

Mellow Puppet Drama

2016

## Cast of Characters

<u>PEG:</u>	a young woman
<u>MOTHER:</u>	PEG's mother, old and sick
<u>BOUNDER:</u>	PEG's dog
<u>MURGATROYD:</u>	their landlord
<u>TEDDY:</u>	PEG's friend who works in a drugstore
<u>SALLY:</u>	MURGATROYD's assistant
<u>UNCLE FLOYD:</u>	TEDDY's Canadian uncle, a pharmacist



SCENE FIVE

Scene: MURGATROYD's office, a few days later. A desk. A box with various wigs and hats. MUSIC IN: "Murgatroyd's Theme." LIGHTS UP on MURGATROYD, speaking into his phone. MUSIC FADES OUT.

MURGATROYD

Yes, I remember about the coffee stains on your ceiling. But they weren't there before you moved in. -- They were not! --- All right, just to show you what a big-hearted man I am, I'll send my personal sanitation engineer to remove them. But not today --- because the stepladder is locked in a shed, and the lock is frozen. It's 5 degrees out, you know.

SALLY enters, carrying a bag.

MURGATROYD

I have to hang up now. My secretary just came in.

SALLY

Administrative assistant.

MURGATROYD

Whatever. Goodbye. (He hangs up the phone.)

Well? Well?

SALLY

I went to the drugstore, like you said.

MURGATROYD

And?

SALLY

I bought some nail polish. They have a cute new line called Nail Gleams.

MURGATROYD

What did you learn?

SALLY

I learned I only need one coat!

MURGATROYD

One coat? Canada is cold.

SALLY

No: I mean, Nail Gleams is so thick, I only need to apply one coat. See my nails? This shade is called Autumn Burn. (she shows MURGATROYD her hand)

MURGATROYD

I don't care about nail polish. What did you find out about the martial arts fool and the girl?

SALLY

Oh, that. I overheard the young man --

The phone rings. SALLY answers it.

SALLY

Hello? (beat) It's your mother.

MURGATROYD groans, takes the phone.

MURGATROYD

Hello, Mother. Did you get the tulips I sent? -- Good. ---What? You're allergic? I've never heard of anybody being allergic to tulips! How do you know? --- a rash? Sneezing? --That does sound like an allergy, but I think you should get a second opinion. --Because you've never mentioned a flower allergy before. Where did this come from suddenly?--- Who? Harold the animal control specialist? What does *he* know about flower allergies? ---- All right, don't cry. I'll make it up to you. I'll send you some -- sunflowers? --No? --- Daisies? --- No? What kind of flowers are safe? --- All right, I'll send some chocolate cosmos. They'll have to come from Mexico. But keep in mind that I've already spent a lot on flowers for you, and it's not even your birthday anyway. --- It is not! Your birthday was two months ago. --- Yes, it was! (sighs) Yes, of course I'll come to see you on Mother's Day. But that's six months away. ----It is too!--- Of course I love you. Yes, I'll come visit you soon. Maybe on Thanksgiving. ---Yes, goodbye, Mother.(He hangs up the phone) Now where we?

SALLY

You wanted to know what I found out about the martial arts fool and the girl.

MURGATROYD

Yes! So spill.

SALLY

When I was trying on nail polish, I overheard the young man asking his boss about getting some extra time off for Thanksgiving -- he said he had some sick days saved up, and he needed to go visit his uncle in Canada.

MURGATROYD

Canada.

SALLY

He said he was doing it as a favor for a friend.

MURGATROYD

"A friend"! So the young snot and his "girlfriend" are going to Canada. Anything else?

SALLY

I bought some new nail clippers too.

MURGATROYD

No, no. Is there anything else about the girl?

SALLY

I don't think so.

MURGATROYD

Well, Miss Pitkin, you've done a good job. Now we need to plan a trip to Canada.

SALLY

Why?

MURGATROYD

To follow them, of course. That young scoundrel is trying to take my lovely lady away from me. But my heart has been smitten, and I can't let him get away with it. I would follow her to the ends of the earth!

SALLY

But they'll only be gone a few days.

MURGATROYD

He says they'll only be gone a few days, but how do we know? I know for a fact that the drugstore denizen is a liar. He told me he could execute a flying kick, but he's strictly an amateur. No, Miss Pitkin, we can't take his word for it. They're not planning to come back. That's why I must go after them. Now let's see -- how are they planning to go?

SALLY

He said they're going to take a train.

MURGATROYD

A train! Excellent! All we have to do now is find out which one.

