

BUGBY AND CANDLE

by Jeff Morrow



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PRODUCTION NOTES

These puppet plays have been designed for one performer to present while standing before his/her audience, a sock-type puppet on each hand.

The plays may also be produced in a traditional puppet theater format with three performers. For this reason, four scripts are enclosed in this packet — three for the performers and one for the director or organist should you choose to use musical punctuation as a lead-in or closing “button.”

The puppets themselves may be simple sock puppets:

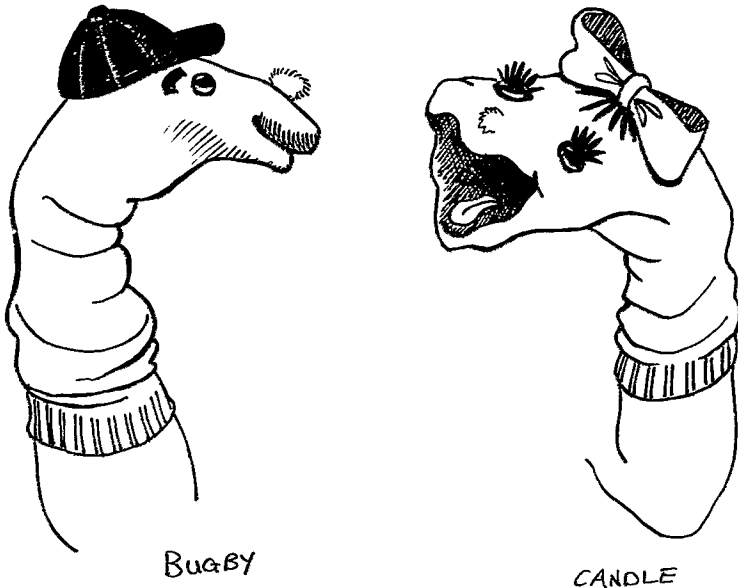


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The Best Bean Bag Catcher in the Whole World

(BUGBY has a bean bag in his mouth. The PUPPETEER keeps BUGBY hidden behind his back. CANDLE greets the children.)

CANDLE: Good morning, little people. My name's "Candle."

(Beat) **Pretty hot name, huh? And this is my good friend —**

(CANDLE turns to introduce BUGBY, but is quite surprised to see BUGBY is not with her.) **Bugby? Oh, dear! He was with**

me a minute ago! *(CANDLE frantically looks up and down and side to side for BUGBY.)* **Bugby! Bugby!** *(The*

PUPPETEER begins to turn as CANDLE continues to search for BUGBY. With the PUPPETEER'S back to the children, they

discover the hiding BUGBY.) **Bugby! Hey, Bugby!?** *(The PUPPETEER completes the circle, again facing the children.*

CANDLE gets right up in the PUPPETEER'S face.) **Okay you!**

What did you do with Bugby?

PUPPETEER: I didn't do anything with him.

CANDLE: *(Still in the PUPPETEER'S face)* **Bugby!** *(Now to*

children) **I'll tell you what: I'm going to go look for Bugby,**

you people wait right here, okay? *(To the PUPPETEER)*

And you! Don't leave town! *(The PUPPETEER takes*

CANDLE behind his back and at the same time brings BUGBY forward.)

PUPPETEER: Bugby!

BUGBY: *(With the bean bag in his mouth, his speech is quite*

garbled.) **Mmmph?**

PUPPETEER: Candle was just here. She was looking

everywhere for you!

BUGBY: *(Still garbled)* **I know. Watch this . . .** *(With much effort,*

BUGBY tosses the bean bag high into the air.)

