

## Madge / Felix

INSPECTOR. (off) Mr. Gillette!

FELIX. I'll go get the others and don't you ever, ever ask me to cover up a murder for you again.

(FELIX disappears up the stairs – and as soon as he's gone, the INSPECTOR reenters.)

INSPECTOR. Ah, Mr. Gillette. I just had a thought: Do you have any domestic help working here tonight?

GILLETTE. No, we don't. Our cook left after serving dinner, and I gave my butler the evening off. It is Christmas Eve, after all.

INSPECTOR. Is it? Of course it is. Merry Christmas. Now what about visitors? Did any of your neighbors drop in? Perhaps you had some carolers, eh? Deck the Halls, that sort of thing. I used to love visiting the neighbors on Christmas Eve. A bit of song, a bit of wassail, hal, by the time we finished I could hardly stagger home!

GILLETTE. It sounds delightful, but I'm afraid it was just the cast and mother. A quiet evening with a few retiring friends.

(MADGE comes storming down the stairs followed by FELIX.)

MADGE. Holy Hell in a Hand Basket!! This is just lovely, now a policeman wants to talk to me about a murder! Are you the policeman?!

INSPECTOR. Police woman, actually.

MADGE. Good. Arrest my husband.

INSPECTOR. I beg your pardon.

MADGE. Arrest him! He's guilty as sin. And of sin as it happens. The charge is adultery.

FELIX. Madge, would you stop!

MADGE. Well, it's true, isn't it? You stood right here and admitted it in front of everybody!

FELIX. Well what was I supposed to do?!

MADGE. You could have lied like every other husband on the planet!

**FELIX.** Excuse me, but who's the one who pretended to be possessed tonight?! *"Look at me, I'm catatonic and I'm scaring my husband to death!"*

**MADGE.** *I did it to solve the mystery, didn't I?*

**FELIX.** *Well it didn't work, now did it!*

**MADGE.** *But it could have!*

**FELIX.** "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Academy Award this year goes to Madge Geisel for vomiting blood on her fellow guests this weekend."

*(She slaps him across the face again.)*

Ow!

*(MADGE storms up the stairs. FELIX loses it and jumps up and down in frustration.)*

**FELIX.** *MADGE GET BACK HERE, YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A LUNATIC!!!*

*end*

*(He runs up the stairs after her and disappears. At which moment, AGGIE appears from the library eating a stalk of celery.)*

**AGGIE.** What's going on? Was someone shouting?

**GILLETTE.** Aggie, I thought you were upstairs.

**AGGIE.** I came down to the kitchen for a snack.

**INSPECTOR.** Down?

**AGGIE.** The back stairs.

**GILLETTE.** Aggie Wheeler, Inspector Goring.

**AGGIE.** "Inspector?" Has something happened?

**INSPECTOR.** Well, we're not certain, but we believe there may have been a murder in this house.

**AGGIE.** A murder?! Oh no, who was murdered?!

**INSPECTOR.** That's the thing. We're not quite sure.

**GILLETTE.** Where's Simon?

**AGGIE.** I don't know. He seems to have...disappeared on me.

**INSPECTOR.** That's odd. When did you last see him?

**AGGIE.** I went upstairs earlier this evening, we all did, and