

**Mud Lake School  
Mud Lake  
presents**

**“What Friends Are For”**

**Cast of Characters:**

**Kearston Dyson ..... Maria  
Laura Chaulk..... Jennifer  
Ashley Best..... Jessica  
Stephanie Best..... Julie  
Kyle Heard.....George, Radio Announcer**

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**Teacher Advisor: Bill Cooper**

**Close friends discover that winning the lottery is no bed of roses. Friendship is more valuable than an over abundance of money.**

## Scene 1

*Three mothers are seated at kitchen table, playing cards.*

**Jennifer:** I'm sorry girls, but I still miss George....

**Maria:** Now Jennifer, he got up and left you and little Julie....when was it?....over six months ago and...

**Jessica:** AND! - your George hasn't sent one dollar to you. Has he phoned his daughter? - no? -Not even once?.

**Maria:** Jennifer, some men are worth forgetting.

**Jennifer:** But I can't... I just wish...maybe it was my fault...I keep dreaming he'll come home, that he was hurt, got amnesia or something, that he will be changed, everything better.....OK, OK!! I know yer right. Its just so hard. Its bad enough I'm all alone with a child, but with the factory cut back and being stuck way out here without a truck....

**Maria:** Yeah, and whose got your truck?

**Jennifer:** ....I have to depend on you guys all the time - aren't you just sick of me having nothing?

**Jessica:** You just listen to yourself now Jennifer - and who was it took over the running of my house with six kids and a new born infant when I was laid up in hospital for three months - now we all knows that my Matt was like to have poisoned them all if it had not been for you. *(All laugh)*.

**Jennifer:** I remember...all your kids at the table and Matt at the stove with a pot of rolled oats and he says to me "Jennifer, how do you know when its boiled?" *(All laugh)*. .... Gosh, I wish I could win the lottery or something. *(stares off into space)* Just imagine...what do you guys think you'd do if you won?

**Jessica:** Well, I'd probably...like...umm..go shopping!*(laughs)*

**Jennifer:** Maria?

**Maria:** Go fish.

**Jennifer and Jessica:** What!?

**Jennifer:** Hello! We're talking serious stuff here...like winning the lottery.

**Maria:** So sorry girls but I was thinking of something more important...like how to beat you at this

game. I mean, get real, what are the chances of winning a lottery?

**Jessica:** Ya she's right - last week I read in the Labradorian that one ticket gives you one chance in nine million, three hundred and sixty-two thousand, four hundred and ten.

**Jennifer and Maria:** You made that up!

**Jessica:** Never! - sure you all know how smart I am. ( they all giggle "Oh ya , Right etc.") Seriously, I only made up the tens part.

**Maria:** Ha, ha, ha - but its true enough, the chances are toooo slim....

**Jessica:** Stop fretting Jennifer. You and Julie have a roof over your heads, food to eat....

**Maria:** And you have us - no matter what, we will always look out for one another.

**Jessica:** True, true.

**Jennifer:** Thanks girls - and you know you guys can count on me. Its just that little Julie misses her dad - though he was never much of a father to her - and well....well, I guess, we really are better off with him gone.

**Jessica:** We've always been good friends.

*Enter Julie, stage right.*

**Julie:** Hi Mommy, hi everybody Here are your drinks and the ticket.

**Jennifer:** Thanks love. Why don't you come and sit with Mommy and help her beat your wicked old aunts at cards.

**Julie:** Did you know that they are not really my aunts? You are my aunts - in - law. That's what teacher taught us. And you are not wicked, but very, very nice.

**Maria:** Right you are Julie. And we are not old either!!

*(Look over cards and play)*

**Jennifer:** Oh my gosh. What time is it? (Looks at watch) Oh, quick, quick! Turn on the radio.

*(Julie goes to set and turns it on.)*

**Radio:** The first two numbers for tonight's draw are.....six and nine....sixty-nine.

**Jennifer:** Good start. (*Holds up ticket*).

**Radio:** Two and seven.....twenty-seven.

**Jennifer:** Oh, oh - wow, like that's ten dollars. (*Laughs nervously*).

**Radio:** Five and two. That's fifty-two.

**Jennifer:** Yes! Yes! Yes! - Oh Lordy . I must have won something, what...a few hundred, a thousand.

**Radio:** And the last set of numbers for tonight's draw....for three million and six hundred thousand dollars... the numbers are....four and three.... forty- three.

**Jennifer:** (*Holds hand to mouth*) Can't be true....

**Julie:** What's wrong Mommy?

**Jennifer:** (*laying ticket on table*) Check it.

**Jessica and Marie:** (*scanning ticket*) Yes, Yes....five..two... four and three.... yes, YES!!! We won !!

**Jennifer:** (*Taking ticket off table and putting it in her pocket, she puts her arm around Julie*) Come on Hon, we have to go...I won?

