

attic antics

by

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CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Georgie	16/20	Cool, confident, bossy, A troublemaker but not that clever.
Cindy	16/20	Nerdy, shy, easily lead and a bundle of nerves.
Lenny	20's	Simple, slow, easily distracted. The sidekick.
Henry	20's	Brains of the outfit, but not too smart.
Maxie	20's	The real brains of the outfit, smart and quick witted.
Head	40/60's	Wiley, clever, wise and get there in the end.
Wittering	30/70's	Clueless, naive, and gullible.
Matt/Katie	16/20	Boy dressed as a schoolgirl. Put upon son of Mr Bungle.
Mr Bungle	40/50	Nasty brother of Head.

THE SET IS A STANDARD BOX SET WITH ONE DOOR BACK STAGE CENTRE AND A WINDOW MIDDLE STAGE LEFT WITH CURTAINS. BEHIND THE DOOR TRY TO MAKE OUT THAT STAIRS LEAD UP TO THIS. YOU MUST USE SPECIAL EFFECTS FOR STAIRS UNLESS YOU CAN PUT THEM IN.

ACT 1

THE SET IS AN OLD SCHOOL LOFT WHICH HASN'T BEEN USED IN YEARS. IT HAS AN OLD BED AND TWO WARDROBES (MUST BE ABLE TO FIT TWO PEOPLE IN), AN OLD CHAIR, A WICKER BASKET AND BOXES OF RUBBISH AND OTHER BITS.

2 GIRLS ENTER. THEY ARE SIXTH FORM GIRLS MAJORING IN DECEIPT AND CORRUPTION. GEORGIE IS THE BRAINS OF THE OUTFIT WITH CINDY AS THE FAITHFUL SIDEKICK. THEY ARE CARRYING A BAG OF GOODIES CONFISCATED FROM THE FIRST FORM. THEY CLOSE THE DOOR AND TURN THE LIGHT ON.

Georgie Well here it is. Welcome to Georgie's new operations centre. What do you think?

Cindy (*WALKS AROUND A BIT SHEEPISH*) It's cold, dingy, eerie, and very (*COUGHS*) dusty.

Georgie (*SHE CREEPS UP ON CINDY AND PUTS A HAND ON HER SHOULDER*) ...and creepy.

Cindy (*SCREAMS*) Georgie don't do that, you know I scare easily.

Georgie Stop being a wimp. Look, this is a great. No one's going find this place unless you scream again, and by the looks of it; and this place hasn't been used in years.

Cindy Well it does have potential. We could clean and tidy the place up, sweep the floors add some floor cushions and a nice curtain, a big duvet on the bed. Oh, it'll be great.

Georgie I wasn't going to decorate the place; it is just supposed to be a place to hide things.

Cindy We could use it as our common room sneak up a TV and CD player chill out at the weekend.

Georgie Whoa! Slow down! I've only just found it and you've already turned it into a play den.

Cindy Sorry! I just got a bit carried away.

Georgie As you do. Look we can sort this out in the morning.

Cindy All right. Anyway, how did you find out about this place?

Georgie I was in the Heads office helping her with her enquiries into the disappearance of the first forms tuck (*SHAKES BAG*) when old Wittering came in and needed to talk to her privately. Stupidly they left me in the office with specifics to not leave until she came back. So being the good girl I am I stayed there and had a little snoop around. Some of the draws in her desk were open so I had a little delve and found this. (*HOLDS UP KEY*) on a bunch called attic keys. So, I've borrowed one and hid the bunch at the back of a draw full of junk.

Cindy So how come you didn't keep all the keys, then no-one could get in.

Georgie Because.... because...

Cindy Then it would raise suspicion if anyone did want to come up here.

Georgie Exactly.

Cindy And they would have to break the door down.

Georgie That's why I've put them back.

Cindy Clever stuff.

Georgie But as no-one's going to come up here it doesn't matter.

Cindy But what if they do, I would if I were the Head!

Georgie Only if she found the keys.

Cindy And that's why you've hidden them.

Georgie And anyway what are they going to find if they do come up here, just a load of old junk...

Cindy ...and a bag of sweets.

Georgie Not if we hide them divvy.

