

# VIRGIL'S WEDDING

A FARCE IN TWO ACTS

By **Eddie McPherson**

Copyright © MM by Eddie McPherson

All Rights Reserved

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC in association with Heuer Publishing LLC

ISBN: 978-1-61588-176-5

Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this work is subject to a royalty. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. All rights to this work of any kind including but not limited to professional and amateur stage performing rights are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC and Heuer Publishing LLC. Inquiries concerning rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

This work is fully protected by copyright. No part of this work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without permission of the publisher. Copying (by any means) or performing a copyrighted work without permission constitutes an infringement of copyright.

All organizations receiving permission to produce this work agree to give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production. The author(s) billing must appear below the title and be at least 50% as large as the title of the Work. All programs, advertisements, and other printed material distributed or published in connection with production of the work must include the following notice: **“Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC in association with Heuer Publishing LLC.”**

There shall be no deletions, alterations, or changes of any kind made to the work, including the changing of character gender, the cutting of dialogue, or the alteration of objectionable language unless directly authorized by the publisher or otherwise allowed in the work's "Production Notes." The title of the play shall not be altered.

The right of performance is not transferable and is strictly forbidden in cases where scripts are borrowed or purchased second-hand from a third party. All rights, including but not limited to professional and amateur stage performing, recitation, lecturing, public reading, television, radio, motion picture, video or sound taping, internet streaming or other forms of broadcast as technology progresses, and the rights of translation into foreign languages, are strictly reserved.

**COPYING OR REPRODUCING ALL OR ANY PART OF THIS BOOK IN ANY MANNER IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BY LAW.** One copy for each speaking role must be purchased for production purposes. Single copies of scripts are sold for personal reading or production consideration only.

**BROOKLYN PUBLISHERS, LLC**  
**P.O. BOX 248 • CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52406**  
**TOLL FREE (888) 473-8521 • FAX (319) 368-8011**

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**VIRGIL'S WEDDING**

**By Eddie McPherson**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(APPROXIMATELY TWELVE WOMEN, EIGHT MEN, EXTRAS)*

MS. DELANIE .....	A wedding director from the city (165 lines)
BARBIE.....	Ms. Delanie's assistant (64 lines)
MARGARET HOOPER .....	The bride (107 lines)
BERTHA MAE .....	Margaret's best friend (66 lines)
VIRGIL SLUDGE .....	Margaret's fiancée (97 lines)
ELLARD .....	Virgil's best friend (79 lines)
MAMA HOOPER.....	Margaret's mother (74 lines)
PAPA HOOPER .....	Margaret's father (44 lines)
MAMA SLUDGE* .....	Virgil's mother (44 lines)
PAPA SLUDGE .....	Virgil's father (42 lines)
MR. WRIGHT .....	Ms. Delanie's boss (56 lines)
MOE MOE* .....	Acts as the wedding host/ess (61 lines)
GRANDMA* .....	Virgil's grandmother (35 lines)
MR. PERKY .....	Margaret's great-grandfather (24 lines)
TINY .....	Margaret's cousin (6 lines)
UNCLE LESTER .....	A deaf relative (3 lines)
AUNT POLLY .....	Lester's deaf wife (2 lines)
CURLY SUE .....	Moe Moe's sister (3 lines)
LARRY SUE .....	Moe Moe's other sister (6 lines)
REVEREND DAVIS .....	An absent-minded minister (29 lines)
EXTRAS .....	Wedding guests

\* *MAMA SLUDGE and GRANDMA can be played by the same actor. This adds to the fun of the play. If this option is used, see the DUMMY OPTION in the PRODUCTION NOTES. Also, MOE MOE can be played by either a man or woman, line changes are marked in the script.*

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

This play is written to be simply staged in the following ways:

ACT ONE, SCENE 1: Ms. Delanie's office. This scene can be played in front of the permanent set of the chapel. A simple card table may be used with a plant sitting to the side to establish an office mood.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2: Margaret's dressing room. This scene is also played in front of the permanent set. The card table from SCENE 1 can now be moved down stage center for Margaret's dressing table. An oval mirror on a stand and/or a floor lamp may be brought in for the background. When the characters look into the dressing table's mirror, they're actually looking out over the audience.

ACT ONE, SCENE 3: The Chapel. See below.

ACT ONE, SCENE 4: The forest scene. A refrigerator box turned on its side makes a perfect lizard trap. It may be covered with brown burlap or a camouflage covering or painted. An artificial undecorated Christmas tree may sit to the side but is optional. If available, have cricket or bird sound effects in the background.

ACT TWO: The Chapel.

## VIRGIL'S WEDDING

### THE CHAPEL

The wedding chapel needs only a small platform up stage center with a lectern sitting on it where Reverend Davis will perform the ceremony. Chairs sit around the stage or playing area. A cardboard cutout of a stained glass window may hang right behind the lectern to set a nice chapel mood. There needs to be a place up stage right for a few characters to exit. (Bertha Mae pulls Margaret out to that area and Grandma exits and re-enters there as well as Margaret when entering in ACT TWO.) This area acts as the back room of the chapel. All other entrances and exits are from stage left. A couple of simple, yet elegant flowers or ferns need to be brought in for ACT TWO as well as a couple of candle stands if possible. The audience can fill in the rest with their imagination. If you have a curtain, pull it close for SCENES 1, 2, and 4 in ACT ONE.

### CEREMONY

For the wedding ceremony, the guests should sit on each side of the stage facing the audience. Bertha Mae stands on the lectern beside Reverend Davis facing Margaret, Ellard stands on the other side of the Reverend facing Virgil. Virgil and Margaret face Reverend Davis but turn toward the audience when they exchange their vows.

### DANCE OPTION

If you choose to have Margaret, Virgil, and Mr. Wright dance in Margaret's daydream in ACT ONE, SCENE 3, you may want to have a light change but it's not necessary.

### MARGARET'S WEDDING DRESS

The wedding dress she actually wears in ACT TWO isn't the ugly one Mama brings out of the box in ACT ONE. Barbie has found a different dress for her. This doesn't have to be a real wedding dress. It can be a simple white dress that fits Margaret nicely. A small veil may or may not be worn. Margaret should

look absolutely beautiful in ACT TWO. Her makeup is perfect and her hair is lovely.

#### DUMMY OPTION

If you use the dummy option, the actor who plays Mama Sludge in ACT ONE returns as his Grandmother in ACT TWO. The dummy hangs on a stand in the back of the chapel wearing an ugly dress and a large rimmed hat. The dummy portrays Mama Sludge who is mad and sulking. This adds to the fun especially when Grandma is talking to her “daughter” and Papa dances with it at the play’s finale. If you choose to use two actors, the dummy isn’t used. Either way will work.