SALLY

Only Meerkat Track goes from here to Canada.

MURGATROYD

Meerkat Track. Okay. Call the train station and find out about departures for Canada, on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

SALLY

Oh, goody. I've always wanted to ride a train.

MURGATROYD

Excuse me, Miss Pitkin, but you're not going.

SALLY

Why not?

MURGATROYD

It's too dangerous. I can't risk the life of my faithful secretary.

SALLY

I'm an administrative assistant.

MURGATROYD

Whatever. Anyway, it'll be extremely cold.

SALLY

It's extremely cold *here*.

MURGATROYD

It's a long, long trip.

SALLY

It's only six hours by train.

MURGATROYD

It'll be Thanksgiving. Wouldn't you rather spend the holiday with your family?

SALLY

My family is dysfunctional. My brother in San Mateo is bipolar; my mother in South Dakota is neurotic; my uncle Pete doesn't even know who I am. I'll have more fun in Canada. You won't be spending the holiday with your mother either.

MURGATROYD

I'll see her on Christmas. Half the time, she doesn't know what time of year it is anyway. Besides, I sent her flowers.

SALLY

I sent the flowers. You just paid for them.

MURGATROYD

Same difference.

SALLY

You need me. I answer the phone, I listen to complaints from your tenants, I fill out work orders, send invoices, keep the books, make coffee --

MURGATROYD

You do make good coffee.

SALLY

Let me come along, and I'll take care of your every need.

She looks into his eyes. He looks away.

MURGATROYD

But ---

SALLY

You said I did a good job spying for you. I can eavesdrop, gather information, and help you with the girl. It'll be easy; they don't know what I look like.

MURGATROYD

Hmmm. That might be a good thing. But they know my face.

SALLY

You could wear a disguise.

MURGATROYD

I know! I'll wear a disguise. Now let's see - what should I wear?

There are some hats and things in this box, left over from our Halloween party. (She rummages in the box, pulls out a farmer hat, and puts it on MURGATROYD'S head.) How about this?

MURGATROYD

No; I don't look good in straw.

SALLY puts the farmer hat back, pulls out a policeman's hat and puts it on him.

SALLY

What about this? You can always trust the man who wears a star.

MURGATROYD

Hmm. Possibly. What else is there?

SALLY puts away the policeman's hat, takes out a Viking hat and puts it on him. She giggles.



SALLY

Eric the Red!

MURGATROYD

Now you're just being silly.

SALLY puts the Viking hat away,  
pulls out an old lady wig with a  
hat attached, and puts it on him.

MURGATROYD

That's it! I'll disguise myself as a woman. They'll never  
guess!

SALLY

What about your moustache?

MURGATROYD

It won't matter. Lots of old ladies have moustaches. My  
mother has one. This'll work out fine. We'll be a sickly old  
lady and -- her niece. I'll call myself Delphine.

SALLY

I'll be--- Cosette. It sounds French.

MURGATROYD

Excellent.-- We'll be spies in disguise!

MUSIC IN: "Spies in Disguise."

(MURGATROYD, SALLY)

SPIES IN DISGUISE, SPIES IN DISGUISE,  
IT'LL BE EASY; THIS I SURMISE.

(MURGATROYD)

I WILL BE A LADY, BENT OVER AND GRAY.  
YOU WILL BE MY FAITHFUL, DEVOUT PROTEGE.  
WE CAN GET SO CLOSE AND THEY WON'T EVER GUESS,  
LEARN ALL THE SECRETS THEY'RE BOUND TO EXPRESS.

(MURGATROYD, SALLY)

SPIES IN DISGUISE, SPIES IN DISGUISE,  
THIS IS A COSTUME SHE WON'T RECOGNIZE.

(MURGATROYD)

YOU CAN BE A GIRL WITH HER OLD CHAPERONE.  
I'LL EVEN WEAR SOME OF MOTHER'S COLOGNE.  
PEG MIGHT ASSIST ME ACROSS THE WIDE STREET,  
TAKING MY ARM, OH SO GENTLE AND SWEET.

SALLY

What about Teddy?

(MURGATROYD)

SPIES IN DISGUISE, SPIES IN DISGUISE,  
I'LL CUT THAT COWARDLY MOUSE DOWN TO SIZE!  
TRYING HARD TO WIN HER WITH DOG FOOD AND TRICKS,  
HE'S GOT HIMSELF INTO A DANGEROUS FIX.  
IN MOVIES, THE SPIES ALWAYS WIN, DON'TCHA SEE.  
IT'S USELESS TO FIGHT WITH INVINCIBLE ME!

