

The Pie Ladies

Sherry Piros





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THE PIE LADIES
by
Sherry Piros

CAST

GLADIS, DULCIE, LUCILLE, VELDA, KITTY, NADINE: The Pie Ladies
PASTOR MAXELL
IRENE: Possible new church member
SADIE: Local news writer

The set and blocking directions are given for performing this play in situations where there is no stage or curtain. If a curtain is available for your group, feel free to adapt.

One exit is to the rest of the house. Another exit is to the outside. There is a table center front of stage that will seat six and hold a few cookbooks and a few cooking supplies: bowls, rolling pins, etc. A smaller table is behind them for the majority of the props: apples, cans of cherry and blueberry pie filling, flour canister, measuring cups, etc. A coffee pot and cups are at the far left end of the prop table.

(Dulcie, Gladys, Kitty, Nadine, and Lucille are seated, drinking coffee and making small talk.)

VELDA: *(entering from R. with her coffee cup.)* Okay, the eleventh annual pie-making day can begin. Everything breakable has been put away.

GLADYS: That's good. Last year was... *(she implies disaster by her facial expression.)*

(Everybody glances over at Dulcie.)

DULCIE: What's everybody looking at me for?

VELDA: Failing memories are such blessings, aren't they, dear.

DULCIE: Failing memory!! I distinctly remember the broken coffee pot. Was there more?

VELDA: *(exasperated huff.)*

LUCILLE: I'll help out... you know... *(referring to Dulcie with her eyes.)*

KITTY: Again this year, our mission today is two dozen of our famous apple, blueberry, and cherry pies for the church supper.

(A musical member of the group starts "da da duh da" to the theme from Mission Impossible. The others join in.)

KITTY: It is NOT "Mission Impossible." We've done it before. We can do it again.

GLADYS: The thing is: the pies stay the same, but we're a year older.

LUCILLE: A year old. A year wiser. A year better at pie making.

(Except for Nadine, they grumble and rise, then tie on aprons during the following. Nadine remains seated with her arms folded across her chest.)

GLADYS: If we weren't so darn good at this, they wouldn't count on us every year.

LUCILLE: Our pies are the reason people come to the supper, you know.

VELDA: Don't tell that to the chicken 'n biscuit ladies.

DULCIE: Oh no. You can't tell them anything!

KITTY: Aren't you going to make pies with us, Nadine?

NADINE: NO.

ALL OTHERS: *(swiveling around to look at her.)* NO??!??

LUCILLE: Of course she's making pies with us.

GLADYS: It's a tradition!

NADINE: That's just it! Tradition! Doing the same thing year after year!

GLADYS: What's wrong with that?!

NADINE: Year after year we make apple, blueberry, and cherry. I want to make different ones this year!

KITTY: But people want the traditional old favorites.

NADINE: That's just what I mean – TRADITIONAL and OLD! Why not try something exciting and new?

KITTY: People don't come to a church supper for excitement!

NADINE: Well, I wasn't suggesting a pie made with Viagra!

LUCILLE: Ladies! Ladies! Why don't we see what other kinds there are. *(handing out cookbooks.)* THEN we can fight about it.

(All women, except Nadine who has her own recipe cards, open cookbooks and find the pie section. As they mention a recipe, they point it out in the cookbook or hold the page open. After rejections, they turn pages to find new recipes.)

GLADYS: Don't know why we have to do this. People expect certain pies at the church supper. Makes 'em feel comfortable.

NADINE: Also makes 'em feel bored. They're secretly hoping for something – anything – out of the ordinary.

GLADYS: What nonsense!

VELDA: Well now, Nadine has a point.

GLADYS: And that would be...?

VELDA: "Variety is the spice of life."

GLADYS: At our age, spicy food is the LAST thing we want.

NADINE: *(holding up a recipe on a card.)* You only say that because you haven't tasted Spiced Mud Pie!

ALL OTHERS: Spiced Mud Pie???!

NADINE: Right here. *(reading.)* "Chocolate laced with cinnamon. Makes your mouth think it's in the Caribbean."

GLADYS: That's handy when the rest of your body is back here in _____ *(fill in state.)!*

LUCILLE: Look! Here's a recipe for Grapefruit Meringue Pie. What do you think Pastor Maxwell would say to that?

KITTY: He'd say, "Let us pray. There is always an answer in prayer, even if the answer is NO!"

DULCIE: Excuse me. I'll be right back. *(she exits R.)*

LUCILLE: Hey, listen to this: Full O' Nuts Pie.

GLADYS: Is that a comment on the church supper cooks?

NADINE: Here we go! Chocolate Rum Pie! *(from her cards.)*

VELDA: Or Bourbon Apple Pie! *(from a cookbook.)*

KITTY: Rum!?

GLADYS: Bourbon!?

KITTY AND GLADYS: At church?!

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