#### PROPS

##### ACT ONE, SCENE 1

Phone/intercom, papers, file folder (Ms. Delanie)

Pad of paper and pencil (Barbie)

##### ACT ONE, SCENE 2

Empty shoe box (Ellard)

Small tape/CD player, Broom (Margaret)

##### ACT ONE, SCENE 3

Ugly plastic flowers (Mama Hooper)

Wild wig (Margaret)

Clipboard (Ms. Delanie)

Small ugly lawn decoration (Mama)

Box of decorations (Papa Sludge)

Another box of Christmas decorations including  
garland and a string of Christmas lights (Virgil)

Shoe box with stick inside (Ellard)

## *VIRGIL'S WEDDING*

Piece of Christmas garland (Ms. Delanie)

A dress box with an ugly dress inside (Mama)

Box of matches (Papa Hooper)

### **ACT ONE, SCENE 4**

Shoe box with stick inside (Ellard)

Various small stuffed animals/rubber snake

### **ACT TWO**

Registration book/pen (Moe Moe)

Various bandages/arm sling (Papa Sludge)

Umbrella (Grandma)

Walking cane (Mr. Perky)

A bottle of mouth freshener (Grandma)

Little black book (Mr. Wright)

Purse (Mama Hooper)

[Optional] Boa (Tiny)

Shoebox with stick inside (Ellard)

Two large funnels (Polly, Lester)

Large piece of tape (Curly Sue)

Various pages of notes (Reverend Davis)

Bouquet of flowers (Margaret)

Sheet of paper (Virgil)

Promotion certificate (Mr. Wright)

Suitcase (Virgil)

Garter (Virgil)

### **A WORD ABOUT CHARACTERIZATION**

Lickskillit is a very small rural community in the middle of nowhere. The people who live there are simple country people but aren't hillbillies. Though

their qualities are exaggerated, they still need to be played somewhat down to earth and not so much like a melodrama (except maybe when Margaret is telling Mr. Wright that she can't marry him). The audience will care more about them. They need to dress tacky and silly, especially for the wedding. In contrast, Ms. Delanie, Barbie, and Mr. Wright should wear sophisticated suits, dresses, etc. The Reverend may want to wear a black robe or a nice suit.

### SOUND EFFECTS

ACT ONE, SCENE 3: Explosion  
ACT ONE, SCENE 4 (OPTIONAL): Crickets/Birds chirping  
ACT ONE, SCENE 4: Truck driving off

### . . . AND FINALLY

*This is a farce. The action should move very quickly to be effective. Slow moments and long blackouts between scenes will be annoying and distracting. Keep it moving and have fun AND check our web site for full color posters for THE VIRGIL SERIES.*

*THE VIRGIL SERIES includes "Virgil's Wedding," "Virgil's Family Reunion," "Virgil and The City Slickers," and just in time for the Christmas season, "Virgil's Christmas Catch." Check our website for new releases by this same author and expect the fun to continue "Virgil's Wedding—The Musical." Preview the music and artwork at [www.hitplays.com](http://www.hitplays.com).*

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

**Setting:**

*It's an office scene. A small desk and chair sit a little off center left and a small plant off to the side.*

**At Rise:**

*MS. DELANIE sits behind the desk talking on the phone. She is dressed in business attire.*

**MS. DELANIE:** Yes, sir, I understand completely. I really appreciate this opportunity. This wedding will put me at the fifty mark. Yes sir, I understand, the company is counting on me and I won't let you down. I'm ready sir. Thank you again, sir. Goodbye. *(She hangs up the phone and presses a button on her intercom.)* Barbie, would you come in here please? *(She straightens some papers on her desk as her assistant, BARBIE, enters with a pad and pencil.)*

**BARBIE:** Yes, Ms. Delanie?

**MS. DELANIE:** Barbie, come in, I'd like to talk to you for a few moments. Have a seat. *(BARBIE has a seat in the chair across from MS. DELANIE.)* I was wondering if you would be interested in a big assignment?

**BARBIE:** An assignment? Me?

**MS. DELANIE:** I am going to direct my fiftieth wedding this weekend and you my dear are going to assist me.

**BARBIE:** Assist in directing a real wedding?

**MS. DELANIE:** I spoke to my boss just now. If I successfully direct this wedding, my promotion to Executive Director will take effect next month and, well, they'll have to fill my position. As far as I'm concerned, my job should go to you.

**BARBIE:** Me? Oh, Ms. Delanie, I couldn't accept such an important position as that.

**MS. DELANIE:** You're a very sufficient office assistant. Why shouldn't you take over my position?

**BARBIE:** Why, you're just the best wedding director in the world, that's all. I could never take your place.

**MS. DELANIE:** Of course you couldn't take my place. No one is that good, but you have been at the company longer than any other person in the office and they do like to promote from within

**BARBIE:** Oh, Ms. Delanie, I would just die if I were a real Wedding Director, just die!

**MS. DELANIE:** Well, don't die before the wedding this weekend. Because it's such an important mile marker, the president will be watching every little

move I make. If the ceremony doesn't go off without a hitch, it will be another fifty weddings before I'm promoted. And, if I'm not promoted, you're not promoted.

**BARBIE:** Yes ma'am. But who's wedding are we directing?

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Looking in a file.*) Oh, just some simple girl over in Lickskillit.

**BARBIE:** Lickskillit? But I thought you said you would never direct a wedding where people married their own cousins?

**MS. DELANIE:** Yes, I did say that. The people are so backward there they wouldn't know a good wedding ceremony if it bit them in their patch covered britches. As far as they know, a wedding is still conducted with shotguns.

**BARBIE:** That sounds a little dangerous.

**MS. DELANIE:** Not to worry, Barbie dear. No matter what I do, it will be a great wonder to them.

**BARBIE:** Oh, I see. Then your boss will see you directing a wedding with no effort at all. That's a great plan, Ms. Delanie. What are their names?

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Looking.*) Let' see . . . Margaret Hooper and Virgil Sludge.

**BARBIE:** They sound like they're from Lickskillit. Are they cousins?

**MS. DELANIE:** If you traced their family tree far enough, I'm sure you'd find they were from the same nut.

**BARBIE:** (*Laughing with a shrill giggle.*) Ms. Delanie, you're so funny.

**MS. DELANIE:** Barbie, would you please do me a favor?

**BARBIE:** Wow. My first assignment as your new assistant. What can I do?

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Handing her an empty coffee cup.*) Get me a cup of coffee. That will be all.

