINA:** You don't understand — orientation is *training*.
23 **BRENDA MAE:** What's she trainin' for?
24 **SABRINA:** Orientation is not a *she*.
25 **GLEND A MAE:** Then what's *he* training for?
26 **SABRINA:** Orientation is training *you*.
27 **BRENDA MAE:** Not if he don't hurry up.
28 **SABRINA:** (*Shakes this off.*) I feel a headache coming on.
29 Perhaps I should start decorating the tree.
30 **BRENDA MAE:** Fester, why don't you play a Christmas
31 song on your gee-tar?
32 **GLEND A MAE:** And we'll help Ms. Roomy decorate the tree.
33 **SABRINA:** It's Rainey.
34 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Points to the window.*) No, ma'am, it's pretty
35 snowy.

- 1 **FESTER:** Snow fallin' outside, decoratin' the tree, playin'
 2 Christmas carols on the old gee-tar. It's already startin'
 3 to feel like an old-fashioned Christmas.
- 4 **GLENDA MAE:** (*Looking around*) Where's the Christmas tree,
 5 Ms. Rain Storm?
- 6 **SABRINA:** (*Getting the decorations*) You're standing beside it.
- 7 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Looking confused, picks up the tiny tree and*
 8 *looks underneath it.*) No ma'am, it ain't here.
- 9 **SABRINA:** You're holding it.
- 10 **GLENDA MAE:** (*Holding it up with one hand*) Good gracious,
 11 I've cut down weeds bigger than this.
- 12 **BRENDA MAE:** Glenda Mae, remember what we say in the
 13 country, "Beauty is skin-deep, but ugly's to the bone."
- 14 **SABRINA:** Here. Why don't you start by wrapping this
 15 garland around it? (*She hands BRENDA MAE the*
 16 *garland.*)
- 17 **BRENDA MAE:** OK. (*She wraps it until the tree disappears.*)
- 18 **GLENDA MAE:** Won't Orientation be surprised when he gets
 19 here and sees the Christmas tree all decorated?
- 20 **BRENDA MAE:** And hears Christmas songs bein' played on
 21 the gee-tar? Go ahead and play us something, Fester.
- 22 **FESTER:** OK. (*He plays a chord which is still off-key. He*
 23 *continues to play until SABRINA has to cover her ears. He*
 24 *stops.*) Bet you can't guess what that was, Ms. Rain
 25 Coat.
- 26 **BRENDA MAE:** (*Decorating the tree*) Don't be silly, Fester. Of
 27 course she knows what it was — don't you, Ms.
 28 Rankin?
- 29 **SABRINA:** It's *Rainey!*
- 30 **FESTER:** Nope, guess again.
- 31 **GLENDA MAE:** Play it slower, Fester, and this time we'll
 32 sing it. (*FESTER begins to play — if you could call it*
 33 *playing — as he and the twins break out in a country*
 34 *Christmas song, such as "Christmas Time's A-comin'."*)
- 35 **FESTER:** (*After they sing one verse, yells.*) Everybody clog!

