



The Harvest Basket

An adaptation of the well-known story of the Christmas Pudding



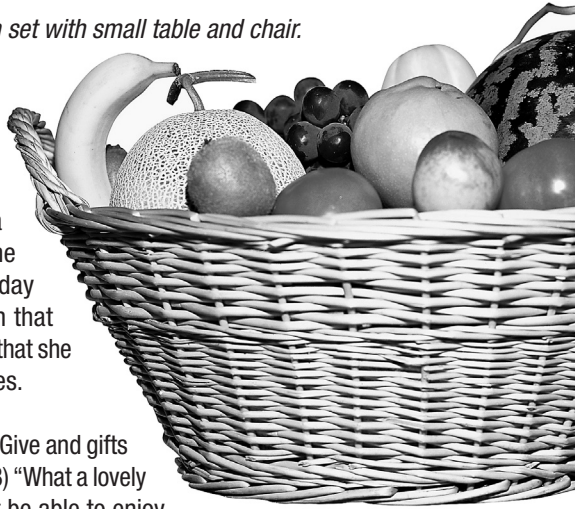
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This is a novelty item in free speech, which means that only a rough guide is given below of five simple scenes with a simple layout.

Monday Morning — Room set with small table and chair.

Older Woman

Enters and tidies' around. Answers a knock at the door. A church representative comes to deliver a basket of fruit following the Harvest Festival held the day before. He tells the woman that he hopes she'll enjoy it, and that she will find a text inside. Leaves.



She sits and reads the text: 'Give and gifts will be given you.' (Luke 6:38) "What a lovely idea. What a pity I shall not be able to enjoy it. In a few minutes my son will be coming to take me for a holiday on his farm. He will have a fruit crop of his own. But if I leave it here it will all go bad. Now what can I do? I know — I'll follow the advice on the text, and give it away. I'll give it to the young woman next door. I'm sure she'll be glad of it with six mouths to feed."

Young Mom

Enters with bottle, diaper, etc., in hand. Expresses annoyance at a knock on the door, she is so busy. The older woman enters and delivers the fruit. The young mom thanks her, but decides the kids can't eat fruit for various reasons: e.g. oranges bring Danny out in spots; apples make the twins sick. She decides that the easiest thing to do is to give it to the elderly man next door; he is sure to appreciate it, because he won't get many presents, so she takes the basket to him.

Elderly Man

He enters and sits asleep in the chair with paper over his face. The young mom knocks loudly several times. He finally answers — he is deaf and there is some misunderstanding. He finally accepts when she says she must get back to the kids. He decides the fruit



will upset his indigestion: will have to give it away! Thinks ... he can give it to the posh lady next door, Mrs. Fortesque-Brown. Always moaning about the dog spoiling her flowers — perhaps he'll get some peace if he gives her a present.



Mrs. Fortesque-Brown And Maid

Mrs. Fortesque-Brown reads the paper while the maid dusts. Old man knocks on the door, the maid is sent to answer it. Perhaps it is the fresh salmon for the luncheon party. The maid accepts the fruit and says she will take it to Mrs. Brown. Nice idea, but she is not too happy about accepting gifts from such a disreputable character. She decides to pass the fruit on to those two noisy young girls next door. It may help them to be more considerate. She tells the maid to take the basket to them.

Two Young Girls

One dances to music while the other reads, the other turns down the music when they hear the knock on the door. They receive the fruit from the maid, express surprise at receiving a gift from Mrs. Fortesque-Brown. They examine the contents. One decides she can't eat bananas as they are fattening and she must watch her figure. The other one decides oranges give her spots. They ought to give it away to someone who would appreciate it more. The elderly lady at the other end of the road would enjoy it.

Older Woman

She enters with coat and hat carrying suitcase. The telegraph boy delivers a telegram. Reads: 'Sorry, can't come for you — car broken down — will come later in the week — Love, Jim.'

Older woman comments 'Can't get there alone, farm too isolated — will have to wait. She notices the text: she hasn't any food in the house, even gave away the basket of fruit, so much for following the advice of the text. The girls then arrive. The elderly woman accepts the basket of fruit: So the text was right after all, 'Give, and gifts will be given you'.

