

# WHO DUN STOLE THE BRIDE?

*by Kimberlee R. Mendoza*



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# Who Dun Stole the Bride?

A hillbilly mystery dinner theatre

by Kimberlee R. Mendoza

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

**Bill Madison** — Groom, wealthy young man (21, M)  
**Katie Sue Eckley** — Bride, country young woman (18, F)  
**Eula Eckley** — Bride's ma (40, F)  
**Jasper Eckley** — Bride's pa (45, M)  
**William Madison** — Groom's father (50, M)  
**Audrey Madison** — Groom's mother (45, F)  
**Mary Sue Eckley** — Maid of honor and bride's sister (16, F)  
**Kimmy Sue Eckley** — Flower girl and bride's sister (10, F)  
**Sonny Madison** — Best man and groom's brother (24, M)  
**Bob Yantsey** — Bride's hillbilly neighbor (18, M)  
**Rev. Michael (or Michelle)** — Man (or Woman) of the cloth (30, M/F)  
*(For a full description, see Appendix A, "Character Profiles.")*

### Act I

**Scene 1:** The Yankees Dun Come  
**Scene 2:** Rehearsin' and Stuff  
**Scene 3:** Katie Looks Perty in White  
**Scene 4:** A Storm Is A-brewin'  
**Scene 5:** A Man!  
**Scene 6:** Gettin' Ready  
**Scene 7:** Who Dun Stole the Bride?

### Act II

**Scene 1:** Whodunit?  
**Scene 2:** Let's Get Hitched!

### TIME

Present day. At the rise, the night before the Eckley/Madison Wedding.

### SETTING

The Eckley living room in the Ozark Mountains. The room is filled with dead animals, tacky rugs, and wood paneling. There is a rocking chair and an ugly couch at Stage Right. A cabin door is positioned Stage Left, and there is a hallway door in the center. Next to the front door is a light switch or a lamp. There is a fireplace that holds an urn on its shelf at Stage Right.

### PROP LIST

#### Act I

Scene 1: "Dead" animals, feathers, animal bone or antler, a Mason jar with dirty water, shotguns, and a can of shortening  
 Scene 2: Tacky wedding decorations, tulle, and a Bible

Scene 3: Needle and thread, a cell phone, stool, two pincushions (one empty, one full of pins), and a paddle

Scene 4: Bedding and a piece of pie

Scene 5: Duffel bag or backpack

Scene 6: Decorations, a necklace, and an overnight bag

Scene 7: Box of donuts and a Bible

## **Act II**

Scene 1: Rope (Note: This scene needs to have a different backdrop or location.)

Scene 2: Bible, ring pillow, rings, and flowers

## **COSTUMES**

**Bill** — Khaki pants, polo shirt, sweats, T-shirt, and a tux or black suit

**Katie Sue** — Shirt, overalls, country dress, wedding dress

**Eula** — Overalls with a flannel shirt, frumpy dress, a nice dress, and work boots

**Jasper** — Overalls, long johns, flannel shirt, clean overalls, '70s colorful suit or bowtie with flannel shirt, and big prospector or hillbilly hat

**William** — A nice suit and a tux

**Audrey** — A suit and a formal dress

**Mary Sue** — Overalls and a T-shirt, country dress, flannel nightgown, bridesmaid dress, and beehive wig

**Kimmy Sue** — T-shirt and overalls, country dress, flower girl dress, and beehive wig

**Sonny** — Khaki pants, black turtleneck, and tux or black suit

**Bob** — Overalls, long johns or flannel shirt, and hillbilly hat

**Reverend** — Overalls, flannel shirt, and light-colored suit with suspenders and a T-shirt

## **Director Notes about Costume Changes**

**Act I, Scene 1:** Eckley family enters like they've just come in from hunting. They then all go change for dinner.

**Act I, Scene 2:** It's the same day, so no new costume changes are needed.

**Act I, Scene 3:** Katie Sue is in her wedding dress and Eula is in comfortable clothing. Bob never needs to change.

**Act I, Scene 4:** This takes place in the middle of the night, so everyone should be dressed for bed.

**Act I, Scene 5:** This takes place on the day of the wedding, but it starts with everyone getting ready, so it is OK if people enter still fixing their collars, etc. This especially applies to Bill, since he

doesn't have long to change into his tux. Have him enter wearing just the shirt and pants. The rest may be put on while he's talking.

**Act I, Scene 6:** No costume changes needed.

**Act II:** No costume changes.

### THE EVENING

Have the characters or waitstaff serve beverages as the guests arrive. If you have a live country band or other entertainment, serve the main course during the pre-show. The dessert should be served after Act I, Scene 2, by waitstaff.

### MEAL SUGGESTION

- Barbecue, fried chicken, or hamburgers
- Potato salad or mashed potatoes
- Coleslaw, corn, or green beans
- Baked or barbecue beans
- Rolls, biscuits, or cornbread
- Water, lemonade, and/or iced tea (coffee with dessert)
- Cobbler or pie

*Tip: Consider decorating the room with picnic tables and serving the food family style.*

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Guests arrive
- **Cast mingles among audience**
- Rolls, beverages, and salad are on table
- Possible "musical" entertainment while main entrée is served
- **Act One, Scenes 1-2**
- Coffee and dessert served (5-10 minutes)
- **Act One, Scenes 3-6**
- Intermission (10 minutes)
- **Act Two**
- Guests depart

### PLAY RUN TIME

Script: Approximately fifty-two minutes

Play, pre-show, and full meal: Approximately two hours

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## ACT I

## Scene 1

## The Yankees Dun Come

*At the rise: Lights come up and there is a knock at the door. Dogs bark in the background. WILLIAM and AUDREY have arrived, but no one answers. WILLIAM and AUDREY can be heard arguing Off-stage, behind the door.*

**AUDREY: Just open the door, William.**

**WILLIAM: I don't think it's a good idea, Audrey.**

**AUDREY: I don't want to stand out here one more minute. Open the door.**

**WILLIAM: Fine.** *(He opens the door and peaks in.)* **Hello? Is anybody here?** *(Looks back over shoulder as he steps in.)*  
**Are you sure we got the right day, Audrey?**

**AUDREY:** *(Pushing past him and looking around, disgusted)* **Are you sure we got the right place?**

**WILLIAM: It's the only house out here. Besides, there were at least ten signs with arrows pointing this way and the words, "Madisons, the Eckleys live here." I'm pretty sure we've come to the right place.**

**AUDREY: When Bill said they lived in a quaint cottage in the Ozarks, my imagination was a bit kinder.** *(She fingers some feathers on the couch and flicks them into the air.)* **He cannot get married here.**

**WILLIAM: The guests are invited, the plane tickets are bought, and the preacher is scheduled. I assure you, Audrey, he will get married here.** *(Beat)* **Whether we like it or not.**

**AUDREY: This is absurd, William. I mean, just look at this place. Who could live in such a hovel? The Beverly Hillbillies?** *(JASPER enters through the front door carrying a rifle. He swings it about as he talks. WILLIAM and AUDREY duck back and forth to avoid it.)*

**JASPER: Nope, just the Eckleys — though that was a humdinger of a show. Not as good as Hee-Haw, but**

1           swell enough. So, what'cha folks doin' here?  
 2   **AUDREY:** We knocked, but no one answered.  
 3   **JASPER:** No, I was 'ferring to your fancy duds. *(Beat)* Y'all  
 4           from Yellville? I hear they got two restaurants up there.  
 5   **AUDREY:** We're from Malibu.  
 6   **WILLIAM:** We're the Madisons. Bill's parents.  
 7   **JASPER:** Well, howdy do! Welcome. Sorry we's weren't here  
 8           to welcome you proper. We've been yonder at the  
 9           waterin' hole, catchin' the night's vittlins.  
 10   **WILLIAM:** Catfish?  
 11   **JASPER:** Shucks, no. Better.  
 12   **WILLIAM:** Shrimp?  
 13   **JASPER:** Get your mind out of the sea, boy. Ain't that kind  
 14           of waterin' hole.  
 15   **AUDREY:** Can I use your restroom?  
 16   **JASPER:** Exactly. *(Smiles.)* The outhouse is out back. But  
 17           don't get too comfortable; the vipers are likely to bite  
 18           ya. *(He laughs as if he's told a good joke.)*  
 19   **AUDREY:** *(She looks ill.)* Isn't there running water?  
 20   **JASPER:** Yeah, the stream runs fine. Course, the snakes are  
 21           likely to get you there, too.  
 22   **AUDREY:** *(She appears ready to faint. Looks at WILLIAM.)*  
 23           William ...  
 24   **WILLIAM:** So, then what is on the menu?  
 25   **JASPER:** *(Walking toward the hall)* Squirrel. *(JASPER exits.*  
 26           **AUDREY** leans back to sit and jumps up as she sits on an  
 27           animal bone or antler.)  
 28   **AUDREY:** *(Screams.)* William, I believe we've made a wrong  
 29           turn into the Twilight Zone. I will not stay here. *(EULA*  
 30           *enters from outside, carrying "dinner" [A dead animal] and*  
 31           *a shotgun.)*  
 32   **EULA:** Well, lands to Betsy, you must be the Madisons.  
 33           Howdy, folks! *(She tosses the food against the fireplace and*  
 34           *runs at them for a hug. AUDREY remains stiff.)* Loosen  
 35           up, lady. We's about to be kin. *(KATIE, MARY, KIMMY,*

1           and BOB enter from outside, laughing, and stop short when  
2           they see the guests.)