Cindy Oh yeah. *(PUTS THE BAG IN ONE OF THE WARDROBES)*

Georgie Come on let's get back to our dorm before old Bungle finds us

Cindy Oh this is soo cool. *(BOTH GIRLS EXIT) (DOOR IS CLOSED AND LOCKED)*

THERE'S A NOISE AT THE WINDOW. IT STARTS TO OPEN AND LENNIE CRAWLS HALF IN.

Lenny Come on Henry give us a leg up. *(FALLS INTO THE ROOM) Ta (PICKS HIMSELF UP GOES TO THE WINDOW)*

Henry *(OFF)* Give us a hand then.

Lenny *(STARTS TO PULL HENRY IN. AS HE'S IN YOU HEAR THE CRASH OF THE LADDER)* Oh no! We've lost the ladder now.

Henry I told you we should've got a longer one.

Lenny Do you know how much they cost?

Henry Who said buy it? There are plenty of houses we could've borrowed it from.

Lenny Wouldn't that be a bit suspicious. "Hi there, can I borrow your long ladder so I can burgle the school up the road."

Henry Not borrow as in borrowed for the day but borrow as in nick it.

Lenny Why didn't you say?

Henry I did!

Lenny No you didn't you said borrow not nick.

Henry What! Oh, it's just a saying. Don't worry it too late now.

Lenny But what are we going to do now.

Henry How about the door stupid.

Lenny Oh yeah! (*GOES OVER AND TRIES THE DOOR*) It's locked. Now what are we going to do!

Henry We wait for Maxie.

Lenny Right! (*PAUSE*) How long's she going to be?

Henry (*LOOKS AT HIS WATCH*) About now. (*DOOR STARTS TO UNLOCK*)

Lenny Quick hide

Henry What for? It's only Maxie.

Lenny How do you know.

Henry Because she said no-one ever comes up here. That's why she told us to get the ladder so we could hide in here. (*MAXIE ENTERS*)

Maxie Keep the noise down boys, there's people trying to sleep you don't want them coming up here.

Henry I thought you said no-one comes up here.

Maxie And we want to keep it that way.

Henry How did you find the keys.

Maxie I had a little rummage in Ms Bungles draws. (*LENNY SNIGGERS*) Ha very funny! I found a set of keys marked attic. I've borrowed one and hide the rest at the back of the draw and covered them.

Henry Clever stuff.

Maxie Right what have you done with the ladder?

Lenny Well Henry lost the ladder by kicking it away from the window.

Henry It was too short so we couldn't have got out.

Maxie Don't worry about that. You can leave by the back door once the job's done.

Henry Right have you got the details.

Maxie You don't think I've spent 6 months being nurse maid to these brats for the fun of it. Of course, I've got the details!

Lenny Right lets go.

Maxie Hold your horses. We can't just rob the place and run. They'd know it was me; I may as well turn myself in.

Henry So what's the plan.

Maxie I will have to make sure Ms Bungle sees me go to bed. So, wait half an hour and then go to her office and raid the safe. Then leave by the back door.

Lenny Where's her study.

Maxie I'm coming to that. Just follow the stairs down to the ground floor then turn left and it's the second door on the right.

Henry Got it. Down the stairs turn left second door on the right.

Lenny What about keys to the door and safe.

Maxie Here's the keys to the door but the safe has a combination lock.

Henry I hope you've got the numbers as we've no jelly to blow it. (*LENNY GIVES HENRY A BAFFLED LOOK*)

Maxie Of course I have. I hid in her office to try and find it, but the stupid women went over to the safe and said the numbers out loud, so I memorised them.

Henry Did you write them down.

Maxie Why should I when I've got a photographic memory.

Lenny To help us, as we haven't. Let me get a piece of paper. (*LENNY LOOKS AROUND AND FIND A PIECE OF PAPER. HE DOES NOTICE THE WAX SEAL WHICH IS SHOWN TO THE AUDIENCE AND STARTS TO WRITE ON THE BACK OF IT*) Ok numbers please!

Maxie 45 to the left, 25 to the right, 18 to the left, 11 to the right and 51 to the left.

Lenny (*READS PAPER*) 45 left, 25 right, 18 left, 11 right, 51 left.

Henry (*RUBS HANDS*) Right

Maxie No left

Lenny Right

Maxie NO left

Lenny/Henry We know.

Maxie Right!

Lenny No left

Maxie No I mean right I'm off. I'll leave the door unlocked but wait awhile so I can get to my room. (*EXITS*)

Lenny Piece of cake. We'll be home by 2 just in time for a late-night movie.

