

**THE STRIKE
MOTHER GOOSE SETTLED**

—BY—
EVELYN HOXIE



PRICE 25 CENTS

Eldridge Entertainment House

Franklin, Ohio

and

Denver, Colo.

944 So. Logan Street

YOU WILL BE GLAD TO KNOW OF THESE NEW PLAYS

Training Mary

By Mary Shaw Page. A bright 1-act play with simple stage setting. William, husband of Mary, essays to train Mary, especially along the lines of correcting carelessness. As is always the case, William gets in deep water, but finally wades out. 2 males, 4 females, and plays about 45 minutes. Price, 25c.

The Hired Man's Courtship

By Alice Cripps. A short comedy-drama in 2 acts. Captain Edwards tires of wealth and the city, and procures work on Horton's farm, only to find that the farmer's daughter is an old sweetheart. Because of an intrigue on the part of the captain's cousin, an estrangement takes place, which ends happily when the captain finds the source of certain stories and refutes them. Aunt Hepsey, Jim and Ezra (colored), add comedy to the play. Plays about 45 minutes, and is for 3 males and 3 females. Price, 25c.

Merely Anne Marie

A comedy in 3 acts by Beulah King. 3 males, 5 females. Time, 2½ hours. The scenes are laid in a fashionable boarding house, and the characters are all distinct types and worth while. A successful playwright, desiring to escape notoriety, seeks seclusion at Mrs. Teague's and becomes the hero of Anne Marie, the dining room maid. The dialogue is bright, the situations clever and the story ends happily. 35c.

A Bit of Scandal

By Fannie Barnett Linsky. Comedy-drama in 2 acts. Francina, who is to play at the recital, composes her own number. On the evening of the recital, Mary Sherman, who precedes her on the program, plays Francina's compositions, which she has stolen. The reasons for the theft all come out later and of course, all ends well. Nine characters. Plays about 1 hour. Price, 35c.

Miss Burnett Puts One Over

By Ethelyn Sexton. A rollicking 1-act girls' play for 6 characters. Barbara's mother has a friend, Ann Burnett, who is to visit the girls at college, with the intention of giving a generous sum to the school. The girls, wishing to gain her good will, practice their "manners." Miss Burnett, however, appears in disguise and has much fun at their expense. All ends well and the school gets the money. Plays about 45 minutes. Easy setting and costumes. Price, 25c.

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The Strike Mother Goose Settled.

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Published By

ELDRIDGE ENTERTAINMENT HOUSE

FRANKLIN, OHIO

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CHARACTERS

BOY BLUE
TOM, THE PIPER'S SON
JACK HORNER
MARY
MOTHER HUBBARD
MISS MUFFET
OLD WOMAN
JACK SPRATT
MRS. SPRATT
JACK
JILL
MOTHER GOOSE



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The Strike Mother Goose Settled

This little play is more effective if the children wear masks and old-fashioned clothes, paper neck ruffs and so on.

(Small boy asleep on floor. Enter Tom shouting loudly.)

TOM—Come, Boy Blue, blow your horn. The cows are in the meadow, the sheep are in the corn!

(Boy Blue sits up and yawns, then slowly gets to his feet.)

TOM—Come—aren't you going to blow your horn?

BOY BLUE—No; I'm tired to death.

TOM—But the sheep will eat your corn up.

BOY BLUE—Let them eat it then. I'm tired of always watching sheep and cows.

TOM—You don't mean you want them to eat the corn, do you?

BOY BLUE—Not exactly that; but they can eat a few ears if they want to.

TOM—What makes you talk like that?

BOY BLUE—You'd talk like that, too, if you'd been up since before daylight chasing sheep and cows, and then when you lie down to have a bit of sleep, someone begins to shout miserable old rhymes and wake you up. But who are you, anyway? You look like someone I have seen.

TOM—I'm the Piper's son.

BOY BLUE—Oh, yes. Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son, Stole a pig and away he run.

TOM—That's a big mistake. I never stole a pig, and how it got into that book is a mystery to me.

BOY BLUE—Never stole that pig? Why, I've seen your picture with a pig under your arm; how is that?

TOM—That pig belonged to Jack Horner, and just to tease him, I caught it up and ran, but I brought it right back again.

(Enter Jack Horner.)