PUPPETEER: *(Quickly)* **What are you doing?**

BUGBY: *(Thus distracted, he looks at the PUPPETEER as the bean*

bag falls to the floor.) **Practicing.** *(Slowly looking at the fallen*

bean bag, then back to the PUPPETEER. Calmly:) **I missed.**

- 1 *(BUGBY and the PUPPETEER look again at the fallen bean*
 2 *bag, then at one another.)*
- 3 **PUPPETEER: Practicing for what?**
- 4 **BUGBY: I'm going to be the best bean bag catcher in the whole**
 5 **world.** *(BUGBY and the PUPPETEER look at the fallen bean*
 6 *bag.)*
- 7 **PUPPETEER: I think you need some more practice.** *(BUGBY*
 8 *looks quickly to the PUPPETEER, then reaches down for the*
 9 *bean bag.)*
- 10 **BUGBY: (Voice garbled) Right.** *(BUGBY tosses the bean bag high*
 11 *into the air. He makes a gallant effort to catch it. He just misses.)*
- 12 **PUPPETEER: Try again, Bugby.**
- 13 **BUGBY: Right.** *(BUGBY reaches again for the bean bag. He tosses*
 14 *it into the air. He misses again.)*
- 15 **PUPPETEER: Try again.** *(BUGBY looks at the PUPPETEER.*
 16 *He reaches for the bean bag and again tosses it high in the air.*
 17 *He misses a fourth time.)*
- 18 **BUGBY: (Quickly looking at the PUPPETEER.) Don't say it!**
 19 *(BUGBY impatiently retrieves the bean bag, tosses it into the air*
 20 *a fifth time, and promptly misses it a fifth time. BUGBY stares*
 21 *at the fallen bean bag a moment. He is frustrated. He slowly*
 22 *turns toward the PUPPETEER. As if overcome with emotion,*
 23 *BUGBY gasps and quickly buries his face in the PUPPETEER'S*
 24 *neck.)*
- 25 **PUPPETEER: (Gently) Bugby?**
- 26 **BUGBY: (Looking up at the PUPPETEER) What?** *(He gasps again*
 27 *and shoves his face into the PUPPETEER'S neck.)*
- 28 **PUPPETEER: Why do you want to be the best bean bag**
 29 **catcher in the whole world?**
- 30 **BUGBY: (Looking up) So Candle will love me.** *(He gasps and*
 31 *hides his face. The PUPPETEER brings CANDLE forward.)*
- 32 **CANDLE: (Thrilled to see BUGBY) Bugby! I'm so glad to see you!**
- 33 **BUGBY: (Looking up. Soberly:) Hell-o, Candle.** *(He buries his face*
 34 *again.)*
- 35 **CANDLE: I was worried about you! Where have you been?**

- 1 **BUGBY:** *(Looking up)* **Practicing.**
2 **CANDLE:** **Practicing?**
3 **BUGBY:** **Yeah. I wanted to be the best bean bag catcher in**
4 **the world.**
5 **CANDLE:** *(A bit confused)* **The best bean bag catcher in the**
6 **world?**
7 **BUGBY:** **Yeah. I wanted you to love me. I wanted to be**
8 **somebody special. But I'm not. I'm just Bugby.** *(He gasps*
9 *and buries his face again.)*
10 **CANDLE:** *(Gently)* **But Bugby, that's exactly why I love you!**
11 **BUGBY:** *(Slowly looking up)* **Just because I'm Bugby?**
12 **CANDLE:** **Nobody else is!** *(BUGBY & CANDLE hug one another.)*
13 **PUPPETEER:** *(To children)* **That's for sure! There's only one**
14 **Bugby, and that's why Candle loves him. And there's only**
15 **one of you, too. And that's why Jesus loves you.**
16 **BUGBY:** *(To children)* **Goodbye, boys and girls.**
17 **CANDLE:** **See you next time.**
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Hey You!

(BUGBY is wearing a name tag. It reads, "Hell-o. My name is Hey You.")

CANDLE: Good morning, miniature humans! Have you ever seen these things before? *(Referring to BUGBY'S name tag)* They're called "name tags." You're supposed to write your name on it and peel off the back part and stick it on your shirt so people will know who you are. Not everyone knows who you are. Not everyone knows your name —

BUGBY: *(Interrupting. He disagrees.)* My friends know my name.

CANDLE: *(To BUGBY)* Sure they do! *(Now to the children)* But, to —

BUGBY: My mom and dad know my name!

CANDLE: Of course, they do! But —

BUGBY: My uncle in Toledo knows my name!

CANDLE: *(Sighing)* Your friends and relatives all know your name, but to a lot of other people, more people than you can even think of, you're just plain, "Hey You."

BUGBY: Hey me?

