

WINGIN' IT

Scenes about Growing Up

By Stephen Murray

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PUBLISHED BY

ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

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STORY OF THE PLAY

From the day we're hatched to the day we spread our wings and fly on our own, there are requisite, riotous rites of passage that must be experienced. This collection of humorous scenes explores the innocent squawk of infancy, the terrible twos, the treacherous teens and everything in between.

There are survival courses on how to handle any kind of baby-sitter ... from the perfect to the perfectly insane. There are tactics for dealing with those who endeavor to shape, stretch and warp our minds and bodies - like gym teachers, substitute teachers and those cafeteria culinary queens, the "Little Lunch Ladies."

From the angst of adolescence and part-time jobs, to the dangers of driver's ed. and dealing with the dreaded kid sister, this is a hilarious, high-flying adventure. Whether you're a feather short of adulthood or have a bird's-eye view of growing up, this play soars with laughter.

Scene and Character Breakdown

NARRATOR, ENSEMBLE

Scene 1 - Happy Birthday

MOM, DAD, NURSE, CHLOE, WENDY

Scene 2 - Good Sitter / Bad Sitter

WILLAMINA, GOOD SITTER, BAD SITTER, KIDS 1-6

Scene 3 - Military Baby-sitter

SITTER, BABY, KIDS 1-2, MOM, DAD

Scene 4 - The Perfect Baby-sitter

MOM, DAD, KIDS 1-2, LAZY KID, CARRIE COPPINS,
CARPET CLEANER

Scene 5 - School Days: Chloe in School

CHLOE, WENDY, DAWN, MARIE, LOUISE

Scene 6 - Gym Class

GYM TEACHER, SWEENEY, JOHNSON, BAKER, SMITH,
BROWN, MARTIN

Scene 7 - The Substitute Teacher

TEACHER, STUDENTS 1-5

Scene 8 - The Little Lunch Lady

STUDENTS 1-5, LUNCH LADIES 1-4

Scene 9 - Driver's Education

TEACHER, JAN, MARCIA, CINDY, ALICE

Scene 10 - The New Job

MANAGER, MELBA, JUDY, MOM, CUSTOMERS 1-3, THIEF

Scene 11 - Little Sister

MOM, DAD BIG SISTER 1-2, LITTLE SISTER 1-2, TOMMY,
RODNEY, CLERK/USHER

Scene 12 - Chloe Leaves Home

MOM, CHLOE, SUSIE

Scene 13 - Finale

SETS

Settings may be as suggested or complicated as you like. Several scenes call for a neutral, open stage. Others require side by side living rooms, school desks, a lab bench, a cafeteria set-up, a fast food counter with register, a movie lobby with concession stand and movie seats, a bedroom. Scene changes can often be accomplished by acting out scenes in front of the curtain or on the front half of the stage, while the scenery changes behind.

PROPS

Props may be mimed or real. Infant doll, a baby doll, baseball glove, papers, pencils, glue stick or bottle, phones salad tongs, a bottle of alcohol, a box of dental floss, paper money and change, an umbrella and carpet bag, sock, shirt, toy, vacuum, beakers filled with different colored fluids, cafeteria trays, plates, serving instruments, fake food, a sneaker in a plate of mashed potatoes, a Barbie and Ken, two big tubs of popcorn, two mugs with squiggly straws, a suitcase.

COSTUMES

Costumes are contemporary street clothes. You will also need costumes to identify moms and dads, a nurse, teachers, baby-sitters. Special costumes include baby clothes for grown actors, little kid ensembles for grown actors, a woman's business suit, gym clothes, lunch lady aprons, hair nets and rubber gloves, a turn-of-the-century nanny outfit, three fast-food uniforms, a bag lady outfit, a movie clerk/usher outfit.

SOUND EFFECTS

Infant cry, fairy tale theme music, explosion, car racing, wheels squealing, brakes screeching, a car crash, sinister music, muted movie dialogue.

Scene 1
Happy Birthday

(A NARRATOR steps into the light.)

NARRATOR: Welcome to *Wingin' It*, a journey through life from the first cries of infancy to the first day of independence. It's our training period, our apprenticeship as we strive for that imaginary certificate of adulthood. Let's begin with day one. Birth. The most common first word of newborns is ... *(An infant's cry is heard.)* That may not mean much to you and me, but research has discovered that, in the language of infants, it has a very special meaning: "Happy birthday to me!"

(MOM and DAD enter, followed by NURSE carrying infant doll.)

NURSE: Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson; it's a girl!

MOM: She's beautiful!

DAD: What a sweetheart! She's got your eyes.

MOM: Oh, and she's got your ears!