**BARBIE:** (*Deflated.*) Yes ma'am. (*She takes the coffee cup and exits. MS. DELANIE opens up the file folder again and leans back in her chair.*)

**MS. DELANIE:** Lickskillit U.S.A. Boy, will this be a piece of cake. (*BLACKOUT.*)

## ACT ONE, SCENE 2

### **Setting:**

*MARGARET'S bedroom. There is a chest of drawers stage left. This doubles as the preacher's pulpit later. Check PRODUCTION NOTES. The table, which acted as a desk in SCENE 1, is now a dresser, which sits down stage center. It has hairbrushes and other odds and ends spread out over it. The "mirror" is invisible. The people who look into it are actually looking out to the audience.*

## VIRGIL'S WEDDING

### *At Rise:*

*MARGARET enters followed closely by BERTHA MAE, her best friend. MARGARET wears a housecoat, big fluffy house shoes and some type of beauty mask on her face. She has curlers in her hair covered by a hair net.*

**BERTHA MAE:** What's the matter, Margaret? What did you want to show me?

**MARGARET:** (*Sitting down at the dresser and looking into the mirror.*) There, Bertha Mae. Right there. It's awful?

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Looking at MARGARET in the mirror.*) What's awful? All I see is your reflection.

**MARGARET:** Exactly. I was practicing my makeup this morning and all of a sudden it dawned on me. Why would Virgil want to marry somethin' that looked like that?

**BERTHA MAE:** Oh, Margaret. You just have cold feet is all. You know Virgil loves you regardless what you look like.

**MARGARET:** Thanks a lot.

**BERTHA MAE:** What I mean is, Virgil's no Prince Charmin' himself so he can't be all that choosy.

**MARGARET:** (*Putting her head down.*) Ohhhhhhhhhh.

**BERTHA MAE:** Margaret, you remember when you and Virgil helped me and Ellard get together. We was both so shy, but you two kept boostin' our confidence so that we would feel comfortable around each other? That's what you need right now. I'm just sorry I don't know how to do it.

**MARGARET:** That's okay, Bertha Mae. You're right. I'm just nervous I guess. But lately all these doubts have been comin' into my head.

**BERTHA MAE:** Doubts about what?

**MARGARET:** Doubts about Virgil's love for me. Can I make him happy? When we wake up in the mornin's and he sees this, will he be sorry he married me?

**BERTHA MAE:** You've got a point there.

**MARGARET:** What?

**BERTHA MAE:** What I mean is if Virgil can see you like that and **still** love you, you know that he's **really** got to love you. What I mean is . . .

**MARGARET:** That's okay Bertha Mae. That's what I love about you. Your primitive honesty.

**BERTHA MAE:** Virgil's my brother and I know for a fact he loves you, Margaret. He talks about you all the time at home.

**MARGARET:** (*Stands.*) He does? What does he say?

**BERTHA MAE:** He talks about what a good fisherman you are and how you make him laugh when you do your beaver impressions and how that there's nobody who can milk a cow with the poise and confidence that you have.

**MARGARET:** Have you ever heard him say lately that I was beautiful, or pretty or even mildly attractive?

**BERTHA MAE:** Well -

**MARGARET:** That's what I thought. (*Looking back into the mirror.*) I'm just plain ugly and Virgil's going to realize it before he says I do and he'll call the whole thing off.

**BERTHA MAE:** That's silly talk, Margaret.

**MARGARET:** Maybe I should have waited for Mr. Right.

**BERTHA MAE:** Who's Mr. Right?

**MARGARET:** My mama always told me that when Mr. Right came along I should hang on to him and marry him because he will be the man I was meant to marry. But I never met a Mr. Right. Virgil came along and I fell in love with **him** so I just knew he was the man for me. Why didn't I listen to my mama.

*MARGARET plops back down and buries her face in her arms.*

**BERTHA MAE:** Well, Virgil is Mr. Sludge. That sounds a little bit like Mr. Right. That reminds me, Virgil said him and Ellard was gonna stop by on their way to check Ellard's lizard trap.

**MARGARET:** What? Virgil's comin' here? Bertha Mae, why didn't you tell me?

**BERTHA MAE:** I just did.

**MARGARET:** I can't let Virgil see me lookin' like this. He'll stop lovin' me for sure. Here, help me get these curlers out of my hair.

**VIRGIL:** (*Off stage.*) Margaret? Where are you - you little love dove you.

**MARGARET:** They're here? Bertha Mae, I will never forgive you for this!

**BERTHA MAE:** Here, I'll get this one. (*She pulls a curler.*)

**MARGARET:** Ohhhhhhhhh!

**VIRGIL:** (*Off stage.*) Margaret, are you decent?

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Yelling back.*) Yes, Virgil.

**MARGARET:** (*Scolding her.*) Don't tell him that!

*VIRGIL and ELLARD enter.*

**VIRGIL:** Hey Bertha Mae. (*Sees MARGARET.*) Hello. (*Turns to BERTHA MAE.*) Bertha Mae have you seen Margaret?

**BERTHA MAE:** Huh?

**VIRGIL:** I was gonna see if she wanted to go over to the holler with us.

**ELLARD:** You can go with us, Bertha Mae. (*Holding up a shoe box.*) I'm gonna catch myself a red-tailed lizard to put in this here box.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

