WANTED A HUSBAND

A COMEDY

BY EUNICE GOODRICH

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WANTED A HUSBAND

A

COMEDY in THREE ACTS

By

EUNICE GOODRICH

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Eunice Goodrich

634 East Ave.
Oak Park
Ill.
The Eunice Goodrich Co.,
Presenting the Farical Comedy in Three Acts,
"Wanted, a Husband."

CAST OF CHARACTERS.
POLLY BRIGHTON, not too young to love
..................................................EUNICE GOODRICH
Nina Blossom—Sweet sixteen......................Helen Guest
Nancy Baker—Looking for a husband, not particular..Mary Downs
Mary, one of the Dancers..........................Nell Haskell
Timothy Timid, editor of the Thomasville Trumpet, Chas. Maniel
Paul Gerard, from the city............................Thaddeus Gray
John Adams Miller, the bashful lover...........Chas. A. Meagher
Jimmy..................................................Harry Wakefield
Sam, the butler, a colored individual of importance, Lew J. Welsh
Baby Timid............................................Theodora

SYNOPSIS.
ACT I—Husking Bee in the barn. Who wanted a husband.? The twins on a visit. The pillow dance.
ACT III—Polly’s home in New York. A visit from our country friends. The proposal.
Scene represents the interior of a barn. The haystack is built 8 or 10 ft high. A solid board for the slide must be placed under the hay so that the hay will no come off when Polly & others slide down. Use a door leaving the top open for Polly to climb in on top of haystack. Ladder placed at opening & at the L against hay stack. Corn- unhusked- is on floor ready to be husked by characters.

PROPS

Wooden bench.
2 Barrels.
Hoe
Rake
Pitchfork
Bushel of unhusked corn
Low stool
Pillow, without case on
on barrel.

2 brooms
2 dolls. life size as babies
2 6 ft. ladders.
10 letters, stamped envelopes
3 coins for Tim
Pocketbook & check for Paul.
Letter, for Nina.
Bunch red rose for Tim.
Newspaper for Nancy.
Old harness hanging on wall.
WANTED A HUSBAND

ACT 1st.

Tim.
Je-rusi-lam; ain't no one found a red ear yet. Boys & girls set to, & see who can find the most red ears; this is the last bushel & you ain't found many.

John
The girls don't try to find any, & if they do they don't say a word about it, but then the girls never do see any fun in kissing!

Nancy
Oh I can!

Tim.
Je-rusi-lam!

Nancy
Nancy where is Polly? Why didn't she come over with you this evening?

Nancy
Oh she's sick & ma's afraid to let her come out in the night air.

John
Sick! well that's a goldinged shame. (aside to Nina.) I'll bet she ain't sick. Nancy always says that cause she don't want Poly 'round.

Nancy
Do you know that girl's getting more & more obstinate every day. I don't know what we shall do with her, I think she ought to be put out to earn her own living!

John
Why don't her grandfather send money every week for her keeping?

Nancy
Stingy old miser. he's as rich as Mr. Creosus, & he only sends $15 a week; that don't begin to pay for the food she eats to no hing about the dresses.

John
Which, the dresses you or Polly wear?

Nancy
Polly of course, I can't bear that girl, only last week she told ma that she would wear pinafores no more & she would have her dresses made long; I told ma if she gave in to her 1 inch, I'd elope with the first man who asked me!

Nina
Why Nancy!

John
I pity the man! By the way uncle Tim, do you know who that was put that advertisement in your paper, "Wanted a Husband"?
I reckon I do, but bein' the editor, it wouldn't be acordin to business to tell.

What was it?

It read something like this: "Wanted a Husband, XX a young lady tired of single blessedness & home surroundings, wished to correspond with a gentleman of means—Widowers preferred—address N.B.P.O." N.B. now who can that be?

N.B. stands for take notice.

Well I take notice that N.B. stands for Nina Blossom too! Gee Whiz! I'll bet 'twas you.

You horrid boy, you think nothing of the kind.

It's a darned good joke any way, & I've a good mind to answer it myself, & fill the letter full of red pepper just for a joke.

Come hasn't any one found a real ear yet?

Oh Nina has!(all rise.)

Oh have I, Monsieur Impudence? Well you're not going to get the benefit of it, I'm going to kiss uncle Tim.(goes to him & kisses him.)

I've found one & I'm going to kiss uncle Tim too(starts to him)

(Holds up his hand to keep her off.) Excuse me I don't want all the good things in this world.

Oh uncle Tim! (Reproachfully.)

Well catch me then.(Dodges Nancy & runs off R.l.E.)

(Starts to follow him meets John who stands near R.l. stops.)

Oh well I'll kiss Johnny!

No, no, I'll go bring Tim back. (runs off R.l.)

(Stands L. grinning awkwardly.) Nancy, y ou can kiss me if you want to!

