**SCENE I. A church.**

*Enter JETHRO, BUTCH, JEDEDIAH, PREACHIN’ BILL, ABNER, BUBBA, DAISY, VIOLET, and Attendants*

**JEDEDIAH**

Come, Preachin’ Bill, no need to make this here weddin’ a long, drawn out affair. Short and sweet’ll git us to the vittles the quickest.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

You come here this day to marry this here Daisy Hogue?

**ABNER**

No.

**JEDEDIAH**

To be married to her: Preacher, you come to marry her.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Miss Daisy, you come here to be a married to Abner?

**DAISY**

I do.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

If thar be any man here what knows any reason these two love birds shouldn’t to ought to git hitched, let him speak now or forever hold his piece.

**ABNER**

Know you any, DAISY?

**DAISY**

None, Abner. Of course not.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Know you any, Abner?

**JEDEDIAH**

I kin surely speak fer the boy, No, Preacher.

**ABNER**

Excuse me Preachin’ Bill. Jedediah, do you give me yer daughter’s hand freely with no reservations?

**JEDEDIAH**

As freely, son, as God did give her me.

**ABNER**

But whut kin I give you back that would be so precious a gift.

**JETHRO**

Nothing, if you call that girl precious.

**ABNER**

You know what I’ma talkin’ about, Jethro.  
There, Jedediah, take her back again:  
I done knowd what this’n is up to, and it ain’t nothin’ precious about it.  
See how she blushes here, a lookin’ so innocent and sweet.  
Why anybody with two eyes would tell you that she is innocent through and through. But I’ma a tellin’ you all that she ain’t innocent.

**JEDEDIAH**

What do you mean, Abner?

**ABNER**

Not to be married,  
Not to tie myself up with some hussy who’s been over the mountain more times that you kin shake a stick at.

**JEDEDIAH**

Abner, Abner listen to me. If’n you feel a little guilty cause you done gone too far…….

**ABNER**

Not me, Jedediah. Not me. I would never dishonor Daisy or your family in that which a way.  
I was always a goin’ by the code of the mountains when it comes to courtin’.

**DAISY**

And that’s the same way I was with you?

**ABNER**

Don’t lie, Daisy! To me, you were like a goddess. You were my dream come true. I ain’t never felt like this fer another woman.

**DAISY**

Are you sick? Is something wrong with you? Why are you a sayin’ these thangs?

**JEDEDIAH**

Cap’n Jethro, why don’t you say something?

**JETHRO**

What should I say, Jedediah?  
I jus’ came this close to marryin’ my dear friend to a common fluzy!

**JEDEDIAH**

Am I in some kinda nightmare? Is everbody here, Crazy?

**BUTCH**

I’ll vouch fer the truth in whut they say.

**BUBBA**

This sure as heck ain’t no weddin’ day.

**DAISY**

That’s fer sure! What’s goin’ on here!

**ABNER**

I have to know one thang! Who was that you was with last night after midnight?

**JEDEDIAH**

Who was it Daisy?

**DAISY**

Daddy! You don’t believe that do ya? You should defend me instead o believin’ whut they’re a sayin’.I wasn’t with nobody at that time. I was fast asleep in my bed!

**JETHRO**

Why then, you’re not only a fluzy, but you’re a liar, too. We heard ya’ll say how you done met there a hunert times before.

**BUTCH**

My brother speaks the truth, fer sure.

**JEDEDIAH**

Daisy, how could you do this to yerself and yer famly?

*DAISY swoons*

**VIOLET**

Daisy, are you alright?

**BUTCH**

Come, let us go. What you do in the dark, comes out in the light.

*Exit JETHRO, BUTCH, and ABNER*

**BUBBA**

How is Miss Daisy?

**VIOLET**

Dead, I think. Help, uncle!  
Daisy! why, Daisy! Uncle! Mr. Bubba! Preachin’ Bill!

**JEDEDIAH**

Somebody jus’ shoot me and put me out of my mysery. I ain’t never seen such a thang.

**VIOLET**

Hang in there Daisy. I knowd you is innocent!

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

It’ll be alright Daisy.

**JEDEDIAH**

Don’t raise yer head around here, Daisy?

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Why not Jedediah?

**JEDEDIAH**

Didn’t you hear whut they was a sayin’? Would Abner lie? Would Cap’n Jethro lie. Would the Cap’n’s brother lie. Don’t all the evidence point right aginst her. Daisy, you ain’t the girl I raised from a baby. You ain’t yer momma’s daughter. Wher did I go wrong. How could you do this to us? I never thought I’d see the day when my daughter would be the biggest fluzy on Pine Mountain.

