

## Together We're Better...Or Is That Batter?

By Karena Krull

- Set:** Church kitchen. Three small tables across the front of the stage. Close together but not touching.
- Props:** Rolling pin, baking trays, large mixing bowl, food items needed to make dough, etc.
- Characters:** Thelma June: Robust women in her 80's. Old fashioned dress, granny glasses, overstuffed bosom and bottom. Large pearl necklace
- Judy: Mother in her 40's dressed moderately, mother of Cloe.
- Cloe: 16 year old girl, daughter of Judy
- Costumes:** All have humorous aprons. Add something humorous to each apron if possible.

### Scene 1

#### Theme Music Playing

(Cloe, leaning casually on a work table while texting on her cell phone, Judy, frantically rushing around the kitchen setting out kitchen props needed. i.e. rolling pin, baking sheets, piggies, etc.)

**Judy:** (Exasperated)

Cloe, pall-easeee, put that thing away and help me set up!

(Irritated, puts hands on hips looks around)

Where's is Thelma, anyway? She's 20 minutes late!

**Cloe:** Mother, I don't know...

Judy: (Interrupting)

I told Verna, I told her this would happen! Thelma's just too old to help out anymore! I knew this would happen, I knew it!

Cloe: But mom, she's been doing this for the past 50 years. She's like the founding mother of pigs in a blanket, of all time!

Judy: (Rolls her eyes and throws up her hands into the air)

I know, I know...

(She remembers she has forgotten to put on her apron, puts on apron)

## Scene 2

(Thelma enters, bustling down the main aisle of the church with toilet paper hanging out of her dress, trailing about 5 feet behind her. Her apron in hand. Carrying a large container of plain yogurt.

Thelma walks past Judy, Judy rolls her eyes and tries to grab the TP when Thelma turns abruptly to talk to her, she misses the grab. Both Judy and Cloe try to help pull it out while trying not to embarrass Thelma.

As Thelma explains her reason for being late, she talks to Judy on the right, Cloe tries to grab the TP and as Thelma talks turns to talk to Cloe on the left, Judy tries again and fails.)

Thelma: I'm so sorry I'm late!

Judy: (Sweetly)

Oh, that's all right... We're in no hurry, are we Cloe?

Cloe: It's all good, Thelma.

Thelma: Actually, I got here on time but my milk of magnesia just kicked in and I...

Judy: (Cutting her off, not wanting any more details)

Oh-Kay, that's REALLY, oh-kay, let's get started, shall we?

(She physically directs Thelma to her work station)

(Cloe goes back to texting. Thelma & Judy start working at their separate tables)

Judy: Cloe, Pal--eeze put that phone away!

(Thelma, interested and sidetracked, goes over to look at Cloe's cell phone)

Thelma: Oh, how in the world do you type so fast, Honey?

(Cloe begins to show her but Judy interrupts and heads Thelma back to her work station)

Judy: Not now, you two can talk later when we finish this...

(All three begin working by themselves with no interaction and their bodies are turned away from each other. Judy who is emotionally fried, wipes very floured hands across her brow, leaving a huge white streak. Cloe notices and starts to chuckle.)

Judy: (Irritated, not aware of the flour streak)

What's so funny?

Cloe: Nothing, you just have some...

(Before Cloe can finish her sentence, Thelma looks over, seeing the problem and tries to help)

Thelma: Oh, Honey, Let me help...

(Thelma tries to wipe off the flour but her hands are sticky and it only adds to the mess.)

Judy: What are you doing, Thelma!

Thelma: You got some flour in your hair, Dear...

(Judy pushes Thelma firmly back to her work station.)

Judy: Ok, ok I got it! I got it.

Thelma: Just trying to help, Dear.

(Judy cleans it up as best as she can, gives her head a triumphant toss, looking worse than the initial streak.)

(All resume their work.)

I'm so tired...

(Voice trails off)

Judy: Must almost be your nap time.

(Thelma nods in agreement, yawns, covering her mouth. Places false teeth into her mouth as she covers her mouth. When her hand comes down her false teeth fall into the batter.

(Cloe and Judy look aghast but try not to react.)

Thelma looks down at her teeth, then bends down very close to the bowl. Carefully picks the teeth out of the bowl, turns her back to the audience to replace them. (puts false teeth into her hand and hides the teeth from the audience's view) Turns back to the audience.)

Thelma: (Grinning and tipping the bowl to the audience)

Good thing the bowl was empty!

Judy: Yes, very good thing... Here, Thelma, why don't you roll the dough out for a while. I'll make up the next batch.

Thelma: Sure, Dear, anything I can do to be of help!

(Judy starts to make a new batch of dough, Thelma is rolling out dough, Cloe is meticulously and very slowly, wrapping the pigs in their blankets and placing on trays. Cloe picks up the full tray and drops the tray onto the floor. All freeze and look at each. Thelma takes charge and begins to pick them up and put them back on the tray.)

