

# WHO'S FEUDIN' NOW?

A HILARIOUS COMEDY IN ONE ACT

By **Le Roma Greth**

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**WHO'S FEUDIN' NOW?**

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(4 MEN, 6 WOMEN)*

- PAW CAPFIELD ..... A shiftless soul who doesn't care for work. He speaks slowly and sags whenever he walks or sits. If desired he may wear a black beard. He wears tattered overalls or jeans and shirt. There are no shoes on his feet and he is not overly clean. *(35 lines)*
- MAW CAPFIELD ..... Has more energy but whines and moves slowly. Her hair is pinned on top of her head but half of it untidily hangs down. Her dress is long, washable, and dirty. She wears a very well-used apron over it. Worn-out shoes may be on her feet. *(37 lines)*
- ZEKE CAPFIELD ..... Their son, Is interest in anything with moving parts. He's a born mechanic. About seventeen, he's barefooted, with patched shirt and tattered jeans. *(25 lines)*
- LULU MAE CAPFIELD ..... Their daughter is pretty with curly hair and at least a grammar school education. She wears a baggy cotton dress without belt or shoes. She is about sixteen. *(99 lines)*
- DAISY BELLE CAPFIELD ..... Another daughter, is about fourteen and is dressed much the same as Lulu Mae. *(1 line)*

BY LE ROMA GRETH

ABE CAPFIELD..... Another son, is thirteen, always getting into trouble, and looks similar to Zeke.  
(3 lines)

JENNY SUE CAPFIELD..... The youngest, is twelve with pigtails and a dirty face, She wears either a dirty blouse or short skirt or unevenly cut-off jeans. She too is barefoot.  
(2 lines)

MRS. MALCOMB

EVERETT (*RENEE*) GARDNER ..... A lady accustomed to the best society, she has become very interested in genealogy. Her hair is grayed and very stylish. She wears a chic coat suit with hat, gloves, etc.. to match. (63 lines)

MALCOMB EVERETT

GARDNER, JUNIOR..... Her son, is a good-natured, if a bit prudish, boy. He wears expensive sport cloths suitable for a boy of seventeen.  
(86 lines)

DAWN GARDNER ..... Her daughter, is a bratty twelve-year-old who demands and usually gets her own way. She is dressed very prettily.  
(13 lines)

**PROPERTIES**

- Couch
- Old occasional chair.
- Barrel or other old chair.
- Table
- Chairs at table
- Assortment of box wood for television
- Sheet and pillow, on couch
- Shotgun or rifle, on stage.
- Large scissors
- Hammer
- Thick tree branch or stick
- Broom
- Large box of dry dog food
- Large old Bible

**SETTING**

The Capfield cabin deep in the hills.

**TIME:** The present. Evening in May.

**SCENE:**

*The curtain rises to reveal the main room of the Capfield mountain cabin. There are two entrances. One, Up Right, leads to a muddy, unkempt dooryard. The other, Left, leads Center. Nothing is on the table, not even a cover. A few chairs sag around it. At the Right, before a window, stands an old couch, made up as a bed. Down right is an old occasional chair. A gun leans against the wall at Left. Up Left, is a pile of box wood which Zeke is endeavoring to make into a television set. It is a dirty room.*

**AT RISE:**

*Zeke is busily engaged among the box wood, loudly hammering. Paw is seated at the table, very dejected. He sighs loudly occasionally but never takes his eyes from the floor. Lulu Mae is sitting on the couch at Right, cutting her toe nails with a huge scissor. The door, Up Right, bursts open and Daisy Belle and Jenny Sue runs screaming on stage, chased by Abe who carries a thick tree branch or stick. Still yelling, they exit at Left. Nobody on stage pays the slightest attention to this intrusion but each continues with his own business. Paw sighs loudly. Jenny Sue and Daisy Belle reenter at Left, screaming. Abe is still chasing them with the stick. Maw enters at Left after them.*

**MAW:** Here now! Whut air you young'uns up to? *(They pause.)*

**JENNY:** Aw, Maw . . . We're jest playin'

**ABE:** Shore. Hit's a new game.

**MAW:** *(Standing, hands on hips, Down Left.)*

**DAISY:** Hit's like tag. The one who's "it: chases the others and knocks them over the head. He's "it" till everybody's knocked out. Whoever comes to first is the next one to be "it"!

**MAW:** *(Shocked.)* Thet's terrible!

**JENNY:** Aw, Maw . . .

**MAW:** Hittin' each other over the heads with sticks! Next thing you'll be breakin' thet stick. Good fire wood ain't easy to find.

**ABE:** Shucks, Maw, we'll be careful not to break hit!

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**MAW:** *(Reluctantly.)* Wal – all right.

