

**MORE BUGBY
AND CANDLE**

by Jeff Morrow



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More 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 theatre 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:

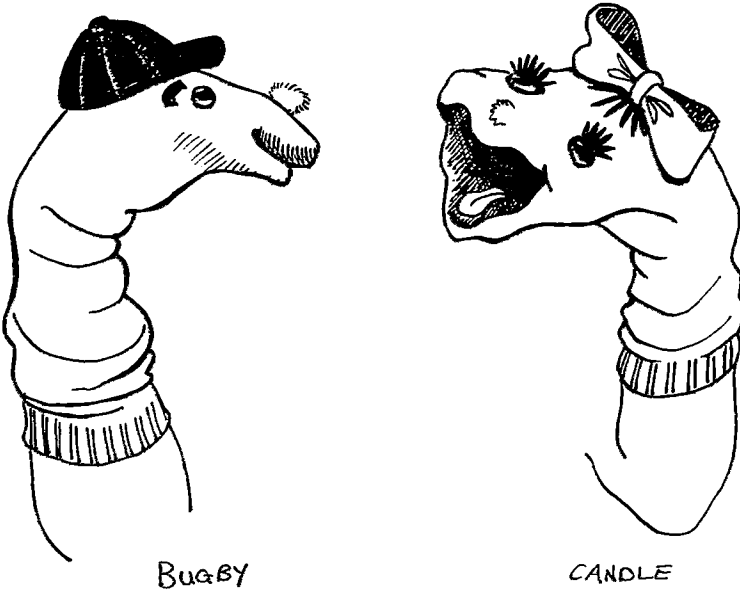


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Pretty Darn Mad

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2
3 *(Behind his/her back, the PUPPETEER has a ruler, or, for better*
4 *effect, a Wiffle Ball bat or small baseball bat tucked into his/her*
5 *back trouser pocket. CANDLE will be using this "weapon" later.*
6 *The PUPPETEER has BUGBY and CANDLE nose-to-nose,*
7 *quivering.)*
8 **BUGBY:** *(In CANDLE's face)* I can tell. *(Two or more beats.*
9 *CANDLE does not respond. Now to PUPPETEER)* I can tell,
10 **you know.** *(Again, nose-to-nose with a quivering CANDLE who*
11 *is obviously angry.)* I can.
12 **PUPPETEER:** You can tell what?
13 **BUGBY:** I can tell Candle's pretty darn mad.
14 **PUPPETEER:** Candle, are you angry?
15 **CANDLE:** Grrr!
16 **PUPPETEER:** *(To BUGBY)* You're right. She's pretty darn
17 mad.
18 **BUGBY:** I told you.
19 **PUPPETEER:** How did she get that way?
20 **BUGBY:** Beats me.
21 **CANDLE:** I'd like to!
22 **PUPPETEER:** Candle, tell me what happened.
23 **CANDLE:** He didn't even ask me if he could borrow my
24 favorite video game cartridge. He just went into my room
25 and took it, and now it's lost!
26 **BUGBY:** *(Tentatively)* Uhhh . . .
27 **PUPPETEER:** Is that what happened, Bugby?
28 **BUGBY:** *(Not wishing to commit himself)* Uhhh . . .
29 **CANDLE:** And now I'm pretty darn mad!
30 **BUGBY:** Well, that's not very Christian of you, Candle.
31 Christians aren't supposed to get mad.
32 **CANDLE:** Grrr!
33 **BUGBY:** *(To PUPPETEER)* Christians aren't supposed to get
34 mad. It's in their contract, I think.
35 **PUPPETEER:** Oh, but Bugby! Christians *do* get mad!