- BERTHA MAE:** (*Turning to MARGARET.*) Why, she's right . . .  
(*MARGARET stomps her foot.*) Iyyyyyyyyyyyy!
- VIRGIL:** She's right where?
- BERTHA MAE:** (*Looking at MARGARET and getting her cue from her.*)  
She's . . . right . . . on the other side of town picking up some things for the  
weddin'.
- VIRGIL:** That's what I love about my Margaret. Always on top of things  
when somethin' needs to be done. (*Turns to MARGARET.*) Bertha Mae,  
aren't you going to introduce me to your friend?
- BERTHA MAE:** Well, this here is Mar . . .
- MARGARET:** HmMMMMMMMM.
- BERTHA MAE:** Mar—go, Margo. She's a friend of mine who has come in  
for the weddin'.
- VIRGIL:** Nice to meet you Margo. I'm Virgil, the groom to be and this here is  
Ellard, my best man. (*MARGARET doesn't say anything.*) Oh, I see. Shy  
huh? I can understand that.
- ELLARD:** Yeah, most homely lookin' people are shy.
- BERTHA MAE:** Ellard! (*MARGARET runs out crying.*) Ellard, that was a  
terrible thing to say.
- ELLARD:** I'm sorry, I didn't mean to hurt her feelin's. It just slipped out.  
(*VIRGIL and ELLARD begin to snicker.*)
- BERTHA MAE:** Your brains must have slipped out for sayin' such a cruel  
thing to a girl.
- VIRGIL:** You have to admit, Bertha Mae. Your friend is kind of ugly. The  
guy that ever marries her sure will be a loser. (*VIRGIL and ELLARD laugh  
even louder.*)
- BERTHA MAE:** I'm ashamed that you are even my brother!
- VIRGIL:** I'm sorry, but it's just that your friend there needs to go back to her  
coffin before the sun comes up. (*ELLARD and VIRGIL fall on each other's  
shoulders with laughter. BERTHA MAE puts her hands on her hips with  
contempt.*)
- BERTHA MAE:** Stop that silly immature behavior right now! She's goin' to  
the beautician tomorrow.
- ELLARD:** Beautician? She needs a mechanic. (*The boys laugh more.*)
- BERTHA MAE:** Stop it! Both of you! (*They try to straighten up, but now  
they've got the giggles.*) Virgil, it's hard to believe you are gettin' married  
this weekend the way you're behavin'! (*Running after MARGARET.*)  
Margaret? Where did you go? Margaret? (*She exits.*)
- ELLARD:** (*Still laughing.*) Guess we are pretty mean, Virgil. Callin' that girl  
ugly.

**VIRGIL:** *(Also laughing.)* I know, Ellard. I guess it's just my nerves actin' up before the big weddin' and all. *(They stand there grinning looking out to the audience. VIRGIL holds his grin as he says his next line.)* Ellard?

**ELLARD:** Yeah, Virgil?

**VIRGIL:** What did Bertha Mae call that girl as she ran out just now.

**ELLARD:** *(Still laughing a little.)* Sounded like Margaret.

**VIRGIL:** *(Holding his grin as it slowly sinks in.)* You don't suppose that could have been **my** Margaret standin' here just now?

**ELLARD:** I don't know, but if it is you'd better be runnin' for the hills come this weekend. *(ELLARD laughs but VIRGIL doesn't this time. Suddenly, BERTHA MAE enters pulling MARGARET in behind her.)*

**BERTHA MAE:** Come on now. You might as well face the music right now than later.

**VIRGIL:** *(Quickly crossing to her.)* Uh, hello there Margaret. You sure are lookin' awful—

**MARGARET:** *(Cutting him off.)* That's a terrible thing to say to your fiancée just before you are about to marry her!

**VIRGIL:** You didn't let me finish! I was sayin', you sure do look awful nice today.

**BERTHA MAE:** Awful and nice don't even belong in the same sentence.

**ELLARD:** Margaret, I'm sorry I called you homely. If I knew it was you I would have kept that little remark to myself.

**MARGARET:** But you still would have thought it.

**ELLARD:** Well, yeah.

**BERTHA MAE:** You're not helpin' matters, Ellard.

**MARGARET:** That's okay, Bertha Mae. At least the truth is out no matter how it hurts. *(Says the following in one breath.)* I'm homely and ugly and Virgil if you marry me, you're goin' to have to see this every mornin' for the rest of your life so if you want to change your mind about goin' down that isle, you had better do it now so we still have time to call everybody on the telephone and tell them the weddin's off. *(Her speech ends in tears.)*

**BERTHA MAE:** Margaret, you're talkin' crazy. *(To VIRGIL.)* Virgil, tell her she's talkin' crazy.

**VIRGIL:** *(Trying his best to help.)* You're crazy Margaret.

**MARGARET:** *(Starts to cry and sits down in front of the mirror of her dresser.)* Now, I'm ugly and crazy!

**ELLARD:** Ugly and crazy. Gosh, Virgil you sure you want to marry her?

**BERTHA MAE:** Ellard, get on out of here!

**ELLARD:** What did I say?

**BERTHA MAE:** *(Grabbing the shoe box out of his hand and ushering him to the door.)* Just get on out of here before you mess up the whole weddin'!

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**ELLARD:** I didn't do nothin'! Give me my shoe box. I'm gonna catch me a lizard! (*She throws him out and crosses over to VIRGIL and pulls him away from MARGARET.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** Virgil, Margaret is just gettin' all nervous about the weddin'. She thinks you might not really love her. A lot of girls go through this before their weddin' day. You need to talk to her and reassure her of your commitment.

**VIRGIL:** Are you sure that's my Margaret?

**BERTHA MAE:** Just go. I'll be right back. (*She exits.*)

**VIRGIL:** (*Crossing to MARGARET.*) Margaret, I know you've been nervous and all for these last few days and just to be honest with you, so have I. Them butterflies I've had flyin' around in my stomach have turned into buzzards. Big buzzards. Big, ugly buzzards just flappin' around in there. But I know that once all this is over with, what with the weddin' and all, them buzzards will turn back into butterflies again and we'll both be back to normal. But don't think for one minute I don't love you cause that **is** crazy.

**MARGARET:** (*Stands and hugs him.*) Oh, Virgil. Thank you for sayin' that. You must think I'm just the silliest thing.

**VIRGIL:** Well . . . (*Then looks at her and realizes he can't say anything negative.*) nooooooooooooo. Now you keep on doin', uh, what you've been, uh, doin' there with your face . . . and hair and all and, uh, I'll see you later after me and Ellard get back.

**MARGARET:** Okay, Virgil. (*VIRGIL begins to leave.*) Oh, Virgil? (*He turns.*) Are you sure you're last name's not Right?

**VIRGIL:** No, it's Sludge.

**MARGARET:** What about your middle name?

**VIRGIL:** Nope. Why?

**MARGARET:** Ah, nothin'. See you tomorrow, Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** Bye.

**ELLARD:** (*Re-entering.*) Virgil, are we going?

**VIRGIL:** I'm comin'! (*BERTHA MAE enters and MARGARET sits back down looking into the mirror.*)

**ELLARD:** Gosh, ugly **and** crazy!

**VIRGIL:** Shut up Ellard! (*VIRGIL pulls ELLARD out.*)

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Crosses to MARGARET.*) Well? Are you feelin' any better?

**MARGARET:** He was so sweet Bertha Mae. He told me I was beautiful and that he truly does love me.

**BERTHA MAE:** Then everything's okay.

**MARGARET:** Do you think he really meant it? Maybe he was just sayin' it because he felt sorry for me.

**BERTHA MAE:** You're drivin' me coo-coo. Now, I'm goin' with the boys and if you knew what was good for you, you would go too and give your mind a rest.

