

Dirty Rotten Tricks

By R. Eugene Jackson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Trixie Mindstem is a bright and friendly, if not particularly attractive, senior at Noodlenick High School. Like many other girls, she has become a victim of the handsome and rich but deceitful Mark Toppledander. He steals her term papers and passes them off as his own; he invites her to his formal graduation bash but tells her to wear casual shorts and flip-flops; and he says behind her back, "Looks aren't everything, and in her case they're nothing." But he never should have crossed Trixie Mindstem because she has a few tricks of her own. While the space committee attempts to find a suitable place for the senior ball, and the decoration committee has been given the princely sum of \$15.19 to adorn it, Trix and her flamboyant and bossy friend, Quits, come to their rescue by calling Mark's caterer, decorator, chiropractor, and hairdresser, and secretly having his graduation bash moved from his mansion to the school cafeteria. But their revenge isn't complete ... yet. The action is fast and the characters hysterical. It's a hilarious romp!

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: A hallway in a high school. This scene may be played in front of the show curtain.

Scene 2: The high school cafeteria. There are several tables and chairs or benches. At SR is a big trash container and the entrance from the food line. At SL is an exit to other parts of the school and outdoors.

ACT II

Scene 1: On SR is a room in Trixie's house; on SL are various locations. The scene may be played in front of the show curtain. It is Wednesday.

Scene 2: The cafeteria. Friday night. The tables from CS have been moved against the walls so that there is a large open space. A table at left has a punch bowl and cups. Another table is upstage and empty. The room is beautifully decorated and appropriately lit for the Ball. There are lots of green and flowering potted plants and some chairs around the walls. Colorful crepe paper and banners hang from the ceiling. Various colors of lights illuminate the room.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 10 w, 6 flexible, extras)

- TRIXIE MAINSTEM:** Vulnerable but determined when challenged.
An average-looking teen who wears dark-rimmed glasses.
- QUITS:** Trixie's friend, a very nervous and intense girl who wears wildly exotic clothes and a colorful hairdo. She has a pony tail on the top of her head sprouting upwards like a volcano exploding in bright, electric colors.
- ODANA:** Friends with Ruby and Juanita.
- RUBY:** A leader.
- JUANITA:** A follower.
- FAUNA:** Mark's sexy but not-too-bright girlfriend.
- ALIYAH:** A follower.
- ELBERTA:** Infatuated with boys in general.
- NOELLE:** Leader of the decorations committee.
- BELINDA:** A practical-minded girl.
- MARK TOPPLEDANDER:** A sexy and rich but pompous guy.
- HARDEN:** Leader of the space committee.
- BONNER:** Straightforward guy.
- STANBERRY:** Shy, fascinated with Trixie.
- LAROCHE:** A "cool" guy.
- CALVIN:** A guy with oddball ideas.
- GREENFLOWER:** A particularly conscientious teacher (male or female).
- PICKLEFEATHER:** The plain-spoken principal (male or female).
- CATERER:** French, haughty. S/HE wears a cook's apron and a chef's tall, white hat. (Pierre if male or Cheri [share-EE] if female.)
- HAIRDRESSER:** Very fussy. S/HE is dressed in an outrageously brightly colored smock and mismatching slacks (male or female).
- CHIRPORACTOR:** German, will do anything for a fee. (Fritz if male, or Hilda if female.)
- DECORATOR:** Unfriendly (male or female).

Note: Though the names "Trixie" and "Mark" must remain the same, other character names may be changed to reflect their ethnicity or gender. (Some characters may be either male or female.) The director may also add current teen slang when appropriate to keep the modern feeling of the story.

PROPS

School books
(2) Cell phones
Brown paper bag lunches
Sandwiches
Food trays
Food, variety
Papers
Party decorations
Crepe paper
String
Scissors
Notebook
Comb
Hand mirror
Can of hairspray
Hair dryer
Pink bag
Address book
Pizza boxes, several
Grade book
Computer disks

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: SR is TRIXIE MAINSTEM, who is carrying schoolbooks or a book satchel. At SL, QUITs ENTERS. She also carries books or a book satchel.)

QUITs: (As SHE spots TRIXIE and crosses to her.) Hey, Trix!
Hey, girl. Lunchtime.

TRIXIE: (SHE finishes dialing her cell phone.) 5-2-5-2. (SHE puts the phone to her ear.)

QUITs: Trix? (SHE pauses next to TRIXIE and pulls out her cell phone. To TRIXIE.) Just a minute. My cell's vibrating. (SHE puts the phone to her ear.) Hello?

TRIXIE: Hi, Quits.

QUITs: Trixie?

TRIXIE: It's lunchtime. Where are you?

QUITs: I'm standing right next to you.

TRIXIE: Oh. Well, listen. I need to tell you something very exciting.

QUITs: (SHE puts her phone down.) Well, why don't you tell me face to face?

TRIXIE: (Face to face.) Can't. It's a secret.

QUITs: Oh. (SHE puts her phone back to her ear.) Okay. I'm here.

TRIXIE: (Over HER phone.) You know Mark Toppledander?

QUITs: (SHE makes a disgusted face.) Mark Toppledander? You mean that slimy, stuck-up, no-good, two-timing, rich boy that every girl in school is going ga-ga over?

TRIXIE: Yep. That's him.

QUITs: What about him?

TRIXIE: We're dating.

QUITs: You're what?

TRIXIE: We're dating.

QUITs: Uhhh, you mean *he's* dating and *you're* dating, but different people. (Hopefully.) Right?

TRIXIE: No. We're dating together.

QUITs: What?! You can't be serious!

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TRIXIE: I am so lucky. I'm dating the most popular boy at Noodlenick High School.

QUITS: (*SHE is so angry she can hardly speak.*) Unh-unh! No! You, you, you ... No way!

TRIXIE: Yes. He asked me to help him with some homework, and then he asked me out.

QUITS: Out where?

TRIXIE: Out to lunch.

QUITS: When?

TRIXIE: Today.

QUITS: We're in school today. We're eating in the cafeteria.

TRIXIE: I know. Isn't it great?

QUITS: How is that a date?

TRIXIE: He asked me out tonight. Yeah! At last, I have a date. And not just any date, but a date with --

QUITS: The biggest snob this school has ever produced. (*Face to face.*) Trixie! You're a smart girl. Figure this out. He'll take advantage of you and leave you hanging. That's what he does. Ask the other fifteen girls he's dated this week.

TRIXIE: (*Still on HER phone.*) This week? It's only Monday.

QUITS: See what I mean?

TRIXIE: No. (*Face to face.*) It's not like that. You'll see.

QUITS: (*Angrier than ever.*) Trix!

TRIXIE: Hey, Quits. I may be hard up for a date, but nobody takes advantage of Trixie Mainstem.

QUITS: Oh, no? What about Harvey Milkdown?

TRIXIE: That was different. He was cute.

QUITS: And Doug Hempstead?

TRIXIE: He was sexy.

QUITS: And Barney?

TRIXIE: Barney is my dog.

QUITS: Who takes advantage of you every chance he gets.

TRIXIE: Quits, you can quit now.

QUITS: Sorry. I got carried away.

TRIXIE: As usual.

QUITS: I don't want to see you hurt again. What can I say?

TRIXIE: Say you trust me to be careful.

End of Freeview

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