Henry Late night movie! I'll be tucked up in bed fast asleep.

Lenny (*STARTS LOOKING AROUND*) Here I wonder what's up here! Could be worth a look!

Henry Give over it's just an old attic full of junk.

Lenny Well look what we've got here (*FINDS GEORGIES BAG OF SWEETS*) That's funny it looks like they had the same sweets in the old days as we have today.

Henry Don't eat anything it could be mouldy.

Lenny (*OPENS A BAR OF CHOCOLATE*) I wonder if they taste the same.

Henry Your sick you are. They must be so out of date they probably haven't even got out of date, dates on them.

Lenny (*TAKES A BITE*) Tastes all right to me. Want some. Here perhaps they used natural preservatives.

Henry Yeah right. Come on let's go Maxie's had enough time to get to her room. (*WALKS OVER TO THE DOOR. NOISED ARE HEARD OUTSIDE*) Oh crap!

Lenny (*STARTS TO PANIC*) What are we going to do?

Henry Hide! You donut (*AFTER FOOLING AROUND BOTH HIDE IN WARDROBE*)

DOOR OPENS AND ENTER MISS BUNGLE THE HEAD AND MISS WITHERING

Head That's funny I thought I heard noises and what with the door being open I think we'll have a little look round.

Wittering Its probably birds in the rafters and as you said no-one's ever come up here, so it was never locked in the first place.

Head (*PAUSES*) I suppose you're right. But I'm still worried about Georgie and Cindy. They went missing before bedtime and I know they are definitely up to something.

Wittering Yes I agree, but we never seem to catch them until it's too late. We'll need to devise a way to catch them.

Head I'm going to leave this to you this time as I've enough on my plate.

Wittering Is something the matter. Ms Bungle.

Head It's my brother you see. When my father died, he left me Willow Hall in his Will so that the Willow School for girls would have a roof over its head and not be sold.

Wittering What's your brother got to do with Willow Hall.

Head I'm afraid he's back on the scene after another one of his failed business ventures. This time he has come up with a scheme to sell Willow Hall to a supermarket chain and set up a scuba diving centre in Jamaica.

Wittering I thought the Will left everything to you.

Head It does but the Will has vanished, and the solicitors have said if it's not produced by 6pm the day after tomorrow a new Will which has mysteriously turn up will be valid and leave it all to my brother.

Wittering Why wasn't this sorted out after your father died.

Head My brother wasn't around when father died. They never got on and said he didn't want anything to do with him or this run-down old ruin.

Wittering But now he's broke, and the land is a commodity he wants it all.

Head Exactly.

Wittering But how did he find out?

Head He's always used the family solicitor to get him out of trouble and they must have told him about the Will, and it not being read, as it was missing.

Wittering So he's produced a fake one.

Head Yes! The real one has a wax seal on it.

Wittering Have you any idea where it is.

Head No! That's why I've come up here to look around as this is the last place to look. I found these keys at the back of the draw and thought maybe it could be up here.

Wittering Splendid, perhaps we could get the girls to look.

Head I know Willow School for girls is a well-respected establishment and teaches young girls to be young ladies, but I wouldn't trust them as far as I could throw them.

Wittering Oh!

Head Come on Ms Wittering do you think if Georgie found out about this will she'd hand it over. I don't think so. The less said about the Will the better. (*NOISES HEARD*) What was that?

Wittering It sounds like someone's walking around the corridors. Probably Georgie and Cindy.

Head Quick let's get them before they get to their dorm. (*BOTH EXIT AND DOOR IS HEARD LOCKING*)

LENNY AND HENRY EXIT THE WARDROBES

Lenny That was close. Here I thought no-one came up here,

Henry So did I. Come on let's get out of here. (*GOES TO DOOR AND FIND IT LOCKED*) Oh great! It's locked.

Lenny (*PANICS*) What are we going to do.

Henry Bang goes your late-night movie.

Lenny It's all Maxie's fault. (*NOISE OF STEPS AND THE DOOR STARTS TO UNLOCK*)

Henry Great here we go again. Hide (*BOTH HIDE IN THE WARDROBES AGAIN*)

ENTER MR WITTERING AND A RATHER LARGE GIRL

Matt How did you manage to get in here.

Mr Bungle I've still got Dads old keys and the attic keys have always been at the back of his draw.

