

MAY MONOLOGUE

~~John~~

~~Our dog did bite him.~~

~~Dot~~

~~That is also all right.~~

MAY

Runs forward; to the audience:

And there was a high feast and a festival in the Peerybingle household! Mary went to work to produce such a feast to reflect undying honor on the house and on every one concerned – and in a short time, she was up to her elbows in flour, and leaving white marks on John’s coat every time she could get hold of him and pull him into a kiss. As for John, he washed the greens, and peeled the turnips, and broke the plates, and upset pots full of water on the fire, and made himself useful in all sorts of ways. And as for the baby, he was passed to everybody in succession, as if he was something to drink. And as for you, I am sorry you weren’t there, because you missed as jolly a meal, and as hearty a celebration of two weddings and one Christmas, as anyone ever attended. And they were not done yet eating when there was a knock on the door.

~~A knock on the door. Tackleton enters, carrying, with some difficulty, the cake box.~~

TACKLETON

~~This is with my compliments, and as I haven’t got a use for it myself, p’raps you’ll eat it. G’bye.~~

~~Leaves the cake, exits.~~

~~Pause.~~

~~CALEB~~

~~He poisoned it.~~

MAY

~~He was overruled by acclamation, and the cake was cut and enjoyed by all, and the cups were sent on a second round, overflowing all, and Caleb got up to sing about The Sparkling Bowl – when there was a knock on the door.~~

~~A knock on the door. Tackleton enters with a burlap sack.~~

TACKLETON

~~I’ve noticed you have a baby somewhere here and so these are, um, these are – toys. For the baby.~~

~~Puts the sack down.~~

~~These are not ugly.~~

~~Thinks of saying something; does not; dismisses himself with a tentative hand wave; exits.~~

MAY

~~The whole party experienced a great difficulty in finding words for their astonishment, but in a minute they agreed that –~~

~~Knock on the door. Tackleton enters, and tries to speak, and cannot – until he sees Dot, and only then he knows what to say.~~