CANDLE: "Hey you." And that's just what I've written on your name tag: "Hey You." *(BUGBY looks at the tag.)*

CANDLE: *(Roughly)* Hey you! Move so I can get by! *(BUGBY is startled. He looks all around wondering to whom CANDLE is speaking.)*

CANDLE: Hey you! Sit down!

BUGBY: Me?

CANDLE: Hey you! Is this your jacket with the ripped pocket?

BUGBY: Jacket?

CANDLE: When people call me "Hey You," I don't like it.

BUGBY: I don't think I like it either.

CANDLE: When people call me "Hey You" that means they don't know my name. And if they don't know my name, then how can they know anything about me?

BUGBY: They could read about you on the sports page.

1 **CANDLE:** (*Shushes BUGBY.*) When people call me “Hey You,”
 2 they don’t know I like synthesizer music. When people
 3 call me “Hey You,” they don’t know I like oatmeal cookies
 4 and cold milk. When people call me “Hey You,” they don’t
 5 know I like Saturday morning cartoons and Fruit Loops
 6 right out of the box. When people call me “Hey You,” they
 7 really could be talking to anybody.

8 **BUGBY:** I guess all of us are “Hey You” to someone.

9 **CANDLE:** But not to God. God knows I like synthesizer music
 10 and oatmeal cookies and Saturday morning cartoons —

11 **BUGBY:** Especially Bugs Bunny.

12 **CANDLE:** And God knows my name! He knows my first name
 13 and my middle name and my last name.

14 **BUGBY:** Does he know how to spell your name?

15 **CANDLE:** He most certainly does! In fact, God has written
 16 my name down in his book of “very best friends.”

17 **BUGBY:** You’re kidding!

18 **CANDLE:** Nope!

19 **BUGBY:** Gasp!

20 **CANDLE:** And you know what? God knows the names of all
 21 these boys and girls too! And he has all of their names
 22 written down in his book of very best friends, ’cause he
 23 likes them an awful lot!

24 **BUGBY:** Candle?

25 **CANDLE:** What?

26 **BUGBY:** Did you rip my jacket pocket?

27 **CANDLE:** No. (*To the children*) Goodbye, boys and girls.

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Christmas Catalogue

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(BUGBY is behind the PUPPETEER'S back.)

CANDLE: Good morning, aging infants. *(BUGBY is brought forward.)* Good morning, Bugby. *(BUGBY does not answer.)*

I said, good morning, Bugby!

BUGBY: *(Absently)* Oh. Yeah.

CANDLE: How come your eyes are all glassy?

BUGBY: I don't know.

CANDLE: What have you been doing?

BUGBY: Looking at the Christmas catalogue.

CANDLE: Oh? See anything in there you want?

BUGBY: One.

CANDLE: Just one thing?

BUGBY: One of everything!

CANDLE: Do you suppose there's anything in that catalogue
God wants?

BUGBY: Maybe the ice crusher.

CANDLE: I doubt it.

BUGBY: New sports coat?

CANDLE: Bugby!

BUGBY: Luggage!

CANDLE: Fat chance! Don't you have any idea what God
wants?

BUGBY: Nothing from the catalogue?

CANDLE: Nothing from the catalogue.

BUGBY: I know! He wants me to go to church and Sunday
school!

CANDLE: Maybe. Can you think of anything else?

BUGBY: He wants me to be good!

CANDLE: Could be. Anything else?

BUGBY: He wants me to love everybody! Even Max!

CANDLE: Who's Max?

BUGBY: The Great Dane that ate my frisbee!