Matt But why have you dragged me up here at this time of night.

Mr Bungle So no-one can catch us.

Matt I don't care anymore! I'm fed up with this now.

Mr Bungle Look it won't be for too long now just a couple more days.

Matt Dad I'm sick of playing hide and seek and dressing up (*PULLS OFF WIG*)

Mr Bungle Put that back on we don't want anyone finding out.

Matt No until I've had a good scratch. (*OVER DOES SCRATCHING HIS HEAD*) That's better.

Mr Bungle (*STARTS TO SCRATCH*) Now you've got me at it. Come on tell me the news.

Matt Well the good news is she still can't find the will. The bad news is I need a shave as the girls are getting suspicious,

Mr Bungle Son, I need you to stay here until the Will's read and make sure the real Will isn't found.

Matt But the girls are starting to bully me, and they're calling me names.

Mr Bungle Give over a big girl like you. Surely you can stand up for yourself.

Matt You don't know what these girls are like. And it's not as though I could fight them as I'm twice there size.

Mr Bungle Its only names.

Matt (*LOOKS HURT*) I do have feelings you.

Mr Bungle Oh shut up, your big girl's blouse.

Matt How would you feel, if you were called Ape Woman, or Yeti's sister or baboon bum.

Mr Bungle Is a baboon's bum hairy.

Matt What! I don't know! but they say it behind my back most of the time just in ear shot and then they smile.

Mr Bungle (*SARCASTICALLY*) What nasty little creatures.

Matt Yes they are (*STILL SENSATIVE*)

Mr Bungle Look this will all be a distant memory when we're sunning ourselves in Jamaica. Teaching all those lovely ladies scuba diving and snorkelling,

Matt Well if you put it like that I suppose I can survive two more days.

Mr Bungle That's my boy. Put you wig back on and let's go.

Matt OK I'll keep you posted. (*BOTH EXIT AND YOU HERE THE DOOR BEING LOCKED*)

LENNY AND HENRY COME OUT OF THE WARDROBES AGAIN

Henry (*RUBS HIS HANDS*) Well what do you think of that.

Lenny I'd say that bloke has the ugliest daughter in the world and no wonder he's keeping her at the school so no-one can look at her.

Henry Aye! Didn't you hear him talk about the Will?

Lenny Will, What will.

Henry The Will that they are all looking for.

Lenny I think that bloke needs to look for a plastics surgeon first for his ugly daughter.

Henry That was his son.

Lenny Son! Flipping hell, it's even worse. What's he doing dressed as a girl and going to a girl's school.

Henry He's disguised as a girl to look for the Will.

Lenny How did you find that out?

Henry Didn't you listen to anything that was said!

Lenny It's very dark in that wardrobe.

Henry What's that got to do with listening to conversation.

Lenny It's very hard listening when you can't see.

Henry What! Look if we can find this Will, we can make a killing.

Lenny No Henry let's just do the safe and go.

Henry I'll think about it when we've done the safe. (*GOES TO THE DOOR*) It's locked again.

Lenny Maxie I'll get you for this.

Henry Come on it's no good moaning let's get some kip.

Lenny But there's only one bed.

Henry (*JUMPS ON BED*) There's a nice floor to sleep on. (*BOTH FIGHT UNTIL LENNY FALLS OFF THE BED AND FINDS OLD BLANKET TO SLEEP ON*)

Lenny Henry, Turn the light out.

Henry Yeah right. (*TURNS OVER PULLS COVER OVER AND LENNY TURNS OFF LIGHT*)

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

LENNY AND HENRY WAKE UP. LENNY ON THE BED AND HENRY ON THE FLOOR LOOKING PUZZLED.

Henry Lenny quick! Try the door.

Lenny What's the point. (*TRIES THE DOOR*) It's still locked. How long are we going to be here?

Henry Not long. Maxie will be here soon.

Lenny What if she thinks we've done the job and left. We'll be stuck here forever.

Henry Of course we won't. If Ms Bungle finds out she's been burgled she'd get Maxie to ring the police. But when she doesn't tell Maxie, Maxie will realize we haven't done the job and come up here and let us out.

Lenny But what if she gets Ms Wittering to phone the police instead then Maxie won't know.

Henry What? She won't do that because we didn't do the job!

Lenny So how will Maxie know?