**MARGARET:** No, I need some time alone, Bertha Mae.

**BERTHA MAE:** Okay, suit yourself. Just stay here and throw your little pity party.

**MARGARET:** (*Not hearing BERTHA MAE. She's in a trance.*) Bertha Mae, when I was a girl growin' up I always dreamed of being a queen and everyone adored me and there were balls where we danced 'til all hours of the night and my Prince would come to the ball, handsome and tall and he would take me into his arms and we would float around the dance floor lookin' into each other's eyes and he would kiss me and I would just melt.

**BERTHA MAE:** (*Caught up in the moment and snapping out of it.*) Now, you got me depressed. I've got to go spend the day lookin' at Ellard. See you in a bit. (*BERTHA MAE exits.*)

*MARGARET looks into the mirror another second then stands and hits "play" on a small tape or CD player sitting on her dresser. The song, "Dancing Queen" starts to play. MARGARET grabs a broom that's leaning against the wall. She pretends it's her Prince as she dances around the room. She passes the mirror, stops and bends down to look into it. She hits "stop" on her tape player and sits at her dresser. She touches her face.*

**MARGARET:** Ugly and crazy? (*She lays her head on the dressing table and cries as the music continues. BLACKOUT.*)

### ACT ONE, SCENE 3

**Setting:**

*It's the chapel. The table is taken off and about ten chairs are brought in and set up. Check the PRODUCTION NOTES for set up options.*

**At Rise:**

*MAMA HOOPER comes rushing in carrying some rather ugly plastic flowers. She's yelling back to PAPA HOOPER who hasn't entered yet.*

**MAMA HOOPER:** Get a move on, now. All the family will be porin' in here later on and we need to have all this work done. (*She looks for a place to set the flowers. She rushes over to the pulpit and places them at its base. She looks again off stage.*) Are you bringin' those flowers in? Move it! (*She takes the flowers from him.*)

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**PAPA HOOPER:** *(He enters stooped over as far as he can carrying some more ugly flowers.)* I'm movin' as fast as I can. My back just went out on me again.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Not your back again of all days. What happened?

**PAPA HOOPER:** I was just gettin' out of the car and somethin' clicked in there. Ohhhhh, the pain!

**MAMA HOOPER:** I told you to be eatin' more bananas. Your bones are weak.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Ah, now dumplin', don't scold me. The pain is killin' me.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Taking off her shoes.)* All right, get down on the floor. You know we've got lots of work to do don't you? *(She continues to talk as PAPA HOOPER lies face down on the floor center stage as she steps up on his back.)* Our little girl gettin' married tomorrow and all and now here you are with a bad back again. I told you to eat more bananas. Potassium, that's what your body needs.

**PAPA HOOPER:** A little higher Mama.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Walking on his back.)* I can't believe our Margaret is walkin' down the isle this weekend. It seems like just yesterday she was a little baby in my arms, lookin' up at me through those little thick rimmed glasses and blowin' those bubbles with her little mouth.

**PAPA HOOPER:** It was gas.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(They've had this conversation before.)* It was not gas!

**PAPA HOOPER:** That girl had enough gas when she was a baby to drive a Greyhound Bus to New York City.

**MAMA HOOPER:** It wasn't gas. She was gurglin' tryin' to form her first words, 'I love you mama'.

**PAPA HOOPER:** A little lower. That's it.

**MAMA HOOPER:** I always told Margaret not to rush love and to wait for Mr. Right to come along and I think she's found him. Virgil's a fine boy.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Little to the left.

**MAMA HOOPER:** That's enough. *(Stepping off.)* Now, get up. There's work to be done. *(She bends down and helps him to stand, but when he does he's still stooped over.)* Are you feelin' any better?

**PAPA HOOPER:** I think it's worse. Honey, are you puttin' on a little weight?

**MAMA HOOPER:** No and that back pain's not gonna get any better with you sleepin' on the couch.

**PAPA HOOPER:** I don't sleep on the couch.

**MAMA HOOPER:** You will if you keep up those little remarks. *(MARGARET rushes in. Her hair is a complete mess.)*

**MARGARET:** Mama! Mama, look what they did to me?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Honey, what in the world happened to you?

**PAPA HOOPER:** What? What's wrong? What's the matter?

**MARGARET:** I went to get it fixed just now and she put too much curly in my hair. Look at me mama, look at me! *(She falls on her mama's shoulder and starts to cry.)*

**PAPA HOOPER:** What did they do to you? What's wrong.

**MAMA HOOPER:** There now. Don't cry. We'll fix it tonight.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Fix what? What's the matter?

**MARGARET:** Everything is turning out just terrible, Mama. The day before my weddin' and I look like a worn out paintbrush.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Now, honey it's not as bad as all that.

**MARGARET:** I can't let everybody see me like this, Mama. I just can't.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Would you please tell me what you're talkin' about.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Honey, your daddy wants to see it.

*MARGARET stoops down so PAPA HOOPER can see her hair.*

**MARGARET:** I feel so ugly.

**PAPA HOOPER:** *(Lifting his head to see her hair.)* Good night girl, what have you done to yourself?

**MARGARET:** Daddy, what are you lookin' for?

**PAPA HOOPER:** Relief, baby. Relief.

**MARGARET:** Well, I don't think you're going to find it down there. *(Faces MAMA HOOPER.)* Mama, are you sure we can fix it?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Of course, now stop your fretin'. Help me get these flowers arranged.

**MARGARET:** Where did you get such beautiful flowers, mama?

**MAMA HOOPER:** A yard sale over on the ridge. We'll rub them down with Vaseline and they'll look just like new.

**MARGARET:** Has the city lady from Mason's Junction been here yet?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Should be any minute. That's why I was tryin' to get things in order. I don't want her to think we don't have any class. This chapel is goin' to be the prettiest it has ever been when I'm through with it.

**MARGARET:** You're the envy of Lickskillit when it comes to decoratin', Mama.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Oh, my poor achin' back.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Crossing over to the window.)* I think I heard a car drive up. Yep, it's Ms. Delanie. *(She starts fluffing her hair.)* How does my hair look?

**MARGARET:** Next to mine it looks wonderful.

**MAMA HOOPER:** *(Crossing to PAPA.)* Dear, can't you try to stand up. These people are classy. We can't let them see you all stooped over like that. *(She tries to help him stand.)*

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**PAPA HOOPER:** Ohhhhhh, I can't do it! I'm doomed to be a cripple the rest of my life.

