

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

By Alicia Hoisington

Copyright © 2005 by Alicia Hoisington, All rights reserved.
ISBN: 1-60003-101-3

CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that this Work is subject to a royalty. This Work is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention.

RIGHTS RESERVED: All rights to this Work are strictly reserved, including professional and amateur stage performance rights. Also reserved are: motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound recording, all forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, information and storage retrieval systems and photocopying, and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY PAYMENTS: All amateur and stock performance rights to this Work are controlled exclusively by Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this play without securing license and royalty arrangements in advance from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Questions concerning other rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC. Royalty fees are subject to change without notice. Professional and stock fees will be set upon application in accordance with your producing circumstances. Any licensing requests and inquiries relating to amateur and stock (professional) performance rights should be addressed to Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

Royalty of the required amount must be paid, whether the play is presented for charity or profit and whether or not admission is charged.

AUTHOR CREDIT: All groups or individuals receiving permission to produce this play must give the author(s) credit in any and all advertisement and publicity relating to the production of this play. The author's billing must appear directly below the title on a separate line where no other written matter appears. The name of the author(s) must be at least 50% as large as the title of the play. No person or entity may receive larger or more prominent credit than that which is given to the author(s).

PUBLISHER CREDIT: Whenever this play is produced, all programs, advertisements, flyers or other printed material must include the following notice:

Produced by special arrangement with Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

COPYING: Any unauthorized copying of this Work or excerpts from this Work is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Brooklyn Publishers, LLC.

CHARACTERS

HAROLD	the dad
LOUISE	the mom
JACK	the brother
ASHELY	the sister-in-law
JENNA	the daughter
PAT	the fiancée

Dedicated to my mother, who has always been there for me and supported me in all my aspirations.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

by
Alicia Hoisington

AT RISE: *A dining room. LOUISE bustles about, cleaning and preparing for dinner. HAROLD sits at the table and reads a newspaper.*

HAROLD: (**reads**) Horrible... horrible... horrible... not so horrible... horrible... hmm... horrible.

LOUISE: Harold! Put that down and help me with the dusting!

HAROLD: Louise, please. I'm reading up on the current events. Would you *like* me to live in the past? You know how much I hate the past.

LOUISE: Sorry, honey. I'm just so excited! We haven't seen Jenna since she moved to California. She has big news about her and Pat, you know!

HAROLD: I know. You've only told me thirty times.

LOUISE: I wonder what it could be.

HAROLD: What do you *think* it is?

LOUISE: I don't know!

HAROLD: Then you are very dense.

(Doorbell rings.)

LOUISE: Oh, that must be Jack and Ashley!

HAROLD: You invited them?

LOUISE: Of course! They're family!

HAROLD: Unfortunately.

(LOUISE runs offstage and returns with JACK and ASHLEY behind her.)

JACK: Hey, Pops.

HAROLD: Son.

JACK: This is exciting, huh?

HAROLD: (**sarcastically**) Oh, yes, very exciting.

ASHLEY: I can't remember the last time Jenna was married.

LOUISE: Jenna was never married.

HAROLD: She's not you.

LOUISE: They should be here any minute.

JACK: Great! I'll help you set the table, Ma.

(They bring plates of food to the table. The doorbell is heard again.)

LOUISE: Oh! Ashley, go get that! ***(ASHLEY walks offstage.)*** Okay, Harold. Be nice to Pat when they get here.

HAROLD: I have to be nice to him? You know I'm not good at being nice to people.

LOUISE: You have to be nice to him.

(ASHLEY walks back onstage, followed by JENNA and PAT.)

JENNA: Mom! Daddy!

HAROLD: Babydoll! Come over here and give your dad a hug!

JENNA: ***(runs over to him and hugs him then pulls away; crosses back to PAT)*** Everyone, this is Pat. Pat, this is my mother, father, my brother, Jack, and his wife, Ashley.

PAT: Hi, everyone.

LOUISE: Pat, we're just about to eat. Sit down! Sit down! Sit down! Go ahead and sit down!

PAT: Okay... I'll sit down.

(They all take their places at the table and begin to eat. There is a silence before LOUISE talks.)

LOUISE: So! You have news?

JENNA: Oh! ***(rises)*** Well, I'm sure you all suspect it, but Pat and I are engaged!

(Everyone smiles and nods and offers their congratulations. LOUISE goes wild.)