Do you really mean it Jimmy?(he nods) Well a kiss is a kiss no matter where it comes from!(wipes his mouth with her apron & kisses him.)

(Making up face.) Gee Whiz! that gal's been eatin onions.

(exit L.l.)
(Looking after him.) Nina, he's completely mashed on me!

Nina.

Yes I think so too Nancy.

Nan.

Ah, Nina the trials that my poor little palpitating heart has to undergo, is enough to make me old before I am 20, Heigh! ho!

Nina.

What's the matter now, Nancy?

Nan.

I had a dream last night. (sighs.)

Nina.

Did you? Was it a bad dream? You must have been eating something that didn't agree with you, you had better take something for your liver!

Nan.

My liver! Oh it wasn't my liver! It's on the other side, it's my heart, it's my heart! Last night I dreamed I was married!

How terrible!

Nina.

Yes, but the awakening was far more terrible. (Weeps.) Oh it was heard, after dreaming that, to wake up to the cold realities of life! I sat up on the edge of the bed & wept briny tears! I tried to go to sleep & dream it all over again, but I couldn't! I couldn't!

Nina.

There there, Nancy, don't feel so badly about it!

Nan.

(Weeps.) I can't help it! I can't help it!

Nina.

To be sure husbands must be handy to take you to parties, picnics &c., but how would you like to work from morning till night at the washtub as poor Mrs. O'Grady does to support a husband? Why sometimes the poor woman's fingers are worn nearly to the bones.

Nan.

Oh! how sweet it must be to wear the fingers to the bones for the sake of a dear loved husband!

Nina.

It may be all very well in poetry, but in real life it's quite a different thing!

Nan.

Speaking of poetry reminds me—did you read my last poem in the Trumpet? (Takes newspaper from pocket.)

Nina.

No—but don't trouble yourself!

Nan.

Oh it's no trouble, it's a pleasure I assure you, & I am certain you will like it—I call it "Nancy B's sympathy to a
dear friend" (reads from paper.)
I never would marry a female man,
   You may do so, if you can,
Thus said I when young & giddy,
   But now my mind, it is more stiddy

For oh, there is one, a widdower he,
   With children, 1 plus 4 x 3
Oh how my heart doth sympathise-
   And long to wipe their little eyes."
(Smiling.) Sweet -- isn't it?

Nina

Isn't Mr. Timid, the editor of the Trumpet, a widdower with 13 children, the two youngest twins?

(Sighs.) Yes !

Nina

Well if he isn't an idiot, he will think YOU are one! How could you write such stuff & send it to a widdower with 13 children?

(Offended.) Thus it is the noble mind of genious is ever misunderstood! But to change the subject, I want to ask you for a bed quilt pattern I am going to make a new quilt out of tiny little pieces, I have been saving for a long time. (Grinning - silly.) I may need one suddenly, you know, a great many of us young girls are being snatched up up rather suddenly this year, & it becomes us all to be prepared!

Nina

Yes, I'll show you how to do the crazy patchwork by & by.

Nan

O very well don't forget. (Looks L. L.) I do believe I see Mr. Timid looking for me. I'm coming love, to meet you. (Exits L. L. throwing kisses as she goes.)

Nina

Thank heaven she's gone! Now let me read Paul's letter again--
(Takes letter from pocket & reads) "I am coming out on business & I trust you will give me the opportunity to explain-" "What explanation could there be for him? What excuse for him to write to any girl & call her his dearest Polly? - No, I... not listen to a word he says-- I'll

Tim.

(Puts head out from under ha ystack R.C.) Hist! Hist! Nina!

Nina

Why, Mr. Timid is that you?

Tim.

Yes has she gone?

Nina.

(Rises.) Who?
Nancy Baker.

Nina.

Yas--but you're not afraid of her, are you?

Tim.

Oh no, but I don't care about kissing her--I wanted to have a little talk with you. (Comes down L.C.)

Nina

Well Mr. Timid?

Tim.

I--I--(feeling in his pockets.) brought you some red roses--I picked em off a bush as I come along, & put em in my pocket--I wonder where they are? (finds them.) Ah here they they are, (gives them to her.) They look kind 'a wilted!

Nina

Oh never mind, they are very nice. . .

Tim.

You wouldn't mind sitting down would you? (Polly enters on top of haystack R.)

Certainly not, Mr. Timid. (Sits on bench R)

Tim.

(Sitting L. of her on bench.) Did you receive a letter from me today?

Nina.

No, Mr. Timid, why?

Tim.

Oh nothing, only I wrote you one, & I hoped you had it, but you will get it. I now promise me that you will think as kind of it as you can--It's only a small favor that I ask--

Nina.

Certainly, Mr. Timid, I'll do anything I can for you.

Tim.