3     **BOB:** Whoa, Nelly.

4     **EULA:** I'm Eula Sue Eckley. This here is Mary Sue, Kimmy  
5           Sue, and I reckon you know, Katie Sue.

6     **AUDREY:** Hello. (*Nods and looks at BOB.*) And I assume  
7           you're Johnny Sue?

8     **BOB:** Bob.

9     **AUDREY:** Bobby Sue?

10    **BOB:** (*Annoyed*) Just Bob.

11    **KIMMY SUE:** What ya call a raccoon with no arms or legs  
12           in the creek bed? (*Big pause*) **Bob.** (*They — except for BOB*  
13           *and AUDREY — all laugh. Even WILLIAM kind of*  
14           *snickers.*)

15    **EULA:** All right, enough. (*EULA shoos KIMMY SUE and*  
16           *MARY SUE out through hallway door.*) Go warsh up.  
17           You're gettin' my freshly cleaned house filthy dirty. And  
18           Bob, leave your grimy hat on the back porch. (*EULA*  
19           *exits through hallway door.*)

20    **BOB:** Every time she says that, some critter makes their  
21           home in my hat. I found me a rattler just last week.

22    **AUDREY:** (*Gasps.*) Oh, my.

23    **BOB:** Yeah, I'll say. It was the best dinner we've ate in a  
24           coon's age.

25    **AUDREY:** (*Repulsed*) Oh, my. (*BOB tosses hat out front door,*  
26           *then exits through hallway door. KATIE steps forward.*)

27    **KATIE:** Hello, Mrs. Madison, Mr. Madison.

28    **WILLIAM:** Call us Mom and Dad.

29    **AUDREY:** (*Quick to correct*) Or Audrey and William.

30    **KATIE:** Well, I'll be back. I should do as Ma says and clean  
31           up. (*Starts walking to hallway.*) Bill should be here  
32           shortly. He just went to town to get Mama some Crisco.  
33           (*KATIE exits through hallway door.*)

34    **AUDREY:** For fried squirrel, I'm sure. (*Begins pacing.*) This  
35           isn't happening. Tell me this is just a horrible

- 1 nightmare brought on by taking too many sedatives.  
2 The doctor did warn me.
- 3 WILLIAM: Be nice, Audrey.
- 4 AUDREY: Be nice? Be nice! *(Pause)* Your heir is about to  
5 marry Daisy Mae of the Yokum clan, and all you can  
6 say is “Be nice.” *(Her voice rises as she talks, and*  
7 *WILLIAM looks uncomfortable.)* I know you too well. This  
8 doesn’t sit right with you, and I dare you to deny it.
- 9 WILLIAM: Not now, Audrey. They’ll hear you.
- 10 AUDREY: Admit that you’re not thrilled. Say you’ll talk to  
11 Bill. Maybe then I’ll shut up.
- 12 WILLIAM: Promise?
- 13 AUDREY: Not another peep.
- 14 WILLIAM: Fine. I’ll talk to Bill when he gets here.
- 15 AUDREY: Thank you. *(KIMMY SUE enters.)*
- 16 KIMMY SUE: So, y’all’s rich? *(AUDREY looks uncomfortable.)*
- 17 WILLIAM: I own my own company, if that’s what you mean.
- 18 KIMMY SUE: *(Shrugs.)* My Pappie Mac, God rest his soul,  
19 owned a bait shop over yonder — he wasn’t rich.
- 20 AUDREY: Yes, we’re filthy rich.
- 21 KIMMY SUE: You look perty clean to me. *(She circles AUDREY.)*  
22 What does it take to be you?
- 23 AUDREY: I beg your pardon?
- 24 KIMMY SUE: You’s more sparkly than a new penny. *(Sniffs.)*  
25 Smell perty, too. How do ya get so clean?
- 26 AUDREY: I take a bath.
- 27 KIMMY SUE: *(Incredulous)* Daily?
- 28 AUDREY: Of course.
- 29 KIMMY SUE: Maybe that’s what I’m doin’ wrong. *(Beat)*  
30 Mama gives us a bath once a week. But I got big  
31 dreams. I wanna get outta Bruno and get to Hollywood.  
32 I guess I need to bathe more, huh?
- 33 AUDREY: *(Dryly)* It would be a start.
- 34 KIMMY SUE: I figured that, or ... *(Pause)* I needs to get me  
35 a man.

- 1     **AUDREY:** *(Gasps.)* You couldn't be more than ... How old are  
2     you?
- 3     **KIMMY SUE:** Almost marryin' age. *(Beat)* I'm eleven next  
4     Monday.
- 5     **AUDREY:** *(Gasps.)* Good heavens, child. You have plenty of  
6     time.
- 7     **KIMMY SUE:** Out here, fellers don't come along that often.  
8     We's grab 'em while we can. *(Pause)* Besides, I want a  
9     good city boy to take me out of this here place.
- 10    **WILLIAM:** You don't like it here?
- 11    **AUDREY:** *(Sarcastic)* Can't imagine why ...
- 12    **KIMMY SUE:** I saw a picture show last summer. The folks in  
13    Californie were so perty — like you. And the houses  
14    were white and palm trees so tall. Here all the buildings  
15    are so brown and worn. *(Beat)* I want to experience nice  
16    things. I want to be a movie star, rich and famous. I  
17    want to talk proper and ride in one of them lemonades.  
18    *(Pause)* Course, Mama says it's a fool's dream.
- 19    **AUDREY:** Well, I hope it works out for you. *(KIMMY SUE*  
20    *grabs AUDREY and squeezes her tightly. AUDREY is taken*  
21    *aback.)*
- 22    **KIMMY SUE:** I'm mighty glad to have met you.
- 23    **AUDREY:** *(Sarcastic)* Likewise, I'm sure. *(Door opens and BILL*  
24    *enters from outside. Relieved, AUDREY untangles from*  
25    *KIMMY and crosses to him.)*
- 26    **BILL:** Hello, Mother, Father.
- 27    **AUDREY:** I'm so glad you're here. *(She looks at WILLIAM.)*  
28    Your father would like to talk to you.
- 29    **WILLIAM:** Hello, son. *(Shakes his hand. Then, to AUDREY)* I'm  
30    sure it can wait, Audrey.
- 31    **AUDREY:** Before grandchildren, William. *(AUDREY and*  
32    *WILLIAM both look at KIMMY SUE, who is oblivious and*  
33    *smiles.)*
- 34    **KIMMY SUE:** Y'all need anything?
- 35    **AUDREY:** How about some water to drink?

- 1 **KIMMY SUE:** Sure. (*KIMMY SUE exits through hallway.*)
- 2 **WILLIAM:** (*Clearing throat*) Son, your mother feels —
- 3 (*AUDREY clears her throat.*) Your mother and I feel that
- 4 you may not have thought this Eckley family thing
- 5 through.
- 6 **BILL:** What do you mean?
- 7 **WILLIAM:** Well ... (*Looks at AUDREY.*)
- 8 **AUDREY:** What your father is trying to say is ... look at this
- 9 place. Have you talked to this family? They're simply not
- 10 the same caliber of people as we are. You're like a prince
- 11 in a straw hut.
- 12 **BILL:** Mother, I'm warning you ...
- 13 **AUDREY:** I'm just saying — as a Madison, you deserve better.
- 14 **BILL:** Have you even talked to Katie yet?
- 15 **AUDREY:** We've said hello.
- 16 **BILL:** That's ripe, mother. (*Mimicking*) "We said hello." Well,
- 17 until you've spent a year with her like I have, you don't
- 18 know her. I love her and I'm marrying her tomorrow. So,
- 19 you'd better be on your best behavior. (*Moves closer.*) Or
- 20 it won't matter, because you and I won't be family any
- 21 longer. Are we clear?
- 22 **AUDREY:** As water. (*KIMMY SUE enters with a Mason jar of*
- 23 *dirty water.*)
- 24 **KIMMY SUE:** Here you go.
- 25 **AUDREY:** (*Taking it, she stares at it.*) What is this?
- 26 **KIMMY SUE:** Well, it ain't moonshine. (*Slaps knee.*) Though
- 27 my Uncle Elmer used to bring that stuff over. Ma said it
- 28 was only good for strippin' engines. Said that the good
- 29 Lord wouldn't appreciate us drinking it.
- 30 **AUDREY:** (*Under her breath*) I could sure use a shot. (*KIMMY*
- 31 *SUE exits. KATIE enters, dressed up.*)
- 32 **BILL:** Honey, you look beautiful. (*They hug.*)
- 33 **KATIE:** Thank you.
- 34 **BILL:** You've met my parents?
- 35 **KATIE:** Briefly.