JACK—Who's talking about me?

TOM—We are. I was telling Boy Blue I never stole your pig.

JACK—No, you did not; and I never got a plum out of my Christmas pie, either.

BOY BLUE AND TOM—*(together)* We supposed you did. The book said so.

JACK—That book says anything. I did not get a plum. There were no plums to get. I wish there had been. Well, let's sit down and talk it over awhile; I'm tired.

(Boys sit down. Enter Mary, who stands at one side in an absent-minded way.)

JACK—Mary, Mary, quite contrary, say how does your garden grow?

MARY—*(angrily)* I'm not contrary, I'd have you understand. In fact, I'm very agreeable. I agree in everything, and my garden is fine; it has bachelor buttons that high. *(Measuring with her hand.)*

BOY BLUE—How about the pretty maids all in a row?

MARY—That isn't so. No one ever goes into my garden but myself.

JACK—Well, there is one pretty maid when you are there.

MARY—Don't be silly, Jack; you'd better be eating your pie.

JACK—My pie is eaten, but you surely are contrary; you see, you would not agree with me in what I said.

(Mary walks off to one side looking provoked.)

(*Enter Mother Hubbard, leading a dog. She looks around the room, muttering.*)

MOTHER H.—No, there's no cupboard here, so I cannot get you a bone.

TOM—Wait a moment. I'll get the dog a bone. (*He runs out and brings in a bone and gives it to the dog.*)

MOTHER H.—Thank you, Tom. You are a good boy. I never believed you stole the pig.

TOM—No, I did not—but who is this coming?

(*Enter Miss Muffet with bowl of curds. She passes the curds to all present, everyone taking some except Mary. Miss Muffet goes over and sits on foot stool.*)

MOTHER H.—I don't wonder you are always eating curds and whey. They are very nice.

MISS M.—I think so, ma'am.

TOM—But what about the spider that frightened you away?

MISS M.—That rhyme was not true. It would take more than a spider to scare me, I'd have you to know.

BOY BLUE—If you should see a spider, you would not be frightened then?

MISS M.—Of course not. Do you think I am a baby, to be afraid of a spider? (*Still eating curds.*)

JACK—(*excitedly pointing at Miss M.*) There's a big spider right beside her now. Look, quick!

(*Miss M. springs to her feet with a piercing scream and runs from room. Others laugh.*)

JACK—The rhyme was true about her, all right.

(*Enter old lady with broom.*)

JACK—Old woman, old woman, old woman, said I,
Whither, ah whither, ah whither so high?

OLD WOMAN—(*angrily*) I'm not going anywhere. I've struck. I'm not going to sweep the cobwebs from the sky any more. It's too hard work, and besides they collect faster than I can sweep them out.

MOTHER H.—It must be hard work.

OLD WOMAN—It is. And only last night I got lost in the milky way—why, I nearly drowned in the streams of milk. No, I'll put this broom in the corner here, and sweep no more.

(Enter Jack Spratt and wife.)

JACK SPRATT—We never licked the platter clean, and if we had, I don't see whose concern it was.

MRS. SPRATT—No, there was no need to put that in the book.

OLD WOMAN—Then you never ate all the fat and Jack all the lean?

JACK S.—No, we didn't. That is, we ate what we liked.

(Enter Jack and Jill. All gather around them.)

MOTHER H.—Did you go after water and fall down and break your crown, and Jill come tumbling after?

JACK—No, we did not. You see, my crown is whole, do you not?

(TAKES off crown and passes it around and all agree that it is whole.)

JILL—*(excitedly)* You see, the old rhyme was not true. I never fell ahead, nor after, for that matter. I think Mother Goose must have drawn on her imagination, to have written such queer rhymes about us all.

(All agree to this.)

(Enter Mother Goose in high peaked hat, scolding loudly.)

MOTHER GOOSE—What is this I hear about Mother Goose rhymes not being true? Out of this, all of you, and take your places back in the nursery book, where you belong. Why, what would the little folks do without you?

(They look at one another and hurriedly exit, the

old woman taking her broom without a word. Mother Goose has a whip in her hand which she flourishes in a threatening manner and follows them out, scolding.)

MOTHER GOOSE—Don't ever let me hear any more about this. Out with you! Back to your places in the book!

(Exeunt all, in a hurry.)

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