Oh will you? You don't know how happy I shall be--I'll promise to do anything you wish--I'll send the children to school--I'll get a housekeeper, I'll build a new house, & fix every thing up just as you want it--Oh you don't know how much I love you! (Kneels to Nina Polly slides down haystack between them Nina screams & exits R,L.) Jerusalem! (Rises & goes L.)

Polly.

Gee Whiz! It's only me!

Polly?

Tim.

Um-hum

Tim.

You've been listening!

Polly.

Why Mr. Timid, you don't think I would?

Tim.

Well I don't know about that. But I say Polly, have you conclu-
ed to tell me who it was sent you with that advertisement to put in m paper?

Pol.

No, I hav'n't but I've got a whole pocket full of letters & I'm going to give them to N.B. as soon as I see her.

Tim.

Where did you get them?

Pol.

Out of the post office, to be sure!

Tim.

Let me see them.

Pol.

What for?

Tim.

Oh just for fun.

Pol.

Oh, uncle Tim, I really believe you wrote one of them.

Tim.

Me?

Pol.

Yes you! I wonder which it was. (looks at letters, which she take from pocket.)

Tim.

I say, Polly, who are you going to give them to, tell me won't you?

Pol.

Will you promise never to tell that I told you?

Tim.

Oh I'll never tell any one.

Pol.

Honest & true?

Tim.

Honest & true!

Pol.

Go down on your knees.

Tim.

What for?

Pol.

I want you to swear it.

Tim.

Oh, I can swear just as well standing up.

Pol.

Well I guess you don't want to know very much-

Tim.

Yes I do, but you must remember that I'm not as young as I was 20 years ago.

Pol.

No, & your age don't agree with you very well, does it?

Tim.

Oh, come, Polly!
Down on your knees! (Forces him down.) down on your knees I say! Oh don't you look funny!  

Tim.

I dare say I do!  

( Running up & down.) Oh how I wish some one would come in & see you, they'd be sure to think you were making love to me.  

Tim.

Come, Polly, hurry up!  

Pol.

Well now, I want you to swear--  

Tim.

Damn it--  

Pol.

No! no! not that way, but just hold up your hand & (helps him hold up his hand.) swear never --never, to tell that I told you.  

Tim.

I swear never to tell that you told me!  

Pol.

( Giving him a push & runs R.) So do I, for I wont tell you!  

Tim.

Oh, come, Polly--  

Pol.

I'll tell you what, I'll give you a chance to guess, who do you think it was?  

Tim.

Somebody in your house?  

Pol.

Right so far.  

Tim.

(Anxiously.) It wasn't Nancy?  

Pol.

N-N-N-that would be telling!  

Tim.

(Coaxingly.) Nina Blossom?  

Pol.

Oh aint you cute!-(pretending to be caught.)  

Tim.

You daren't say it wasn't her?  

Pol.

No, I wont say it was her & I wont say it wasn't her.  

Tim.

That's enough for me, I'm sure it must be. Saa Polly, I'll give you 5 cts. a piece for all those letters but mine--  

Pol.

YOURS?  

Tim.

No, no! I mean his-- his--  

Pol.

Oh, no, uncle Tim. you gave yourself away that time!
Well you won't tell, will you? & if you'll give my letter to Nina---

N.B. you mean.

Tim.

It's all the same.

Pol.

(Aside.) May be!

Tim.

I'll give you 25 cts. Will you do it?

Pol.

It's a bargain!(shows him letters.) Which is yours?

Tim

(Looks at letters. at the third one he says.) There that's it!

Pol.

(Who holds the letters all the time.) I ought to have known that, it looks like a lot of geese tracks. Well now- I've got 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-

Tim.

No cheating!

Pol.

Well didn't you see me? (counts them again.) There's 1 & there's 2-- 1 & 2 makes 3-- & there's 3-- & 3 & 3 make 6. & there's 4, & 4 & 6 makel0 & --

Tim.

Oh here you wouldn't cheat an editor, would you?

Pol.

Well there's just 10 of them there, now you owe me 75 cts.

Tim.

What!

Pol.

You said you'd give me 5 cts apiece for all the letters but yours & 25 cts. if I'd give yours to N.B.

Tim.

But I didn't suppose you had the whole post office.

Pol.

That's not my fault.

Tim.

Come, 35 cts & call it square--

Pol.

No sir!

Tim.

50 cts & my note for the rest?

Pol.

Don't want your note, it's no good.

Tim.

Yes it is, every body's got it.

Pol.

75 cts & not a penny less.

Tim.

Oh, very well there it is!(gives her money.)
Pol.
And there are the letters. (Gives him letters, all except 1.)

Tim.
(Baby cry heard, R.) Why what's that?

Pol.
Gee Whiz! I forgot all about them!