1 **BILL:** Well, I need to get this to your mom. (*Holds up*  
2 *shortening.*) Why don't you all get to know one another?  
3 (*He whispers behind her back to his parents.*) Be nice. (*BILL*  
4 *exits through hallway door.*)

5 **AUDREY:** So, Katie. How did you meet our son?

6 **KATIE:** He didn't tell you?

7 **AUDREY:** He's a man, what can I say? They're never good  
8 with details.

9 **KATIE:** We met at *The Passion Play* in Branson, Missouri, last  
10 year. He was in town on business, and I was running a  
11 booth for my father.

12 **WILLIAM:** A bait shop?

13 **KATIE:** What? No. My Grandpappie owned a bait shop. Pa  
14 makes fur coats.

15 **AUDREY:** Really? That's quite impressive. Mink? Chinchilla?

16 **KATIE:** More like skunk and possum.

17 **AUDREY:** I see. (*Pause*) And what do you do?

18 **KATIE:** I'm going to school.

19 **WILLIAM:** That's wonderful, isn't it, Audrey?

20 **AUDREY:** I'm not familiar with the colleges around here.  
21 Where do you attend?

22 **KATIE:** Fayetteville Cosmetology School.

23 **AUDREY:** (*Slightly appalled*) Please tell me you don't plan to  
24 be a hairstylist?!

25 **KATIE:** Yep. I think it'll be fun. I used to do my sister's hair  
26 as kids. Made me fall in love with it. I'm going to do hers  
27 and Ma's for the wedding. (*Pause*) You should let me do  
28 yours.

29 **AUDREY:** I only let Antonio do my hair.

30 **WILLIAM:** (*With a smirk*) Let her do your hair, Audrey.

31 **AUDREY:** It's my son's day, William. I need to look my best.

32 **WILLIAM:** Antonio won't be here.

33 **KATIE:** I promise — if you let me do it, you'll fit in.

34 **AUDREY:** I think you should concentrate on being a bride,  
35 not worrying about my hair. It's your day too. You

1           should be pampered yourself.

2   **KATIE:** That's kind of you to say.

3   **AUDREY:** Yes, well ... (*BILL enters and puts his arm around*  
4           *KATIE.*)

5   **BILL:** I've never seen anyone so happy about Crisco. (*EULA*  
6           *and JASPER enter.*)

7   **EULA:** Aw, just look at the happy couple. Aren't they sweet  
8           as honey?

9   **JASPER:** When's the Reverend gettin' here?

10   **EULA:** When the lightnin' bugs are good and out. (*JASPER*  
11           *walks to the outside door and peers out.*)

12   **JASPER:** There's a few a-comin'. He'll be here shortly.

13   **WILLIAM:** Do you always tell time by bugs?

14   **JASPER:** Of course not. We use the rooster, the dog, the  
15           ducks, and the crickets.

16   **AUDREY:** (*Under her breath*) Ever heard of a clock?

17   **EULA:** You silly city folk, always in a rush. We move by  
18           nature in these here parts. (*Turns to KATIE.*) Hon, do you  
19           think you could help me bring out dinner?

20   **KATIE:** It's ready?

21   **EULA:** I made most of it this afternoon. Just had to fry up  
22           the meat.

23   **KATIE:** OK, Mama.

24   **BILL:** I'll help. (*KATIE and BILL exit through hallway door.*)

25   **AUDREY:** I should warn you, I'm on a very strict diet.

26   **EULA:** A what?

27   **AUDREY:** I only eat the purest vegetables. No fried food or  
28           red meat.

29   **EULA:** How do you keep alive, woman? You're skin and  
30           bones. (*Pinches her.*) Nothing a little fried possum innards  
31           won't cure though. (*Big sigh*) Oh well, I reckon then  
32           you'll have to stick to the taters and stewed beets.  
33           Everything else is fried. (*EULA exits through hallway door.*)

34   **JASPER:** Yeah, she'd fry my boots if I'd let her. That woman  
35           loves her grease. And I'm happy too. Don't want no

1           skeleton for a wife. No siree. (*Looks AUDREY over.*) You  
2           could benefit from a little cooked fat. Wouldn't you  
3           agree, Willie? (*WILLIAM opens his mouth, but AUDREY*  
4           *gives him a dirty look and he shuts it.*)  
5   **AUDREY:** I happen to like being thin.  
6   **JASPER:** Yeah, and I likes chasin' gators. Don't mean it's  
7           good for ya. (*MARY SUE enters from hallway. BOB enters*  
8           *from outside.*)  
9   **MARY SUE:** Ma says it's time to go to the table.  
10   **JASPER:** I'm hankerin' for some fried pickles. Hope she put  
11           some on the menu.  
12   **MARY SUE:** I pulled a jar for her the day before now.  
13   **JASPER:** Thank ya, Janessa Sue.  
14   **MARY SUE:** It's Mary Sue.  
15   **JASPER:** Whatever. (*MARY SUE exits.*)  
16   **AUDREY:** Just out of curiosity, why did you name all of your  
17           girls Sue?  
18   **JASPER:** Why'd you name your boy William?  
19   **AUDREY:** After his father.  
20   **JASPER:** Yup.  
21   **AUDREY:** I'm sorry. I still don't understand.  
22   **BOB:** You's about as smart as bait.  
23   **JASPER:** Bob, hush. (*Pause*) Eula's mother's name was Sue.  
24           They all take it from her. Now let's get to the table. My  
25           vittlins are gettin' cold. (*JASPER and BOB exit to hallway.*)  
26   **AUDREY:** (*To WILLIAM*) You aren't seriously going to eat  
27           fried squirrel?! You know what the doctor says about  
28           your ulcer. You shouldn't expose it to anything  
29           unpleasant.  
30   **WILLIAM:** I'm still married to you, aren't I? (*Under his breath,*  
31           *as he exits through hallway door.*) Can't get much worse  
32           than that. (*AUDREY huffs off in the fading light.*)  
33  
34  
35

## Scene 2

## Rehearsin' and Stuff

(At the rise: BOB and EULA are putting up decorations in the living room. She wants to finish decorating, but BOB isn't making it easy. BOB falls to ground, letting go of the tulle in his hand. Claspng his throat, he crawls over the couch. EULA isn't amused.)

8 BOB: Water. Water. Water. I need water.

9 EULA: Boy, get up and help me out.

10 BOB: You's a killjoy, you know that?

11 EULA: And you're a moron. But you's probably too stupid to  
12 know that.

13 BOB: I may be slow, but I ain't stupid. And it's Bob. Plain  
14 Bob. Not Myron.

15 EULA: I rest my case, just Bob. Now get your backside off  
16 my floor and help me finish hangin' this stuff.

17 BOB: I will if you promise to let me play the spoons at the  
18 shindig.

19 EULA: You're not startin' that again, are ya? I told ya, we've  
20 got entertainment.

21 BOB: Who, Grandma Myrtle? (EULA nods.) Come on, now.  
22 She's old. I dun heard the President sent her a letter last  
23 year.

24 EULA: Bob, you don't have the people skills necessary to  
25 entertain.

26 BOB: But I've been gettin' good for weeks. (BOB pulls some  
27 spoons out of his pocket and attempts to play them. KATIE  
28 enters with some more decorations.)

29 KATIE: Here, Mama.

30 EULA: Thanks to Betsy.

31 BOB: I thought her name was Katie.

32 EULA: Moron.

33 BOB: Katie, tell your mama how I play the spoons. Don't you  
34 agree that I'm the best spoon player in all Tennessee?