*With more yells, they exit Up Right. Maw moves Center to look carefully at Paw.*

**MAW:** Paw? Paw, ain't you feelin' no better?

**LULU:** He ain't moved er talked all day, Maw.

**MAW:** *(shaking her head.)* I jest don't know what we're gonna do with him.

**ZEKE:** *(Pauses in hammering.)* Aw, he'll be okay, Maw, soon as I git this tellyvision set built.

**MAW:** *(Moving up to peer at Zeke's mess.)* Think you can really build a tellyvision set, Zeke?

**ZEKE:** *(Proudly.)* Shore. I kin build anything.

**LULU:** He cain't build a tellyvision, Maw! He ain't got the stuff ter put inside hit. Why don't ya make him git out an' work instead?

**MAW:** *(Frantically coming Down right to Lulu Mae.)* Hush up, Lulu Mae! I told ya never to mention that word around yer Paw! Ya want to make him worse?

**LULU:** *(Defensively.)* All I said was that Zeke ought to work instead of- *(Paw groans loudly, rises, and starts up right.)*

**MAW:** *(Following him.)* Paw, were're ya goin'? Paw . . . we're gonna have supper pretty soon. Somethin' ya like real good! Hog chiddlins an' sow belly soup! *(Paw exits with another groan.)*

**ZEKE:** *(Watching him.)* Pore Paw!

**MAW:** *(Dejected; moving down to the table.)* He jest ain't got no interest in life no more.

**LULU:** *(Rising.)* Wal, I'm glad he ain't!

**MAW:** Lulu Mae!

**LULU:** *(Moving center.)* I am! Effen all he's interested in is feudin', maybe hit's better not to be interested in anything! Now that Old Pappy Scrogg died an' thar ain't no more Scroggs around, that silly feud is over an' done with! An' I'm glad!

**MAW:** But Old Pappy was the last Scrogg an' our Paw misses the feud so much!

**LULU:** Feudin' ain't no nice way t' live. It ain't civilized!

**MAW:** We're civilized! An' feudin' gave yer Paw some thin' t' do. Kept him out of trouble.

**ZEKE:** Killin' the Scrogg family ain't like killin' people.

**MAW:** Pore Paw jest don't know whut to do with himself now.

**LULU:** Let him go to work! Thet would give him somethin' t' do. Then maybe we could buy a real tellyvision set!

**MAW:** Lulu Mae, I don't want ya talkin' about yer Paw thet way! The idea . . . mentionin' him an' work in the same breath! *(Moves left.)* Reckon I'd better git back t' supper. Think I'll boil the meat off some fish heads fer dinner tomorrow. *(Maw exits Left. Zeke is busy with his work. Lulu Mae shrugs, throws herself on the couch, Right, on her stomach, facing audience, chin in hand.)*

**LULU:** *(Dreamily.)* Y' know, Zeke, I wish we had a tellyvision, even wear shoes.

**ZEKE:** Wal, I'm buildin' a set, ain't I? *(Knock sounds on the door up right.)*

**LULU:** *(Sitting up.)* Now who do ya suppose would be knockin' hyar?

**ZEKE:** Can't be anybody 'cause nobody around hyar knocks. *(Knock sounds again.)*

**LULU:** Must be somebody.

**ZEKE:** Yep. Guess it must.

**LULU:** Maybe we ought to answer it.

**ZEKE:** *(After thinking it over for a moment.)* Maybe we ought.

**LULU:** You.

**ZEKE:** You.

**LULU:** I'm settin'.

**ZEKE:** Yep, so ya be. *(Drops hammer and goes Up Right to open the door. Outside stand Renee, Junior, and Dawn Gardner.)* howdy.

**RENEE:** Er- good afternoon, young man.

**ZEKE:** *(Stares at them for a moment. Then turns back to Lulu Mae, his mouth sagging open.)* Thar strangers . . . an' they're wearin' shoes!

**LULU:** Honest? *(She rises and scurries up to peer out from behind Zeke. He too is shyly peering out from behind the door.)*

**RENEE:** Young man, we seem to be lost. Where is Route 82?

**ZEKE:** Huh?

**JUNIOR:** Let me try, Mother. Boy, we got off the road to Skunkview Junction. How do we get there?

**ZEKE:** *(Brightly.)* Skunkview Junction!

**JUNIOR:** *(Hopefully.)* Yes.

**ZEKE:** I dunno.

**DAWN:** *(Happily.)* We're lost! We're lost!

**RENEE:** Hush, Dawn! Are there any motels around here?

**ZEKE:** Huh?

**JUNIOR:** Motels, hotels, boarding houses . . . ? Any place we could get an evening meal and stay for the night?

**LULU:** *(Nudging Zeke; she has been eyeing Junior.)* They kin stay hyar!

**ZEKE:** Huh?

**RENEE:** No, thank you, my dear. Surely there must be some place-

**LULU:** *(Coming from behind Zeke.)* I ain't never heerd of none. An' hit'll soon be gittin' dark. These dirt roads ain't good for them shiny new automobiles in day, an' at night- Wal, you'd be better off with a mule.