(MURGATROYD, SALLY)

SPIES IN DISGUISE, SPIES IN DISGUISE.  
ALL OUR DESIRES WILL BE REALIZED  
AS SPIES IN DISGUISE!

MUSIC OUT.

MURGATROYD

This'll be great! Ah, I have so much to do! You make the reservations, and I'll go pack my things. (He exits.)

SALLY

A trip with my boss! This will show him he can't live without me. I'll make sure the sweet young thing is out of the way, and then he'll be mine! And so will his money.

LIGHTS OUT.

SCENE 6

Scene: the exterior of a train.  
Through the windows, we see PEG and TEDDY, facing each other. PEG faces toward the back of the train. Behind them is an empty seat, then MURGATROYD, disguised as an old woman and facing front, and SALLY. SOUND EFFECT: train whistle. LIGHTS UP. MUSIC IN: "Peg's Theme." PEG is taking pictures through the window. MUSIC FADES OUT.

PEG

There's a pretty tree, and look in the distance. I think I see a moose!

TEDDY

Are you getting some good pictures?

PEG

Yes. This is a terrific camera Mother gave me. It has a digital SLR, an APP-sized image sensor, and an innovative lens mount system.

TEDDY

That *is* a nice camera.

PEG

Thanks. The shutter release system is great for zooming in and eliminating optical distortion. See, this aperture setting controls the size of the lens.

TEDDY

Yeah (uncomprehending), that makes all the difference. And you can enter your best photo in the Travel Photo of the Year Contest. First prize is a thousand dollars and a photo commission in an exotic location. And winners often go on to professional careers.

PEG

That would be wonderful.

SALLY

I can't hear what they're saying.

MURGATROYD

Then move up closer.

SALLY

All right. (She moves up to the empty seat right behind TEDDY.)

TEDDY

Wait till we get to Ottawa - You'll see all kinds of beautiful sights: the Alexandra Bridge, and Parliament - it's fantastic at night with the lights on the snow. And the Rideau Canal. When it freezes, you can skate on it.

PEG

I didn't bring my ice skates.

TEDDY

We can rent some.

SALLY moves back to her original seat near MURGATROYD.

MURGATROYD

What are they saying?

SALLY

They're talking about skating on the Rideau Canal.

MURGATROYD

The Rideau Canal. So they're stopping in Ottawa! What else?

SALLY

Nothing - the scenery is beautiful, blah blah.

MURGATROYD

Go back and listen some more.

SALLY

Okay. (She moves back to behind TEDDY.)

TEDDY

--"Floyd's Friendly Pharmacy." He's been in business for thirty years.

PEG

Are you sure he'll help Mother?

TEDDY

Of course. You're a good person. Virtue and truth always win in the end.

PEG

I hope you're right. (She leans in closer to TEDDY.)Teddy, I think something funny is going on here.

TEDDY

What?

PEG

Don't look now, but there's a woman in the seat right behind you - I think she's eavesdropping.

TEDDY

She's probably just bored. There isn't much to do on a train.

PEG

What if she's some kind of Canadian health insurance cop?

TEDDY

That's unlikely.

SALLY moves back to MURGATROYD.

TEDDY

Anyway, we haven't revealed what we're going to do. We've been vague.

PEG

There's something else bothering me.

TEDDY

What?

PEG

An old woman in the back - she keeps staring at us.

TEDDY

Maybe she's sleeping with her eyes open - or she's senile -or catatonic.

PEG

She looks familiar.

TEDDY turns around and looks at MURGATROYD.

PEG

Have you seen her before?

TEDDY

The moustache looks familiar, but a lot of old ladies have them. (gallantly) Don't worry. I'll protect you from the strange women.

PEG

Oh, Teddy.

PEG chuckles. PEG and TEDDY look into each other's eyes.

MURGATROYD

What did they say this time?

SALLY

"Truth and virtue always win out in the end."

MURGATROYD

Sentimental claptrap! Did you find out anymore about where they're going?

SALLY

Yes, I got it. Floyd's Friendly Pharmacy.

MURGATROYD

A pharmacy? Is she sick?

SALLY

No, it's for her mother.

MURGATROYD

Excellent. We'll go there too. I'll say I need medicine for my bad back. (He moans) OOH! My back hurts so baaaad!

SALLY

Oh, Mr. Murgatroyd. I didn't know --

MURGATROYD  
Not Murgatroyd. Aunt Delphine!