35 EULA: Good for us we're in Arkansas. But you can go play

1           in Tennessee if you'd like. We won't stop ya.  
2   **BOB:** Not to ring my own cowbell, but you wants me in yer  
3           show. My voice and spoons, well, my act makes for the  
4           greatest yee-haw, swing-diggity hootenanny this side of  
5           the Mississippi. That includes Arkansas ... *(Pauses.)* I  
6           think.  
7   **EULA:** It's Katie's day — a day for romance and love. Not a  
8           boot-kickin' hoedown.  
9   **BOB:** That fits like a saddle on a sow.  
10   **KATIE:** Ma, maybe he could play one song. It couldn't hurt.  
11   **BOB:** *(Excited)* Whee, doggies!  
12   **EULA:** No, Kimmy Sue. I mean ... Mary ... Kelly ... aw!  
13           You've got me all discombobulated.  
14   **BOB:** She's about as confused as a spider on a yo-yo.  
15   **EULA:** Bob, hush. *(Pause)* Sorry, Katie. He gets me all mixed  
16           up. Alls I was trying to say is, you want to have a nice  
17           day. *(BOB comes up between them.)* Can you excuse us for  
18           a moment? I need to talk to my daughter alone.  
19   **BOB:** What? You can't say whats you gots to say with the  
20           likes of me?  
21   **EULA:** Bob, you ain't kin. Now, shoo.  
22   **BOB:** What about the decorations?  
23   **EULA:** We'll finish them later. Now, git.  
24   **BOB:** Fine. *(BOB exits but stays close, peeking out as they talk.)*  
25   **EULA:** How in the world Marybeth had such a dimwit for a  
26           son is beyond me. She grajeated from college and  
27           everything.  
28   **KATIE:** You shouldn't be so mean to him, Mama. Remember,  
29           we've been friends since day one.  
30   **EULA:** You're right. God tells us to love everybody. Even the  
31           brain-challenged, I suppose. *(Pause)* But he wants to  
32           perform at your wedding. *(BOB's head peeks out from*  
33           *behind the door. EULA glances, but he hides in time.)*  
34   **KATIE:** Is that so bad? Have him perform toward the end of  
35           the night.

1 **EULA:** (*Shakes head.*) Uh-uh. Because then he'll stay all night  
 2 and get on my ever-lovin' last nerve. I can see it now.  
 3 (*Mimicking BILL*) Can I play yet, Ms. Eula? Is it time, Ms.  
 4 Eula? How about now, Ms. Eula? And we haven't even  
 5 got to the toast.

6 **KATIE:** First then, Mama. It's my wedding. (*BOB peeks out.*)  
 7 And I don't care if he's in it. OK?

8 **EULA:** Fine. One song!

9 **BOB:** Hot-diggity coon dog! (*Loudly, from Off-stage*) Yee-haw!  
 10 (*EULA shoots a look at him and BOB whimpers back.*) Oh ...

11 **KATIE:** You didn't really think he'd leave, did you? (*EULA*  
 12 *and KATIE laugh as BOB comes back in. REV enters.*)

13 **EULA:** Good ta see you, Reverend.

14 **REV:** Yes, this is a swell day that the good Lord has made.

15 **EULA:** (*Yelling out door*) C'mere, everyone! The Reverend  
 16 made it, and we're fixin' to get started. (*BILL enters.*  
 17 *KATIE and BILL stand next to the REVEREND. JASPER*  
 18 *enters with WILLIAM and AUDREY, and they sit on couch.*  
 19 *MARY SUE and KIMMY SUE enter and sit on the floor.*)

20 **JASPER:** Howdy, Reverend!

21 **EULA:** You 'course know the bride.

22 **REV:** Hi there, darlin'.

23 **KATIE:** Howdy, Reverend.

24 **EULA:** Have you met the groom?

25 **REV:** Can't says I have.

26 **EULA:** This here is William Madison III. Goes by Bill, thank  
 27 goodness. (*REV shakes his hand. EULA points to WILLIAM*  
 28 *and AUDREY.*) And that's his folks yonder on the couch,  
 29 William and Annie.

30 **AUDREY:** Audrey.

31 **REV:** Well, are we ready to get started?

32 **BILL:** I've never been so ready. (*He glances at his mother and*  
 33 *then smiles at KATIE, who "blushes."*) The sooner I have my  
 34 bride, the better.

35 **REV:** Spoken like a true blue-blooded hick. I like you

- 1           already. (*Slaps BILL's back hard.*) So, where do y'all plan  
2           to stand?
- 3   **KATIE:** I wanted to get married in front of Pappie Mac.
- 4   **WILLIAM:** Pappie Mac? I thought he was dead.
- 5   **MARY SUE:** He is. His ashes are on the shelf there. (*She*  
6           *points.*) He was our favorite grandpa. It was hard to let  
7           him go.
- 8   **AUDREY:** (*Whispers to WILLIAM.*) They're getting married in  
9           front of the ashes of a dead guy?
- 10   **REV:** Sounds like a swell idea. (*Points to couple to stand in front*  
11           *of him.*) You two stand here. Who's the maid of honor?
- 12   **MARY SUE:** Me.
- 13   **REV:** OK, you stand next to your sister. (*Beat*) And the best  
14           man?
- 15   **BILL:** That was supposed to be my brother Sonny, but I'm  
16           not sure he's going to make it.
- 17   **REV:** (*Looks around and points at BOB.*) Why don't ya stand in  
18           for Sonny?
- 19   **BOB:** (*Hops up.*) You want me? Well, all right ...
- 20   **KATIE:** Is that OK?
- 21   **BILL:** Yeah, sure. Good to have a backup plan. (*BOB comes in*  
22           *between the bride and groom.*)
- 23   **BOB:** So, where I go?
- 24   **REV:** On Bill's right. (*BOB looks at his right and left hand,*  
25           *obviously trying to figure out which is which.*)
- 26   **BOB:** So, where I go? (*BILL helps him out and he moves. REV*  
27           *pulls out Bible.*)
- 28   **REV:** OK, dear kin and friends. We are here today ... of  
29           course, that's how I'll start. Then the two of you will  
30           exchange rings and vows, and then kiss the bride.
- 31   **BOB:** Yee-haw! Sugar with Katie. You lucky po cat.
- 32   **EULA:** Hush, Bob.
- 33   **REV:** It's all perty simple. Y'all will do just fine. (*Looks at*  
34           *EULA.*) Now Eula, how about some of your famous  
35           rhubarb pie?

1 EULA: I've got apple.

2 REV: Even better. (*REV, EULA, BILL, and KATIE exit through*  
3 *hallway door.*)

4 AUDREY: How far away does the Reverend live?

5 MARY SUE: About thirty miles through the back country.

6 AUDREY: He came all the way out here for a minute of  
7 practice?

8 JASPER: No, he came here for Eula's baking.

9 MARY SUE: Ma's crust is the best anywhere in the South. Ask  
10 anyone.

11 BOB: I gots to get me some too. (*Looks at audience.*) Y'all want  
12 some? (*Lights dim down. Dessert is served: cobbler or pie with*  
13 *coffee.*)

14

15

16

### Scene 3

17

#### Katie Looks Perty in White

18

(*At the rise: KATIE stands in the center of the stage on a stool*  
19 *dressed in a wedding dress. EULA is on the floor hemming it.*)

20

EULA: I think I need to get some more pins. I'll be right back.

21

(*EULA exits. KATIE spins like a little girl, very happy. BOB*  
22 *enters from outside door.*)

23

BOB: Oh, Katie. You look so perty.

24

KATIE: Thank you. Ma made my dress out of material from  
25 my childhood bedspread.

26

BOB: Really? I thought it was blue. (*He reaches to lift her dress,*  
27 *but she pushes his hand away.*)

28

KATIE: I meant the lining of my dress. Something blue. The  
29 outside is silk that Bill got in the city.

30

BOB: You taken with that city slicker?

31

KATIE: With all my heart.

32

BOB: (*Points to couch.*) Sit a spell, Katie.

33

KATIE: Sure, Bob. What's on yer mind? (*They sit.*)

34

BOB: We've known each other fer a long time, wouldn't you  
35 reckon?