Henry Oh shut up. She'll figure it out.

Lenny How long's that going to be.

Henry About 10 minutes.

Lenny Really!

Henry No. She'll come up when she comes up.

Lenny I hope it's soon I'm starving. Have you got any food?

Henry NO! Anyway, what happened to the bag of sweets you found?

Lenny Oh those! Eh... I had an early morning snack. (*PICKS UP EMPTY BAG FULL OF WRAPPERS*)

Henry Early morning! How early?

Lenny I don't know I haven't got a watch.

Henry And you didn't think to save some for later.

Lenny We...ll you know what it's like once you pop you can't stop!

Henry But you didn't have any Pringles.

Lenny Mores the pity! They would've been nice.

Henry Yeah! Nice to share.

Lenny Well I didn't share cos we didn't have any.

Henry But you could've shared the sweets you greedy pig. (*GRABS THE BAG FINDS A CHOCOLATE RAISIN AND EATS IT*) Right while we wait for Maxie, let's look for this Will.

Lenny Or we could climb out the window.

Henry Err! What with? No ladder.

Lenny You are thick sometimes. We can tie these sheets together and climb down. (*WHILE LENNY TIES SOME SHEETS TOGETHER HENRY GOES TO THE WINDOW AND OPENS CURTAIN AND CLOSES THEM QUICKLY*)

Henry Change of plan.

Lenny What now.

Henry There's a window cleaner outside the window.

Lenny Oh right. (*GOES OVER TO WINDOW*) Alright mate can we use your ladder to get out of here.

Henry (*PANICS AND RUNS OVER TO WINDOW. THE WINDOW IS OBSCURED SO AUDIENCE CANT SEE ANYONE OR YOU CAN HAVE STAGEHAND WITH RAG LOOKING AT LENNY AND HENRY*) Hi structural engineers looking at the err... structure. Old door got stuck can't get out. Wondered if you could let us down. When you've finished that is. (*STEPS ARE HEARD AND KEYS GOES INTO LOCK*) Never mind bye (*CLOSES CURTAIN*)

Lenny What do we do.

Henry Hide, you donut! (*BOTH HIDE*) (*ENTER GEORGIE AND CINDY*)

Georgie Quick come in I've something to tell you, but you must keep it a secret.

Cindy (*WORRIED LOOK*) It's not going to get us into trouble is it?

Georgie You're not going to go all wimpy on me are you?

Cindy You know I start to get faint when you're up to something.

Georgie Oh I won't bother then.

Cindy No please we are best friends. (*QUICKLY*) But I don't want to get involved.

Georgie It's pointless telling you if you don't get involved.

Cindy Oh all right, I know I'm going to regret this, but best friends stick together, and you've always been there for me even though it's always you that gets us into trouble.

Georgie Yes, yes! Do you want me to tell you?

Cindy Sorry!

Georgie Well I overheard Ms Bungle talking to her brother.

Cindy I didn't know she had a brother.

Georgie She has, now shush, and listen.

Cindy Sorry!

Georgie They *(PAUSES AND LOOKS AT CINDY)* were arguing over the Will and who owns Willow Hall. Ms Bungle was saying that her brother would never get away with the fake Will and he said he would as the old Will is lost. So, unless she finds the old Will his Will will be read at 6pm tomorrow. He laughed and walked out.

Cindy So what's that got to do with us.

Georgie Don't you see, if we find the original Will we can sell it to the highest bidder.

Cindy Isn't that illegal.

Georgie Of course not. It's just like a private auction. Two people bidding for something they desperately want.

Cindy As soon as Ms Bungle knows it's us, she'll take the Will and expel us.

Georgie This is the clever bit! We will do it by phone and disguise our voice.

Cindy You've really thought this one out.

Georgie Right down to cash only and leaving it in a safe place.

Cindy So why do you need me.

Georgie You're my accomplice you always need an accomplice for back up plans.

Cindy Ohh... I'm not sure, *(PANICS)* I feel sick, I think I'm going to faint.

Georgie Pull yourself together. I'll do the phoning; you just look for the Will.

Cindy Where do we look?

Georgie It must be here as old Bungles looked everywhere else. Come on start looking. *(THEY BOTH START TO LOOK AND GO OVER TO THE WARDROBES WHEN THE BELL GOES)*

Cindy Come on Georgie that's first lesson we don't want to be late.