

**Sly, Mrs. Dilbur**

MRS. DILBUR AND CHRISTOPHER SLY MEET EACH OTHER. EACH CARRIES A LARGE BURDEN; SHE HAS A VERY LARGE COVERED BASKET, AND HE HAS A VERY LARGE BUNDLE.)

SLY: Mrs. Dilbur! As I live and breathe!

DILBUR: Merry Christmas, Mr. Sly!

SLY: Thank you. The same to you, me dear.

DILBUR: (POINTS TO HIS BUNDLE.) What have you got there?

SLY: (INNOCENTLY.) Where?

DILBUR: There. In yer bundle. What is it?

SLY: Oh, that! Well, I'll tell you, Mrs. Dilbur, this here bundle is full of amazing things. Absolutely amazing!

DILBUR: What? What?

SLY: (LOOKS AROUND CAREFULLY.) Oh, a few odds 'n ends. Like a few bottles of Christmas cheer —

DILBUR: No!

SLY: Right! Fer me and me friends —just me favorite friends, mind you — to share.

DILBUR: (COYLY.) Oh?

SLY: And what might you have in yer basket, Mrs. Dilbur?

DILBUR: Now wouldn't you like to know?

SLY: You can tell me now! Ain't we the best of friends?

DILBUR: Well, since you put it that way — (LOOKS AROUND CAUTIOUSLY, THEN SPEAKS CAREFULLY.) — I've got a dozen apples —

SLY: No!

DILBUR: —A cake —

SLY: No!

DILBUR: — topped with sticks of cinnamon and sugared almonds!

SLY: No!

DILBUR: (PULLS HIM CLOSER.) And that's not all, mind you — I got a whole and entire cooked Christmas goose!

SLY- I don't believe it!

DILBUR: (SMUGLY.) Well, it's true.

SLY: (TAKES OFF ONE OF HIS HATS SINCE HE WEARS SEVERAL AS A WAY OF SELLING HIS WARES.) Mrs. Dilbur, I take me hat off to you. (BOWS TO HER.) You are a woman of rare and charming enterprise. By the way, where did you get all that stuff?

DILBUR: (SMUGLY, COYLY.) That's fer me to know, and fer you to find out.

SLY: (AS A LAST RESORT.) Well, you didn't pay fer it, did you?

DILBUR: (INSULTED.) Of course not! What d'ye take me for? I'm not so stupid that I've got to pay fer everything I want.

SLY: (REMOVES ANOTHER HAT, BOWS AGAIN.) Forgive me, Mrs. Dilbur. You are indeed a woman of rare talent!

DILBUR: (FLATTERED.) Thank you, Mr. Sly. I'm sure you could have done as well yourself— given the opportunity.

SLY: I don't know about that, Mrs. Dilbur. Your talent is quite amazing! Again — I take me hat off to you! (TAKES OFF YET ANOTHER HAT.)

THEY GO OFF TOGETHER ARM IN ARM