- 1 KATIE: Since the good doc smacked our backsides.
- 2 BOB: Well, I need to tell you something.
- 3 KATIE: OK.
- 4 BOB: Don't hitch that Bill fella.
- 5 KATIE: Why not?
- 6 BOB: He's too good for us people. Two years in, he'll see your  
7 roots. He'll off and leave you for some Hollywood starlet.
- 8 KATIE: You're wrong, Bob.
- 9 BOB: Am I?
- 10 KATIE: Yes! Besides, I stuck around this here swamp for over  
11 eighteen years, and not one feller called on me.
- 12 BOB: I did.
- 13 KATIE: You? You's just Bob.
- 14 BOB: Well, I love you, Katie! *(He tries to kiss her and she jumps*  
15 *out of the way just in time.)* I know you love me, too.
- 16 KATIE: Bob! No.
- 17 BOB: Don't fight it, Katie. *(He chases her around the room with*  
18 *puckered lips.)*
- 19 KATIE: Get ahold of yerself, Bob.
- 20 BOB: Marry me, Katie. *(They play tag around the furniture in a*  
21 *comedic way.)*
- 22 KATIE: You's just a friend.
- 23 BOB: Don't fight it, darlin'. We's soulmates. *(He lunges at her*  
24 *over the couch.)*
- 25 KATIE: Stop! *(He stops short.)* Now you listen here, Bob. I  
26 don't think of you that way.
- 27 BOB: Maybe if we had more time we could work this out.
- 28 KATIE: We've had eighteen years. If I don't know by now, I  
29 don't think I ever will.
- 30 BOB: You could grow to love me. Look at how my pa married  
31 my ma. They didn't love each other.
- 32 KATIE: Your pa was forced to marry yer ma with a shotgun  
33 to his back.
- 34 BOB: So?
- 35 KATIE: My pa won't be pointin' a gun at you for that reason.

- 1           *(Pause)* He'll be shoving it in your face for trying to kiss  
2           me. I'm a woman with a fiancé. *(Starts crying.)*
- 3   **BOB:** I'm sorry, Katie Sue. I didn't mean to upset you.
- 4   **KATIE:** It's OK, Bob. *(He smiles and tries to kiss her again. She*  
5           *ducks.)* Stop, you hillbilly redneck! I meant it was OK  
6           that you were sorry, not that you could try and kiss me  
7           again.
- 8   **BOB:** Oh.
- 9   **KATIE:** Now git, before I fetch Pa.
- 10   **BOB:** OK. 'Bye, Katie Sue.
- 11   **KATIE:** Good-bye, Bob. *(BOB exits outside. She sits on the couch*  
12           *and sighs. BILL enters.)*
- 13   **BILL:** So, this is the dress? *(She jumps up and hides behind the*  
14           *couch.)*
- 15   **KATIE:** Bill, you're not supposed to see the bride in her  
16           wedding dress. It's bad luck.
- 17   **BILL:** I don't believe in luck. *(He goes to hug her but pulls back.)*  
18           Why are you all sweaty?
- 19   **KATIE:** I've been running around.
- 20   **BILL:** In your wedding dress?
- 21   **KATIE:** Long story.
- 22   **BILL:** Well, you do look beautiful. *(Takes her hand.)* I'm so glad  
23           you agreed to marry me.
- 24   **KATIE:** Your mother ain't happy with us gettin' hitched. I can  
25           tell.
- 26   **BILL:** Katie, have a seat. *(They sit.)* Do you love me?
- 27   **KATIE:** Of course!
- 28   **BILL:** Do you believe God brought us together?
- 29   **KATIE:** You betcha, I do.
- 30   **BILL:** Then don't worry about the rest. *(Pause)* Besides, she'll  
31           get over it the minute we have kids. *(She giggles.)*
- 32   **KATIE:** I love you, Bill. *(She leans to kiss him when EULA enters*  
33           *from hallway.)*
- 34   **EULA:** What are you doing in here? *(They both jump back. Eula*  
35           *grabs BILL by the ear and drags him across the room.)*

- 1 BILL: I came in here to get my cell phone. I need to call  
2 Sonny.
- 3 EULA: You git it?
- 4 BILL: Not yet.
- 5 EULA: Well, git it and git out. I don't want my daughter  
6 starting her marriage off bad.
- 7 BILL: Oh, I don't believe in bad luck.
- 8 EULA: Who said anything about bad luck? I'm talking about  
9 her having a husband with a bruised backside. *(She*  
10 *grabs a paddle.)* Now, shoo.
- 11 BILL: Yes, Mama. *(He glances around the room, grabs his phone,*  
12 *then turns to KATIE.)* Good night, Katie. I love you.
- 13 KATIE: I love you too. 'Night. *(BILL exits through hallway door.)*
- 14 EULA: He's a good man.
- 15 KATIE: A bit too good for me.
- 16 EULA: What? Who's fillin' your head with such nonsense?
- 17 KATIE: People.
- 18 EULA: Like who?
- 19 KATIE: Bob.
- 20 EULA: Ignert Bob. That boy's got as much sense as long  
21 johns in August.
- 22 KATIE: He's not all wrong, Mama. *(Pause)* Besides, Pa wears  
23 his long johns year 'round.
- 24 EULA: My point exactly. Your pa's brain ain't exactly  
25 swimming with activity. *(Pause)* Look, here's how I see it.  
26 You're the one who's too good for those hoity-toity  
27 Yankees. Did you see the way that woman picked at my  
28 cookin'? Ungrateful and rude, that's what they are. But  
29 your Bill, he ain't the same as them. Bill's good people.  
30 I like him. And your pa likes him. But most importantly,  
31 you like him. But ... *(She squeezes KATIE's cheeks.)* Don't  
32 you ever let him make you feel less than him. You hear  
33 me?
- 34 KATIE: *(Through puckered lips)* Yes, Mama.
- 35 EULA: Now git back up on the stool and let me finish your

1           **wedding dress.** (*KATIE stands back on the stool, and EULA*  
2           *bends down with the pins.*) **Why's there a rip in the hem?**

3   **KATIE: Bob.**

4   **EULA: What about Bob?** (*They look at each other. KATIE shrugs.*  
5           *Lights out.*)

6

7

8

#### Scene 4

9

#### A Storm Is A-brewin'!

10

(*At the rise: JASPER is sitting in his rocking chair a bit on*  
11           *edge, feet tapping, holding his rifle. EULA enters with a piece*  
12           *of pie.*)

13

**EULA: Boy, I'm stuffed.** (*She takes a bite.*)

14

**JASPER: Yes'm. That was good eatin'.**

15

**EULA: Why, thank ya, Jasper.** (*She stares at him a moment.*)

16

**What you all anxious fer? You look like a heifer on a**  
17           **football field.**

18

**JASPER: I don't know, Eula. I'm thinkin' things ain't right.**

19

**EULA: There you go thinkin' again. That was yer first**  
20           **mistake.**

21

**JASPER: I don't know that I likes the Yankees invadin' the**  
22           **South.** (*KIMMY SUE starts to enter with a cup of water, but*  
23           *stops and backs up before her folks see.*)

24

**EULA: Katie Sue dun love Bill. He's good people.**

25

**JASPER: You know when we had that tornado a few years**  
26           **back?**

27

**EULA: Yeah.**

28

**JASPER: 'Member how my backside was a-twitchin' the**  
29           **night before?**

30

**EULA: I reckon.**

31

**JASPER: Well, it's takin' every ounce of muscle to keep me**  
32           **in this here chair. This wedding ain't right. The wind's**  
33           **a-pickin' up — this time with my daughter's heart.**

34

**EULA: (*Looks a bit worried.*) It's really twitchin'?**

35

**JASPER: Like a bunny's nose.** (*BILL enters.*)

- 1 **BILL:** Hey, Mama. Would it be all right if I go to sleep? I've got  
2 a big day tomorrow.
- 3 **EULA:** Yeah, that be a good idea. (*Looks at JASPER.*) C'mon.  
4 Let's give the groom some space. He needs the couch.  
5 (*JASPER stands real slowly, obviously trying to contain his*  
6 *twitching backside.*)
- 7 **BILL:** 'Night, Pa.
- 8 **JASPER:** (*With a funny smile*) Yeah, 'night, son. (*JASPER exits,*  
9 *dancing as he goes.*)
- 10 **BILL:** See you tomorrow, Mama. (*She kisses his cheek.*)
- 11 **EULA:** Night, Bill. I should warn you — Bob may make his  
12 way in here. Just have him stay on the floor. Don't want  
13 him messin' up my couch.
- 14 **BILL:** OK. (*EULA exits. KATIE enters.*)
- 15 **KATIE:** I wanted to say good night.
- 16 **BILL:** If your Mama catches you in here ...
- 17 **KATIE:** I know. I just wanted to talk for a moment.
- 18 **BILL:** What's on your mind?
- 19 **KATIE:** No matter what happens, you'll always love me —  
20 right?
- 21 **BILL:** No matter what.
- 22 **KATIE:** Good, just checkin'. (*There is a sound down the hallway.*)  
23 Well, I'd better go. 'Night. (*She kisses his cheek and runs back*  
24 *down the hall. BILL lies on the couch and closes his eyes.*  
25 *Everyone else can be heard Off-stage.*)
- 26 **EULA:** Sit still, Jasper. It's like a San Francisco quake in here.  
27 I'm getting queasy.
- 28 **JASPER:** I'm tryin'.
- 29 **MARY SUE:** 'Night, Kimmy Sue.
- 30 **KIMMY SUE:** 'Night, Mary Sue. 'Night, Mama.
- 31 **EULA:** 'Night, Mary Sue. Kimmy Sue. Katie Sue.
- 32 **KATIE SUE:** 'Night, Mama. 'Night, Bill.
- 33 **BILL:** 'Night, Katie Sue. (*BOB walks in and lays down on the*  
34 *floor.*) 'Night, Bobby Sue.
- 35 **BOB:** It's just Bob. Plain Bob. (*Irritated*) Good night! (*Lights out.*)

