

Cheating Family

CHARACTERS: 4

PROPS: Optional. Pantomime can be used

COSTUMES: Street clothes.

SETTING: A home

H: (*Entering and sounding upset*) How come there's a ding in the Lexus? Did somebody hit you at the grocery store?

W: No. I mean, not exactly. It's just a little ding.

H: (*Getting more upset*) Little ding. How about the other guy?

W: I barely touched their car. I was backing up and just barely touched it

H: If it's on our insurance some "little ding" could cost us plenty.

W: Well, it was very little and besides, it was already banged into some other time. So... I didn't leave a note.

H: (*Throwing up his hands*) Somebody might have seen you!

W: (*Proud of herself*) You don't have to worry. I acted like I was leaving a note and just stuck a blank piece of paper under the windshield wipers.

H: (*Relieved*) Good thinking. How long before dinner?

W: Just a few.

H: Let me do some of the taxes then. Where did you put the tax receipts?

W: In the desk. Did you ever find the one we're missing?

H: No. I'll just put something down.

W: You can get in trouble for that.

H: Nah. The government's always cheating us. Besides, I can just get Fred to make me something up on his computer. He did that last year and we didn't get caught. No sense paying anything we can get out of.

W: If it's that easy for Fred to do, let's put down \$2500 there instead of \$2156.

H: (*Adamantly*) NO! (*More reasonably*) \$2500 looks like a fake number. Now (*Writing it down*) \$2558 looks more like a real number. (*They both laugh about how clever they are*)

Pat: (*Entering*) I'm leaving my cell phone here so if Judy calls, tell her I'm at the library studying, OK?

W: OK. Do you want her to meet you there?

Pat: No way. I'm taking Keisha to the game. Tell her I'll see her at school Monday.

H: Are you cheating on your girlfriend with that Keisha Thomas?

Pat: No, dad. It's only cheating if you get caught. (*They both laugh. Mother shakes her head but has a smile on her face*)

H: (*Softly punching him on the shoulder*) We got us a real Romeo, here, mother.

W: Just don't get yourself into something you'll regret. If she'll calls I tell her you're studying hard and not to call back tonight.

Pat: Thanks. Gotta run (*Exits*)

(*Chris enters reluctantly with a paper behind back*)

Chris: Say, dad. Could you show me how you write your name?

H: (*Not looking up*) I'm kind of busy.

Chris: (*Folding paper and putting it carefully down*) It'll just take a second. Just write it on the bottom there.

H: (*Picks up paper and notices the hidden half*) What's this? This is a note from your teacher! Seems you got caught cheating on a test. Explain yourself.

Chris: (*Making up excuses*) It wasn't my fault. The book just happened to be open to the right page. I wasn't looking. Besides, the teacher said it was gonna be next week.

W: (*upset*) I can't believe you cheated on that test!

H: (*angry*) We've taken you to Bible class and brought you up better than this. Haven't you learned anything?

Chris: Actions speak louder than words?

W and H: (*ashamed*) Oh.