

# Substitute Sitters

Olga Sanderson







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SUBSTITUTE SITTERS

By Olga Sanderson

CAST

DELIA and DORA: Widow sisters.

CHARLIE and CLEM BUMPSTEAD: Delia and Dora's bachelor neighbors.

DEBBIE: Delia and Dora's niece.

JOE HUBBS: Policeman.

Place

*DELIA and DORA's home.*

DELIA: It sure will be nice to have Debbie and her baby with us over the Xmas holidays.

DORA: I should say so. I imagine she will be here soon.

DELIA: Oh, my goodness. Do you suppose we could run down to the drug store for our medication before she gets here? The store will be closing early as it is Xmas Eve.

DEBBIE: (*rushes in*) Hello Aunties, I'm here! Say, can you take care of the baby while I go back to the airport to pick up our luggage? They said it was on the wrong plane but would be there within the hour.

DELIA: Oh, hello Debbie.

DORA: Why, Debbie, you're here! Hello and sure we would be happy to take care of him. Go ahead and get your luggage. Give him here. (*DEBBIE hands the baby to her*)

DORA: We will take good care of him. Run along now.

DEBBIE: Thanks, aunties. (*she exits*)

DORA: Delia, do you realize we were supposed to pick up our medication before she came. Now what are we going to do? We can't take the baby with us.

DELIA: Oh, my goodness. What are we going to do? There isn't anyone we could call on to take charge over here for a little while.

DORA: No one but Charlie and Clem. I wonder, do you suppose they could do it?

DELIA: I don't know. I suppose we could ask them. Let's call them on the phone. *(she picks up the phone and dials)* Hello, Charlie. Dora and I have a favor to ask you. Could you come right over? *(pause)* You will. Thank you so much. *(hangs the phone up)* They're coming right over.

*(Enter CHARLIE and CLEM)*

CHARLIE: We're here. What can we do for you?

DORA: You have been around babies before, haven't you?

CLEM: Sure, lots of them. Like baby pigs, baby cows, baby horses.

CHARLIE: And baby kittens and puppies.

DELIA: That's not exactly what we had in mind but...

DORA: It's just that we have to run down to the drug store to get our medication before it closes and our niece just dropped off her baby for us to take care of while she runs back to the airport to pickup their luggage.

DELIA: And we don't want to take the baby out because it's sleeping. Do you suppose you could take care of it for a few minutes while we are gone? All you have to do is hold it in your arms while you are sitting down.

CHARLIE: Oh, that we can do. Clem can help me out. Right, Clem?

CLEM: Sure thing. Give it to Charlie, he's has more experience than me.

*(CHARLIE awkwardly takes baby)*

DELIA: That's good, Charlie. It's sleeping so nice for you and you won't have any trouble. Dora and I will leave so we can get back in a very short time. *(they exit and the men sit down)*

CLEM: I wonder what it is. Girl or boy.

CHARLIE: You can't tell until they get older. Don't you know anything?

CLEM: That's right. With some animals it takes a long time. Of course, maybe if it has a big nose, it could be a boy. Boys always have a bigger nose. (*they both gaze intently at the baby*)

CHARLIE: No, it doesn't have a big nose. Can't be a boy.

CLEM: Look at the ears. Maybe if they're small it could be a girl. (*they both gaze intently at the baby*)

CHARLIE: Yes, the ears are small. Must be a girl. Say, Clem, you know when babies wake up, they like to nurse on their mothers. Supposing it wakes up. What do we then?

CLEM: Well, little pigs and kittens and puppies like to run around.

CHARLIE: That's right, we could put it on the floor and if *it* runs around it might forget about nursing.

CLEM: Or maybe we could tell it *stories*, you know like the three bears.

CHARLIE: Does that story have Goldilocks in it? Shucks, I don't remember *it*.

CLEM: I don't *either*. Maybe we could tell it about cowboys and Indians. You know like bang, bang stuff.

CHARLIE: But *if* it's a girl, she won't be interested in that stuff.

CLEM: Supposing it asks to go to the bathroom. What will we do then?

CHARLIE: I don't know. Let's just pretend we're hard of hearing and don't understand what it wants.

**END OF FREEVIEW—**  
***You'll want to read and perform this show!***