Tim.
Them! What? Great heavens! it sounds like--(starts towards haystack.) It must be.--(Climbs up stack, R.) It IS (as he takes twins, one in each arm & sits on top of hay-stack.) the twins. Now how am I going to get down?

Pol.
Oh you can slide down easy enough.

Tim.
But suppose I should fall?

Pol.
Never mind, I'll catch the twins. (He slides down falling & rolling over, drops one of the twins. Dolly picks it up.) Oh, Mr. Timid that's too bad! There, there! Hush Katie Kate-Kate don't cry!

Tim.
That ain't Kate, that's Duplicate!

Pol.
How can you tell them apart?

Tim.
I tied a blue ribbon around Kate's arm, & see (holding arm of twin up, & showing blue ribbon.) there it is!

Pol.
Well I tied one on the other, & see there it is. (shows duplicate ribbon.)

Tim.
What!

Pol.
Never mind, you'll have to name them all over again!

Tim.
How did they come out here any way?

Pol.
Well as I was coming by the house, I heard them crying. I went in & brought 'em out here, & put 'em to sleep, & put 'em up there, & forgot all about 'em, but I'll take 'em back if you want me to.

Tim.
Well be careful, you'll let 'em drop.

Pol.
No I won't either (takes both twins, stumbles & nearly drops one.) Well I didn't drop 'em any way!

Nancy
(Without.) I'll return in a minute.

Tim.
Here comes Nancy! For heavens sake don't let her see me, & the letter--take care of it! (runs off, R. L.)

Nancy.
(Enters L.L.) Polly, how did you come here?

Pol.

On my feet, to be sure, you don't suppose I flew do you?

Nan.

What have you got there?

Pol.

As near as I can judge, by looking at 'em, it's the twins.

Nan.

Give them to me. (Takes twins.) Didn't I tell you to stay at home? (X to L.C.)

Pol.

Now don't you scold till you know what I come for! (Holds up Tim's letter.) See!

Nan.

For me?

Pol.

If I give it to you, will you let me stay to the dance?

Nan.

No, you naughty girl, you go right home!

Pol.

Then you'll have to come home for your letter. (Runs off R.L.)

Nan.

(Calling.) Here, Polly, here!

Pol.

(Without.) Can I stay to the dance? (Ad lib.) Can I? Can I?

Nan.

No, u-o-n (hesitating.) Yes, yes! Now give me the letter.

Pol.

(Gives letter.) There it is. Shall I hold the babies for you, while you read your letter?

Nan.

Yes, but be very careful now. (Gives babies to Pol.)

Pol.

(Aside.) Dear little things aint they sweet? I think, nit! (Looks at Nancy who stands L.C. opening letter.) I wonder if she is goose enough to think that letter was intended for her?

Nan.

(Reads.) "Dear Miss, in answer to your advertisement, would say, I am looking for a wife! a wife! "Perhaps we may suit each other perfectly" Oh I am sure of it-- I will be at the pic nic, two weeks from today, & will wear a red nose"-- how singular! "If you approve my style, you wear one too. Hoping to hear from you in the mean time, I remain yours devotedly, T.T." - T.T! Oh my heart tells me at once that it is Timothy! Timid! Th't dear man! He must have thought it was I who put that advertisement in his paper! Polly, give me those babies! (Goes to her & takes them as she attempts to put letter in pocket & drops it on floor)
Yes, Nancy.

(Polly, does you tell any one about this letter?) Polly, shakes her head.) Well don't, & if you are a real good girl, I'll give you--

Yes Nancy?

(Polly, is given a penny, some day! To babies.) There, hush, dear, hush! Dear little things, so like their dear pa pa! (Exit L.L.)

(Polly, is laughing at her.) Oh what a goose! (see letter on floor. Pick it up)

(John enters R.C., Polly runs to him, takes his hand, pulls him down stage to L.C.) O, John! John! John! I've got something to tell you! Say, you know that advertisement I put in the paper?

Did YOU put it in the paper?

(Polly, says, Yes, just for a joke, & I got a whole lot of answers from it, & I sold 'em all to uncle Tim, for 75 cts.

John.

What did uncle Tim want 'em for?

(Polly, says, Well you see he thought it was Nina Blossom who put that ad in the paper, & he didn't want her to get only one 'cept what HE wrote, see? Say, so he said he'd give me 75 cts if I'd give him the others & give his to N.B. Well I did give it to N.B., but I didn't give it to Nina Blossom, I give it to Nancy Baker, & she read it just now, & thought it was meant for her, & then she lost it & here it is, say lets us read it & see what he says. (Reads.) Dear Miss, in answer to your advertisement, would say, I am looking for a wife."-- Say John, hes looking for a wife! (both giggle.) perhaps we may suit each other perfectly, I will be at the picnic, two weeks from today & will wear a red nose"-- Well for heavens sake alive what does he want to wear a red nose for?

John.

