

THE EDGE OF THE NEST

By Stephen Murray

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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 and hummable songs 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 acne, 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 musical soars with laughter and uplifting songs like: "*Happy Birthday to Me*," "*Baby, Baby We're Babies*," "*School Daze*," "*The Teenage Tango*" and even the tribute to the parents who give us roots and wings, "*Thank You*."

PROPS/COSTUMES

Props needed include: infant doll in blanket, baby doll, telephones, jumper cables, umbrella, carpet bag, vacuum cleaner, invoice, whistle, gym uniforms, several slips of paper, school books, list and pen, class roster, Walkman, beakers, cafeteria trays, large food trays and serving spoons, carton of milk, hair nets, aprons, rubber gloves, order register, fast food bags, money, camera, two enormous bags of popcorn, two giant mugs, money, Barbie and Ken dolls.

Also needed are: chairs, tables, boxes etc. to arrange for the various settings.

(Optional: Ginsu knives, salad tongs, bottle of alcohol, dental floss and barbells.)

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1 - Happy Birthday

CAST: Narrator and Ensemble

SONG #1 - "Happy Birthday to Me"

Scene 2 - Babies and Young Chloe

CAST: Narrator, Ensemble of "Babies," Mom, and Chloe

SONG #2 - "Baby, Baby, We're the Babies"

SONG #3 - "Dolly I"

Scene 3 - Baby-sitter Introduction

CAST: Narrator and Ensemble

SONG #4 - "Baby-sitter"

Scene 4 - Good Sitter / Bad Sitter

CAST: Narrator, Wilamina, Good Sitter, Bad Sitter, six Kids

Scene 5 - Military Baby-sitter

CAST: Narrator, Mom, Dad, Sitter, Kid 1, Kid 2, Baby

Scene 6 - The Perfect Baby-sitter

CAST: Mom, Dad, Kid 1, Kid 2, Lazy Kid, Carrie Coppins,
Carpet Cleaner, Chorus

SONG #5 - "Carrie Coppins"

Scene 7 - School Days

CAST: Narrator, Offstage Voices, and Ensemble

SONG #6 - "School Daze"

Scene 8 - Gym Class

CAST: Gym Teacher and Students (Sweeney, Johnson, Baker,
Smith, Brown, and Martin)

Scene 9 - Chloe in School

CAST: Chloe at 10, Louise, Dawn, and Maria

SONG #7 - "Dolly II"

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Scene 10 - The Substitute Teacher

CAST: Narrator, Teacher (Miss Twiggle), 5 Students

Scene 11 - The Lunch Lady

CAST: Narrator, Lunch Lady, 5 Students, and Chorus of Little Lunch Ladies

SONG # 8 - "Little Lunch Lady"

Scene 12 - Teen Years Introduction

CAST: Narrator and Ensemble

SONG #9 - "The Teenage Tango"

Scene 13 - Driver's Education

CAST: Teacher, Jan, Marcia, Cindy, Alice

Scene 14 - The New Job

CAST: Manager (Biff); Shift Supervisor (Melba); New Employee (Judy); Mom; Customers 1, 2, and 3; Thief

Scene 15 - Little Sister

CAST: Narrator, Mom, Dad, Big Sister 1, Little Sister 1, Big Sister 2, Little Sister 2, Tommy, Rodney, Clerk/Usher, Chorus of Movie-goers

SONG #10 - "Little Sister Blues"

Scene 16 - Chloe Leaves Home

CAST: Chloe at 18, Mom, Susie

SONG #11 - "Dolly III"

Scene 17 - Finale

CAST: Narrator, Ensemble

SONG # 12 - "Thank You"

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Scene 1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CAST: Narrator and Ensemble.

NARRATOR: Welcome to the *Edge of the Nest*, 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 infants' CRY.*) 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!"

Song #1: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

ENSEMBLE: (*Sings.*)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
I'M SO HAPPY TO BE PART OF HUMANITY.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE
THIS IS SUCH A GREAT DAY
I WANT TO JUMP UP AND SAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

EVERYTHING IS BRAND NEW
THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO.
MANY THINGS TO SEE, TOO.
HI THERE, HOW-DO-YOU-DO?

I CAN'T WAIT TO BEGIN
TRY OUT MY BRAND NEW SKIN
THERE'S SO MUCH TO TAKE IN
SO I'LL SAY WITH A GRIN ...

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
I'M SO HAPPY TO BE PART OF HUMANITY.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

NURSE: (*MOM and DAD enter, followed by NURSE carrying infant doll.*) 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: (*Being pulled toward baby.*) And, ow! She's got ... my ... nose! (*Breaks free.*) What a grip!

EVERYTHING IS BRAND NEW (NOO)
THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO. (DOO)
MANY THINGS TO SEE, TOO. (TOO)
HI THERE, HOW-DO-YOU-DO? (DOO)

I CAN'T WAIT TO BEGIN (GINN)
TRY OUT MY BRAND NEW SKIN (SKINN)
THERE'S SO MUCH TO TAKE IN (INN)
SO I'LL SAY WITH A GRIN ... (A-GRINN)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
I'M SO HAPPY TO BE PART OF HUMANITY.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE
THIS IS SUCH A GREAT DAY
I WANT TO JUMP UP AND SAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!
THIS IS SUCH A GREAT DAY
I WANT TO JUMP UP AND SAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

End of Scene

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Scene 2

BABIES AND YOUNG CHLOE

CAST: Narrator, Ensemble of “Babies,” Mom, and Chloe learning to walk.

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 of child rearing is all worthwhile.

(A group of CAST MEMBERS enter as “babies” and sing.)

SONG #2: BABY, BABY, WE’RE THE BABIES

BABIES: *(Sings.)*

WE CAN’T WALK
WE CAN’T TALK
WE WEAR LITTLE BOOTIES
WE CAN’T READ
WE CAN’T WRITE
BUT YOU LOVE US ‘CAUSE WE’RE CUTIES
WE’RE THE BABIES, BABY
BABY, BABY, WE’RE THE BABIES.

WE DROOL
AND WE CRY.
WE GET SLEEPY, WE GET HYPER.
WE ARE LOTS OF FUN TO SQUEEZE AND CUDDLE
UNTIL WE’VE FILLED OUR DIAPER
WE’RE THE BABIES, BABY
BABY, BABY, WE’RE THE BABIES.

End of Freeview

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