*MS. DELANIE and BARBIE enter. MS. DELANIE carries a clip board.*

**MS. DELANIE:** Excuse me, I'm looking for the Hooper–Sludge wedding.

**MAMA HOOPER:** This is the place. I'm Mrs. Hooper. This is Margaret, my daughter and this is my husband. I'm afraid his back has gone out. (*PAPA HOOPER lifts his head to get a glimpse of the two ladies. When he sees them he stands straight up with no trouble at all. He stands there with his mouth hanging open staring at the two ladies.*)

**MS. DELANIE:** (*shaking their hands*) Hello Mr. Hooper, Margaret. This is my assistant, Barbie Whithers. (*To MARGARET.*) So, you're the auspicious demoiselle who is to stroll down the isle of marital bliss?

**MARGARET:** No ma'am, I'm the one gettin' married.

*BARBIE laughs to herself.*

**MS. DELANIE:** Yes, of course.

**PAPA HOOPER:** (*Has been staring this whole time.*) I think you two ladies are the preetiest thing I've ever laid these eyes on.

**MAMA HOOPER:** (*Ushering him to the door stage left.*) There are some more flowers out in the car, dear. Why don't you fetch them in like a nice husband. And take your time. (*She pushes him out.*) Us women need time to talk about the weddin'. (*PAPA HOOPER exits.*)

**MS. DELANIE:** (*She hands BARBIE the clip board and rubs her hands together as she looks around.*) Now, let's see. Barbie, take notes. Oh, dear, look at all these atrocious flowers.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Thank you, I picked them out myself.

**MS. DELANIE:** You mean, these are for the wedding?

**MAMA HOOPER:** Yes ma'am, and if you think they are pretty now just wait 'til I rub them down with Vaseline.

**MS. DELANIE:** Oh, no, Mrs. Hooper. Those just won't do. They won't do at all. We must bring in freshly cut flower bouquets and posy.

**MARGARET:** But my mama went to a lot of trouble to find these flowers.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Now, that's all right, honey. Ms. Delanie is the professional. She knows what she's doin'.

**MS. DELANIE:** Besides I can't let my boss . . . I mean your guests see nothing but the best.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Entering with PAPA SLUDGE who carries a box of stuff. MAMA SLUDGE carries a rather ugly lawn decoration.*) I'm here

everybody. Sorry I'm late, we had to drive over on Harley Wayne's four wheeler. My hair must be a mess.

**MS. DELANIE:** It is rather loathsome.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Well, good. I was afraid it might look bad. Like I always say, a bird of a feather always shows itself at supper time. That reminds me I ran over an opossum over on highway forty. I'll freeze it and we can barbecue over at my house next week. It's a big sucker. Come on out and take a gander at it.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Bernice, we'll look at it later. I'd like for you to meet Ms. Delanie, the weddin' director and her assistant, Barbie. This is Mr. and Mrs Sludge, the groom's mama and papa.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** (*Has not taken his eyes off MS. DELANIE since entering.*) If you don't mind me sayin' so, you look like somethin' out of a magazine ad.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Flattered.*) Oh, go on.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Okay, (*Drops his box.*) where we goin'?

**MS. DELANIE:** That was just a figure of speech.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** (*Looking her up and down.*) Speakin' of figure, do you mind me sayin' you . . .

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Don't go there Harley Wayne.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Where **are** we goin'?

**MAMA SLUDGE:** You're goin' to the dog house if you keep up that talk.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** All I said was she looked like a model out of one of them there advertisements.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Enjoying every minute.*) Why, thank you Mr. Sludge.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** How come you never told me I look like somethin' out of a magazine?

**PAPA SLUDGE:** I did honey. Just last week.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Patting her hair, flattered.*) I don't remember, tell me again.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Yeah, baby, I was clipin' that coupon from the Alpo ad and I said—

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Cutting him off.*) Never mind, I remember after all.

**MS. DELANIE:** Mr. Sludge, you're so funny.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Sarcastically.*) Yeah, he's just a laugh a minute.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** I am pretty funny. Ms. Delanie, did I ever tell you the one about the Corn Flakes and the Rice Krispies who had a fight?

**MS. DELANIE:** No.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** (*Without a pause.*) Just as soon as I remember the answer, I'll tell it to you.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Harley Wayne, stop wasting perfectly good oxygen and go get them other boxes. (*He drops his head and exits. MAMA SLUDGE turns to MS. DELANIE.*) I'm glad you're here. I brought this little lawn

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

decoration that sets down by our well house. I thought it would look rather good somewhere close to the alter.

**MS. DELANIE:** But that will look insipid and hackneyed.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Glad you agree. *(She pulls MS. DELANIE down stage center and puts her arm around her.)* This is so excitin' marryin' off our two babies. Why it seems that just yesterday they was knee high to a grasshopper. Like I always say, a mother's joy is never complete until opossum stew is simmerin' on the stove. *(Looks at MARGARET and crosses to her.)* Margaret, I love that new hat you're wearin'. I tell you it sure is amazin' what they can do with skunk fur these days.

**MARGARET:** I had a little accident over at the beauty shop this afternoon.

**MS. DELANIE:** I hate to break up social hour ladies but we do have quite a bit of work to do before tomorrow.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Well, at least I've got the center piece decoration here. I've still got to get those plastic flamingos from Gracy's garage. And the flowers look wonderful Eloise.

**MS. DELANIE:** Flamingos? Could I see you for a moment Barbie. *(She pulls BARBIE to the side.)* Excuse us please. *(They cross stage left while MAMA SLUDGE joins MAMA HOOPER and MARGARET who are arranging the chapel.)* Where did these people come from?

**BARBIE:** *(Innocently.)* I think they are charming.

**MS. DELANIE:** They're incompetent barbarians who don't know the first thing about social graces. How am I supposed to look good for management with plastic flamingos in the chapel?

**BARBIE:** There is something sweet and innocent about these people don't you think? It's like they haven't been spoiled by the outside world.

**MS. DELANIE:** There's nothing sweet about not getting a promotion.

**BARBIE:** But they are so cute with their way of talking.

**MS. DELANIE:** Barbie, you can not become emotionally attached to your clients. We're here to get a job done and that's it.

**BARBIE:** But—

**MS. DELANIE:** And that is it! Now just keep your eyes open and your mouth closed and watch how I handle the situation. *(They cross back to MAMA SLUDGE.)*

**MS. DELANIE:** Excuse me Mrs. Sludge, but—

**MAMA SLUDGE:** *(Interrupting.)* You ladies just go ahead and make all the suggestions you want. You're the professionals.

