

# The Pie Ladies in Deep Water

Sherry Piros





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THE PIE LADIES IN DEEP WATER

by

Sherry Piros

CAST

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KITTY: Age 50-70, she is the group's leader, keeping the Pie Ladies on track.

LUCILLE: Age 50-70,, she is quiet, friendly, helpful, and proper.

GLADYS: Age 50-70, she is savvy, quick to grasp nuances, an organizer.

DULCIE: Age 50-70, she takes things too literally, not the sharpest tack in the box.

NADINE: Age 50-70, she's the motherly one of the group, concerned with doing what needs to be done.

VELDA: Age 50-70, she has a sharp tongue and a quick wit. She and Dulcie quarrel like sisters but really are friends.

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Age 50-60, thinks foreign language can be understood through volume and slow, distinct speech.

SUPA: Islander age of 50-60, capable leader of the islanders of TupaPatu. He speaks the best English of his group. They have taken the opportunity to work on the ship to hone their English skills and earn money to save their island.

RANO: Islander age of 50-60, also from TupaPatu. Solid group member.

NIHA: Islander age of 50-70, also from TupaPatu. Still learning English.

SATIN: Age 50-70, attractive, wealthy, and still very interested in men.

SAVANNAH: Age 50-70, Satin's sister, attractive, wealthy, and interested in other cultures, current events.

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Place

On a cruise ship in the Caribbean.

Time

The Present.

Production Notes

If you have done either of the two previous Pie Ladies plays, feel free to recycle any scenery that you used before. For example, the construction that was used to represent jail bars could be covered with a white painter's drop cloth to represent a back wall on the ship.

Setting:

A section of a cruise ship deck. In front of the back wall are eight deck chairs in a wide circle with a small table in the middle. One of the chairs Right of the table has a small footstool in front of it. Toward the downstage edge are three posts with rope attached between them to represent the railing on the ship. The Left exit leads to the Pie Ladies' rooms on Deck Three of the ship. The Right exit is to the staterooms for Satin and Savannah and other areas. Both exits also lead to other rooms: entertainments, food, etc. If possible, there are also two exits on the outside of the room exits and just inside the railing.

Costumes:

The Pie Ladies wear clothing suitable for a relaxed cruise. Satin and Savannah are well dressed.

Supa, Rano, and Niha wear ship employee uniforms, as simple as the same t-shirt.

Props:

Stage food. Search the internet to discover various ways (and complexities) for making stage food.

A ring. While the script specifies opal, etc., don't search high and low to match the description. Simply use something that's big and noticeable and change the description to match what you have.

Option: For Satin and Savannah's talent contest dance, the script suggests using the children's song, *Have You ever Gone Afishing on a Hot Summer Day?* Look it up online.

To make the lyrics fit the scene, consider using the lyrics I learned which are slightly different:

*Did you ever go afishing on a hot summer day?*

*Sit on the bank and watch the fishies play?*

*With your hands in your pockets and your pockets in your pants,*

*Did you ever see the fishies do the hula hula dance?*

Second verse, same as the first, a little bit louder and a little bit worse. Repeat for as long as needed.

If you would rather hum or sing Hawaiian music, use whatever works best for you. One word of caution: you must make sure that any music you use is in the public domain, is labeled "royalty free" or is an original composition.

#### At Rise

*As the play begins, the Pie Ladies are talking quietly to each other as they enter from the Left. They mosey to chairs. Kitty sits or stands on the footstool and then reads from a brightly colored brochure or a paper.*

KITTY: May I have your attention, please. (*The Ladies become quiet.*) There are a variety of physical and relaxing activities for this afternoon. Everybody will find something to their liking.

LUCILLE: Some of us have already signed up for an activity.

NADINE: That's good. But for those of us who haven't, (*nods to Kitty.*) Please continue.

KITTY: Of course. Today passengers are welcome to relax on the white sand beaches.

DULCIE: Where are the white beaches? Or the tan beaches? Or even the black? All I see is **a lot of** water.

VELDA: From what I've seen, it's hard to have a cruise without **a lot of** water.

KITTY: Okay, next it says you could frolic in the warm, turquoise water.

DULCIE: Frolic?

NADINE: It's something we did in grade school.

VELDA: It's something we did in our 20s... in bikinis when we grew into them.

LUCILLE: Don't ask me. I lost my frolic thirty years ago.

VELDA: Only thirty?

KITTY: Hey! Listen to this!: You can swim with stingrays.

