

HOUSE-SITTING

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by
Carolyn West



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CAST: MRS. GILDEROY and JENNY

SETTING: MRS. GILDEROY'S living room.

AT RISE: MRS. GILDEROY, a woman in her thirties or forties, is leading JENNY, a teenager with a notebook, into the room.

MRS. GILDEROY: So there you have it. That's the whole house.

JENNY: It's beautiful.

MRS. GILDEROY: We're leaving tonight and will be away for the rest of the summer. You're sure you can do it?

JENNY: Oh yeah.

MRS. GILDEROY: Is \$50 a day all right? (**JENNY starts to speak. MRS. GILDEROY interrupts her.**) Let's make it \$75 since you're doing it on such short notice.

JENNY: If you insist.

MRS. GILDEROY: Oh, I do. I do. We had another young woman all signed up to watch the house for us, but she got the opportunity to travel through India. Then our neighbor recommended a nephew, but he decided to go into the seminary. We always have trouble finding a house sitter, but this year it's been particularly difficult. We were worried we'd have to cancel our vacation.

JENNY: Well, I'll be here all summer so there's nothing to worry about.

MRS. GILDEROY: It's a load off my mind.

JENNY: (**Getting out notebook and pencil.**) Was there anything you wanted to tell me about the house?

MRS. GILDEROY: Yes, of course. Thank you for reminding me. First, you can sleep in any of the beds you want, although I must admit the waterbed on the third floor is the most comfortable. (**JENNY begins to write down what MRS. GILDEROY is saying.**) Feel free to watch any show you want on the large screen TV in the den. We get over 250 cable channels. We also have a wide variety of video games you're more than welcome to play. Our Internet account is unlimited, so surf online whenever you please. And if you want to have some friends over for a little party, go right ahead. We don't mind.

JENNY: Gee, thanks, Mrs. Gilderoy.

MRS. GILDEROY: The maid comes three times a week. She'll change the beds and towels, do the laundry, take out the trash, and wash the dishes. Please don't do any cleaning. That's her job.

JENNY: (**Making note in notebook.**) No cleaning. Got it.

MRS. GILDEROY: The pool man comes every Tuesday and Thursday. He gets rather grumpy if no one's been swimming, so do as much of that as you can.

JENNY: Sure thing.

MRS. GILDEROY: It's a bother, I know.

JENNY: It's what you're paying me for.

MRS. GILDEROY: We have dinner delivered every night from *Poisson Rouge*.

JENNY: *Poisson Rouge*?

MRS. GILDEROY: It's our favorite restaurant.

JENNY: I don't think I've ever heard of it. Where is it?

MRS. GILDEROY: In France. They'll airmail the special of the day. If you could do us the favor of eating it, that would be great. Otherwise it'll go bad.

JENNY: Eat dinner. No problem.

MRS. GILDEROY: The car in the garage, it's a Jaguar. They're so temperamental. You have to drive it everyday or it just won't run right. Take it to the mall or some other place. That should keep it running just fine. I know it's a lot to ask...

JENNY: You need your car in working order.

MRS. GILDEROY: Thank you so much. I'll leave you a couple hundred dollars to buy gas.

JENNY: All right.

MRS. GILDEROY: Now the dog.

JENNY: Yes?

MRS. GILDEROY: Do you like animals?

JENNY: I love them.

MRS. GILDEROY: Good, good. Moofy is the sweetest thing and he loves attention. Just don't ever look him strait in the eyes or get your fingers near his mouth.

JENNY: Does he bite?

MRS. GILDEROY: Only when he gets the chance. He eats three live rats a day. Just take them by the tail and throw them in his cage. We keep the rats in a tank in the basement.

JENNY: Oh.

MRS. GILDEROY: Mr. Gilderoy just got him a new cage. It'll take him, oh, I don't know, a week or so to chew through it. We have more cages in the basement. If Moofy does get out of his cage, leave the house immediately. Go over to the neighbors and dial 911. Tell the police Moofy's loose. They know the drill. They'll bring the tranquilizers.

JENNY: Um, okay.

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