- 1 **BUGBY:** They do?
- 2 **CANDLE:** Grrr!
- 3 **PUPPETEER:** Saint Paul got angry, and he even got into lots
4 of arguments with folks.
- 5 **BUGBY:** He did?
- 6 **CANDLE:** Grrr!
- 7 **PUPPETEER:** Jesus himself got angry on occasion.
- 8 **BUGBY:** *(He realizes he may be in trouble.)* Oh, boy . . .
- 9 **CANDLE:** Grrr!
- 10 **PUPPETEER:** So, I'd have to say Christians *do* get angry.
11 And it's OK to get angry. In fact, it's impossible to *not* get
12 angry sometimes! Darn angry!
- 13 **CANDLE:** I can get mad and still be a Christian?
- 14 **PUPPETEER:** Yes.
- 15 **CANDLE:** I'll be right back. *(CANDLE gets the ruler or ball bat
16 hidden in the PUPPETEER's back pocket and returns with it
17 clenched firmly in her mouth. BUGBY opens his mouth wide in
18 horror and, as far as the PUPPETEER can reach, BUGBY stands
19 clear of CANDLE.)*
- 20 **PUPPETEER:** Now this is where things get interesting.
21 Bugby, come here.
- 22 **CANDLE:** Grrr!
- 23 **BUGBY:** In a minute.
- 24 **PUPPETEER:** Candle won't strike you, because even though
25 Christians, like other people, can't help but get angry
26 sometimes, it's what we do with our anger that sets us
27 apart from the rest of the world. Jesus told us that as
28 many times as our neighbor comes to us and apologizes,
29 we must forgive him. *(BUGBY doesn't seem to catch the
30 PUPPETEER's "drift," so, after a moment or two, the
31 PUPPETEER clears his/her throat loudly. At this, BUGBY
32 comes closer.)*
- 33 **BUGBY:** Uh, Candle?
- 34 **CANDLE:** *(To the PUPPETEER. With the ruler or bat in her mouth,
35 her speech is not particularly clear, but she is not unintelligible.)*

1 **Can I hit him now?**

2 **PUPPETEER:** **Let's see what he has to say for himself.**

3 **BUGBY:** **Candle, I'm sorry I lost your video game cartridge.**

4 **I'll keep looking for it until I find it. Forgive me?**

5 **PUPPETEER:** *(To CANDLE)* **Remember, Candle, it's OK to be**
6 **angry; it's what we do with our anger that sets us apart.**

7 **CANDLE:** *(Tossing her weapon over the PUPPETEER's shoulder)*

8 **Oh, OK. I forgive you, Bugby. Let's go look for it together.**

9 **BUGBY:** *(To the PUPPETEER)* **Thanks. (Now referring to**
10 **CANDLE's discarded weapon) You might want to pick that**
11 **up before somebody trips on it and gets mad.**

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1 **The Chicken or the Egg?**

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3 **CANDLE:** *(To PUPPETEER)* Do you think I'm smart?

4 **PUPPETEER:** I've always thought you were smart.

5 **CANDLE:** Really and truly smart?

6 **PUPPETEER:** Really and truly smart.

7 **CANDLE:** Well, I just don't get it then.

8 **PUPPETEER:** Don't get what?

9 **CANDLE:** How I can be really and truly smart and still not
10 be able to figure out which came first: the chicken or the
11 egg?

12 **PUPPETEER:** That riddle has baffled great minds for a long,
13 long time.

14 **BUGBY:** Yeah, well, I'd like to help, but I'm taking this great
15 mind of mine, and I'm outta here. *(He starts to exit.)*

16 **PUPPETEER:** What?

17 **BUGBY:** I'm going to California with an achin' in my heart.

18 **PUPPETEER:** Pardon me?

19 **BUGBY:** I'm shufflin' off to Buffalo. I'm gathering no moss.
20 I'm goin' to Alabama with a banjo on my knee. I'm —

21 **PUPPETEER:** Bugby, what are you up to?

22 **BUGBY:** I'm easin' on down the road. I'm off to see the wizard.
23 I'm going where no man has gone be —

24 **PUPPETEER:** Bugby.

25 **BUGBY:** I'm moving out. I want to get my own place.