**RENEE:** *(Moaning.)* Oh, why did we ever come to this place?

**JUNIOR:** Mother, it was your idea.

**ZEKE:** *(Stepping back.)* Come on in an' take a load off yer feet fer a spell.

**RENEE:** *(Doubtfully stepping into the foom.)* Well . . . thank you.

**DAWN:** *(Dashing in to roam about the room, inspecting everything.)* Hey, I like it here! It's dirty!

**RENEE:** *(Left center, looking about.)* Dawn!

**LULU:** *(Moving left.)* Excuse me while I clean up my toenails. Wouldn't want them runnin' through the soles of yer shoes inter yer foot. *(Lulu Mae gets a broom off Left, reentering immediately and crosses to sweep toenails under the bed. She also throws the scissors under the bed. Zeke returns to his work up left. Junior follows him to watch.)*

**LULU:** Ya might as well stay. Tomorrow we kin git Hiram Oberholtzer t' show ya the way to Skunkview Junction. He's been thar. I ain't never gone thet fur.

**RENEE:** How far is it?

**LULU:** Umm- mebbe fifteen miles.

**RENEE:** Oh. *(Gingerly she sits at the table.)* Er- I'm Mrs. Renee Gardner. This is my son, Malcomb Everett Gardner, Junior, and our darling little Dawn.

**LULU:** *(Leaning on the broom, down right.)* Howdy. I'm Lulu Mae an' thet's Zeke.

**DAWN:** I'm gonna jump on the bed!

**RENEE:** Dawn! Don't! You'll break the springs! *(Dawn runs and jumps onto the couch, landing with a thud.)*

**DAWN:** *(Rubbing herself.)* What springs?

**LULU:** *(Moving center.)* Hey, Mawwww! Company fer supper!

**MAW:** *(Off left.)* Okay. I'll put more water in the soup!

**RENEE:** *(Startled.)* You're sure your mother won't mind?

**LULU:** *(moving right to sit on the couch.)* Naw. She likes company.

**JUNIOR:** *(To Zeke.)* What are you doing?

**ZEKE:** Buildin' a tellyvision.

**JUNIOR:** Wonderful! You're very clever with your hands. *(Moving down.)* Mother, maybe we ought to ask around here tomorrow . We're not sure that what we're looking for is in Skunkview Junction.

**RENEE:** Since it's the biggest town on the map, I'm sure that's the place to begin our search.

**LULU:** What cha lookin' fer?

**RENEE:** You wouldn't understand, dear. *(Dawn has gone up to door, up right.)* Dawn, what re you doing?

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**DAWN:** Just looking out. Hey! I see some kids! *(Dawn dashes out Up right.)*

**RENEE:** Dawn! Comback here! Dawn!

**LULU:** She's jest gone out t' play with my brother an' sisters, Miz Gardner. Reckon she can't git inter much out thar . . . 'ceptin' the pig pen, of course.

**RENEE:** Oh, dear. *(Paw enters, up right, still looking at the floor. With shoulders slumping he starts toward the door, Left.)*

**LULU:** *(Rising.)* Paw! We got company. This is Mrs. Gardner and her *(Romantic sigh.)* son. *(Paw merely looks at them, groans, and exits Left. They stare after him, surprised.)*

**JUNIOR:** *(Leaning on the back of his mother's chair.)* What's the matter with him?

**LULU:** *(Shrugging.)* He's unhappy.

**RENEE:** Why?

**LULU:** Wal, ya see, our family wuz havin' a feud with another family down by Polecat Creek. We won.

**JUNIOR:** Why should that make him unhappy?

**LULU:** *(Moving in to them, warming up to her tale.)*

They wuz all shot but Old Pappy an' he jest up an' died. So now the feud's over 'cause thar ain't nobody left to kill. Thet's why he's unhappy.

**RENEE:** *(Laughing, as does Junior.)* Oh, really, my dear! What a sense of humor!

**JUNIOR:** I'll bet you give that story to all the tourists.

**RENEE:** *(Still laughing.)* It's almost as funny as that Florida Indian who told us he had scalped six white men! Imagine!

**JUNIOR:** Okay, now, Miss-

**LULU:** *(Turning her back to them and moving right.)* Capfield. Lulu Mae Capfield.

**JUNIOR:** Miss Capfield, why is your "Paw" really unhappy?

**LULU:** *(Turning.)* I jest told you-

**MAW:** *(Off left.)* Hey, Lulu Mae! Hyar's somethin' fer the company t' munch on!

**LULU:** Okay, Maw! *(Lulu crosses to the Left, taking the broom off with her. Junior moves right to sit on the couch. Lulu Mae reenters a moment later, at Left, with a large box of dry dog food.)*

**LULU:** *(Coming to center to offer it to them.)* Have some.

**RENEE:** No, thank you! That's-

**JUNIOR:** Dog food!

**LULU:** *(Taking something to eat from the box and offering some to Zeke who accepts.)* Shore. Good fer the teeth. It's right crunchy.

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