DAD: And, ow! *(DAD is being pulled toward baby.)* She's got ... my ... nose! *(HE breaks free.)* What a grip!

(MOM, DAD and NURSE exit.)

NARRATOR: The first years of life are full of activity for both the child and the parent. The child is busy learning numerous basic tasks that will later be taken for granted. Meanwhile, due to the basic helplessness of infancy, the parent has a lot of baby maintenance work to do. There is a theory that babies are born cute so the parent will look into that little face and feel that the endless work or child raising is all worthwhile.

(MOM and CHLOE, dressed as a baby, enter. MOM is encouraging her daughter to learn to walk.)

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MOM: Come on Chloe, you can do it. Walk for Mommy! I have a little present for you. Walk over here so you can play with it. *(CHLOE stands and walks to MOM.)* Good girl! You did it! I'm very proud of you! Here's your present. *(MOM pulls a doll out from behind her back or from a box on the floor.)* Your very own dolly. You stay here and play with your new dolly and I'll be right back.

(MOM exits. CHLOE joyfully holds her doll. Another baby, WENDY, enters crawling, holding a baseball glove.)

WENDY: What's that?

CHLOE: It's a doll. My mother gave it to me for walking a few steps.

WENDY: What a great deal! We do some silly thing and they give us a present.

CHLOE: I know; I got a new rattle once just for making a drool bubble. What's that?

WENDY: It's a baseball glove.

CHLOE: What do you do with it?

WENDY: I don't know, but my Dad keeps saying things like, "Olympic softball team" and "college scholarship." I haven't figured out what he's talking about yet.

CHLOE: Just burp and smile - maybe he'll give you something.

WENDY: Good advice. Ooh, I think I need changing. I'd better go.

CHLOE: I could use a fresh diaper, too. I'll see you later.

(THEY exit crawling in opposite directions. Fade out.)

Scene 2
Good Sitter / Bad Sitter

(As NARRATOR speaks, CAST hums "America," aka "God Save the Queen," in the background.)

NARRATOR: The early stages of childhood are a wondrous time; however, these times call for constant supervision and protection of the child's well-being. This responsibility is beyond the capabilities of most mortal parents. So, a special task force is brought in. A legion of public servants who allow parents to savor a few moments of well deserved relaxation. A squadron of unsung heroes who hold this land together. We salute you, the baby-sitter! *(NARRATOR salutes. The music stops.)* The baby-sitter plays an important role in the lives of children. For this reason we will now present as a public service baby-sitting expert Willamina Hinkle with a lecture on baby-sitting.

(WILLAMINA enters.)

WILLAMINA: Hello, I'm Willamina Hinkle, president of the International Academy of Baby-sitting. Today we will present a demonstration of the "do's" and "don't's" of baby-sitting, or as I like to call it: "Good Sitter/Bad Sitter."

(Lights up on stage. We see the interiors of two homes represented, one on either side of the stage. Each side has one baby-sitter and three children. The action will go back and forth between the GOOD SITTER and KIDS 1-3 and the BAD SITTER and KIDS 4-6.)

WILLAMINA: The Good Sitter is concerned about the child's academic progress.

GOOD SITTER: How's that homework coming along?

KID 2: I hate math. It's boring.

GOOD SITTER: Let's make it fun! We'll use your little sister to help us with your table of nines. *(To KID 1.)* Hold up your fingers, please. *(KID 1 holds up fingers as GOOD SITTER does trick where holding down the finger of how many times nine reveals the digits of the answer. Example: 9×1 . Of the 10 fingers, hold down the one farthest to the left. 9 fingers remain up on one side. $9 \times 1 = 9$ 9 x 2 hold down the 2nd finger from the left now you have 1 up on the left and 8 up on the right, 18. 9×3 , hold down 3rd finger and you get 2 on the left, 7 on the right, 27 and so on. The GOOD SITTER manipulates KID 1's fingers.)* Nine times one is nine. Nine times two is eighteen. *(Showing fingers on sides of depressed finger.)* One and eight. Nine times three is twenty-seven.

WILLAMINA: The Bad Sitter has little interest in scholastic events.

KID 5: We have to learn the state capitals for homework.

BAD SITTER: So?

KID 5: Will you help me?

BAD SITTER: *(Sighs.)* All right.

KID 5: What's the capital of Oklahoma?

BAD SITTER: Oklahoma City.

(KID 5 writes answer and continues to do so with each answer given.)

KID 5: What's the capital of Kansas?

BAD SITTER: Kansas City.

KID 5: New York?

BAD SITTER: New York City.

KID 5: Vermont?

BAD SITTER: Vermont City.

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KID 5: Idaho?

KID 5 and BAD SITTER: Idaho City!

KID 5: I get it now. Thanks for your help.