- 1 (*FESTER, BRENDA MAE, and GLENDA MAE continue*
2 *singing second verse as BRENDA MAE and GLENDA MAE*
3 *attempt to clog. FESTER shouts.*) **Ms. Rudy's time to**
4 **dance!** (*FESTER, BRENDA MAE, and GLENDA MAE start*
5 *singing third verse or chorus. SABRINA places her hand on*
6 *top of FESTER's in order to stop the awful song.*)
- 7 **SABRINA: That was just ... lovely.** (*Rushes over to the plate of*
8 *dates and presents it.*) **I think that's enough Christmas**
9 **cheer for now. Fester, how about a date?**
- 10 **FESTER: OK, but what will your husband say?**
- 11 **SABRINA: About what?**
- 12 **FESTER: You offerin' me a date.**
- 13 **SABRINA: It was his idea.**
- 14 **FESTER: I guess I'd better not.**
- 15 **SABRINA: Why, are you allergic?**
- 16 **FESTER: No, ma'am, I'm a Baptist. They frown on things**
17 **like that.**
- 18 **GLENDA MAE: (*In shock*) Ms. Rompey, what would your**
19 **husband say if he was here?**
- 20 **SABRINA: (*Holding out the plate*) He'd probably say, "Glenda**
21 **Mae, would you like a date?"**
- 22 **BRENDA MAE: And I would turn him down flat! And so**
23 **would my sister, ain't that right, Glenda Mae? (*Pause*)**
24 **Glenda Mae?**
- 25 **GLENDA MAE: I'm thinkin'.**
- 26 **BRENDA MAE: (*Falls to her knees, praying aloud.*) Oh, Lord —**
27 **please forgive my sister! She knoweth not what she**
28 **sayeth. And please give Fester the strength to say "no"**
29 **to this Jezebel before us here tonighteth.**
- 30 **SABRINA: (*To GLENDA MAE*) Excuse me, but what is she**
31 **doing?**
- 32 **GLENDA MAE: Prayin' for your soul.**
- 33 **SABRINA: But why?**
- 34 **FESTER: You, a married woman, is askin' me, a good-**
35 **lookin' rugged mountain man, out on a date with you.**

1 **BRENDA MAE:** *(Continuing to kneel and pray)* Lord, she can't
2 helpeth herself! Please don't turn her into a salt shaker!

3 **SABRINA:** No, Fester — I was offering you a *date*. A date is
4 a *fruit*, see?

5 **GLENDA MAE:** It's OK, Brenda Mae. Ms. Rutabaga here
6 ain't no Jezebel.

7 **BRENDA MAE:** Thank you, Lord — that was quick. Amen.

8 **SABRINA:** Listen, everyone — right after I find something
9 for this migraine, why don't you help me round
10 everyone up and meet me back here? It's almost time
11 for orientation.

12 **GLENDA MAE:** Okey-dokey, but if he's late, I say we start
13 without him.

14 **BRENDA MAE:** 'Cause like we say in the country, "If you
15 come to a fork in the road, take it." *(GLENDA MAE and*
16 *BRENDA MAE exit.)*

17 **SABRINA:** Fester, would you be kind enough to cut me a
18 sprig of mistletoe from the tree out front?

19 **FESTER:** Does a snake slither? I'll be right back. *(He sets*
20 *down his guitar, grabs his coat off the rack, and exits*
21 *through the front door, singing.)* Christmas time's a-
22 comin', Christmas time's a-comin', Christmas time's a-
23 comin' ... *(He's gone.)*

24 **SABRINA:** My aching head. *(SABRINA looks around for the*
25 *Christmas tree. All she sees, however, is the glob of tinsel.*
26 *She places her hands on her hips.)* And where did that
27 hillbilly hide my Christmas tree?

28

29

BLACKOUT

30 *("Christmas Time's A-comin'" plays on a piano or guitar.)*

31

32

33

34

35

Scene 2

(During the blackout, a sprig of what looks like poison ivy is hung where the mistletoe was before. It's just a short time later. OSWALD, MIMI, and PETE are On-stage. MIMI sits on the sofa holding FIFI; PETE's peering through the curtains, and OSWALD is going over some papers on a clipboard. MIMI talks to FIFI.)

MIMI: *(In babytalk)* Is my little FiFi hungry? Yes, he is. Yes, he is.

PETE: It's really coming down out there. Wonder what the weather forecast is saying.

OSWALD: *(Looking at his clipboard)* I can't believe it.

PETE: What are you looking at?

MIMI: Is my FiFi cold? Yes, he is. Yes, he is.

OSWALD: Mimi, would you hold down the FiFi talk for a minute?

PETE: *(Crossing to OSWALD and looking over his shoulder)* What are you looking at over here?

OSWALD: Grandpa Rainey in there is worth lots of money. They accidentally left his bank statement out. *(Holding the paper out to PETE)* See?