NADINE: Why would you want to do that? They can kill you!

LUCILLE: Not if you do the Stingray Shuffle.

DULCIE: The what?

LUCILLE: You shuffle your feet under the sand (*demonstrates*) and they scoot away! You and your scary feet.

GLADYS: But what if the rays don't see your feet coming?!

VELDA: Then the nice people from the ship call a helicopter.

GLADYS: Not for me! This cruise is our reward for all that work on the cookbook.

NADINE: And relaxing is easier to do when you're alive -- *you know* -- alive!

KITTY: This sounds interesting. This is the favorite activity year after year-- swimming with dolphins.

*(The Pie Ladies ad lib excitement, fear, and then growing interest)*

LUCILLE: Swim with big, frisky fish? I don't know about that.

KITTY: But according to the activity director, it's magic. You and a dolphin gliding through the turquoise water. Could be the high point of the cruise.

NADINE: Well, *(pause)* I'll think about it.

GLADYS: Me too.

DULCIE: There are a lot of rules with dolphins, you know.

NADINE: Rules?

DULCIE: Be gentle and quiet around them and don't hurt their skin.

VELDA: *(to Dulcie)* That sounds like your rules.

DULCIE: Me and Flipper both have tender skin.

VELDA: I think I'd like to try that.

DULCIE: The dolphins?

VELDA: Yup. Adventure calls.

DULCIE: Yes, but are you sure it's calling *you*?

VELDA: I didn't come on a cruise to sit around.

LUCILLE: See you there and then.

VELDA: Yup!

KITTY: All right, the last activity is, and I'm reading this word for word, *(pauses briefly before reading)* swimming with pigs!

*(all react, either positively or negatively)*

*(continues reading)* You just buy some carrots, apples, etc. from a local vendor and you too can swim with pigs. The pigs on Pig Island will swim out to meet you when they detect food. What an opportunity!

DULCIE: You've got to be kidding!

GLADYS: I think it sounds like fun. As a kid, my favorite stuffed animal was a little pink pig.



DULCIE: When I was a kid, my dad raised a pen of pigs. They were dirty and noisy. I didn't want to swim with them then and I don't want to swim with them now!

GLADYS: These pigs would have to be clean. They practically live in a bathtub.

DULCIE: But you never see them with a bar of soap!

KITTY: I've signed up for the pigs.

DULCIE: Good! You can bring the soap.

NADINE: I'm going to see the "*the fountain of wine!*"

VELDA: Just to *look at* it?

NADINE: Well, how big could it be?

KITTY: Everybody, meet at our table during the first seating in the dining room, and we'll hear all the day's adventures.

LUCILLE: All those fit to talk about in public!

DULCIE: At our ages, what else have we got?!

*(They ad lib as they exit left. When the stage is empty, the Islanders enter from Right. They all look very burdened, almost defeated.)*

SUPA: Hokay. We work on ship many days but not enough money to build wall.

RANO: You can say that again.

SUPA: Why? I already say it.

NIHA: Need big money to build wall around island. Keep island dry. Keep ocean water in ocean.

SUPA: We build wall for (*pronounced very carefully*) Global Warming.

NIHA: If we fail TupaPatu. People die. Land dies.

SUPA: Have to find new land to live on. Have to speak English. Have to learn phone and computer.

NIHA: I study English in my books. But English crazy. Cow. Beef. Two words, one animal. Hog. Pork. Hot dog. One animal again.

RANO: To fit in, we must eat monster burger, drive car, follow little barky dog with tied string. We never learn all that in time to finish wall on TupaPatu.

NIHA: I want to stay where my children and grandchildren are.

SUPA: What you think we can do? *(They sit. They are all thinking.)*

CRUISE DIRECTOR: *(Enters from Right. He picks up a broom on the floor. All conversation with islanders is accompanied by much gesticulating to clarify the message.)*  
Supa, your crew is not working!

SUPA: You right. We thinking.

CRUISE DIRECTOR: You think too much. Your crew is laaazzyy.

RANO: What means this "laaazzyy?"

CRUISE DIRECTOR: I show you. Watch me. Lazy! *(He points to himself, drops a broom and squats down. Stands. Yawns. Stretches his arms. Put his hands in back of his head. Etc.)*  
See? Lazy.

SUPA: *(The islanders look at each other happily.)* Yes. Yes! We see. We do!

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Are you sure about that?