I'm sure I don't know!

(Polly, says, That's what he says!" will wear a red n-o-s-e-" Oh no, Jack, see, it isn't "n" it's "r" see,? R-see!

Jack.

Yes, so it is! He's got the curlique on the wrong side of the "r"

(Polly, reads.) "Will wear a red nose, If you approve my style you w.
Dear [Name],

I heard about your great adventure to the [location]. I'm so proud of you! And I'm glad you're safe and sound. I'm sure you had a wonderful time.

I think you should write a book about your experiences. It would be a great read for everyone.

Take care of yourself and don't forget to rest after such an adventure.

Best,

[Your Name]
wear one too, Hoping to hear from you in the mean time, I remain yours devotedly T.T."—Timothy Timid! Oh, Jack, did you ever hear anything so perfectly ridiculous, in all your life? (goes R. John goes L. Paul enters L.C.)

John.

No I never did!

Paul.

Ahem! (Comes down C.) How do you do, Miss Brighton?

John.

Who are you, any way?

Paul.

Don't you know me? (to Polly.) Nor you either.?

Pol.

No, & I don't want to know you either!

Paul.

Little girls should be seen & not heard.

Pol.

See here, (going to him,) Who are you calling a little girl? I ain't!

Paul.

Ain't you?

Pol.

Can't you see ain't I big? (Standing on tip toe.)

Paul.

About as big as & an elephant.

Pol.

Jumbo wouldn't look worse than I do going around with one of my pinafores on! D'you see that big hole there? (Holds up apron with hole in & slaps his face through it.) well I put that there on purpose, so I did, & I'm going to tear up every old pinafore they put on me, I guess I'm too old to wear pinafores

Paul.

Well you run along now & tell Nancy that I want to see her.

Pol.

What do you want to see her for? Say, are you one of those fellows that answered that advertisement?

Paul.

What advertisement?

Pol.

Wanted a husband.

Paul.

What me a lawyer?

Pol.

Oh lawyers do worse things than that.

Paul.

But I am her cousin!

Pol.

Her cousin?

Paul.
Yes.

Pol.

Are you Paul Girard?

Paul.

The same.

Pol.

Then you come from my dear darling grandpa! Tell me of him, has he come home from across the waters?

Paul.

He sails from Liverpool today, & will arrive in New York in about 10 days.

Pol.

(Runs across to Jack, who is extreme L. Takes his hands & jumps up & down joyfully.) O Jack! Jack! Jack! Do you hear what he says? My grandpa is coming home, he is the only relative I have in this wide wide world! Oh! I am happy enough to kiss every one in the world! (Whirls around toward C. Paul come to her as if to accept the invitation, she puts her hand up to keep him off.) except you, Mr. Dude!

John.

(Goes C.) Hold on New Yorkey, don't get fresh down here! or I'll knock you down! (X6XP6X

Pol.

O never mind him! Come along, let's go & tell everybody (pulling him towards C.L.) Oh, I'm so happy, so happy! (exits with John, who drags back shaking his fist at Paul.)

Paul.

I wonder where Nina is & if the dear girl received my letter? The idea of her being jealous of me because I wrote a letter to Poll... & one too dictated by her grandfather, whose secretary I am. It's absurd! Never mind I will explain all & then she can't be angry.

Nan.

(Enters L.L. rushes to Paul & tries to kiss him.) My dear darling cousin, how glad I am to see you!

Paul.

There, there! (offers her his fingers.) How do de? --Now to business, Polly goes to N.Y. to weeks from today, There is a c check (gives money) Make her look respectable.

Nan.

(Takes check.) Well I'm glad of it, for such a nuisance I never saw in all my life! She is quite beyond my control, she thinks of nothing but beaux, from morning to night, the idea! a child of her age! it's absurd!

Paul.

By the way, Nancy, when are you going to get married?

Nan.

I hope dear cousin the day is not far distant. (looks silly.)

So do I, you ought to have been married long ago.
Nan
I'm sure it wasn't my fault! (In case Polly does a specialty the following two speeches are introduced, if not cut them.)

Paul.
By the way, Nancy, has Polly been taking dancing lessons as her grandfather desired?

Nan.
Yes, & it's perfectly disgraceful, she does nothing but dance, dance, from morning till night! (Tim enters R.I. Polly, John & Nina, Jimmy, & others enter D.C.F, laughing &c.)

Paul.
(To Tim R.) Why how do you do, Mr. Timid?

Tim.
(R)R Well glue my teeth, if it aint Paul Girard!

Paul.
Yes, how are you?

Tim.
Never better in my life, feel as I look, well.

Paul.
(Crosses to Nina who is L.) I am pleased to see you Miss Blossom.

Nina.
(Indifferently.) Mr. Girard, you here?

Paul.
Yes, will you allow me to explain?

