

# The Pike County Potluck...and Poisoning

*By Christie Perfetti Williams*

## **Performance Rights**

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy this script in any way or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co. Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co."

**PUBLISHED BY  
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
[www.histage.com](http://www.histage.com)**

© 2026 by *Christie Perfetti Williams*

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<https://histage.com/the-pike-county-potluckand-poisoning>

### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

It's 1986 in rural Mississippi and the ladies of Teterboro Trailer Park are in quite a jam after slacker Bobcat is served his just desserts. Meals and motives abound, and alliances with a nosy neighbor and a six-toed cowboy are forged. What follows is a nonstop madcap cover-up full of hilarious hijinks, witty retorts, a church play gone haywire, and "bunco!"

### **ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

Original cast and staff of "The Pike County Potluck...and Poisoning" was produced by Pike County Little Theatre in McComb, Mississippi in April, 2026. It was directed by Randy Bullock; the set design was by Ryan Temple and Ryan Kerwin; the lighting design was by Ryan Temple; the sound design was by Randy Bullock; the properties were designed by Jodi Albritton and Breanna "Boo" Carey; the production stage manager was Jodi Albritton; the lighting and sound technician was Breanna "Boo" Carey. The cast was as follows (in alphabetical order): Josiah Benner, Randy Bullock, Mandie Mathis Carney, Michael D. Graves, Ella Lambert, Marley Myers, Connor Blake Raborn, Jeanene Crosby Smith, Carley Taylor, and Heather Thurgood-Wilmoth.

*Although "The Pike County Potluck...and Poisoning" is inspired by actual places, it is a work of fiction.*

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(3 m, 6 w, 1 flexible)*

**DOLORES:** Adult, female. Exterminator. No-nonsense and matter-of-fact. Funny without trying to be.

**RUMI:** 40-50s, female. Mary Kay consultant. Beautiful and ballsy. Married to Jack.

**JULIET:** 20s, female. Waitress and aspiring actor. A bit ditzzy but devilish. Has a crush on Rodeo.

**NADINE:** 40-50s, female. Ad sales. Sweet, smart and a bit sad. Has big dreams. Married to Bobcat.

**CALLIE:** Adult, female. Neighborhood spy. Strange and secretive but also endearing.

**WANDA:** Adult, female. Coroner. Professional but playful. Eager to befriend the group.

**JACK:** 40-50s, male. Detective. Does it by the book. (HIS book.) Gets his beloved Rumi out of jams.

**RODEO:** 20s, male. Actor, philatelist, and faux coroner. Loveable but cringy. Has a crush on Juliet.

**BOBCAT:** 40-50s, male. Willfully unemployed. A lousy spouse to Nadine but offers glimmers of charm.

**PASTOR PEPPER:** Adult, female/male flex. Pastor and potluck chairperson. Respected but feared and knows it.

*The Pike County Potluck...and Poisoning*

- 4 -

**SETTING**

McComb, Mississippi circa 1986, night.

**SET**

Nadine's living room. There's a couch, coffee table and a recliner. A small card table is filled with covered dishes, and a coatrack is in the corner. The pistachio salad sits on a TV tray, ominously. Off SL is the kitchen. Off SR is a hallway to the bedroom and side door. USC is a door to the front porch.

**PRELUDE**

*(AT RISE: McComb, Mississippi circa 1986, night. LIGHTS up on Nadine's living room / Rumi's bedroom. DOLORES, JULIET and NADINE are huddled together in Nadine's living room. Dolores is wearing a weight belt, rubber dishwashing gloves and talking on the phone. Juliet is dressed in a cow costume. And Nadine is holding a bowl of pistachio salad. Her face is mascara-smearred with tears. BOBCAT is slumped in a worn recliner wearing gym shorts, tube socks and a tank top.*

*RUMI, in her own home, is DSL in a silky bathrobe, margarita in one hand and the telephone in the other.)*

**DOLORES:** The bastard's dead. We gotta drag his body from the recliner to the bottom of the side porch steps before the coroner comes.

**RUMI:** Will there be refreshments?

**DOLORES:** There's a box of wine in the bathtub. And Nadine's servin' a pistachio salad.

*(NADINE wails.)*

**RUMI:** I'm on my way.

*(RUMI hangs up on the phone. JACK enters SL, drying off with a towel.)*

**JACK:** Everythin' alright?

**RUMI:** Dolores just needs my help with a household project.

**JACK:** She movin' old furniture again?

**RUMI:** Somethin' like that.

**JACK:** Whenever y'all get together, stuff gets broken.

**RUMI:** Hundred percent guaranteed.

*(RUMI guzzles the remaining of her margarita. LIGHTS out.)*

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on Nadine's living room. It is one hour later. The recliner is now unoccupied. Exasperated, JULIET, RUMI, NADINE, and DOLORES enter SR.)*

**JULIET:** *(Wiping her forehead with an udder from her costume.)* So that's what dead weight means.

**RUMI:** And I thought Dolores was jokin' wearin' that back brace.

**DOLORES:** I would never joke about the L1 to L5 vertebrae.

**NADINE:** I don't remember my Bobcat bein' that heavy.

**DOLORES:** How many times have you dragged his lifeless body from the recliner?

**NADINE:** Every night for the past fourteen years. Give or take a beer or two. Or twelve.

**RUMI:** Oh, honey. Why wouldn't you just leave him there?

**NADINE:** His sleep apnea machine's in the bedroom. And I didn't want him to, you know... *(NADINE weeps.)*

**RUMI:** Every day that man was alive was because of you.

**JULIET:** Except for today.

*(NADINE wails louder.)*

**RUMI:** Nadine, sweetheart. There wasn't a vice your husband, a term I use and he took very loosely, didn't have. Drinkin', smokin', gamblin'. Late nights at Logan's Pool Hall & More. And you know all about "& More" and her polyester hair extensions. This was bound to happen.

**NADINE:** He was bound to be poisoned to death?

**RUMI:** One way or another. Sausage. Cigars. Or Juliet's pistachio salad.

**JULIET:** I might have prepared the dish, but I did not serve it to him.

**DOLORES:** Try tellin' that to a jury.

**JULIET:** And from where did I get said poison? From said exterminator!

**DOLORES:** I object. I'm a pest control specialist.

## **End of Freeview**

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<https://histage.com/the-pike-county-potluckand-poisoning>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!