**Jessica:** Wait, wait. You can't go ...we have to talk, plan....

**Maria:** Ya! And party!!

**Julie:** I don't want to go yet Mommy. What happened? Why is everyone so happy?

**Jennifer:** No, no, sorry we have to go now. I've got to track down your Daddy.

**Julie:** Daddy! My Daddy is coming home! Oh boy.

*Exit Jennifer and Julie.*

**Jessica:** Please... please ..wait Jennifer...

**Maria:** We won!

**Jessica:** I'm not so sure.

## SCENE 2

*(Several months later. The living room of Jennifer's new home, under construction).*

**George:** Well, what do you think of the new house that I'm building for you?

**Jennifer:** *(Looking around her)* I don't know.....its so big George. Can we really get it finished for Christmas and for under six hundred thousand?

**George:** Yup - and I'm cutting some really good deals here - like the work crew are all drinking buddies of mine. Jennifer, you have nothing to worry about. By the time our little angel is in high school we will be worth twenty million.

*Enter Julie.*

**Julie:** Hi Daddy. You were gone away again - I really missed you.

**George:** I missed you too, sweetie. Daddy was away on a business trip to make us some more money. Why don't you go upstairs and try to find your new room.

**Julie:** I don't want too. I want to stay here with you. We never get to have fun.

**George:** Ya, ya. You go on now and your Dad will be up in a minute and I will show you what a lovely room you are going to have.

**Julie:** You promise.

**George:** Ya, ya - I promise. You run along now.*( Julie exits.)* Now listen Jennifer honey. I got a great idea. When I was down in Las Vegas last week I had a really big deal cooking, see, but I only had a hundred thousand dollars on me and so it all feel through. Now what I need is total access to all our money so I can have complete freedom to make it grow.

**Jennifer:** George, we need to talk.

**George:** *( aside)* Oh, oh!

**Jennifer:** You need to spend more time with Julie. She needs a father, and you are away so much...just where have you been on all those trips? George, we have one million gone and the house is only half done...

**George:** I told you Jennifer, that money is not gone. Its invested. So how about my idea, sweet heart. I am your husband and it don't look right for a man to be asking his wife for a measly hundred thousand every week. I promise I'll spend more time with Julie.

**Jennifer:** (*wring her hands*). I don't know George...But you know I'd do just about anything for you. Let me talk it over with Maria and Jessica....

**George:** (*angrily*) Now you listen to me woman. Them two are no friends of ours. They are just after our money. What did they do for you when...when I was ..you know, away?

**Jennifer:** They did what they could...and just where were you George, all that time... what did YOU do for us?

**George:** I told you sweet-pea. - I was all fooled up in my head. I had to go and find work some where to make lots of money for you and ...and then....my Mom got sick..

**Jennifer:** Oh? That's the first I heard of that. How is she?

**George:** Oh, she's all better now ....but...but then see, I caught it off her and I was some sick. I got right delirious like, you know sort of dizzy all the time...what's that word?

**Jennifer:** Delirious? Sometimes that's how you make me feel. Listen George, your Mom called last month and she was wondering where you been....

**George:** Come on, come on , we got to go. I'm a busy man.

**Jennifer:** Aren't you forgetting something.

**George:** No...what? Come on will ya.

**Jennifer:** Your daughter. Julie - we have to go.

**Julie:** (*off stage*) But why? - Dad said he'd help plan my new room .....

### SCENE 3

*Several months later. Jessica and Maria sit in the former's kitchen, drinking tea.*

**Jessica:** (*Holding up cup*) You know what this is?

**Maria:** Yeah? A cup of tea, maybe?

**Jessica:** It's all that I have left of Jennifer's millions. A thousand dollars doesn't go far. After I bought a few things for the kids I got this cup for myself.

**Maria:** Count yourself lucky. Know what I did with it? Paid off a few bills and then was going to get my hair done. But no...guess what I did with my last hundred dollars?

**Jessica:** You didn't?!

**Maria:** Yep - I bought lottery tickets. Won nothing. I'm some disgusted.

**Jessica:** I wish Jennifer were a bit more generous with us.

**Maria:** Ya. How many thousands are there in three and a half million anyway. Gosh, she only gave away two of them.

**Jessica:** Three thousand and five hundred.

**Maria:** What?

**Jessica:** There are three thousand, five hundred one thousand dollar bills in that lottery. I learned that in grade six math.

**Maria:** My gosh, you really are smart. So out of all those thousands she only gave us two of them.

**Jessica:** She seems really confused. Says we have to wait until she gets settled. But she hardly ever visits us and my Sarah misses Julie. Its that thing she had for George. She is really crazy about him.

**Maria:** You got that right. That George won't let my kids play with Julie anymore. We're not good enough. You know all those business trips he's making - I think they are party trips.

*Knock on door.*

**Jessica:** (*goes and answers it*) Jennifer! Come in you stranger you. Maria is here.

**Jennifer:** Hi you guys. Sorry I haven't been around, but being rich is kind of hectic. That didn't sound right. What I mean is...I miss you guys and having all that money isn't as much fun as I thought.