**BUBBA**

Jedediah, calm down. For me, I am so shocked I don’t know whut to say.

**VIOLET**

All I know is that my cousin has been wronged!

**BUBBA**

Were you with her last night at that time?

**VIOLET**

No, but I almost always am. She hain’t been a sneakin’ off a hunert times with some man.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Hear me a little;For I have only been silent so long. There is somethin’ that jus’ ain’t right about this whole thang.  
**JEDEDIAH**

If’n you’ve got an idie, let’s hear it.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Missy, whut man is it that yer accused o bein’ with last night.

**DAISY**

That’s the crazy part. Fer them to accuse me o somethin’ like that, Why I ain’t never been with no man.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Somehow, there’s somethin’ mighty queer a goin’ on ‘round here. Our boys seems to truly believe what they’re a sayin’.

**BUBBA**

Well, two o them is as good as gold, but that Butch, the Capn’s brother is as sorry as they come. Don’t be surprised if’n he’s been up to no good.

**JEDEDIAH**

I ain’t got no idea whut the truth is anymore.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Here’s whut let’s do. Let’s all pretend that this here horrible news, done kilt Miss Daisy. That she died from the grief o the situation. We’ll let it be knowd to everbody. Sooners or later, somethin’ is bound to come out while we try to figger this thang out. But fer right, now, I’m sorry honey, but you jus’ stay well hid, whilest the rest of us find out jus’ whut happened.

**JEDEDIAH**

Do you think that might work?

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

There will be a little justice, when Abner hears the news that his remarks done doomed Miss Daisy. From there, we’ll hope flush out some culprit, I’ma thankin’.

**BUBBA**

Jedediah, Preachin’ Bill’s Idie seems to be the onliest one we got.

**JEDEDIAH**

I’m in, if’n the rest of yus is.

**PREACHIN’ BILL**

Come Miss Daisy. We’ll die, to live another day.

*Exitall but BUBBA and VIOLET*

**BUBBA**

I’m a sorry, you’re so upset?

**VIOLET**

Yea, I jus’ want to cry a little by myself.

**BUBBA**

I don’t like to see you cry, Violet.

**VIOLET**

It’s really none o yorn business, Bubba.

**BUBBA**

Please believe me when I say that I believe your cousin has been wronged and slandered.

**VIOLET**

I would give anythang fer somebody to right this mess.

**BUBBA**

Is there somethin’ a friend might do to help?

**VIOLET**

There is a way, but no such friend.

**BUBBA**

May a man do it?

**VIOLET**

It’s a man’s job alright, but not yours.

**BUBBA**

I do love nothin’ in the world as well as you: ain’t that strange?

**VIOLET**

I would tell you the same thang, but right now I don’t know whut I’ma thankin’ or a sayin’.

**BUBBA**

Jimminy Cricket, Violet! You love me too, don’t cha?

**VIOLET**

I cain’t believe I’ma bout ta say this!

**BUBBA**

Say what, Violet?

**VIOLET**

I thank I’m about to say, “I love you.”

**BUBBA**

Then do it with all yer heart.

**VIOLET**

I love you with so much of my heart that none is left.

**BUBBA**

Oh, Violet. I will do anythang fer you. Just say the word.

**VIOLET**

Kill Abner.

**BUBBA**

Oh, Violet. I cain’t be a killin’ Abner.

**VIOLET**

You kill me to deny me. Leave me, now.

**BUBBA**

Hold on, sweet Violet.

**VIOLET**

I am done, though I am here: there is no love in  
you: no, I pray you, let me go.

**BUBBA**

Violet,--

**VIOLET**

Any friend of my enemy is an enemy of mine.

**BUBBA**

Is Abner your enemy?

**VIOLET**

He is my enemy and a villain. He has dishonored my cousin on her most happiest day of all. He has slandered her with public accusation. If I were a man, I would surely kill ‘em and then eat his heart in the market place. Yes, I’d say he’s my enemy. Sweet Daisy! She is wronged, she is slandered, she is undone. I will die a woman grieving for her.

**BUBBA**

Violet, by this hand I promise, I love you.

**VIOLET**

Use it fer my love some other way than swearin’ by it.

**BUBBA**

You believe with all yer heart and soul that thar Abner hast done wronged Daisy?

**VIOLET**

Yea, as sure as I have a thought or a soul.

**BUBBA**

Enough, I am off to challenge Abner. For you and Daisy, I will seek justice. Go, comfort your  
cousin: I must say she is dead: and so, I’lla be a seein’ you after whal.

*Exit*