Waste not, want not!

Judy: (Pauses a second)

Well, er... Doesn't the 5 second rule apply here...

(Judy and Cloe quickly start to help Thelma pick up the piggies)

One thousand one...one thousand two...one thousand three...

(She gets to five but not all piggies are not picked up)

Or is it the 15 second rule?

(All pause for a second, then quickly pick up the rest of the piggies, placing them back on the tray)

There! No harm done!

(All wipe their hands on their aprons, Cloe looks at Judy and shakes her head. Judy, looks up and around avoiding Cloe's stare. Thelma who sees nothing wrong with the deed resumes her work.)

(Judy looks up, sighs)

What next?

(Judy goes back to making the next batch of dough, then stops suddenly and looks aghast.)

Judy: Oh, No!

(Stunned she freezes)

Cloe: What's wrong, Mom.

(Judy doesn't move or respond. Cloe, worriedly, turns her mother to face her)

Mom! Are you okay!

Judy: (Slowly, coming out of her stupor.)

Yes, yes...

Thelma: What's wrong, Dear?

Judy: We're out of baking powder! I can't believe I forgot to buy more baking powder!

(Sighs, dejectedly)

I must be getting too old...

(Cloe looks relieved)

Thelma: (Puts her arm around Judy comfortingly)

There, there, Dear. You're not too old. Just look at me. I do things like this all the time!

(Judy looks at the audience with more discouragement and shakes her head)

It will be just fine.

Judy: Fine? How will it be fine! First, we started late and now I have to go to the store...we'll never get these done on time.

(Judy slumps with more discouragement.)

Thelma: Honey, it will be fine, this is nothing. Trust me, I've seen it all in the past 50 years. This is an easy one, we'll just substitute the plain yogurt...

(Spoons it into bowl, while Judy watches incredulously)

Thelma: I brought to slow down the Milk of Magnesia...for the baking powder in the recipe and we're back in business!

Judy: (Wistfully)

Really?

Thelma: (With certainty)

Really!

Cloe: (Pulling out her cell phone)

I'll text Shira to pick up more baking powder.  
We'll be back on track Mom!

Theme Music Plays

(Cloe moves the tables together and are still in a row. All three begin to work in perfect harmony, dancing in sync using exaggerated moves to the beat of the music. If you don't have room to have scene 3 preset, have them dancing to change the scene set together.)

Scene 3

(All three are sitting in a semi circle with tea and a plate of cookies on a small table.)

Cloe: Thelma, how did you know that yogurt could be substituted for baking powder!

Thelma: Oh, my goodness, my Dear, there are many ways you can substitute for baking powder, depending on the recipe.

(Thelma looks up as if recalling the substitute options for baking powder and begins counting each one on her fingers as she speaks) Judy and

Cloe listens intently, trying to keep up, look at each other, in amazement.)

Thelma: 1 teaspoon baking powder equals 1/4 teaspoon baking soda plus 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar; or...

1 teaspoon baking powder equals 1/2 teaspoon baking soda plus 1/2 cup buttermilk or plain yogurt...

And 1 teaspoon baking powder also equals 1/4 teaspoon baking soda plus 1/3 cup molasses.

But you have to remember that when using the substitutions that include liquid, you need to reduce other liquid in recipe accordingly.

Cloe: Wow! You sure know a lot about baking!

Thelma: (Shrugs)

Well, my Dear, What do you think I was doing all the time I was getting this old? (Winks at Judy)

(All laugh together)

And using Google doesn't hurt either. You can find just about anything using the Internet these days!

(Verna enters)

Verna: Hello ladies. How's it going?

Judy: Well, we had a late start but with Thelma's help we avoided a major catastrophe! She really saved the day!

Verna: Really?

Judy: Yes! I forgot to bring enough baking powder, I'm getting too old...

Thelma: You're NEVER too old, my Dear!

(Towards, Thelma)



Judy: Yes, that's right!

(Looking back at Verna)

Judy: Thank goodness Thelma had trouble taking her milk of magnesia!

(Verna looks puzzled)

She brought some plain yogurt with her and...

Cloe: (Excitedly joins in)

She knew how to substitute the yogurt for the baking powder!

Judy: (Gratefully)

I'm really, really glad she came to help today! I don't know what we would have done without her!

(Puts her arm around Thelma. Thelma blushes, Verna smiles)

Well, we better go clean up our mess!

(All get up to leave)

Oh, here's some cookies that Cloe made up.

(Hands the plate to Verna. While Thelma, Cloe and Judy exit Verna takes a bite of cookie)

Verna: (Sighs, holds up the plate towards the audience)

Raisin cookies?

Theme Music

The end.