PETE: You have stooped to a new low, mister, when you start looking at a perfect stranger's private records. That is shameful, that is disgraceful, that is ... *(He sees the statement OSWALD is still holding up)* a whole lot of money!

MIMI: So the old man is a rich widower. So what?

OSWALD: Don't you see? Grandma Taylor was talking on the way up here how lonely she has been since her husband passed away all those years back. If we played Cupid and got the old man interested in her, we'd be on her good side for life.

PETE: We could marry them off, combine their money, and be in their will for sure!

OSWALD: Exactly! This is our chance to finally cash in on

- 1 our country cousins' millions.
- 2 MIMI: Is that why you arranged this ski trip? Just to get on
- 3 that old cranky woman's good side?
- 4 OSWALD: Maybe. OK, yes.
- 5 MIMI: I won't do it. That old granny says the most horrible
- 6 things to me. She tells me I'm lazy.
- 7 OSWALD: You *are* lazy.
- 8 MIMI: And she called FiFi an ugly, overgrown cockroach.
- 9 PETE: That's ridiculous. FiFi is *not* overgrown.
- 10 MIMI: My FiFi is fifteen years old. That's seventy-three in
- 11 human years. He's at a very fragile stage in his life
- 12 right now and needs my special attention. (*Petting FIFI*
- 13 *and using babytalk*) Yes, he does. Yes, he does.
- 14 OSWALD: (*To MIMI*) Fine. If you don't want any part of
- 15 Grandma Taylor's inheritance, that will just leave more
- 16 for Pete and me.
- 17 PETE: You got that right.
- 18 MIMI: It would kill me to be nice to that — that woman.
- 19 Just *kill* me.
- 20 OSWALD: That's OK, we'll all come to your funeral. Now,
- 21 here's the plan. (*They huddle next to the front door as*
- 22 *GRAMPS enters from the hall. He sees them whispering and*
- 23 *stands there looking at them. The three stop whispering, look*
- 24 *back at him, laugh, then go back to their huddle. DONALD*
- 25 *enters from outside and removes and hangs up his coat.*)
- 26 DONALD: Gramps, why haven't you brought in your
- 27 luggage? Aunt Joy will be here any minute.
- 28 GRAMPS: Aunt Joy can't get here with that snowstorm
- 29 coming in.
- 30 DONALD: Nice try, Gramps, but the snow has stopped. (*He*
- 31 *opens the curtains to show him.*)
- 32 GRAMPS: (*Closes his eyes and prays.*) Please, Lord — just a
- 33 little more. (*The snow starts falling again.*)
- 34 DONALD: (*Quickly closes the curtains.*) That's funny; there
- 35 was nothing on the forecast about more snow. (*To*

- 1 GRAMPS, *his patience wearing thin*) You will *not* mess up
 2 this weekend for us. *(He exits angrily Stage Left. GRAMPS*
 3 *moves to the sofa and has a seat. OSWALD moves to him*
 4 *while MIMI and PETE watch with much interest.)*
- 5 OSWALD: Good afternoon, Mr. Rainey. Can I join you?
- 6 GRAMPS: Why, am I coming apart?
- 7 OSWALD: *(Laughs.)* That was a good one. Hey, listen — did
 8 you happen to get a good look at that foxy chick that
 9 came on this trip with us?
- 10 GRAMPS: *(His interest is piqued.)* Foxy chick?
- 11 OSWALD: That's right. You *do* know she's available, don't
 12 you?
- 13 GRAMPS: She is?
- 14 PETE: Yes, sir — and she's a sweet, country-type girl.
- 15 GRAMPS: *(Rubbing his chin)* I don't know, young man. Since
 16 my wife passed away fifteen years ago, I've only dated
 17 one other woman.
- 18 OSWALD: You sly old fox. What was she like?
- 19 GRAMPS: She was sweet, but she was way too young for
 20 me.
- 21 MIMI: How young was she?
- 22 GRAMPS: Thirty-five.
- 23 OSWALD: You mean you went out with a thirty-five-year-old
 24 at your age? That could have been fatal.
- 25 GRAMPS: *(Shrugs.)* If she died, she died.
- 26 MIMI: Don't you think it's time for you to start living again?
- 27 GRAMPS: *(Thinks a moment.)* Country girl, huh?
- 28 OSWALD: I wouldn't be surprised if she were to walk
 29 through the door at any moment. You think about that
 30 and we'll talk again. *(To PETE and MIMI)* What do you
 31 say we go for a little walk and take in some fresh air?
- 32 MIMI: OK, but I'm going to leave my FiFi inside so he
 33 doesn't freeze to death. *(She places FIFI in a decorated*
 34 *shoebox and sets the box just inside the kitchen door. To FIFI,*
 35 *in babytalk)* You can grab yourself a wittle nap while