26 **CANDLE:** Oh, brother! That's the stupidest thing I ever heard
27 you say!

28 **BUGBY:** Oh yeah?

29 **CANDLE:** Yeah.

30 **BUGBY:** Well, I've said a lot of "stupider" things than that
31 before!

32 **CANDLE:** Oh yeah?

33 **BUGBY:** Yeah.

34 **PUPPETEER:** Bugby, how did you come to this decision?

35 **BUGBY:** Health reasons.

- 1 PUPPETEER: Health reasons?
- 2 BUGBY: Yeah. It's making me a nervous wreck living with
3 all these rules.
- 4 PUPPETEER: Rules your parents have for you?
- 5 BUGBY: Yep. So I'm movin' out.
- 6 CANDLE: How are you going to eat?
- 7 BUGBY: You're pretty dumb for someone "really and truly
8 smart." I'm going to eat with my mouth. Like always.
- 9 CANDLE: And where are you going to sleep?
- 10 BUGBY: On my back. Like I have for years.
- 11 CANDLE: What will you do if you get sick?
- 12 BUGBY: I'll moan and groan. Just like before.
- 13 CANDLE: That's the stupidest thing I ever heard!
- 14 BUGBY: Oh yeah?
- 15 PUPPETEER: Bugby, someday you'll have to take care of
16 yourself. You'll have to buy your own food and pay your
17 own rent. And when you get sick, it'll be up to you to do
18 those things that will help you get better. But for now,
19 your parents do those things for you.
- 20 CANDLE: You need grown-ups to take care of you. Little
21 people need big people.
- 22 PUPPETEER: At least until the little people can become big
23 people themselves. That's the way God planned it, and his
24 arrangement has worked out pretty well so far.
- 25 BUGBY: Maybe you're right. Maybe I do need my parents.
26 *(He starts to exit.)* By the way, I know which came first. It
27 was the chicken.
- 28 CANDLE: How do you figure?
- 29 BUGBY: Because little chickens need big chickens until the
30 little chickens can become big chickens themselves. That's
31 the way God planned it. I'm gonna go unpack my banjo.
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God's Nose

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(BUGBY is the star of this show. CANDLE does not perform. BUGBY is behind the PUPPETEER's back when the play begins.)

PUPPETEER: *(To the congregation)* I'm waiting for Bugby. He and I are going to take a walk. We do that a lot. We like it. We enjoy each other's company. Yesterday, while we were out walking, Bugby asked me what kind of shoes God wears. I told him I didn't know. I told him I wasn't even sure God had feet. Bugby said God has feet because his Sunday school teacher told him that God and Adam used to take walks every evening in the Garden of Eden. So now I'm wondering — what kind of shoes *does* God wear? *(The PUPPETEER brings BUGBY forward.)*

BUGBY: Good morning. If God sneezes, are you supposed to say "God bless you" or "You bless you?"

PUPPETEER: Good morning. I'm not sure God even has a nose.

BUGBY: Oh, he has a nose all right. My Sunday school teacher says some of the burnt offerings in the Old Testament smelled pretty good to him.

PUPPETEER: In that case, I'm not sure what you're supposed to say to God if he sneezes. Maybe you should ask your Sunday school teacher.

BUGBY: I will. But sometimes she says I think too much.

PUPPETEER: I think she's right.

BUGBY: Are you ready for our walk?

PUPPETEER: I'm looking forward to it.

BUGBY: Why did God and Adam stop taking walks?

PUPPETEER: I remember reading in the book of Amos where God asks, "... how can we walk together with your sins between us?" (Amos 3:3)

BUGBY: I told you God had a nose.

PUPPETEER: How's that?

1 **BUGBY:** Sin stinks. And nobody wants to walk with
2 somebody who stinks.

3 **PUPPETEER:** In a manner of speaking, you may be right.

4 **BUGBY:** It happened to me the other day. Remember?