Nina.
There is nothing to explain, therefore it is not necessary. (Aside.) He shall not see that I care for him. (During this conversation every one is sweeping & clearing up floor of corn husks &c.

John.
Come take your partners for a dance!

Paul.
Will you dance with me, Miss Nina?

Nina.
(All take partners.) Thank you Mr. Girard, but I am already engaged to Mr. Timid. (Crosses to Tim. R. & takes position for dance.)

John.
(Goes to Paul.) Here Mr. Dude, I'll git you a partner, (takes him to Nancy, who is extreme L.) There you dance with Nancy!

John.
Are you ready?

Polly.
Yes turn her loose! (Music for dance.)

(Pillow Dance.) Jimmy & girl lead. Nina & Tim, next, Polly & John follow Nancy & Paul last, where there are other supper arrange to suit the stage setting, not much running till it comes to Polly, as she goes up C the last figure, she lets go of Johns hand & runs off C, as she goes off John falls &C. gets ups runs after her, she enters L.I runs across & exits R.I.
dodging the others who try to catch her, John runs on L.L. as he crosses to R. Nancy is in the way. He throws his arms around her & **kisses her**, sees his mistake, groans & exits R. brings Polly back, drags her to pillow C. kneels & after fighting succeeds in kissing her twice. They go up C. to place & fell. When dance begins again Nancy & Paul are down stage, Nancy smiling in anticipation of the coming kiss, Paul shows that he is disgusted at the prospects of kissing her. When it comes to their turn to kneel, Nancy flops down at once on her knees, Paul stands looking at her, finally breaks away & runs off L.L. Nancy falls flat over pillow. The men all run after Paul. The women ad lib bus. Paul runs on L.U. off R.L. others after him, he enters R. on top of haystack, John or Tim. after him, rolls down escapes again & off L.C. John & Tim bring him back carrying him bodily bring him down to pillow where Nancy is on her knees waiting for him with outstretched arms kisses him as curtain falls.

CURTAIN
ACT 2.

Wood drop in 5
Swing.
Cut wood in 4
Croquet set in box

Rustic chair

Rustic bench

Scene represents a picnic ground

DROPS.

Swing, practical.
Lemonade stand
2 rustic benches.
2 rustic chairs.
Large glass pitcher of lemon ade.
6 clean glasses.
Lemon ade sign tacked on stand.
"Lemon ade 10 cts a glass".
Croquet set
Lunch baskets.
Newspaper.
Coin for Tim.
Coin for John.
5 cts worth cheese in paper. (Clean)
Grab bag, filled for Man.
Pistol for John
Letter for Polly.
Paper bags to look as if full of popcorn Fruits &c for Lemonade stand.
ACT 2.

(Picnic scene. Tim. dis. seated on rustic bench R. Picnickers walking across stage at back.

Nancy

(Enters L.U. at rise goes to Tim holding out grab-nag which she carries.) Will you grab, Mr. Timid?

Tim

Oh certainly!(Grabs whole bag.)

Nan.

(Pulling it away.) No, no! that's not the way! You put your hand IN the bag, after you have paid 25 cts. & then take what ever you get.

Tim.

Oh, that's it is it? I thought the elder of the church forbid any more gambling.

Nan.

But this is not gambling!

Tim.

It's the worse kind of gambling, for it's gambling in the name of the lord.

Nan.

It's nothing of the sort, for there are no wicked paper cards connected with it! It's only a pious raffling in harmless pin-cushions, innocent rag babies, & beautiful poems, written by me: Gambling!(looks at him reproachfully & going L.) Gambling! It's nothing of the sort, it's nothing of the sort!(exit L.U.)

Tim.

Glue my teeth if it ain't gambling! In the language of Yankee Doodle, it's stealing the livery horses of heaven to carry the Devil out riding!(cross to L & calls.) Polly! Oolly!

Pol.

(Without.) Yes uncle Tim!

Tim.

Do you tend this lemonade stand?

Pol.

Coming, uncle Tim, coming.(enters L.2. back of lemonade stand) Will you have some?

Tim.

How much?

Pol.

Only ten cts. (Nina & John enter R.U. Nina gets in swing & John swings her.)

Tim.

But I can get it in town for 5 cts.

Pol.

Yes but you are not in town now, & this is for the benefit of the church.(she pours it out.)

Tim.
Tim.
Oh very well—You have some too & I'll pay for it, there's a quarter, don't forget the 5 cts. change.

Pol.
Change! aren't you ashamed to ask for change, when it's for the benefit of the church?

Tim.
(Spits out lemonade.) Bah!

Pol.
Why, what's the matter?

Tim.
It's worse than circus lemonade!

Pol.
Why, uncle Tim!

Tim.
Well it is! Je-ru-si-lam! (Exit L.L.)