*(Jessica and Maria both stare at one another).*

**Jessica:** Well, I got an idea for some fun. How about you drive Maria and me out to Lab City and we hit Wal-Mart...

**Maria:** Ya, lets hit Wal-mart like a tornado!

**Jennifer:** Ya, well that's what I want to talk to you guys about. My life has been such a

whirlwind...I really wanted to come and talk to you earlier, but George would get really upset...he really doesn't like you two....anyway, I handed all the money over to George a few months ago, he's been away for three weeks and I don't have enough cash left for Tim Horton's.*(Covers face and wails)*.

**Jessica:** You let George at all that money.....?

**Maria:** That's the same as giving a dog ten pounds of hamburger...

**Jennifer:** My George is not a dog.

**Jessica:** No, you can trust a dog...That husband of yours is something worse...

**Jennifer:** *(Face in hands, on table)* Oh no, no, I'm sorry, so sorry. He doesn't love me, he doesn't even like Julie, he just likes wasting stuff, like three million dollars....that night we won, I should have shared it with you two....but I didn't, I went looking for George...that rat.

**Jessica:** *(Going with Maria to Jennifer, and rubbing back)* Sounds like it cost you three million to get him out of your system.

**Maria:** Worth every cent.

#### SCENE 4

*George, Jennifer and Julie are in the new house.*

**Jennifer:** Well George, you are finally home, the house is finally finished and I am finally fed up.

**George:** Where's all the furniture and stuff?

**Jennifer:** All that stuff, George, is gone back to the store, all taken by the repo men - see George, I couldn't pay for it.

**George:** Ah Jennifer, always going on about the money...listen I had a bit of bad luck....

**Jennifer:** *(Taking George by the shoulders, shouting)* Do we have any money left?!

**George:** No.*(Hangs head)*.

**Jennifer:** So, you and your buddies drank and gambled over three million dollars in less than a year?

**George:** So what do you want me to do about it?

**Jennifer:** I want you to get a job George, something simple like raking people's yards, washing windows on real high buildings or scrubbing pig pens. If you make ten dollars an hour and give it all to me and you never eat, do you know how long it would take to repay me George?

**George:** I don't know - long time I guess.

**Jennifer:** Jessica worked it out - she's a real whiz at math - that would be one hundred and sixty-eight years of hard labour George. You better get started....

**George:** *(Aside)* I think I better move back to Mom's.

**Jennifer:** You know what you are George? - an ass.

**George:** *(Suddenly angry)* Hey, you can't call me that. That's a bad word. You said a bad word in front of our little angel.

**Julie:** Sorry Mommy, but I am deeply shocked.

**Jennifer:** *(Picking up dictionary from floor, passes it to Julie.)* Look it up.

**Julie:** *(Reading from dictionary).* Oh gee Daddy, Mommy was right. The dictionary says that an ass is "A stupid, stubborn animal related to donkeys: a stupid person."

**George:** But I'm not stubborn.

## SCENE 5

*Several weeks later. The three mothers are playing cards and drinking tea in Jessica's kitchen.*

**Jennifer:** Well, that's all over, I am totally free of George.

**Maria:** But what about Julie?

**Jennifer:** She, unlike her mother and father, is a smart girl. Having George dropping in now and then and making all sorts of promises he wouldn't keep was worse than having him gone. They took all his trucks and toys, and now he's living in Corner Brook with his poor mother- I don't think she wanted him.*(All laugh).*

**Jessica:** So now we are all broke.

**Jennifer:** Not quite.

**Jessica and Maria:** What?

**Jennifer:** Listen girls - I treated you real bad when I won that lottery - all the greedy thoughts and my obsession with George. I didn't see that true friendship is more valuable than money. I've got a plan. A man from the Tourist Department was out to see me. You see, I still own that big empty house on the hill. The government said they would help us turn it into a resort hotel. You and me, equal partners, I've already put your names on the deed, so now its our hotel, not mine. You in?

**Jessica and Maria:** Yes, yes, we're in. (*Jumping up and down excitedly*).

**Julie:** (*entering from stage right*) What's all the excitement about?

**Jennifer:** Oh Julie, your just in time. We are all partners and friends now, we are going to be working and playing together, right here at home. And I have one more little surprise. (*Holds up a sock*). I found this in the back of George's closet when I was clearing out for the repo men. He must have stashed it away one night when he was drunk and forgot about it. (*She swings it over her head*).

**Maria:** Yuck, I hope its clean. It's just an old sock.

**Julie:** But there is something in it.

**Jessica:** It's money?

**Jennifer:** Yup. Fifty.

**Maria:** Fifty dollars?

**Jennifer:** Nope.

**Julie:** Mommy is it hundreds?

**Jennifer:** Nope.

**Jessica:** Oh no - Its not is it? Is it, is it - thousands?

**Jennifer:** Yup. Fifty thousand bucks! Everybody, lets go shopping!