5 **PUPPETEER:** Help me.

6 **BUGBY:** I was playing basketball all afternoon —

7 **PUPPETEER:** OK . . .

8 **BUGBY:** And before you'd take me on a walk, you said I might
9 want to take a shower. Same thing: sin and stink, stink
10 and sin. Hey! That makes Jesus sort of a shower.

11 **PUPPETEER:** *(He/she might look "heavenward" here.)* Help me.

12 **BUGBY:** After my shower, we took a long walk together.

13 **PUPPETEER:** OK . . .

14 **BUGBY:** And after God forgives us our sins — because of our
15 Jesus-shower — we can take long walks with him! Oh, and
16 I'll betcha God doesn't wear shoes.

17 **PUPPETEER:** How's that?

18 **BUGBY:** My Sunday school teacher says souls are precious
19 to God. And shoes have soles. And God would never step
20 on something precious.

21 **PUPPETEER:** Good thinking.

22 **BUGBY:** Thanks. Let's go.

23 **PUPPETEER:** Bugby?

24 **BUGBY:** Yeah?

25 **PUPPETEER:** I think if I ever heard God sneeze, I'd just say
26 "Gesundheit."

27 **BUGBY:** Good thinking.

28 **PUPPETEER:** Thanks. Let's go.

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Big Plans

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CANDLE: What are you going to be doing three weeks from today?

BUGBY: I dunno.

CANDLE: Really. I'm going to need your help that day. What are you doing?

BUGBY: I dunno. Really.

CANDLE: *(Incredulous)* You're kidding!

BUGBY: I'm not.

CANDLE: You are!

BUGBY: Not!

CANDLE: I know what I'm going to be doing every day for the next fifty years. I have my entire life planned out! *(BUGBY and the PUPPETEER look at one another, then back to CANDLE.)* I'm going to have a good life. I'm planning on being a great success.

PUPPETEER: I hope that you do have a good life full of success, Candle.

CANDLE: I will. It's part of my plan.

BUGBY: I hope you save up enough money for that brain operation you obviously need!

CANDLE: I won't *need* a brain operation. I won't need any operation. It's not part of my plan. It's not on my schedule.

PUPPETEER: Tell us about your plan.

CANDLE: I'm going to stay away from drugs.

PUPPETEER: That's good.

CANDLE: I'm not going to join any gangs.

PUPPETEER: Good.

CANDLE: Or shoot anybody. Or drive too fast. Or eat junk food. Or kick any dogs.

PUPPETEER: All good.

CANDLE: I won't litter. Or call people hateful names.

PUPPETEER: Very good, Candle!

CANDLE: When I get to high school, I'm going to be an

1 outstanding athlete and make straight A's. I'll volunteer
2 to work with the homeless and teach people to read.

3 PUPPETEER: All admirable!

4 CANDLE: I'll graduate from high school. Get a good job. Oh,
5 and a good car. I'll have a boyfriend who'll probably be
6 real handsome, and he'll love me with all his heart.

7 BUGBY: *(To the PUPPETEER)* I think I'm getting nauseous.

8 PUPPETEER: *(To CANDLE)* Go on, Candle.

9 CANDLE: Then I'll go to college. Then probably med school.
10 And I'll become a famous doctor and make lots of money
11 and help lots of people. *(To BUGBY, sarcastically)* I might
12 even help you! If I'm not too busy.

13 BUGBY: *(To the PUPPETEER)* I need an antacid.

14 PUPPETEER: Candle, I think you have a wonderful plan. I
15 hope nothing stands in the way of your happiness.

16 BUGBY: What if she gets run over by a truck? *(The*
17 *PUPPETEER frowns.)* OK. A small foreign car? *(The*
18 *PUPPETEER frowns harder.)* A rusty motor scooter that's
19 almost out of gas and has bald tires?