Pol.
(Aside as she sees John & Nina.) There they are now, Here the day is most over & John has scarcely noticed me at all.

John.
(To Nina.) Is that high enough?

Nina.
Oh yes! John I love to swing- I could swing all day long! Do you know I am going to buy a hammock & have it put up in our front yard. There's lots of room in it, & you must come over & we can sit in it & read for hours!

Pol.
(Aside.) Oh can you? Well if you do, I'll cut it down, just as' sure as my name is Polly Brighton!

Nina.
I'm so glad you haven't any sweetheart, they are such a nuisance.

Pol.
(Aside.) Oh, era they indeed!

Nina.
I was awfully afraid Polly would take my place in your affections while I was away at school. She's such a cute little thing!

Pol.
Oh, wouldn't I like to scratch your eyes out!

Nina.
She doesn't look more than 12 years old.

Pol.(Aside.) Well this is disgusting!

Nina.
She is going to her grandfathers tomorrow. Oh, how I wish I had some one to go to! It's a sad thing to be all alone in this world.

John.
Yes, that's so it is!

Nina.
I haven't seen Polly, have you? She was to have charge of a
lemonade stand—there's one over there, go & see if it is. hers, & buy me some, I'm very thirsty!

John.

All right Nina. (Goes to lemonade stand, Polly has her back to him, he knocks on stand.) Say! (Pol. turns.) Gee Whiz! It's Polly! (to her.) How de do Polly?

Pol.

None of your business! (Burns from him.)

Oh, Polly!

Pol.

My name is Miss Brighton, if you please!

John.

Well "Miss Brighton if you please", I'd like a glass of lemonade.

Pol.

Would you? Well I haven't any!

John.

There's a whole pitcherful

Pol.

It's all engaged!

John.

Business must be booming! Oh, come Pol—

Pol.

Sir!

John.

MISS BRIGHTON, won't you sell me a glass?

Pol.

No, I won't.

John.

Oh do!

Pol.

No! (Ad lib.) Yes I will, I'll sell you a glass— for 50 cts.

John.

50 cts! You're joking! Who ever heard of such a thing! 50 cts. for a glass of lemonade? (Aside.) I've only got 50 cts. (To Nina.) Say, Nina, are you very thirsty?

Yes, John, hurry up!

John.

(Aside.) Ding it all! I don't want to spend the last cent I've got for a glass of lemonade. (To Pol.) Say Polly, the sign there says only 10 cts. (Points to sign.)

Pol.

I don't care what the sign says. I told you I'd sell you a glass for 50 cts & you'll not get it for a cent less!

John.

(Throws coin on table.) Well there's your 50 cts. (Polly
gives him empty glass, he takes it & starts to go up to Nina. sees empty glass.) Why where is the lemonade?

Pol. Lemonade? who said anything about lemonade? I'm sure I did'n I told you I'd sell you a glass for 50 cts, & I did.

John. Now don't be naughty.

Pol. Naughtly indeed! I'll have you to understand, I'm not a little child!

John. Your acting very childish now.

O am I in deed?

Nina. (Calls.) John!

Pol. John! Don't you hear, you're wanted, John!

John. Yes, Nina, in a minute! (to Pol.) Come Polly she's waiting for the lemonade!

Pol. Well she can wait till, she's red headed, if she waits for me to give her any.

John. Then give me back my 50 cts.

No I wont!

John. What do I want an empty glass for?

Pol. To start housekeeping, I suppose.

John. Oh very well! (puts glass on table) You can keep your old glass, I don't want it! (goes to Nina.) Come on Nina, let's go over to that other stand, this LITTLE GIRL, seems to be very high toned in her prices. (aside.) I guess I can stand Jimmy off for a glass.

Nina. All right, John, & I want you to take me for a boat ride too.

John. A boat ride? (shows empty pockets.) Oh yes I shall be delighted! (Exit after Nina R.U.)

Pol. (Starts after them.) John--(tosses.) No, I wont, I wont call him back! I don't care for him any way! Oh wouldn't I like to scratch her eyes out! (at swing, sees cloak which Nina has left in swing.) Theres her cloak! Wouldn't I like to tear it up? (takes it up & shakes it angry.) I would, too, if I wasn' afraid she'd know it was me that did it! (throws it on bench R
gets in swing,) but I'll never forgive him as long as I live never, never, never!( Tim, enters L.U. has a piece of cheese in paper which he holds at arms length, goes down L.C.) What have you got there, uncle Tim?

Tim. Y

Cheese!

Pol.

Cheese?

Tim.

Yes, & it's the goldarndest cheese I ever heard!

Pol.

Heard? (goes R.C.)

Tim.

Can't you hear it?

Pol.

Whew!(falling back.) I should say so! What's the matter with it?

Tim.

Nothing, you see Mrs. Bradly brought some to the picnic, & the children got at it & she took it away from them, & asked me if I wouldn't take it & put it back in the basket, before it got away with the children.

