

# Dad-Joke Intervention

*By Wade Bradford*

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### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

The play opens with a typical living room scene: a good, old-fashioned dad sitting in a comfy chair reading a good, old-fashioned newspaper. However, things quickly take a turn for the absurd when Mrs. Wright, a professional and serious-looking person, enters the room and is subjected to a barrage of cheesy jokes and puns from the dad. As the rest of the family enters, it becomes clear that they've called Mrs. Wright in for a "Dad-Joke Intervention." But will she be able to help? Or is this family doomed to be forever subjected to the dad's endless supply of terrible jokes? Don't miss this side-splittingly funny play, perfect for theater groups and drama teachers looking for a lighthearted comedy that will leave their audiences in tears (or groans) of laughter!

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 m, 4 w, plus optional roles for the flashback scenes)*

**DAD:** AKA Steven Dunlop, a typical dad who tells way too many cheesy jokes.

**WIFE:** AKA Mom AKA Susan Dunlop, at her wit's end.

**PEGGY:** The eldest daughter.

**BETTY:** The youngest daughter.

**JERRY:** The disgruntled son.

**MRS. WRIGHT:** A person in charge of special interventions.

Also, there are a few flashback scenes in which Mrs. Wright steps in to play additional roles. If you wish to cast more people in smaller roles, additional actors could be used as the sports announcer, TV host character, and nurse.

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**SETTING**

A typical living room with a good, comfy chair. Several other simple chairs are placed in a semicircle.

**PROPS**

newspaper, tissue, untied kid's shoe, letters from Mom and kids to Dad, baby doll in blanket, ear buds and phone, white pill (could be a mini-marshmallow)

**SFX**

crystal glass ding, shattering, and humming from rim; infant cries and burp; electric zapping sounds, and computer rebooting

## **Dad-Joke Intervention**

*(AT RISE: The family living room. DAD is sitting in a comfy chair reading a good, old-fashioned newspaper. A professional, pleasant yet serious looking person, MRS. WRIGHT, stands off stage, waiting to be invited inside.)*

**WRIGHT:** Knock, knock.

**DAD:** Who's there? Oh, never mind, I've heard this one before.

**WRIGHT:** Pardon me?

**DAD:** Why did you commit a crime?

**WRIGHT:** Your door was ajar.

**DAD:** *(Standing up.)* That's funny. I thought my door was a door. Well, come in, whoever you are.

**WRIGHT:** I was hoping to have a word.

**DAD:** Discombobulate!

**WRIGHT:** *(Confused.)* Uh, what's that?

**DAD:** A word. You can have it. The first one's free. But if you want a second word, it'll be "expensive."

**WRIGHT:** Is your family around?

**DAD:** More of a square, really.

**WRIGHT:** I must be early.

**DAD:** Hi, Early. I'm Steve. Nice to meet you. Would you like to shake hands? *(HE starts shaking his hands rapidly.)*

**WRIGHT:** Your family asked me to stop by. I'm Mrs. Wright.

**DAD:** Well, that must make me Mr. Wrong.

**WRIGHT:** That's "Wright" with a double-u.

**DAD:** I once made a double U-turn. Kept going in circles. Sort of like this conversation.

**WRIGHT:** Well, let me get to the point.

**DAD:** That sounds painful. Would you like to take a seat?

**WRIGHT:** Yes, please.

**DAD:** *(Hands HER a chair.)* Bring it back when you're done.

**WRIGHT:** Oh dear, it's worse than I thought.

*(Two SISTERS enter the room. The young ladies are mortified to see their father goofing around with his cheesy chair gag.)*

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*Of the two sisters, PEGGY is perpetually embarrassed, and BETTY is constantly annoyed.)*

**BETTY:** Dad! Not the chair joke again.

**PEGGY:** Oh, I'm so sorry, Mrs. Wright. We didn't realize you'd be here so soon.

**DAD:** Time flies when you're having funnel cake.

**WRIGHT:** When I received your message, I could tell it was urgent.

**BETTY:** Thank you so much for coming, and *(Taking away chair, setting it down.)* I'm so sorry about him.

**PEGGY:** So, what do we do?

**DAD:** What do you do? Not much! Kids today, am I right? Oh no, you're Wright – *(Explaining the joke to his kids.)* you see, because her name is Mrs. Wright–

**PEGGY:** We get it.

**WRIGHT:** Is the rest of the family here?

**DAD:** Go find your brother. I think he's in the basement.

**PEGGY:** *(Irrked.)* We don't have a basement!

**DAD:** Then you better get the shovel.

*(JERRY, the disgruntled son, enters and sits on a chair, crossing his arms.)*

**JERRY:** I'm here.

**DAD:** *(Gathering his family in a group hug which they barely tolerate.)* Mrs. Wright, I'd like to meet the three people who mean the world to me. But since they aren't here, allow me to introduce my children. *(Nodding to the girls first.)* This is Peanut. Butter. And Jerry.

**PEGGY:** He calls me Peanut, but my name's Peggy.

**BETTY:** And I'm not Butter. I'm Betty.

**JERRY:** *(Bitter.)* And I'm Jerry. Unfortunately. And I don't know what the point of all this is. You're not going to change him. We're just all stuck like this and there's nothing we can do!

**DAD:** Jerry's the optimist of the family.

**WRIGHT:** *(To the CHILDREN.)* Will your mother be joining us?

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