## Scene 5

## A Man!

1  
2  
3 *(At the rise: BILL is asleep on the couch and BOB is asleep on*  
4 *the floor, snoring. As the lights come up, SONNY knocks. The*  
5 *dogs are barking. He tries several times before peeking his*  
6 *head around the door. He enters from outside with a duffel*  
7 *bag over his shoulder.)*

8 **SONNY:** *(Whispering)* **Bill? Bill, are you here?** *(He bends down*  
9 *and looks at BOB. BOB lets out a big snort and SONNY*  
10 *recoils from bad breath.)* **Not Bill.** *(HE steps over BOB and*  
11 *moves towards the couch.)* **Bill?** *(MARY SUE enters from*  
12 *hallway in her nightgown and sees SONNY.)*

13 **MARY SUE:** **A man!** *(Pause)* **Hi there!**

14 **SONNY:** **Hi. Are you Katie Sue?**

15 **MARY SUE:** **Heavens, no. I'm Mary Sue, Katie's sister.**

16 **SONNY:** **I'm ...**

17 **MARY SUE:** *(Big dramatic smile)* **A man!** *(She steps closer, and*  
18 *SONNY steps back.)*

19 **SONNY:** **Yes, I suppose I am. I'm Bill's brother.**

20 **MARY SUE:** **Well, mighty glad to have you here, Bill's brother.**  
21 *(She steps closer, and SONNY steps back. She slowly moves*  
22 *him around the room. Whenever she steps forward, he steps*  
23 *back trying to get away.)*

24 **SONNY:** **Sonny.** *(Nervous)* **The name is Sonny.**

25 **MARY SUE:** **Sonny, like the day. That's cute.** *(Leans in,*  
26 *flirting.)* **Like you.**

27 **SONNY:** **Yes, well ...**

28 **MARY SUE:** **You got yerself a sweetheart?**

29 **SONNY:** **A girlfriend?**

30 **MARY SUE:** **Yeah. You got one?**

31 **SONNY:** **Not at the present.**

32 **MARY SUE:** **Want one?**

33 **SONNY:** **Um, I'm not sure how to answer that.** *(Tapping BILL's*  
34 *shoulder)*

35 **MARY SUE:** **I'll answer for ya.**

- 1 **BILL:** *(Slowly sits up.)* Sonny? Is that you?
- 2 **SONNY:** Yeah, just got in. *(Moves away quickly from MARY SUE*  
3 *to BILL's side.)* Um, just met your future sister-in-law.
- 4 **BILL:** What time is it?
- 5 **SONNY:** Three in the morning.
- 6 **BILL:** *(Talks in a regular voice.)* Why so late?
- 7 **SONNY:** Couldn't get away. *(MARY SUE comes up behind*  
8 *SONNY and tries to kiss him. He ducks just in time, and*  
9 *BILL spots her.)*
- 10 **BILL:** Mary Sue, what are you doing up?
- 11 **MARY SUE:** Heard a noise. Thought maybe the dogs got in.
- 12 **BILL:** Well, go back to bed before your pa hears you.
- 13 **MARY SUE:** Do I have to?
- 14 **BILL:** Yes.
- 15 **MARY SUE:** Well, OK. *(To SONNY)* See ya tomorrow, you  
16 perty man. *(MARY SUE exits through hallway.)*
- 17 **SONNY:** OK, she's a bit scary.
- 18 **BILL:** She's nice. Maybe a little desperate.
- 19 **SONNY:** Don't understate it, big brother. *(BOB snorts.)* Oh, I  
20 should probably keep my voice down, huh?
- 21 **BILL:** Watch this. *(BILL walks next to BOB and yells.)* Oogie,  
22 boogie, boogie.
- 23 **SONNY:** Wow, you almost couldn't hear the oogie in that  
24 boogie.
- 25 **BILL:** Do you remember old Mrs. Peterson's dog?
- 26 **SONNY:** Wasn't his name Bowser?
- 27 **BILL:** Yeah, we called him bulldozer because he was so loud.  
28 That's Bob, but he's ...
- 29 **BILL and SONNY:** *(Together)* Louder. *(They both laugh.)*
- 30 **BILL:** Roll him over and he'll quiet down. *(SONNY rolls him*  
31 *over and BOB gets quiet.)*
- 32 **SONNY:** Look at that — it worked! *(He joins BILL on couch.)* I  
33 can't believe my little brother is getting married  
34 tomorrow.
- 35 **BILL:** Yeah, me neither. Who would have thought I could

- 1 settle down?
- 2 SONNY: You're only twenty.
- 3 BILL: Here they treat me like I missed my prime marrying  
4 age five years ago. And Katie, well, she's an old maid.
- 5 SONNY: I thought she was only eighteen.
- 6 BILL: She is. I guess most of her cousins got "hitched" in  
7 high school.
- 8 SONNY: OK, that's just weird. *(Beat)* Well, are you happy?
- 9 BILL: Absolutely. She's wonderful.
- 10 SONNY: *(Looking around)* And how are the parentals handling  
11 it?
- 12 BILL: They checked into a hotel in Yellville. *(Laughs.)* Mom  
13 said something about not wanting to sleep in Oscar's  
14 garbage can. *(Pause)* But I think Dad is happy for me. He  
15 seems to genuinely like Katie. They even took a walk  
16 before we all went to bed. I guess she showed him the  
17 old outhouse.
- 18 SONNY: *(Touch of sarcasm)* I'm sure he was fascinated. *(Beat)*  
19 Well, I'd keep Katie away from Mom. You know how she  
20 can be. So pretentious.
- 21 BILL: You've always been close to mom. Why would you say  
22 that?
- 23 SONNY: Close to mom? The only reason for that is because  
24 Dad hates me.
- 25 BILL: What? No he doesn't.
- 26 SONNY: I'm the firstborn.
- 27 BILL: Yeah, so?
- 28 SONNY: Ever wonder why he calls you Bill and me Sonny?
- 29 BILL: Because we have the same name.
- 30 SONNY: Yes, but Bill is close to William. Sonny isn't even  
31 close. *(Beat)* Do you know when he started calling me  
32 Sonny? *(BILL shakes his head.)* The day after you were  
33 born.
- 34 BILL: How could you remember that? You were only three.
- 35 SONNY: Trust me, I remember. They used to call me Junior.

1           Then you were born, and he gave you his name too. I  
2           became Sonny and you became Bill.

3       **BILL:** That doesn't mean he hates you.

4       **SONNY:** OK, how about the fact that he chased away my  
5           girlfriend and he's allowing you to marry yours? That  
6           speaks volumes too.

7       **BILL:** He didn't chase Lisa away.

8       **SONNY:** He paid her twenty thousand dollars to break up  
9           with me.

10      **BILL:** What? No way.

11      **SONNY:** Trust me, I'm not kidding.

12      **BILL:** Maybe he did it because he loves you. You don't know  
13           his motives for sure.

14      **SONNY:** What I know is that you're the heir to the Madison  
15           throne. I went to art school, and you're going to business  
16           school. You're his favorite child. You can do no wrong.  
17           Me, on the other hand, nothing I do will ever be good  
18           enough.

19      **BILL:** I'm sorry you feel that way.

20      **SONNY:** I have to admit, when you picked Katie Sue to be  
21           your bride, I thought that would sway him. When it  
22           didn't, I knew there was no hope. *(Pause)* But I'm happy  
23           for you. I can't wait to meet her.

24      **BOB:** *(Sits up, half-asleep.)* Who dare? Who dare? *(He falls back*  
25           *over, asleep, and the guys laugh.)*

26      **BILL:** Maybe we should get some rest.

27      **SONNY:** Yeah, that's probably a good idea. Where do you  
28           want me to sleep?

29      **BILL:** You need to change?

30      **SONNY:** Nah, I'm too tired. *(BILL hands him one of the couch*  
31           *cushions and one of his blankets.)*

32      **BILL:** Pull up some carpet.