1 Mommy takes a nice, brisk walk outside. (*OSWALD gives*
 2 *MIMI and PETE the OK sign as they give him one back.*
 3 *They grab their coats and exit through the front door.*
 4 *GRAMPS watches them leave, then brings out a bottle of Old*
 5 *Spice and splashes some on. GRANDMA enters looking all*
 6 *fresh and Christmasy. She wears a bright green dress*
 7 *trimmed in tinsel and wears a hat shaped like a star. She*
 8 *wears bubble lights for earrings.)*

9 **GRANDMA:** Deck the halls with bowls of ham hocks, Fa-la-
 10 la-la-la, la-la-la-laaaa.

11 **GLEND A MAE:** (*Entering eating beef jerky*) Look at you,
 12 Grandma. You look like a walkin' Christmas tree.
 13 (*Holding it out*) You want a bite of my beef jerky?

14 **GRANDMA:** (*Fake modesty, twirling around*) This old thing?
 15 Just something I threw together. (*Glances over at*
 16 *GRAMPS.*) Glenda Mae, don't you hear Fester callin'
 17 you?

18 **GLEND A MAE:** Ma'am?

19 **GRANDMA:** (*Shouting Off-stage*) She's comin', Fester! (*To*
 20 *GLEND A MAE*) Go on, now — don't keep your kinfolk
 21 a-waitin'.

22 **GLEND A MAE:** But I'm not done eatin' my jerky.

23 **GRANDMA:** 'Bye. (*Pushes GLEND A MAE out the hall door, then*
 24 *speaks to GRAMPS.*) What do you think of my dress? I'll
 25 just let a little light in so you can see it better. (*She*
 26 *opens the curtains. OSWALD, MIMI, and PETE stand at the*
 27 *window peering in. They duck quickly before GRANDMA*
 28 *sees them.*)

29 **GRAMPS:** That sure is a festive dress. I didn't catch your
 30 name.

31 **GRANDMA:** Imogene Taylor. I'll be in good shape if my
 32 girdle don't pop.

33 **GRAMPS:** With a figure like that, why do you wear a
 34 girdle?

35 **GRANDMA:** Honey, I don't have a figure like that — that's

1 **why I wear it. Here, let me find some romantic**
 2 **Christmas music on the radio.** (*She turns on the radio and*
 3 *we hear "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." She*
 4 *switches the radio off quickly.*) **Nope, nothin' on the radio.**
 5 (*MIMI, PETE, and OSWALD appear at the window again,*
 6 *unseen by GRANDMA and GRAMPS.*) **You sure do look**
 7 **dapper tonight, Henry.**

8 **GRAMPS: You look pretty good yourself, Imogene. Why**
 9 **don't you come on over here and plant yourself beside**
 10 **me?**

11 **GRANDMA: Beside you?** (*As she hums "Deck the Halls," she*
 12 *takes out a large tube of Ben Gay and dabs a bit behind her*
 13 *ears. She then takes GRAMPS's walker and sets it beside the*
 14 *wall.*) **I'll set this right over here so you can't run away.**
 15 **I mean, so it won't be in the way.** (*GRANDMA sees the*
 16 *kids outside the window and quickly closes the curtains. She*
 17 *crosses to GRAMPS and starts to sit beside him on the sofa.*
 18 *GLENDA MAE reenters still eating her jerky.*)