SUPA: In TupaPatu, this is our *Greet the Sun Dance*. See? Watch us.  
*(They line up. Fake yawns. Pretend to sleep. Snore. Stretch their arms out. Put them behind their heads. Hold their arms up to the sun. Chant: Ooo Akra Ooo Akra. Tutt! Etc. This is open to interpretation and choreographed movements. Have fun with it.)*

SUPA: *(When they finish.)* We go to work now. Good-bye.

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Uhh. Okay.

SUPA: *(Directed to Cruise Director.)* Is right -- We clean more floors? We mop more kitchen? We get more money?

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Yes. Okay!

SUPA: Okay.

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Clean the dining room floors and halls now.

SUPA: Okay. We work.

*(They pick up brooms, vacuums, spray bottles, dust cloths and exit Left.)*

SATIN: *(She enters from Right with her smart phone or tablet.)*

SAVANNAH: *(Yells from offstage Right.)* Satin!

SATIN: Over here, Sis.

SAVANNAH: *(Entering from Right.)* What are you doing?

SATIN: I'm filling out a form for the Matchmaker app on the ship's website.

SAVANNAH: Of course you are. What would a cruise be without a fling?!

SATIN: Finally! You get it!

SAVANNAH: After three marriages, don't you think it's time to slow down?

SATIN: Seems to me I ought to speed up. I've got a lot of life in me yet.

*(NIHA enters Right with cleaning implements, trying to eavesdrop secretly)*

NIHA: *(She starts to dust or sweep.)* Sorry. I have to clean. Sorry for noise.

SAVANNAH: That won't bother me.

SATIN: Same here.

SAVANNAH: There's a Happy Hour for singles at the *Blue Frog Bar*. Maybe that's where the men are. First two mugs of *Blue Frog Beer* are free.

SATIN: Yeah. Blue frogs are so cute paddling around a beer glass. Men just can't resist. You ought to come with me tonight. They have hula dancers too. Women and men!

SAVANNAH: I've seen dancers before.

SATIN: Well, you haven't seen this--look at what I just bought.  
(*She holds up her hand to show off a ring.*)

SAVANNAH: It's beautiful! Really quite striking!

SATIN: It's my birthday gift to myself. Gold with gold inlay and a beautiful opal.

SAVANNAH: And a topaz. But your birthday isn't for another four months.

SATIN: What if I don't live that long? Why deny myself?

SAVANNAH: That's one way to look at it.

SATIN: Why deny all those lovely men too? Those lovely...lovely men.

SAVANNAH: You and I are sisters, but we don't share the same values.

(*NIHA has worked her way Left by now.*)

SATIN: What do you want to do with the time you have left?

SAVANNAH: I want to make a difference. I want to be part of something bigger than myself.

SATIN: The lounge is bigger than you. I'm going. Want to join me for a glass of wine?

SAVANNAH: Yeah, I'll go with you. So what do you want to do with your remaining time?

SATIN: You have to ask?

SAVANNAH: No. Silly me.

(*exit Right. The Cruise Director enters Right. The Pie Ladies enter Left.*)

CRUISE DIRECTOR: (*preoccupied in looking for something among the papers on her clipboard.*) Good morning! And how are you enjoying your cruise so far?

VELDA: Since you asked, our rooms are a little cramped. Do you have any rooms we could upgrade to? (*Other Pie Ladies agree.*)

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Good. Good. Glad to hear it. (*The Pie Ladies are startled, offended, etc.*) Ah, here it is. (*Calling to Right*) Supa! You and your crew here, please. (*Supa, Rano and Niha enter Right, the Pie Ladies on Left.*)

KITTY: (*Louder*) We're not happy with our rooms. There's too much mechanical noise and too much swaying.

GLADYS and NADINE: (*pantomiming*) Up and down. Up and down.

LUCILLE and DULCIE: (*pantomiming*) Left and Right. Right and Left.

CRUISE DIRECTOR: Nonsense! This ship is the most stable ship in the fleet.

KITTY: Not in our rooms!

CRUISE DIRECTOR: I'll look into it. (*Scribbling something on clipboard paper.*) But first I have an announcement. (*She reads from a paper on her clipboard.*) Attention, please! We have pirate movies tonight for your viewing enjoyment: A family comedy -- *Pirates Who Can't Swash or Buckle*; A classic starring Derrold Flynn -- *Captain Bloodhound*, and a recent favorite, *Pirates of the Northern Woods*. All movies will be shown in the ship's multiplex. Do not make any connection between these movies and any real or imagined danger in sailing with Universal Pleasure Cruise Line. Thank you. (*exits Right.*)

SUPA: (*Approaching Velda*) Please, what means 'pirate'?

