

THE HANDYMAN BRIDE

By Shirley McNichols

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Hollywood star Nancy Hamilton is returning to Aunt Lillian's Boardinghouse for Young Performers to allow the "little people" a chance to gaze upon her and be in her movie. Coincidentally, foreign Princess Daella is hiding out at the very same boardinghouse trying to avoid a pre-arranged marriage to King Hakkeep whom she doesn't love. With the help of the smitten and good-hearted Stan, she manages to use the confusion of the movie shoot to disguise herself as Mike, the handyman.

Adding to the chaos is Daella's mother. Used to being treated as royalty, she is now contending with the juggernaut of a movie production company and a prima donna star in order to find her daughter. Everyone seems to be crazy around this boardinghouse - Stan is seen hugging "Mike the handyman" and seems to be the only one who can talk to "him" via Transylvanian sign-language. Someone has written up a ransom note in order to capitalize on the princess' disappearance. Daella's cousin Terhessa is trying her hardest to get on MTV and even get the cute handyman to fall in love with her so she doesn't have to go home.

Everything turns out all right in the end of course, except the movie never gets made, Stan and Daella aren't really in love and...well the ending is more complicated than the events leading up to it!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 M, 10 W, 3 Flexible)

STAN NEWTON: Young actor.
JENNY: Young actor.
MOLLY: Young actor.
KRIS: Young actor.
DONALD: Young actor.
STEVE: Young actor.
LILLIAN O'ROURKE: Boardinghouse landlady.
FANNY: Boardinghouse maid.
ALEXANDER NEWTON: Wealthy investor.
PRINCESS DAELLA: Princess bride.
NANCY HAMILTON: Snobbish actress.
HOWIE SPOONMAN: Director.
***SANDY:** Director's assistant.
DARCY BAXTER: Society page reporter.
***DETECTIVE FINCH:** Hollywood police.
***DETECTIVE CASEY:** Hollywood police.
QUEEN LEAH: Queen of Kerridhia.
KING HAKKEPP: A king.
TERHESSA: Queen Leah's niece.
BORGHOF: Head bodyguard.
FLEK: Bodyguard.
GRAF: Bodyguard.
SKIP ANDERSON: Smug reporter.
**May be either gender*

PROPS

MOLLY: shopping bag, sack for money.
STAN: *Variety* magazine, wallet with \$5 and \$20, ladder.
JENNY: purse, dress in garment bag, shopping bag.
KRIS: vase of flowers.
LILY: society pages of a newspaper, mug.
FANNY: cumpled letter, brownies.
BORGHOF: gun, blanket, ropes, big wad of cash, money bag.
FLEX: gun in overall's pocket.
HOWIE: video camera, light meter, tripod, aspirin, glass of water.
SANDY: briefcase with scripts, stuffed cat (may be in a basket).
DARCY: camera, notepad and pen, purse, cell phone.
FINCH: badge, revolver, notebook, ransom note.
CASEY: badge, revolver, notebook, Daella's wedding dress.
SKIP: notepad.
DONALD: empty laxative box.

SET

All the action takes place in the living room of "Aunt Lily's Boardinghouse for Young Performers." A sofa, chair, coffee table and end table are CSR. DSR is a door to the kitchen and backyard. USR is a staircase going up. USL is a door to the outside while DSL is another chair and end table. There is an Afghan blanket for the back or arm of sofa and a cordless phone on one of the tables.

See end of script for costume suggestions and sound effects list.

ACT I

(AT RISE: It is morning. STAN NEWTON is sitting on the sofa at CSR reading Variety.)

MOLLY: *(Quickly entering SR.)* Stan! Thank goodness! Loan me five bucks? I've got to get some mauve nail polish!

STAN: You've got to?

JENNY: *(From off SL.)* Hello, Mrs. Applebee! You're looking well!

STAN: *(Putting the magazine on the coffee table and standing, HE takes five dollars from his wallet and hands it to HER.)* What's so important about mauve nail polish?