CANDLE: Oh. *(Beat)* Bugby, you just named three things God

- 1 wants. Would you say them again for me? Please.
- 2 BUGBY: Sure. Try to stay awake this time.
- 3 CANDLE: I will.
- 4 BUGBY: God wants me to —
- 5 CANDLE: *Stop!*
- 6 BUGBY: What?
- 7 CANDLE: Go on to the next one!
- 8 BUGBY: Well, God wants me to —
- 9 CANDLE: *Stop! Go on to the next one!*
- 10 BUGBY: (*Rapidly. Trying to get it out*) God wants me to —
- 11 CANDLE: *Stop! Stop! Stop!*
- 12 BUGBY: *Okay! Okay! Okay!*
- 13 CANDLE: Three times you said: “God wants me to!”
- 14 BUGBY: I tried to anyway!
- 15 CANDLE: Three times you started to tell me what God wants
- 16 you *to do*! Not what God actually wants for himself! What
- 17 he wants, and what he wants you to do are two different
- 18 things entirely.
- 19 BUGBY: So what *does* God want?
- 20 CANDLE: Tell me your answers one more time.
- 21 BUGBY: Are you *nuts*?
- 22 CANDLE: Please.
- 23 BUGBY: Oh, all right! God . . . (*He looks to CANDLE expecting to*
- 24 *be interrupted.*)
- 25 CANDLE: Go on!
- 26 BUGBY: Wants . . . (*He waits.*)
- 27 CANDLE: Go on!
- 28 BUGBY: Me . . .
- 29 CANDLE: *Stop!*
- 30 BUGBY: I knew it! You’re nuts!
- 31 CANDLE: That’s it!
- 32 BUGBY: That’s what?
- 33 CANDLE: That’s what God wants!
- 34 BUGBY: God wants me?
- 35 CANDLE: More than anything in the world.

1 **BUGBY:** More than anything in the Christmas catalogue?
2 **CANDLE:** Yep!
3 **BUGBY:** But what's he want me for?
4 **CANDLE:** Forever.
5 **BUGBY:** *Forever?*
6 **CANDLE:** God loves you so much he just wants to be with
7 you everyday! *(To the children)* And he loves you guys just
8 as much!
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(CANDLE is behind the PUPPETEER'S back. She has a large toy in her mouth. BUGBY greets the children.)

BUGBY: Good morning, small persons. How are you this morning? *(Pause)* Today, I'd like to talk to you about something very important. It's so important, in fact, I can't believe we don't hear more sermons about it. *(BUGBY inhales loudly.)* I'm talking about grape gum. Just yesterday my lips were so purple, I thought — *(The PUPPETEER brings CANDLE forward. BUGBY stops his speech and does a double take.)* What are you doing? *(CANDLE mumbles some unintelligible syllables.)* What? *(CANDLE mumbles again.)* That's what I thought you said. *(He looks to the PUPPETEER, then back to CANDLE.)* Here! Let me take that! *(He takes the large toy into his own mouth.)*

CANDLE: I said — I'm cleaning my room! *(BUGBY now mumbles something.)* What? *(BUGBY mumbles again. CANDLE looks slowly to the children, then back to BUGBY.)* Give that to me! *(She takes the toy.)*

BUGBY: I said — that's no fun! *(CANDLE mumbles.)* What? *(He takes the toy.)*

CANDLE: *(Becoming impatient)* I said — I know! And I wish someone would take this toy so we could talk! *(CANDLE and BUGBY slowly turn toward the PUPPETEER.)*

PUPPETEER: Don't look at me! I have my hands full already!

CANDLE: He's right. *(BUGBY mumbles "I know.")*

PUPPETEER: Why don't you set the toy down?

CANDLE: *(To the PUPPETEER)* Clever.

BUGBY: *(Sets the toy down.)* I would have thought of it eventually.

CANDLE: *(To the children)* Maybe. *(Then to BUGBY)* Say, Bugby, after I finish cleaning my room, do you want to play kick ball?

BUGBY: Can't.

1 **CANDLE:** Why not?
2 **BUGBY:** I have to mow the lawn.
3 **CANDLE:** That's no fun!
4 **BUGBY:** You're telling me?
5 **CANDLE:** How come everything we *have* to do is no fun?
6 **BUGBY:** Yeah. Like going to school!
7 **CANDLE:** Or taking the trash out!
8 **BUGBY:** Or taking a bath with your brother!
9 **PUPPETEER:** Bugby! Candle! You don't have to do those
10 things!
11 **CANDLE:** *(Shocked)* What?
12 **BUGBY:** Gee! That's great!
13 **CANDLE:** Thanks a lot! *(BUGBY and CANDLE begin to make a*
14 *rapid exit behind the PUPPETEER'S back.)*
15 **PUPPETEER:** Hold it, you two!
16 **BUGBY:** I knew there was a catch.
17 **CANDLE:** Me, too. *(BUGBY and CANDLE slowly look up at the*
18 *PUPPETEER.)*
19 **PUPPETEER:** There's no catch. It's true. You don't have to
20 go to school. You don't have to take the trash out. And
21 you certainly don't have to take baths — with or without
22 your brother!
23 **BUGBY:** *(Skeptically)* Sounds good so far. Go on.
24 **PUPPETEER:** Would you die if you didn't go to school?
25 **BUGBY:** Some people would like us to believe that!
26 **PUPPETEER:** You wouldn't die.
27 **CANDLE:** I wouldn't even get sick.
28 **PUPPETEER:** What would happen if you never took the
29 trash out?
30 **BUGBY:** Dad says I'd never get any exercise! And I certainly
31 wouldn't get any allowance.
32 **PUPPETEER:** Maybe. But would you die?
33 **BUGBY:** Nah!
34 **PUPPETEER:** Of course not! And you wouldn't die if you
35 never set foot in a bathtub again!