33      **SONNY:** Thanks, little brother.

34      **BILL:** Yeah. *(BILL flips off lamp by couch. Lights fade to dark.)*

35      **SONNY:** Is there anything down here I should be afraid of?

1 **BILL:** Besides Bob?

2 **SONNY:** Yeah.

3 **BILL:** If it moves, run out swinging. *(They laugh.)*

4

5

6

## Scene 6

7

### Gettin' Ready

8

*(At the rise: When the lights come up, ALL [minus the bride] are in a total frenzy. EULA is trying to get decorations up, and BOB is trying to help, but not very well. JASPER runs in and out of the room several times, but never says why. WILLIAM can't find his bow tie. AUDREY can't get her necklace fastened and is preoccupied with EULA's tacky decoration ideas. REV is late, and everyone is worried about that as well. No one seems to notice the bride is M.I.A.)*

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16 **EULA:** No, Bob. Don't put that up so high. How will the  
17 guests see it?

18 **BOB:** I sees it just fine.

19 **EULA:** Not everyone is tall like you. Now bring it down so I  
20 can pin it.

21 **BOB:** I don't know why we gots to have this foo-foeness  
22 anyways. Katie Sue doesn't care about this kinda thing.

23 **EULA:** She bought it, Bob. Now, lower your side. *(BOB lowers  
24 his arms reluctantly.)*

25 **WILLIAM:** Audrey, have you seen my tie? I can't find it  
26 anywhere.

27 **AUDREY:** It was packed with the socks.

28 **WILLIAM:** I looked there. No luck.

29 **AUDREY:** Look again. *(Pause)* We should have gotten ready at  
30 the hotel, but no, you had to come to this hut.

31 **WILLIAM:** I didn't want to get my tux wrinkled on the drive  
32 over.

33 **AUDREY:** What does it matter now? It's covered in dog hair  
34 anyway. *(Turns around with a necklace at her neck.)* Can  
35 you get this clasp? I put lotion on my hands, and now

- 1           my fingers are too slippery. (*WILLIAM helps her. JASPER*  
2           *runs in from hallway, obviously looking for something.*)
- 3   **WILLIAM:** When is the minister supposed to get here?
- 4   **JASPER:** When the dog's a-barkin', he's here. (*JASPER runs*  
5           *out front door.*)
- 6   **AUDREY:** That was helpful. (*Pause*) What's Jasper looking  
7           for, anyway? He's been in and out of here a dozen times  
8           already.
- 9   **WILLIAM:** Who knows? (*BILL enters, pulling on his coat.*)
- 10   **BILL:** It's a beautiful day to get married, wouldn't you say,  
11           Mother? (*He leans and kisses her on the cheek.*)
- 12   **AUDREY:** It's not too late, you know.
- 13   **BILL:** (*Turning away*) Has the minister arrived?
- 14   **AUDREY:** (*Sarcastically*) The dogs aren't barking.
- 15   **BILL:** What?
- 16   **EULA:** Now she's getting it. (*MARY SUE and KIMMY SUE*  
17           *enter from hallway wearing beehive wigs. AUDREY gasps.*)
- 18   **AUDREY:** My goodness, what happened to you two?
- 19   **MARY SUE:** Isn't it wonderful? Katie did it for us first thing  
20           this mornin'.
- 21   **KIMMY SUE:** She's goin' to beauty school.
- 22   **MARY SUE:** You should let her do your hair.
- 23   **AUDREY:** (*Looks away quickly.*) Uh, Eula, why don't I take over  
24           the decorating? That way you can go help your daughter  
25           get ready.
- 26   **EULA:** (*Glances around the room.*) No, I think I'm finished. Isn't  
27           it perty? (*She smiles. AUDREY is appalled.*) Well, I'll be  
28           back. Make yourself some iced tea if you'd like. (*EULA*  
29           *exits through hallway.*)
- 30   **AUDREY:** (*Whispering to WILLIAM*) She can't be serious! It  
31           looks like a sale at the swap meet in here.
- 32   **BILL:** You've never been to a swap meet, Mother. How would  
33           you know? (*He looks around.*) I think it's perfect. Now, be  
34           a good mommy and play nice.
- 35   **AUDREY:** Trust me, I'm trying. (*JASPER runs in again, and*

1           *they stop and look at him. He looks under the seat cushion,*  
 2           *under the chair, etc.)*

3     **WILLIAM: Jasper, what are you looking for?**

4     **JASPER: (Stops with a dramatic pause.) The bride. (Lights out.)**

5

6

7

### Scene 7

8

#### Who Dun Stole the Bride?

9

*(At the rise: When the lights come up, EULA is pacing in one place. BOB is on the couch dramatically crying on JASPER's shoulder. MARY SUE and KIMMY SUE look worried on the floor. WILLIAM and AUDREY are in the corner. AUDREY looks a bit too happy. BILL is also pacing behind the couch. The REV enters from outside. They all lean forward, thinking it is KATIE, and are disappointed when it isn't. Optional sound effect: a dog barking in the background.)*

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17

**REV: Hello, everyone. (Looks around.) Am I conductin' a wedding or funeral? Cause I usually wear my other suit for the dead.**

18

19

20

**MARY SUE: Maybe neither.**

21

**KIMMY SUE: Could be a funeral.**

22

**EULA: Kimmy Sue, hush!**

23

**REV: What's going on?**

24

**MARY SUE: Katie's gone missin'.**

25

**REV: The girl get cold feet?**

26

**JASPER: My daughter doesn't run, Reverend. (Looks at BILL.)**

27

**Did you cut her loose, boy?**

28

**BILL: No, of course not. Last time I saw her, she was in her wedding dress. (ALL gasp.)**

29

30

**MARY SUE: Then it's your fault.**

31

**BILL: I don't believe in bad luck.**

32

**BOB: Then why'd she leave?**

33

**BILL: Who said she left of her own accord?**

34

**MARY SUE: Why? Are you sayin' she didn't? Do you know something we don't?**

35

- 1 EULA: Mary Sue, leave him alone.
- 2 MARY SUE: Sorry, Mama.
- 3 REV: Have y'all checked everywhere?
- 4 BOB: Maybe she's in the outhouse. I'll go check. (*BOB exits*  
5 *outside before he can hear MARY SUE.*)
- 6 MARY SUE: No, I checked, Bob ...
- 7 EULA: It doesn't make any sense. She has to be here.
- 8 MARY SUE: (*Looking at AUDREY*) Maybe someone didn't  
9 want them to get married. (*AUDREY realizes she's talking*  
10 *to her. SONNY enters from outside with a box of donuts,*  
11 *unaware of what has just transpired.*)
- 12 SONNY: I brought donuts. (*Shuts door.*) Had to go twenty  
13 miles north to find a shop, but ... (*Pause*) Why is  
14 everyone standing around?
- 15 WILLIAM: Katie Sue is missing.
- 16 SONNY: Missing? Did she take off?
- 17 WILLIAM: No one knows.
- 18 MARY SUE: Like I said, maybe someone kidnapped her.
- 19 AUDREY: Who would want to kidnap her? That's absurd.
- 20 MARY SUE: Is it? You don't want her to marry your son.  
21 Maybe you did it.
- 22 AUDREY: What? How impertinent. I am a Madison.  
23 Madisons don't kidnap people. Really!
- 24 KIMMY SUE: Did you do it, Pa?
- 25 JASPER: Of course not, darlin'.
- 26 KIMMY SUE: But I heard you and Ma chawin' about not  
27 wanting the Yankees ta invade the south.
- 28 EULA: Kimmy Sue! Hush!
- 29 AUDREY: Better than inbred rednecks.
- 30 EULA: How dare ya come into my home and talk to me that  
31 way!
- 32 AUDREY: Your home? Is that what you call this hovel?
- 33 EULA: Jasper, fetch the Sheriff. I think Audrey dun stole our  
34 daughter.
- 35 AUDREY: I didn't kidnap your daughter. Look around.