**MS. DELANIE:** *(Following her around the stage.)* I'm glad you feel that way Mrs. Sludge, because I do have a few garnishing proposals I would like to constitute, of course, with your approbation.

MAMA SLUDGE, MAMA HOOPER and MARGARET stop and stare at MS. DELANIE.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Did you just cuss me out?

**BARBIE:** No, Mrs Sludge, what Ms. Delanie meant was would you mind very much if we made a few decorating suggestions here in the chapel?

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Well, why didn't she say so in the first place?

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Through her teeth.*) Barbie, dear, you're my assistant, not my translator.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*To MS. DELANIE.*) Sure, Ms. Mahogany, make all the decoratin' suggestions you want as long as I get to use my plastic flamingos.

**MS. DELANIE:** But that's just it, plastic flamingos would look dowdy, seedy, and frumpish.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Don't forget classy.

*VIRGIL and ELLARD enter.*

**VIRGIL:** (*Carrying a cardboard box with a few Christmas decorations sticking out the top.*) Hey everybody.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Come on in Virgil.

**MAMA HOOPER:** Hello boys, you're just in time to help us decorate.

**VIRGIL:** (*Crossing center stage setting the box on the floor or in a chair.*) That's why we're here. Mama, these are the decorations you wanted me to get out of the basement.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** (*Pulling red and green garland out of the box.*) This garland is goin' to look so good wrapped around the porch banisters outside.

**MS. DELANIE:** Christmas garland wrapped round the porch banister?

**VIRGIL:** I couldn't find the lava lamp so Ellard said we could use the one in his room.

**MAMA HOOPER:** That sure is sweet of you, Ellard.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*To BARBIE.*) Lava lamp? I feel a headache coming on. I have some aspirin out in the car. Cover for me until I get back.

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Don't worry about a thing in here, Ms Bologna; we got it covered! (*MS. DELANIE holds her head and exits.*)

**MARGARET:** Virgil, aren't you goin' to say anything about my hair?

**VIRGIL:** (*Sees her hair but pretends not to notice it. Looking around with his entire head.*) Your hair? Is there somethin' wrong with your hair?

**MARGARET:** The woman at the beauty shop put too much curly in it—

**VIRGIL:** Well . . . I didn't even notice it, uh, Margaret. It, uh, sure is . . . big.

**ELLARD:** (*Staring at MARGARET'S hair.*) That reminds me, Virgil, you've got to help me pull them weeds from the garden next week.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**MAMA HOOPER:** Now, we'll have it back to normal before the weddin' gets here.

**ELLARD:** (*Referring to BARBIE who is looking over her clip\_board.*) Hello there sophisticated lookin' lady. (*Holds out the shoe box he's holding by a piece of string that's wrapped around it.*) Do you want to take a look at my red tailed lizard? I named him Bernard. (*The box he's holding shakes wildly as though something is running around inside.*)

**BARBIE:** He seems a little restless.

**ELLARD:** I don't think he likes staying in this here box very much. (*To the box.*) Now you settle down in there little Barney. I call him Barney 'cause that's short for Bernard. (*Holds up the box to her.*) He won't hurt you if you want to pet him.

**BARBIE:** Well –

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Ellard, don't open that box in here. That lizard will get loose and we'll never be able to find it. Like I always say, a lizard loose is a penny earned. Come on Eloise, let's see what this garland's goin' to look like out on the porch. (*They exit excited.*)

**BARBIE:** (*Turning back to ELLARD.*) So, do all the boys grow as tall and strong as you out here in the country?

**ELLARD:** No, sometimes they look like Virgil.

**BARBIE:** All the boys in the city are pampered and soft. Only thinking how they can make life easy for themselves.

**VIRGIL:** (*To MARGARET on the opposite side of the stage.*) Margaret, are you gettin' any more hairy, I mean nervous?

**MARGARET:** I get knots in my stomach sometimes but then they go away. What about you?

**VIRGIL:** I'm as nervous as a long tailed cat in a room full of rockin' chairs.

**BARBIE:** (*To ELLARD.*) Feel of those muscles. How do you get so brawny?

**ELLARD:** (*Thinks a second.*) I brush my teeth a lot.

**BARBIE:** You say the waggish things.

**ELLARD:** Is that good or bad?

**VIRGIL:** I keep gettin' these panic attacks, Margaret. I have to keep steppin' outside for a breath of fresh hair - air.

**MARGARET:** (*Touching her hair.*) Does it look that bad?

**VIRGIL:** What?

**MARGARET:** My hair. It keeps popping up in your words.

**VIRGIL:** I . . . hardly even noticed it lookin' like a briar patch.

**MARGARET:** (*Buries her face in her hands.*) Ohhhhhhh.

**BARBIE:** So, do you have a steady?

**ELLARD:** A steady what?

**BARBIE:** Girlfriend.

**ELLARD:** Yeah, I have a girlfriend but she's not very steady. As a matter of fact she's down right clumsy. But I'm clumsy too, neither one of us is very steady.

**BARBIE:** (*Flirting.*) She's a very propitious girl.

**ELLARD:** If that means clumsy, that's my Bertha Mae.

**VIRGIL:** Well, I need to go see if I can find that lava lamp for mama, I guess I'll see you later on.

**MARGARET:** (*He turns to leave but she stops him.*) Virgil, are you sure you...love me?

**VIRGIL:** (*Thinking for a moment then smiling sweetly.*) Is the Pope Presbyterian? (*He crosses to ELLARD leaving MARGARET behind smiling.*) Come on Ellard, we need to go get that lava lamp.

**ELLARD:** Did you hear that Barney, we're goin' for a little ride. (*The box shakes.*) Just hold still there little buddy, just hold still.

**BARBIE:** If that were to ever get loose, you'd never find it.

**ELLARD:** I'm gonna catch me another lizard to put in there with him. That will help settle him down.

**BARBIE:** How in the world do you catch something that quick?

**ELLARD:** I built a box. I call it my lizard catchin' box. That's 'cause I catch lizards with it. Virgil named it.

**VIRGIL:** Ahh, Ellard it was nothin'.

**BARBIE:** You two amaze me with your imbecility.

**VIRGIL:** Thanks. Like my mama always says, "Great minds are never born in Lickskilit."

**MARGARET:** (*Has been thinking about it the whole time and crosses to VIRGIL.*) Wait a minute. The Pope's not Presbyterian, Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** Huh?

**MARGARET:** I asked you if you loved me and you said, 'Is the Pope Presbyterian?' But the Pope's not Presbyterian so that means you don't really love me.