VELDA: Long ago men who sailed in ships and robbed the passengers of their gold and jewels.

RANO: Please, what means 'robbed'?

VELDA: You don't get out much, do you?

NADINE: 'Robbed' is when people take things that don't belong to them.

NIHA: So pirates take gold and jewels from people?

NADINE: That's right.

RANO: What people?

GLADYS: Well, rich people.

DULCIE: Like people who have enough money to take cruises on ships.  
(*Gladys and Dulcie look at each other. Oops!*)

RANO: Thank you. My English get better today.

DULCIE: Why do you need better English?

SUPA: So rich people understand robbery.

PIE LADIES: (*Ad lib their shock and dismay.*)

NADINE: But you shouldn't rob.

GLADYS: Anyone.

LUCILLE: On this ship!

NADINE: Or otherwise.

SUPA: No?

ALL PIE LADIES: NO!

VELDA: You would end up in jail.

RANO: What means 'jail'?

DULCIE: You've got to be kid-- (*Kitty and Velda put their hands over her mouth.*)

RANO: Umm, jail is?

KITTY: It's a bad place where bad people are caged because they did bad things.

NIHA : Like take money?

KITTY: Yes, exactly like that.

SUPA: What means 'exactly'?

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VELDA: It means you understand. You got it right on the nose. *(She taps her nose with her finger.)*

LUCILLE: I'm hungry. Let's go to lunch.

*(Pie Ladies ad lib their interest and agreement to go to lunch. They exit R.)*

SUPA: Me have plan better too. Pirates!

RANO: Pirates? We play baseball? I too old to throw ball.

SUPA: No play. We real pirates. We take jewels.

RANO: But jail worse than mopping!

SUPA: I got plan. We go sunny side of ship. Take jewels when pretty ladies sleep in sun.

RANO: If they see us take, they scream.

NIHA: No good. Crazy plan.

SUPA: Me chief.

NIHA: I Wise Woman for my people Men be silent! No more jabber!

SUPA: What mean 'jabber'?

NIHA: Jabber, what men do when they open mouth. I learn much English when I listen, not talk.

RANO: That right.

NIHA: We no take money and jewels. We not bad people, even to save our country. We work more, make more money.

SUPA: I will think on your plan. Rano too. We talk later. Now go.  
*(Gestures go to Niha.)*

NIHA: I the Wise Woman. You go!

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*(She points to SUPA and RANO. They exit Right, mumbling to each other. She waits while they exit. Then she slumps in a chair. All is not well.)*

NIHA: I Wise Woman, not wise enough. I no think of plan. Water deeper on our island.

*(Dulcie appears in the doorway Left. She stops to listen when she hears Niha talking to herself.)*

Ocean water kills our gardens. Drowns our chickens and pigs. Push houses into water. I am afraid. I cannot save my people.

DULCIE: Please forgive me for listening, but that's terrible that your land is going under water. Do you understand what i say?

NIHA: Yes. But I fail. I not know what to do. I need much help.

DULCIE: I have many friends on this ship. I will talk to them. Maybe one of them will have an idea.

NIHA: Thank you.

DULCIE: You stay right here. I will be right back. What is your name?

NIHA: I Niha. From Tupa Patu.

DULCIE: Okay. Sit down, Niha, and stay there. I'll be right back.

NIHA: I sit. Okay.

*(Niha sits. Dulcie exits Right. After 30 to 45 seconds, Niha paces, flips through a magazine left on a chair. Anything to kill time. Niha gets up and walks around near the edge. Dulcie comes back in.)*

DULCIE: Niha! *(Takes Niha's arm)* Come with me! I need you to talk to my friends. I have an idea.

NIHA: Hokay. *(On the way out, Dulcie is talking about explaining the situation on TupaPatu to the Pie Ladies. They exit Right.)*

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*(Satin and Savannah enter Left. Satin carries a large shopping bag containing “grass” skirts, floral bra or top, lei, and optional accessories like a floral hair clip, etc. They are wearing sandals or flip-flops.)*

SAVANNAH: All right. Let’s get on with this childish, asinine, outrageous pastime.

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## **END OF FREEVIEW**

***You’ll want to read and perform this show!***

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