- 1           Beyond motive, who was capable? *(Pause)* I'm not happy  
 2           with this wedding, but I assure you ... it wasn't me. I  
 3           have a bad back, and ...
- 4    EULA: Yep, but you gots money to pay a thief.
- 5    JASPER: Can't we all just get along?
- 6    AUDREY and EULA: *(Together)* No! *(BOB enters from outside,*  
 7           *looking a little disheveled.)*
- 8    BOB: She's not in the outhouse. Good thing, 'cause I had to  
 9           use it and now there's a terrible stink.
- 10   EULA: Bob, shut your mouth.
- 11   BOB: I think it was the squirrel.
- 12   EULA: Go home, Bob.
- 13   BILL: Look, if any of you have done anything to chase Katie  
 14           Sue away, so help me!
- 15   AUDREY: I knew this family would end up hurting my son.  
 16           No Eckley girl is good enough for a Madison man.
- 17   EULA: Jasper, get the shotgun. Annie done stepped in the  
 18           poopy now.
- 19   JASPER: Stop fighting. We ain't enemas.
- 20   AUDREY: I'm sorry. What did you say?
- 21   JASPER: *(Emphasizing)* We ain't the enema. *(To BILL)* Now,  
 22           we'll figure this out, son. Just relax.
- 23   SONNY: This is so simple. *(Turns to BILL.)* Remember what  
 24           we talked about last night?
- 25   BILL: Dad, did you pay Katie Sue to leave me?
- 26   WILLIAM: What? Don't be absurd.
- 27   SONNY: Is it absurd?
- 28   WILLIAM: Of course it is. I would never do such a thing.
- 29   SONNY: Well, now you're just lying. *(Steps closer.)* Didn't know  
 30           I knew about Lisa, did you?
- 31   BILL: Is it true, Dad? Did you pay off Lisa? *(WILLIAM looks*  
 32           *at AUDREY.)*
- 33   AUDREY: No, I did.
- 34   SONNY: Why?
- 35   AUDREY: The Millers knew that she was in the market to

1           marry a rich man. She had no interest in you as a person.  
 2           I wanted to protect you.  
 3       **SONNY:** I don't believe you.  
 4       **WILLIAM:** Son, if it isn't true, why did she leave for only  
 5           twenty thousand dollars?  
 6       **BILL:** Did mom offer Katie Sue the same deal?  
 7       **WILLIAM:** No, son, she didn't. I promise. *(Turns to SONNY.)*  
 8           And I'm sorry if we upset you. We were only trying to  
 9           shield you from getting hurt.  
 10       **SONNY:** *(A bit dramatic)* Why do you even care? I'm not even  
 11           a blink in your universe.  
 12       **WILLIAM:** Now you're just being melodramatic.  
 13       **SONNY:** Who's your heir, Dad? Surely not your eldest son ...  
 14       **WILLIAM:** When you took art as a major, I assumed you  
 15           didn't want it.  
 16       **SONNY:** Did it ever occur to you to ask? *(They stare at each*  
 17           *other for a long period.)*  
 18       **BILL:** I just want to know where my bride is. If any of you  
 19           knows, please just tell me.  
 20       **KIMMY SUE:** Maybe we should ask the guests waiting for the  
 21           reception. I betcha most of 'em are educated.  
 22       **JASPER:** College grads? Well, howdy do. Maybe we should.  
 23           *(Pause)* Where they be at?  
 24       **KIMMY SUE:** Ma put them out front.  
 25       **BILL:** I'm OK with asking them, if you think it will help.  
 26       **JASPER:** Can't hurt none.  
 27       **KIMMY SUE:** Yeah, maybe one of them saw somethin'.  
 28       **JASPER:** *(To audience)* Well, howdy, folks. Thanks for joinin'  
 29           us. Anyone got a college degree? *(Waits for someone to raise*  
 30           *his or her hand.)* Do you got a question for one of the  
 31           **Madisons?** *(If the audience member says "yes")* Well, you as  
 32           smart as a stubbed toe. *(If the audience member says "no")*  
 33           I think we could use your diploma in the outhouse. *(They*  
 34           *begin question and answer time with the guests. The questions*  
 35           *are handed out before the play starts. See Appendix B.)*

1     **BOB:** It's thicker than a vat of lard in here.  
 2     **JASPER:** I'm thinkin' yer right. Why don't we all take a walk,  
 3         get some fresh air, use the outhouse, get some more  
 4         water? Who knows, maybe Katie Sue just needed a  
 5         breather. Maybe we all needs one too. (*BOB exits out the*  
 6         *outside door.*)  
 7     **AUDREY:** For once, I agree.  
 8     **WILLIAM:** How about if no one finds her, we'll reconvene in  
 9         about ten minutes. Deal?  
 10    **JASPER:** Deal! (*JASPER spits on his hand and sticks it out to*  
 11         *WILLIAM.*)  
 12    **WILLIAM:** Uh, never mind. (*He slightly smiles and waves for*  
 13         *AUDREY to follow him out. All ACTORS get up and exit.*  
 14         *Stage lights go down and house lights come up for a ten-*  
 15         *minute intermission. If desired, the CAST [Minus KATIE]*  
 16         *could walk around and ask the audience who they think could*  
 17         *have stolen the bride.*)

18

19                   **INTERMISSION: Refills/Clean tables**

20

21

22

**ACT II**

23

**Scene 1**

24

**Whodunit?**

25

(*At the rise: Need a different stage area. KATIE is tied up on*  
 26         *some hay in a barn.*)

27

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**KATIE:** Come on, you can't keep me here. I know you don't  
 want me to get married, but this is ridiculous. All the  
 guests are probably already here, and I bet everyone is  
 worried sick. (*Pause*) Look, you're making me wrinkle my  
 perty new dress. (*Pause*) Would you please come in here  
 and talk to me? If you think this is going to make me  
 change my mind, you're sadly mistaken. (*Pause*) I know  
 you're back there. I can hear you breathin'. You's louder  
 than a dog in July. (*Pause*) Come on. I'm beggin' you —

- 1           untie me, please. *(Pause)* OK, what if I tell you I'm open  
2           to whatever you have to say, if you just come out here?  
3           *(BOB steps out.)*
- 4   **BOB:** I love you, Katie Sue.
- 5   **KATIE:** I know, but you cain't just kidnap me. That ain't  
6           civilized.
- 7   **BOB:** I ain't civilized. That's what makes me the better beau.  
8           Yer not a rich Yankee snob, Katie Sue. You's my kind of  
9           people.
- 10   **KATIE:** Just because I grew up in the Ozarks don't make me  
11           like you. I'm different — as are you. God makes each of  
12           us special.
- 13   **BOB:** You heard them up yonder. They fighin'.
- 14   **KATIE:** That's because they ain't learned to love  
15           unconditionally. They shouldn't be judgin' each other by  
16           how we live, look, or talk. That ain't God's way.
- 17   **BOB:** I ain't judged no one.
- 18   **KATIE:** You judgin' Bill.
- 19   **BOB:** Only 'cause I love ya, Katie Sue.
- 20   **KATIE:** Bob, I ain't marryin' you.
- 21   **BOB:** Why not?
- 22   **KATIE:** Because I love Bill, and it would hurt his feelings.
- 23   **BOB:** What about mine? I gots feelings.
- 24   **KATIE:** Yeah, and I'm real sorry about that. *(Pause)* But if you  
25           really love me, you'll untie me.
- 26   **BOB:** But then you'll marry that Yankee snob.
- 27   **KATIE:** Bill ain't a snob. His mama maybe, his dad a little,  
28           but Bill, he's good people.
- 29   **BOB:** You promise?
- 30   **KATIE:** You betcha. *(Pause)* And for the record, they ain't  
31           Yankees no more. They moved to Californie five years  
32           ago.
- 33   **BOB:** OK. *(Moves to untie her.)* But if I untie you, can I be the  
34           ring barr-ier? *(Lights fade.)*
- 35

## Scene 2

## Let's Get Hitched!

(At the rise: ALL are still pacing, searching, worried, etc., in the living room. BOB and KATIE enter from outside door. ALL gasp.)

**EULA:** Katie Sue, where have you been?

**JASPER:** You OK, darlin'?

**KATIE:** Bob and I just had a misunderstanding, but I'm fine.  
(Looks around.) Is they all here?

**EULA:** Yeah, they're over yonder under the tree keeping cool.

**KATIE:** Well, bring 'em all in. I wants to get hitched.  
(EVERYONE hoots and hurrahs. KIMMY SUE runs out the front door and around to the audience.)

**MARY SUE:** Hey everyone, c'mere and join us for my sister's wedding. (She runs back around and into the living room. EVERYONE gets in their places, and the REV turns to start the ceremony. KATIE hands BOB the ring pillow.)

**BILL:** I was really worried about you.

**KATIE:** I'm fine. Just can't wait to marry you, that's all.

**EULA:** Anybody offer you money to leave?

**KATIE:** No.

**AUDREY:** Anyone put a shotgun in your face to keep you from this wedding?

**KATIE:** No. (Pause) Reverend, can we get started, please?  
(KATIE takes BILL's hand and they face each other. REV looks in NIV Bible and turns to I Cor. 13:4-8.)

**REV:** "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (Looks up from Bible.) I know you two love each other very much. Like Christ loved us, so are we to love each other. Though the world may never see you two as equals, God



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