**VIRGIL:** I made a mistake, I thought the Pope was Presbyterian.

**MARGARET:** It was psycho-traumatic. That was your subconscious way of saying you're sorry you're marryin' me at all.

**VIRGIL:** Are you sure the Pope's not Presbyterian?

**ELLARD:** I think he's Baptist.

**VIRGIL:** Oh. (*To MARGARET.*) Ask me again if I love you.

**MARGARET:** Do you love me Virgil?

**VIRGIL:** Is the Pope Baptist?

**BARBIE:** The Pope is **not** Baptist.

**MARGARET:** Ohhhhhhhhh, Virgil!

**VIRGIL:** Thanks a lot Ellard. The Pope's **not** Baptist!

**ELLARD:** Well, you said he was Presbyterian.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**MARGARET:** I knew it! It's all psycho-traumatic. Virgil don't love me at all.

**ELLARD:** (*Sincerely.*) Maybe it's your hair.

**VIRGIL:** Ellard!

**BARBIE:** (*Crossing to MARGARET.*) Listen Margaret, I know a little about cosmetology. I think maybe I can help you with your hair.

**MARGARET:** Do you really think so?

**BARBIE:** (*Picking at MARGARET'S hair.*) Sure, we can have it looking as beautiful as ever with the right tools.

**ELLARD:** Like a weed-eater? (*He laughs but nobody else does. They just stare at him. He pretends to pull a string on a weed trimmer and makes a cranking noise with his mouth. They just stare. He drops his head in embarrassment.*)

**VIRGIL:** (*As a warning.*) Ellard, I don't think I would go there if I was you.

*MS. DELANIE enters followed closely by PAPA SLUDGE and PAPA HOOPER. She unknowingly drags a piece of Christmas garland that has stuck to the bottom of her shoe.*

**MS. DELANIE:** I really appreciate your offer gentlemen, but I really can't think of anything for you to do at the moment.

**PAPA HOOPER:** Are you sure Ms. Delanie? I can sweep or mow the grass or climb ladders, anything you need.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** And I can wash your car or build you a house.

**MS. DELANIE:** I'm sure you want to help, but really I don't need you right now.

**VIRGIL:** Don't look now ma'am, but you're being trailed by a piece of Christmas decoration.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Snatching it off her foot.*) Really! They're out there decorating the whole chapel stoop with two-dollar Christmas garland.

**PAPA HOOPER:** You want to watch me drive my tractor?

**MS. DELANIE:** Not in the near future, no.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Would you like for me to be funny for you some more Ms. Delanie? Did I tell you the one about the Corn Flakes and the Rice Krispies who had a fight?

**MS. DELANIE:** If you'll excuse me. (*She walks away.*)

**PAPA SLUDGE:** I can never remember how the last part of that goes. (*To PAPA HOOPER.*) Do you know?

**PAPA HOOPER:** Say it again.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** Did I tell you the one about the Corn Flakes and the Rice Krispies who had a fight?

**PAPA HOOPER:** I can't tell you the end, it's a serial.

**ELLARD:** (*His box shakes wildly.*) I think Barney's gettin' hungry Virgil.

**MARGARET:** What time do you want to work on my hair, Ms. Barbie?

**BARBIE:** Why don't I pick you up around eight.

**MS. DELANIE:** (*Crossing and standing between BARBIE and MARGARET.*)

What do you mean "work with your hair?" (*Turns to BARBIE.*) What does she mean, "work with her hair?"

**BARBIE:** I told Margaret I would see what I could do to help her with her hair problem.

**MS. DELANIE:** You are not her personal stylist, do you understand?

**BARBIE:** But I thought I could do it after hours so that –

**MS. DELANIE:** I said NO!

**PAPA HOOPER:** I'd be glad to assist you with anything you need Ms. Delanie.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** I'll even assist you with anything you don't need.

**MS. DELANIE:** Please sit down and stop interrupting. (*They sit quickly.*)

Virgil, would you and the nincompoop please take these flowers out and burn them somewhere?

**ELLARD:** What did she call me?

**VIRGIL:** Nincompoop!

**ELLARD:** (*Moving to the flowers.*) I was just wonderin'.

**VIRGIL:** But Mama Hooper spent a good deal of time finding those flowers.

**MS. DELANIE:** Look, I have a head ache. Two women are outside hanging garland on the front stoop, the bride's hair looks like something from an Alfred Hitchcock movie, and plastic flamingos are being brought in to decorate the alter! I'm not in the best of moods right now so I would suggest you do as I ask or other wise I might have to get nasty. (*She ends this speech right in VIRGIL'S face. He stands there for a second.*)

**VIRGIL:** Are you upset Ms. Delanie?

**PAPA HOOPER:** (*Standing and pushing VIRGIL out of the way.*) I'll get rid of the flowers for you Ms. Delanie.

**PAPA SLUDGE:** (*Standing.*) I can do that too.

**MS. DELANIE:** Fine! (*She crosses up stage with her clip board.*)

**ELLARD:** Let's go, Virgil. (*To BARBIE.*) Goodbye Ms. Barbie. I guess I'll see you later on.

**BARBIE:** See you later, you brawny thing you.

**VIRGIL:** What did she mean by that?

**ELLARD:** I'm not sure but I think she likes my teeth. (*The box shakes as he runs off the stage.*)

**MARGARET:** Virgil, aren't you goin' to kiss me before you leave?

**VIRGIL:** You mean with my lips?

**MARGARET:** That's okay, Virgil. You don't have to kiss me.

**VIRGIL:** (*He knows he'd better kiss her.*) Now Margaret, don't go and get any crazy ideas, it's just that you know how shy I am around strangers.

VIRGIL'S WEDDING

**MARGARET:** I said I understood, Virgil. (*He pauses then crosses to her and kisses her on top of the head.*) (*Sarcastically.*) That was real romantic Virgil.

**VIRGIL:** I'll see you tomorrow, okay?

*MAMA SLUDGE and MAMA HOOPER enter each carrying some garland. MAMA HOOPER carries a small shopping bag.*

**MAMA SLUDGE:** Virgil, where you runnin' off to? Are you goin' to get me that lava lamp?

**VIRGIL:** Yes ma'am, just as soon as Ellard and me find him another lizard for his box. (*He exits.*)

**MARGARET:** (*Having a seat stage right.*) Mama, I think Virgil hates me.

*Thank you for reading this free excerpt from VIRGIL'S WEDDING by Eddie McPherson. For performance rights and/or a complete copy of the script, please contact us at:*

Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

P.O. Box 248 • Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406

Toll Free: 1-888-473-8521 • Fax (319) 368-8011

[www.brookpub.com](http://www.brookpub.com)