20 PUPPETEER: You know, Candle, as silly as it sounds, Bugby
21 might have a point.

22 BUGBY: *(Does a double-take.)* I do?

23 PUPPETEER: Yes.

24 CANDLE: *(Also does a double-take.)* He does?

25 PUPPETEER: Yes, indeed. Although I pray you won't get run
26 over, sometimes things happen to us, both good and bad,
27 that we were not expecting. Sometimes our "life plans"
28 must change drastically. But no matter what happens to
29 us, God will guide our steps if we let him. The Bible says
30 making big plans is just fine. But we are wise when we
31 say, "If God will help me, I'll do this or that." So, Candle,
32 I hope with God's help you have a great life full of
33 outstanding success!

34 CANDLE: Thanks.

35 BUGBY: Just be careful crossing the street.

Scary Stuff and Gravity

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(This time, CANDLE steals the spotlight. BUGBY does not perform.)

CANDLE: I'm scared.

PUPPETEER: Tell me why you're scared.

CANDLE: I'm scared I can't stop doing bad things.

PUPPETEER: Bad things?

CANDLE: I'm scared I can't stop sinning. I want to stop. I try to stop, but I always mess up.

PUPPETEER: Saint Paul had the same problem.

CANDLE: *(Somewhat surprised)* He did?

PUPPETEER: Yes. He complained about it a long, long time ago: *(Affecting a "Saint Paul" voice*)* "I don't understand myself at all," he said, "for I really want to do what is right, but I can't. I do what I don't want to — what I hate." *(Romans 7:15)*

CANDLE: If Saint Paul couldn't stop sinning, *I'll* never be able to stop. Life's impossible!

PUPPETEER: Sometimes it does feel that way.

CANDLE: Why do we have to be punished for our sins anyway?

PUPPETEER: Lots of people might tell you God punishes us for our sins just like a mother or father punishes their child for breaking rules. I could tell you the same thing. *(Long pause)* But I won't.

CANDLE: You won't?

PUPPETEER: No.

CANDLE: Why not?

PUPPETEER: Because I don't believe it.

CANDLE: Really?

PUPPETEER: Not entirely. You see, God loves us much more

* *Don't ask silly questions. The author hasn't a clue what sort of voice Saint Paul had. Just make one up!*

1 than any mother or father could ever love their child. I
2 don't think God punishes us for our sins as much as our
3 sins *themselves* punish us!

4 CANDLE: Huh?

5 PUPPETEER: God created a perfect world. And this perfect
6 world was perfect because God also created perfect laws.

7 CANDLE: That's a lot of "perfects."

8 PUPPETEER: It's a lot of world. Understand?

9 CANDLE: Perfectly.

10 PUPPETEER: One of God's perfect laws has to do with
11 gravity.

12 CANDLE: The Law of Gravity!

13 PUPPETEER: Yep. Ever break that law?

14 CANDLE: Yep.

15 PUPPETEER: What happened?

16 CANDLE: I stepped off the garage roof. I was trying to get
17 Bugby's baseball down before he got home.

18 PUPPETEER: I remember.

19 CANDLE: I broke the law *and* my arm.

20 PUPPETEER: Sin is just like that.

21 CANDLE: Like a broken arm?

22 PUPPETEER: Yes! Let me ask you: Did God break your arm?

23 CANDLE: No. The lawn did.

24 PUPPETEER: And in the same way, God doesn't punish us
25 for our sins. When we sin, we are breaking one of God's
26 perfect laws — like the Law of Gravity — and when we do
27 that, something bad happens to us.

28 CANDLE: Like a broken arm.

29 PUPPETEER: And a broken heart. God's heart. It made God
30 sad when he saw you break the Law of Gravity because
31 he knew what that meant.

32 CANDLE: An itchy cast for six weeks.

33 PUPPETEER: Yep. So it's not really God's plan to punish us
34 for our sins. God wants us to obey all of his laws. But when
35 we don't, he is not so much angry at us as he is sad *for*



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