MOLLY: *(To STAN.)* I just got a new outfit, see! *(SHE spins showing it off.)* I want to look just right for the shoot, but I need mauve nail polish to complete the ensemble!

(JENNY enters SL carrying a purse with a dry cleaned garment slung over her shoulder.)

JENNY: That weird Mrs. Applebee! She's always watching us. *(To MOLLY.)* I love your outfit! Is it new?

MOLLY: Yes!

JENNY: Where did you get the money for it?

(KRIS enters SR carrying a vase of fresh cut flowers that she places on the table at SR.)

KRIS: She borrowed it from Stan.

STAN: Where else?

JENNY: Don't blame us, Stan. You're the one who insists on having a regular job!

MOLLY: Well, it's not like I've never had a regular job! I was a waitress at Compton's Buffet, remember?

KRIS: Whatever happened to that job, Molly?

MOLLY: Oh, the boss and I had a fight and she wouldn't take back what she said.

JENNY: What did she say?

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MOLLY: You're fired. (*To STAN.*) Thanks for the loan, Stan.

STAN: Well, I suppose somebody's got to keep you people in clothes and cosmetics while you're waiting for your big break in show business.

(*DONALD enters SL.*)

DONALD: And thanks to Nancy Hamilton that break could come today!

STEVE: (*Off SL.*) How ya doin', Mrs. Applebee? (*Enters SL behind DONALD.*) When the director gets a load of us we'll be the newest love gods of the silver screen, worshipped by women all over the world.

MOLLY: Love gods? Please! You two would be lucky to get hired as Mr. Ed's stunt double!

DONALD: Aw, you're just jealous because you haven't had a part in weeks and Steve and I are in the new play at the Bijou dinner theater.

JENNY: Jealous? Of you two? Come on!

STEVE: Oh, Jenny, that reminds me. Your agent called this morning.

JENNY: What did he want?

STEVE: He said he had some good news and some bad news about your career.

JENNY: Oh dear. Better give me the bad news first.

STEVE: The bad news is your career is flat on its back.

JENNY: What's the good news?

STEVE: It's looking up! (*STEVE and DONALD laugh.*)

JENNY: Oh, yeah? Did I mention I saw the dress rehearsal of your new play last night?

STEVE: You did?

DONALD: The whole thing?

JENNY: Yep. And I'm sorry to say I don't think playing corpse three and four is gonna do a lot to further your careers.

KRIS: You play dead guys?

JENNY: Through the whole play! They just lay there like scenery!

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(The GIRLS laugh.)

STEVE: It's not as easy as it sounds!

DONALD: You gotta be able to hold your breath for a really long time!

JENNY: You guys actually did pretty well until Donald got the hiccups.

KRIS: He got the hiccups?

JENNY: Yeah. It got the other fifteen corpses laughing! Luckily they weren't making much noise but all these supposedly dead bodies were shaking so much with hiccups and laughter that the two speaking actors tried to save the scene by improvising an earthquake. *(SHE moves unsteadily from side to side as though an earthquake were occurring.)* The whole thing pretty much fell apart after that.

MOLLY: Don't worry, fellas. You may not get to say any lines in the scene with Miss Hamilton, but at least you'll be alive.

KRIS: Yeah, and we'd all better hurry and get ready 'cause she'll be here soon.

MOLLY: I'm off to get nail polish! *(Exits SL.)*

JENNY: Wait! I'll come with you! I need mascara. *(SHE crosses SL then crosses SR to STAN.)* Stan, could you...

STAN: *(Taking out HIS wallet.)* How much?

JENNY: Five dollars should cover it.

STAN: All I've got is a twenty. *(Holding up the bill.)*

JENNY: Thanks! *(SHE snatches the bill, hands STAN her dry cleaning and exits SL with MOLLY.)*

STAN: *(Calling after HER.)* Bring back the change!

KRIS: *(Crossing to STAN.)* Those two are always asking you for favors. Doesn't it get on your nerves?

STAN: Well I...

KRIS: Oh, I almost forgot! When you get a minute could you help me move my dresser?

STAN: Again? I just moved it last night!

End of Freeview

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