19 **GLENDA MAE: Grandma, you was wrong. Fester ain't in**
 20 **there.**

21 **GRANDMA: Then he's probably outside!** (*Grabs GLENDA*
 22 *MAE's arm and leads her out and slams the door. She then*
 23 *locks the door. She crosses quickly to the hall door and sticks*
 24 *a chair underneath the doorknob. She does all this as she*
 25 *sings "Christmas Time's a Comin'." She's out of breath.*)
 26 **That should keep ever'body out for a while.** (*She crosses*
 27 *behind the sofa.*)

28 **GRAMPS: Imogene, you sure do smell nice. What do you**
 29 **call that?**

30 **GRANDMA: Ben Gay Extra Strength. You?**

31 **GRAMPS: Old Spice 1972.** (*GRAMPS pats the sofa, signaling*
 32 *for GRANDMA to have a seat beside him.*) **Take a load off,**
 33 **old woman.**

34 **GRANDMA: (Acting modest) I couldn't.**

35 **GRAMPS: Come on, now.**

- 1 **GRANDMA:** I really shouldn't.
- 2 **GRAMPS:** Right here.
- 3 **GRANDMA:** It wouldn't be proper.
- 4 **GRAMPS:** Well, if you don't want to.
- 5 **GRANDMA:** You give up too easy. (*She jumps over the back of*
6 *the sofa and sits close to GRAMPS.*)
- 7 **GRAMPS:** (*Slowly putting an arm around her shoulder*) The
8 front door's locked.
- 9 **GRANDMA:** The hall door's blocked.
- 10 **GRAMPS:** Looks like it's just you and me, tiger. (*GRANDMA*
11 *giggles, then lets out a little growl. FESTER enters through*
12 *the kitchen door holding his guitar.*)
- 13 **FESTER:** (*Singing loudly*) *Christmas time's a-comin'!*
- 14 **GRANDMA and GRAMPS:** (*Together, resigned*) **Kitchen door.**
15 (*FESTER heads straight to the sofa and plops down between*
16 *GRAMPS and GRANDMA. He's dressed like a shepherd.*)
- 17 **FESTER:** Y'all want me to play a Christmas song on my gee-
18 tar? (*Runs his fingers across the strings, making an awful*
19 *sound. Sings badly.*) **Silent night.** (*Strums.*) **Holy night.**
- 20 **GRANDMA:** Fester, I don't quite know how to say this, but
21 I want us to be alone.
- 22 **FESTER:** Yes, ma'am. (*Pauses, looks at GRAMPS, then back at*
23 *GRANDMA.*) **I don't think he got the hint.** (*There's a*
24 *knock at the door.*) **I'll get it.** (*FESTER unlocks and answers*
25 *the door. GLENDMA MAE enters, wrapping herself with her*
26 *arms.*)
- 27 **GLENDMA MAE:** It's freezin' out there, Grandma. (*MIMI,*
28 *OSWALD, and PETE enter behind her.*)
- 29 **OSWALD:** Fester, Glenda Mae, can't you see these two are
30 sharing an infinitesimal moment of solidarity?
- 31 **FESTER:** (*Moving away from the sofa*) **Shoot! I hope it ain't**
32 **contagious.** (*DONALD enters from Stage Left.*)
- 33 **DONALD:** Gramps, I have an idea. (*Helping GRAMPS stand*)
34 **Why don't you go on upstairs and take a nap before**
35 **your long drive?**

