

YOU'VE OFFENDED MRS. SMITH

By Jerry Rabushka

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YOU'VE OFFENDED MRS. SMITH!*A Ten Minute Comedy Skit***By Jerry Rabushka**

SYNOPSIS: A high energy comedy trio! Teenage Melinda has done the unthinkable – she’s offended Mrs. Smith! The poor old – uh...elderly lady was eavesdropping on some gossip and she overheard the worst. Melinda’s mother insists she apologize, but Melinda refuses, saying she simply told the truth: Mrs. Smith is a meddling eavesdropping busybody. Can Melinda and Mrs. Smith ever resolve this without anyone getting offended? You bet, and you’ll never guess how!

CAST OF CHARACTERS*(3 females)*

MELINDA (f) In high school. *(41 lines)*
 MOM (f) Melinda’s mom. *(30 lines)*
 MRS. SMITH (f) Elderly and perpetually
 offended. *(29 lines)*

SETTING: Melinda and Mom’s home.

AUTHOR NOTE

Melinda appears in other pieces including the comic monologue “The Politics of Prom”. Melinda and her mother appear together in the comedy duet “Creepy Girl on the Playground”.

AT RISE: *MRS. SMITH storms on stage, disgusted, yet enjoying every moment of it!*

MRS. SMITH: That Melinda Wyden! I've never been so offended, so insulted by such a vile teenager. I'm going to tell her mother and she'll put an end to it once and for all. (*Practically rubbing her hands with glee.*) We won't be seeing Melinda out of doors until she's 57 years old, after which all her prospects for marriage will have evaporated like a chemistry experiment left uncapped.

MELINDA: (*Enters, a lot more peacefully, addressing the audience.*) Melinda here, and, today I want to talk to you about something you might have overheard me talking about last week.

MELINDA walks around MRS. SMITH, who gives her the "side eye" and is still offended but doesn't interrupt.

MELINDA: Eavesdropping.

MRS. SMITH perks up to listen.

MELINDA: Listening in when it doesn't matter. Butting in when it's not your business. (*Indicated what's to come.*) Or starting off a conversation that makes no sense.

MOM: (*Enters, angry and brusque.*) Young lady!

MELINDA: (*Confused by MOM being so mad.*) Mom?

MOM: Mrs. Smith!

MELINDA: (*Still confused, but sassy.*) No, my name's Melinda, and you should know that since you're the one who gave it to me. (*To audience.*) As you can imagine, that got me into even more trouble than I was in already.

MOM: (*As if this is the worst thing ever.*) You've offended Mrs. Smith!

MELINDA: I haven't seen Mrs. Smith in a year and a half.

MOM: Mrs. Smith told me she heard exactly what you said about her.

MELINDA: How? She wasn't even there.

MRS. SMITH: (*Aside.*) I heard it from a reliable source.

MOM: Why were you even saying these things? What did you call her?

They exchange looks, MELINDA wants to avoid answering but MOM glares her into an answer.

MELINDA: A meddling eavesdropping busybody.

MOM: Well, you've succeeded in offending her.

MELINDA: How did she find out?

MOM: How do you think?

MRS. SMITH: As I was trying to dissuade my third cousin from marrying a touring circus trapeze artist, I couldn't help but overhearing some young ladies discoursing on the nature of your conversation the week before. (*Hurt and offended.*) You referred to me as a meddling eavesdropping busybody.

MELINDA: Were you offended because you think I was lying or because I was telling the truth?

MOM: Melinda, you apologize to Mrs. Smith.

MELINDA: For what? Having a conversation? At least I'm thinking of her—as a meddling eavesdropping busybody.

MRS. SMITH corners MELINDA; refuses to let it drop.

MRS. SMITH: That's not all. Was it? You called me a loathsome meddling eavesdropping busybody.

MELINDA: I did not say loathsome. Though I'm starting to wish I had.

MOM: (*Trying to reason her way through it.*) I mean... meddling, yes.

MRS. SMITH agrees silently.

MOM: Eavesdropping, definitely...

MRS. SMITH agrees again

MOM: but loathsome?

MRS. SMITH is upset.

MOM: Melinda, that's a judgement call that's not yours to make.

MELINDA: I never said loathsome. It must have got added in during the retelling. (*Cheerful.*) You should have been there the first time, Mrs. Smith. When it was fresh and new.

MRS. SMITH: How is it you ladies have time to discuss poor old friendless Mrs. Smith? Don't you have homework to do?

MELINDA: Not all day and all night, no. It's not that kind of school district.

MRS. SMITH: I'm waiting...

MELINDA: For what...

MRS. SMITH: For my apology. And as I'm retired, I do have all day.

MOM: Melinda... apologize this very minute.

MELINDA: (*With a sigh of defeat.*) All right. I'm sorry I called you a meddling eavesdropping busybody.

MRS. SMITH: What about loathsome?

MELINDA: I never called you loathsome. (*To audience.*) Though that's the best yet.

MOM: Apologize anyway. You started it, and loathsome got added into the game of telephone. It's your fault for placing the call.

MELINDA: (*To MRS. SMITH.*) Maybe you should find out who did it and go to her mother and start this same brouhaha.

MRS. SMITH: You can bet your sweet bananas and sour pickles I'll find out.

MELINDA: Is this all you do all day? Walk about demanding apologies? Try being nice for once.

MRS. SMITH: As I was in the library telling my cousin Avery that he needed to get a better job and to stop reading trashy NASCAR fiction, I couldn't help but overhear a lot of chatter ...

MELINDA: Stop it!

MRS. SMITH: Nobody tells me anything directly so I have to listen closely.

MELINDA: Because you're a gossip as well. You spread gossip like fertilizer over a lawn, then sit back and watch it grow. I wish my life was half as interesting as you tell it, and I wish that you had more to do than to concern yourself with a teenager having a soda at the malt shoppe.

MRS. SMITH: You should have been doing something constructive... like walking the dog.

MOM: We don't have a dog.

MRS. SMITH: *(To MOM.)* Well who does? I'm sure there's a dog she can walk.

MELINDA: The Moritz's have a dog. And from what I hear, Cassie Moritz is the one who called you loathsome. *(Explaining.)* That's what Elsie said that Joanie said that Barney told Arlene.

MOM: Are you spreading rumors?

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