Pol.

Well I should think it was strong enough to carry itself back.

Tim.

I wish it was!

Pol.

(Suddenly thinking.) Give it to me, I'll take care of it for you.

Tim.

Will you? Well there it is(gives it to her, starts L.) by the way if you see XXXX Nancy, just tell her that I want speak to her about the housekeeping.

Pol.

All right uncle Tim. Whew! how it smells! I know what I'll do with it! there's no one looking, I'll put it in her cloak pocket.(gets cloak feels in pocket.) Yes here's her handkerchief!(smell it.) my! how nice it smells!(puts cheese in handkerchief & ties it up.) I'll bet it will smell sweet now! puts it in pocket.) Wont I have revenge on her! & wouldn't I like to have revenge on him. (hangs cloak on tree L.) (comes down stage L.) If I could only make him jealous! If there was only some nice young man in this town-- wouldn't I flirt with him? I'd flirt with him till John would be green with jealousy! but then there isn't a decent young man in this whole town-- no not in the whole town of Thomasville. (looks L L.) Why who, in the world can that be coming through the woods a perfect dude I declare. Why it's-- no, yes it is Paul Girard! I wonder what he's doing here? he only went to N.Y. a week ago. (goes back of lemonade stand.
Dear Mrs. [Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. I trust that your health is good and that you are enjoying your retirement as much as possible.

I have been reflecting on our past conversations, and I wanted to express my gratitude for your kindness and guidance during my time at [school/workplace]. Your wise counsel and support helped me navigate through some difficult moments, and for that, I will always be thankful.

I am writing to you today to inquire about your well-being. I hope that you are doing well and that you continue to enjoy your leisure activities. If there is anything I can do to assist you, please let me know.

I am planning a trip to [destination] next month, and I thought I might swing by for a visit. Would you be available to catch up in person? I believe it would be a wonderful way to spend a day together.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]
(Enters. L L.) No one here! (X to R.)

Paul.

(Aside. Well I guess I'm some one.}

Paul.

Ducked long way from the station to Miss Bakers - it can't be much farther though! (starts to go.)

Pol.

Ahem! ahem! / Comes in front of lemonade stand, back to Paul.)

Paul.

Oh, I say little girl--

Pol.

(throws herself on bench L., pulls bonnet over her face. Little girl! little girl! every body's calling me a little girl! (turns her back to him.}

Paul.

Can you tell me where Mr. Baker lives?

Pol.

Guess I could if I tried!

Paul.

Will you try?

Pol.

No, I won't

Paul.

Oh yes you will! come, won't you? (coaxing)

Pol.

No, I won't, I'm mad!

Pol.

What are you mad for?

Paul.

Cause you called me a little girl.

Paul.

Oh well forgive me & I won't do so again. (come now tell me if I am on the right road to Mr. Bakers. You see I haven't been here very often, & one is apt to get lost in these woods.

Pol. down Stage

(Rises.) O very well, (they go C.) Do you see that big red house at the top of the hill? (points R..)

Paul.

(Starts to go.) Thanks.

Pol.

That's the jail.

Paul.

The jail? (stops.)

Pol.

Umha. Now do you see that big white stone house that stands by the side of the jail?

Paul.

(going.) Oh, yes, now I see!

Pol.
That's the lunatic asylum!

Oh, come now Polly!

Well now you see the jail, & you see the lunatic asylum, & now you see that little white cottage that stands between them, only a little farther up the hill? -Well Mr. Baker lives there.

Paul. Very much obliged (going.)

Pol. Maybe that isn't the Mr. Baker you want though. You see there are lots of Bakers that live here in Thomasville. Now there's J. D. Baker the lawyer, there's Edward Baker the grocer, there's Hiram Baker the painter, there's G. E. Baker the doctor, there's Frank Baker the drygoods man.--

Paul. For heavens sake alive! Is there any one in this town whose name is not Baker?

Pol. Well my name is not Baker.

Paul. It's a wonder! The Mr. Baker I want, is a farmer & there is a young lady visiting with him, a Miss Nina Blossom.

Pol. Oh, yes I know all about it, I suppose it's MISS NINA BLOSSOM that you want to see?

Paul. It is.

Pol. Well I don't think she cares very much about seeing you.

Paul. Oh yes she does, she will be delighted to see me.

Pol. I don't know about that, I think she is more agreeably engaged.

Paul. What do you mean?

Pol. What do I MEAN? I mean she's dead gone on a young man around here & he's dead gone on her, & they've both GONE out for a boat ride together, & THAT'S what I MEAN!

(Sinks on bench R.) Oh, Nina! Nina, do I find you only to lose you?

Pol. Say, you ain't mashed on her too are you?

Paul. (Sharply.) What's that to you?