1 CANDLE: You wouldn't smell too nice.
2 PUPPETEER: No, you wouldn't smell nice, but you wouldn't
3 die.
4 CANDLE: Our friends might.
5 PUPPETEER: Maybe.
6 BUGBY: Probably.
7 PUPPETEER: Nevertheless, you see — you really don't *have*
8 to do any of those things.
9 BUGBY: Great!
10 CANDLE: Thanks a lot! (*BUGBY and CANDLE start to exit.*)
11 PUPPETEER: Hold it! (*BUGBY and CANDLE turn.*) There are
12 a couple of things you *do* have to do. And, if for some
13 reason you don't do these things you truly will die.
14 BUGBY: Go on.
15 PUPPETEER: You have to eat. If you don't eat, you die. And
16 you have to drink. If you don't drink, you die. There are
17 some other things you *have* to do, but they're automatic.
18 You do them without even trying. Like breathing.
19 BUGBY: I'm pretty good at that. It's sort of a hobby of mine.
20 PUPPETEER: I bet it is. Now, when God made us, he knew
21 we would have to eat and drink to stay alive. And, he
22 could have made eating and drinking a chore — like
23 mowing the grass or cleaning up your room.
24 CANDLE: But he didn't!
25 BUGBY: Yeah! Eating and drinking can be a lot of fun!
26 PUPPETEER: God loves us so much, he made the only things
27 we really truly have to do — fun!
28 BUGBY: I can't wait til church is over!
29 PUPPETEER: How come?
30 BUGBY: I'm heading for Burger World for a Biff Burger and
31 cola!
32 CANDLE: See you next time, boys and girls.
33 BUGBY: Goodbye, little persons.
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Fido*

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3 **PUPPETEER:** Good morning, boys and girls. Is everybody
4 okay today? (*The PUPPETEER brings CANDLE forward.*)
5 Good morning, Candle.
6 **CANDLE:** (*After a pause. Downhearted*) Good morning.
7 **PUPPETEER:** You sound sad, Candle. What's the matter?
8 **CANDLE:** (*After a pause*) Fido died.
9 **PUPPETEER:** That is sad. Fido was your new puppy, wasn't
10 he?
11 **CANDLE:** Uh huh. (*Starts to cry.*) And I wanted to play with
12 him and teach him tricks. And I wanted him to sleep on
13 my bed at night.
14 **PUPPETEER:** (*Stroking CANDLE with his free hand*) I'm sure
15 you'll miss him a great deal.
16 **CANDLE:** (*Calming a bit*) And you know something else?
17 **PUPPETEER:** What?
18 **CANDLE:** I'm kind of scared.
19 **PUPPETEER:** Why are you scared?
20 **CANDLE:** 'Cause someday I'll have to die, too. And I don't
21 know what it feels like.
22 **PUPPETEER:** That's true. All of us will die someday. And
23 none of us knows what it feels like.
24 **CANDLE:** Are you scared, too?
25 **PUPPETEER:** Sometimes.
26 **CANDLE:** Really?
27 **PUPPETEER:** Really.
28 **CANDLE:** I wonder what dying will be like?
29 **PUPPETEER:** Do you remember when Bugby and you and
30 me went to the carnival?
31 **CANDLE:** Sure, I do.
32 **PUPPETEER:** Do you remember how hard we played? All
33 the rides we went on? All the walking we did?
34
35 *Based on a sermon by Peter Marshall.



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