



IT'S PAPA WHO PAYS!

by JIMMY MURPHY
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MAMA'S IN A BAD MOOD TODAY! SHE'S GONE OUT WITHOUT EVEN SPEAKING TO ME.

COME IN, OTTO. WHY DIDN'T YOU PHONE ME LAST NIGHT?

I DID, BUT YOUR WIFE HUNG UP THE PHONE ON ME. SHE SAID I'M A BAD INFLUENCE.



YOUR WIFE IS THE BOSS IN YOUR FAMILY. SHE MAKES YOU TOW THE LINE, DOESN'T SHE?

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT!

MAMA IS OUT, AND THIS IS MY CHANCE TO MAKE A BIG NOISE TO CHANGE OTTO'S OPINION OF ME.

GET THIS STRAIGHT, MAMA! IF YOU EVER HANG UP ON OTTO AGAIN I'LL LEAVE YOU!

AND FROM NOW ON, MAMA, YOU KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF MY AFFAIRS!

ER-ER-

?

SOCK-BIFF-BANG-OUCH! OW!

G-GOSH, I DIDN'T KNOW MAMA FORGOT HER PURSE AND CAME BACK TO GET IT.

Toots and Casper

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TOOTS, DON'T TELL ME YOU MISPLACED THE \$37,500.00 DIAMOND RING THAT UNCLE EVERETT BOUGHT FOR HIS WIFE!

I DIDN'T MISPLACE IT, CASPER... I PUT IT ON THAT TABLE... AND NOW... IT'S GONE!

I DON'T SEE THE RING ANYPLACE! TOOTS, I WARNED YOU NOT TO TAKE IT OUT OF OUR WALL-SAFE!

IT MUST BE HERE, CASPER! IT DIDN'T WALK AWAY!

WE SAW BUTTERCUP PICK UP THE RING--FLIP IT BACKWARDS-- AND IT DROPPED INTO ONE OF CASPER'S OLD SHOES THAT TOOTS SET OUT TO GIVE AWAY.

OH, CASPER, WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHY DIDN'T I LEAVE THAT RING ALONE?

DON'T CRY, DEAR! WE'LL HAVE TO FACE THE MUSIC-- SHHH-- THE DOORBELL!

MISTER, COULD YOU SPARE ME A DIME TO GET ME SOME COFFEE?

SURE, AND I'VE OLD CLOTHES AND SHOES YOU CAN HAVE, TOO, IF YOU WANT 'EM!

I'LL KEEP ONE PAIR OF THESE OLD SHOES FOR HIKING-- YOU CAN HAVE THE REST.

THANKS, YOU'RE A SWELL GUY, MISTER.

THAT WAS A TRAMP AT THE DOOR, TOOTS! I GAVE HIM THOSE OLD CLOTHES AND SHOES.

I'M AFRAID TO FACE UNCLE EVERETT NOW! HOW WILL I EVER EXPLAIN?

I WONDER IF SOMEONE COULD HAVE BROKEN INTO THE HOUSE WHILE I WAS FIXING DINNER?

THE LONGER EVERETT STAYS OUT TONIGHT THE MORE WE CAN CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THE RING-- SHHH, HERE HE COMES NOW.

CASPER, OPEN YOUR WALL-SAFE! I WANT TO SEE THE RING AGAIN!

ER-ER- UNCLE EVERETT, YOU'RE WANTED ON THE PHONE.

I'M GLAD YOU CALLED UP TO REMIND ME, SIR-- I HAD FORGOTTEN! I'LL BE RIGHT OVER--

I WON'T BE BACK UNTIL LATE, TOOTS-- I HAVE TO HURRY OVER TO A DIRECTORS' MEETING.

WHY! THAT WAS A LUCKY PHONE CALL! I THOUGHT WE WERE CAUGHT!

THAT WAS LIKE A REPRIEVE FROM THE GOVERNOR! NOW WE'VE A FEW EXTRA HOURS TO KEEP ON SEARCHING!

JIMMY MURPHY-

IS THE MISSING RING IN ONE OF THE SHOES CASPER KEPT, OR IS IT IN ONE OF THOSE HE GAVE AWAY? CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

