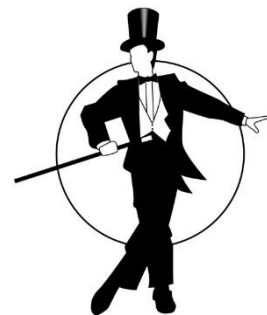


A Slight Misunderstanding

Drena Heizer



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A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING

by Drena Heizer

CAST

INTRODUCTION

JANET

MOM

HARRIET

MAUDE

STAGE POSITIONS: MAUDE has the first position at stage left. To her right is HARRIET. To HARRIET's right is an empty stand, ready for JANET as she arrives later. Then there is a space toward stage right to separate the next stand, which JANET uses as the scene opens. The stand for JANET's mother is placed farther toward stage right, to create the illusion that she and Janet are talking on the phone.

X (Maude) X (Harriet) X(empty) X (Janet) X (Mom)

PROPS: Two telephones

INTRODUCTION: Have you ever said something that was misunderstood by someone else? Has something you said been overheard and misinterpreted? Interesting complications can arise when this happens, as you will see in our skit entitled "A Slight Misunderstanding."

(The scene opens with JANET and her mother talking in the phone)

JANET: Hi, Mom. I don't have much time to talk because I'm meeting Harriet and Maude downtown for lunch, but I couldn't wait to tell you that I just picked out the puppy for Jimmy's birthday present. A really CUTE puppy!

MOM: Well, good. Where did you get it?

JANET: That nice kennel out at the edge of town. You know — Becker's place.

MOM: Oh yes — out by the interstate. Lillian got her dog there last year. A golden retriever. What breed is this puppy?

JANET: He's a boxer. Purebred. AKC papers. He can be a SHOW dog. How about THAT!

MOM: Well, personally I wouldn't want to bother with all those requirements for dog shows, but if this puppy is the one Jimmy wants...

JANET: Oh, he doesn't know about it yet. We want it to be a surprise on his birthday, so we're keeping it a secret. In case he should overhear us talking about the puppy, John and I are calling it "our new little addition."

MOM: But what about John? I thought he was very much against getting a dog.

JANET: Well yes, he was, but Jimmy wants one so much that I thought he should have it, so John finally gave in. He still insists he doesn't want any part of taking care of it, but I'm sure he'll change his mind when he sees how cute this puppy is.

MOM: I suppose Jimmy has promised that if he gets a dog he'll take all the responsibility of looking after it. All kids make that promise, but you know what happens. You and John will end up doing most of it.

JANET: Oh, I don't think so. With THREE of us to share responsibility, we'll work things out just fine. Now remember, when you talk to Jimmy don't mention "our new little addition." This puppy is going to be a SURPRISE birthday present. ...Look—I really have to go now or I'll be late. Talk to you later. Bye.

(MOM exits. JANET remains in place as the scene shifts to HARRIET and MAUDE, who are seated at the restaurant.)

HARRIET: Well, Maude, I have a bit of interesting news that I want to tell you before Janet gets here. I just heard that she is HAVING A BABY!

MAUDE: Janet is expecting again?

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Now buy the entire show — such fun!