- 1 **OSWALD:** *(Pushing GRAMPS back down on the sofa)* Gramps is
 2 having a good time flirting — I mean, talking.
- 3 **PETE:** Besides, I don't think Gramps will be going anywhere
 4 tonight — it's really coming down out there.
- 5 **GRAMPS:** *(Looking up)* Thank you, Lord.
- 6 **MIMI:** *(Looking at FESTER, embarrassed for him)* Fester, please
 7 tell me why you are dressed that way.
- 8 **GLENDA MAE:** Fester always dresses up like a shepherd at
 9 Christmas time.
- 10 **FESTER:** It reminds ever'body of the true meaning of
 11 Christmas.
- 12 **OSWALD:** Since when did shepherds carry guitars?
- 13 **FESTER:** Since I couldn't learn to play the fiddle. *(BRENDA*
 14 *MAE enters from the kitchen, wiping her hands on a dish*
 15 *towel.)*
- 16 **BRENDA MAE:** I was wondering where ever'body went off to.
- 17 **GLENDA MAE:** Where you been this whole time?
- 18 **BRENDA MAE:** I found a couple of giant mousetraps, and I
 19 was settin' them out on the back porch.
- 20 **DONALD:** Don't be silly. We don't have mice.
- 21 **BRENDA MAE:** I thought I would trap us a squirrel for
 22 supper.
- 23 **MIMI:** *(Puts hand to her chest.)* I think I'm going to be sick.
- 24 **GRANDMA:** *(Sarcastically)* This is soooo romantic. *(SABRINA*
 25 *enters carrying a clipboard.)*
- 26 **SABRINA:** Well, everyone, it's time for orientation.
- 27 **GLENDA MAE:** Do you think he can make it in that there
 28 storm? *(SABRINA's cell phone rings and she answers it.)*
- 29 **SABRINA:** Excuse me.
- 30 **BRENDA MAE:** *(Patting MIMI on the back)* Don't fret, Cousin
 31 Mimi. You'll like fried squirrel gizzard once you give it a
 32 chance.
- 33 **GLENDA MAE:** *(To MIMI)* Yeah, loosen up a little, Cuz. Like
 34 we say in the country, "In two days tomorrow will be
 35 yesterday."

- 1 **SABRINA:** *(Closing her cell phone)* May I have everyone's
 2 attention? I'm afraid I have some bad news. Because of
 3 the approaching storm, it seems all the ski lifts will be
 4 closed for the next several days.
- 5 **OSWALD:** *(Sarcastically)* Oh, great. What are we supposed to
 6 do stuck here in this lodge?
- 7 **GRAMPS:** I know! Let's play some old-fashioned parlor
 8 games.
- 9 **PETE:** *(Sarcastically)* Whoop-de-doo.
- 10 **GRANDMA:** That's a great idea, Henry. We could start by
 11 playin' spin the bottle of Mylanta. *(Elbows GRAMPS.)*
- 12 **GRAMPS:** There's a fun game we play at the old folks home
 13 called, "Red Rover, Red Rover — the Nurse Says Bend
 14 Over." *(GRAMPS and GRANDMA laugh.)*
- 15 **GRANDMA:** Let's play a guessin' game. Anybody who can
 16 guess what I have in my hand gets a kiss.
- 17 **GRAMPS:** An elephant.
- 18 **GRANDMA:** Close enough. *(They each lean in toward one*
 19 *another.)*
- 20 **DONALD:** Gramps, please. Remember yourself. *(Pulling*
 21 *SABRINA away from the others)* We have got to get rid of
 22 Gramps before he ruins the whole weekend for us.
- 23 **SABRINA:** You're right. Besides, that hillbilly woman is a
 24 bad influence on him.
- 25 **DONALD:** They're acting like a couple of teenagers.
- 26 **SABRINA:** I'm so embarrassed.
- 27 **GRAMPS:** Hey, Imogene — when's the last time you went
 28 out with a man?
- 29 **GRANDMA:** Well, last year I went out with Elmer
 30 Butterworth. It was a big mistake, though. I had to slap
 31 his face.
- 32 **GRAMPS:** He tried to get fresh?
- 33 **GRANDMA:** No, I thought he was dead. *(GRAMPS laughs.)*
- 34 **GRAMPS:** Imogene Taylor, you're a hoot.
- 35 **GRANDMA:** I didn't care though, 'cause he was ugly.