LOUISE: Oh! That's so great! I had no idea! A wedding! Oh, I had no idea! Well, I just didn't even suspect a thing! My only daughter is getting married! Oh, this is such a happy day for me! Oh, I'm so excited! Harold! Harold! They are getting married! Harold, I'm so excited!

HAROLD: Yes, Louise. We all can see that you are very excited. Sit down. ***(SHE sits.)*** Pat, what do you do for a living?

PAT: I'm an actor.

JENNA: He's wonderful.

LOUISE: You're an actor? That's wonderful!

HAROLD: You're an actor? That's horrible!

ASHLEY: Would I have seen you in anything?

PAT: I... was in a couple of TV movies.

ASHLEY: Oh, I don't watch television. It corrupts the mind.

Welcome to the Family – Page 5

HAROLD: How could your mind possibly get any more corrupted?

ASHLEY: I...

JACK: (*cuts her off*) So, Sis, marriage! That's a big step.

JENNA: Oh, yes. (*smiles at PAT*) A big step we're ready for.

ASHLEY: That's so wonderful. If you need any wedding tips -

HAROLD: They won't ask you.

LOUISE: Harold!

ASHLEY: It's okay, Louise. We all know he has his issues with me.

JACK: (*to PAT*) She just wasn't sure what she wanted, you see. The first time we were supposed to get married, she ran off with the caterer.

ASHLEY: The second time, I ran off with the band.

JACK: The third time was the priest, wasn't it?

ASHLEY: Yes, the priest!

LOUISE: Oh, how is Father Rider?

ASHLEY: Oh, just great!

PAT: How did you two ever end up getting married?

JACK: Well, she was marrying my best friend, so of course, I was the best man. She ran off with me.

ASHLEY: We eloped! It was so romantic!

(There is an awkward silence as JACK and ASHLEY longingly stare into each other's eyes.)

LOUISE: So, Pat, did you know that Harold is in the insurance business?

HAROLD: Sure am. Do you need any insurance, Pat?

PAT: I guess I could use some. What company do you work for?

HAROLD: Work for? Pat, I am the *owner* of *Boss Tweed's Insurance Company!*

PAT: Boss Tweed? Wasn't he a corrupt politician of the 1800s?

HAROLD: That, my friend, is what the foundation of America is all about - corruption and blackmail!

PAT: Come to think of it, I already have insurance.

JACK: I, myself, am in the food industry.

ASHLEY: He's head chef!

PAT: Oh, really? That's great. What restaurant?

JACK: Well, I don't know if they have them down in California, for it is indeed a very sophisticated place. Only the wealthiest of the wealthiest are allowed in.

PAT: Wow, it sounds great. What is it called?

JACK: Have you ever heard of a place called McDonald's? Yep, I run the joint down there.

HAROLD: You are a failure.

Welcome to the Family – Page 6

JACK: A failure?

HAROLD: Yes. Your sister here owns an art gallery and you flip burgers. Hell, even the actor is better than you and he's only been in movies on television that no one ever watches!

JACK: I resent that.

HAROLD: I don't care.

LOUISE: Where are you two getting married?

JENNA: In Hawaii.

PAT: It's really romantic there. We're going to have the ceremony right by the ocean at sunset with birds flying over head.

HAROLD: Where are you going to get the birds?

JENNA: I'm sure they have birds there.

HAROLD: Why can't you just get married in a church? Jenna won't run off with the priest.

JENNA: We want to do it in Hawaii, Dad.

HAROLD: What's wrong with Idaho?

JENNA: Hawaii is romantic!

HAROLD: Idaho is romantic!

JENNA: Where do you want us to get married, Dad? In a potato field?

HAROLD: Well, I'm all out of money from your brother's five weddings!

JACK: Four!

HAROLD: Four. I'm sorry. Four. What's the difference?

JACK: One! The difference is one!

HAROLD: What are you, a mathematician now? Go flip your burgers!

JENNA: Dad, it's all right. We're paying for it ourselves.

HAROLD: Oh. Well, in that case... I like to fly first class. Thanks.

PAT: This food is delicious, Louise.

LOUISE: Oh, thank you, Pat!

HAROLD: Pat, you don't have to lie. She knows she can't cook.

LOUISE: Harold! I can cook!

HAROLD: Louise, we all know you can't cook. Your meatloaf killed the dog.

LOUISE: Dr. Rosenberg said he died from old age.

HAROLD: He was two months old.

LOUISE: Well, that's like nine months in dog years!

Thank you for reading this free excerpt from WELCOME TO THE FAMILY by Alicia Hoisington. 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

Do Not Copy