WILLAMINA: The Good Sitter is concerned about nutrition.

KID 1: Miss Jenny, I'm hungry.

KIDS 2 and 3: We're hungry, too!

GOOD SITTER: Then I will fix you a nutritious snack. How about a liver and wheat-germ smoothie?

KIDS 1, 2 and 3: Yay!!!!

WILLAMINA: The Bad Sitter does not care what the young child consumes.

KID 4: I'm hungry.

BAD SITTER: See what's in the kitchen.

KID 4: All I saw was baking soda, drain cleaner and peanut butter.

BAD SITTER: Sounds like a meal to me!

KID 5: Tommy's eating glue again!

BAD SITTER: Tommy, what have I told you?

(KID 6 tries to speak, but lips are stuck together. BAD SITTER pries mouth open.)

KID 6: Always share.

BAD SITTER: That's right. Now share that glue with your sister!

KID 6: All right.

KID 5: Yummy.

WILLAMINA: The Good Sitter is responsive to the health and welfare needs of the children.

KID 3: Miss Jenny. I don't feel so good.

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GOOD SITTER : What's the matter?
KID 3: I have a real bad stomachache.

(GOOD SITTER checks forehead of KID 3.)

GOOD SITTER: You have a fever, too. I think it's appendicitis!
KID 1: Cool; can I call 911?
KID 2: Can we ride in the ambulance?
GOOD SITTER: No time. I'll have to operate now. *(To KID 1.)*
Get me the set of ginsu knives and some salad tongs. *(To KID 2.)* Get me a bottle of alcohol and some dental floss.
KID 3: What about anesthetic?
GOOD SITTER: I'll use hypnosis!

(GOOD SITTER waves her hands and puts KID 3 to sleep on the coffee table.)

WILLAMINA: The Bad Sitter has little concern for the well-being of the child.

(BAD SITTER is on the phone. KID 5 enters to sitter.)

KID 5: I fell down. I think I broke my arm.
BAD SITTER: Does the other arm work?
KID 5: Yes, but ...
BAD SITTER: Then leave me alone. Can't you see I'm on the phone?

(Meanwhile, back at the operation. KID 3 is covered with a sheet. KID 1 is holding a pair of salad tongs. KID 2 holds a bottle of alcohol and dental floss. The GOOD SITTER appears to have her hands deep in KID 3's abdomen.)

KID 2: How's she doing?
KID 1: How would I know?

GOOD SITTER: Take her pulse.

(KID 1 grabs KID 3's wrist.)

KID 1: I don't feel anything.

GOOD SITTER: *(To KID 2.)* Go to the garage and get me some jumper cables.

(Back in the home with the BAD SITTER. KID 4 enters.)

KID 4: Tommy's stuck in the dryer.

BAD SITTER: What?

KID 4: I said, Tommy's stuck in the dryer.

BAD SITTER: Turn it on high for about 45 minutes. That made my sweater shrink; if it makes Tommy shrink, then we'll get him out.

KID 4: OK.

BAD SITTER: If that doesn't work, we'll try vegetable oil.

(Back to the operation. The GOOD SITTER now has two ends of the jumper cables in her hands; the cords snake off.)

GOOD SITTER: All right, the cables are hooked into the outlet. Clear. *(GOOD SITTER places ends of jumper cables on the chest of KID 3. KID 3 bounces)* One more time. Clear!

(KID 3 bounces again. KID 2 grabs KID 3's wrist.)

KID 2: I've got a pulse.

GOOD SITTER: Great. Let's close her up.

(KID 1 hands the GOOD SITTER the dental floss. Back with the BAD SITTER, KID 6 enters with hair that looks tumble-dried.)

KID 6: I don't feel so good. I'm dizzy and slippery.

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(KID 6 faints.)

BAD SITTER: Oh, yeah, good idea. Time to go to bed.

(Back to the operation. All props are gone. KID 3 is sitting up.)

KID 3: Wow, I feel great!

GOOD SITTER: I sewed your incision in the shape of a heart so when it heals, it will look like a cool tattoo.

KID 3: Thanks, Miss Jenny. You're the greatest.

(Tableau: GOOD SITTER gets a hug from KID 3 with KID 1 and 2 huddling around her and smiling. The BAD SITTER is still on the phone; KID 6 is still on the floor, KID 5 has a homemade sling on her arm, KID 4 is eating glue. Fade to black.)

WILLAMINA: It's your choice, parents. The Good Sitter or the Bad Sitter. If you want the best, make sure your sitter is a graduate of The International Academy of Baby-sitting. Still not convinced? Then we will show you even more baby-sitters. Stay tuned.

(WILLAMINA exits.)

End of *Freeview*