1 GRAMPS: Ugly, huh?

2 GRANDMA: Whoooo-eeee! He was so ugly that when he was
3 a baby, his mama had to feed him with a slingshot.
4 (*They laugh.*)

5 SABRINA: I'm sorry to break up such a cheerful social
6 moment, but we are trying to run a business here. (*The
7 phone rings.*)

8 DONALD: I'll get it. Hello? Aunt Joy! It's great to hear from
9 you. What? You're kidding. No, I guess you can't help
10 it. Merry Christmas to you too. (*He hangs up.*)

11 SABRINA: I can guess what that was about.

12 DONALD: All the roads are closed.

13 GRAMPS: Looks like I'm your guest for the rest of the
14 weekend. (*Looks over at GRANDMA.*) This might not be
15 a bad Christmas after all.

16 GRANDMA: (*Moving just a little bit closer to GRAMPS*) Well,
17 ain't that nice.

18 MIMI: This isn't going to be much fun just sitting around
19 looking at the two old people make google eyes at each
20 other.

21 OSWALD: Mimi, remember what you promised.

22 MIMI: I mean, (*Through her teeth*) aren't they sweet?

23 DONALD: Come on, Gramps — I'll give you your medicine
24 and you can hit the sack early.

25 GRAMPS: I'm not sleepy.

26 GRANDMA: He ain't sleepy.

27 OSWALD: Grandma Taylor, don't be disrespectful.

28 DONALD: You'll be sleepy once you get in there. So, tell
29 everyone good night, and off to beddy-bye.

30 PETE: You too, Grandma Taylor. You don't want to overdo
31 it. You had a long drive, so you must be fatigued.

32 GRANDMA: No, I ain't! And I ain't tired neither.

33 OSWALD: Of course you are. Get a good night's sleep and
34 you and Gramps here can take a nice little stroll
35 around the lodge tomorrow after you've shared a

- 1 romantic bowl of stewed prunes.
- 2 **GRANDMA:** Now hold on a cotton-pickin' minute. In case
3 y'all ain't noticed, we are both grewed-up people. We
4 will take our vitamins when we want, go to sleep when
5 we want, and take a stroll around the lodge when we
6 want.
- 7 **GRAMPS:** Amen, beautiful!
- 8 **OSWALD:** And they can even get married when they want.
9 Isn't that right, Grandma?
- 10 **SABRINA:** Married? Who said anything about getting
11 married?
- 12 **GRANDMA:** I've had enough of this interferin'. Let's go,
13 Henry — I learned a long time ago that there ain't no
14 use fightin' it.
- 15 **GRAMPS:** (*Walking toward the door with his walker*) I guess
16 you're right. I'll just go soak in a hot tub — my joints
17 are beginning to stiffen up on me. Goodnight,
18 everybody.
- 19 **SABRINA:** (*Walks them to the door.*) And stay out of here for
20 the rest of the night, please! (*GRANDMA and GRAMPS*
21 *exit.*) I'm really sorry about that, everyone.
- 22 **DONALD:** Gramps was supposed to be out of here by now.
23 But what with the storm and everything ...
- 24 **MIMI:** Well, at least the grouchy old man will help keep the
25 grouchy old woman occupied.
- 26 **SABRINA:** Forget about those two. What would everyone
27 like to do?
- 28 **MIMI:** Now that we can't ski, I'd like to jump on a plane and
29 go back home.
- 30 **PETE:** (*To SABRINA*) We *did* have our hearts set on skiing
31 this weekend.
- 32 **FESTER:** Hey, I know what! I could do my shepherd talk
33 that I always do back home this time of year.
- 34 **OSWALD:** What's a shepherd talk?
- 35 **FESTER:** (*Striking a dramatic pose*) "And there were



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