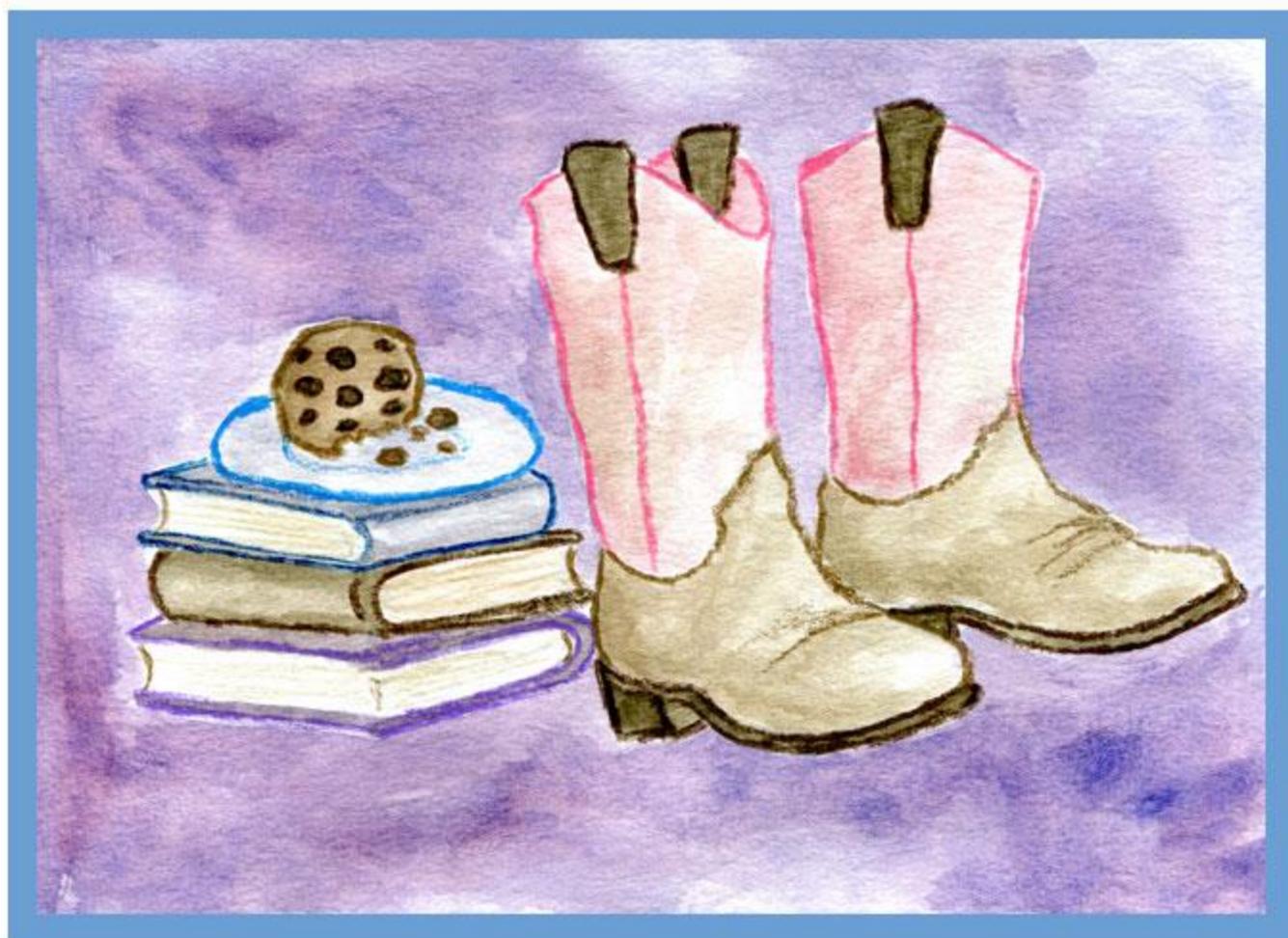


COWGIRL COOKIE AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING CHOCOLATE CHIPS



BY ALEXI ALFIERI

COWGIRL COOKIE AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING CHOCOLATE CHIPS

THE FIRST COWGIRL COOKIE WESTERN MELODRAMA IN THE TRILOGY

WRITTEN BY ALEXI ALFIERI

CAST

LARGE ROLES

NARRATOR (M/F)	<i>Confused and frustrated narrator for the audience</i>
MIZ SNAPPY (F)	<i>Constantly commenting member of the Granny Gallery</i>
MIZ STICKY (F)	<i>Constantly commenting member of the Granny Gallery</i>
MIZ CHEWY (F)	<i>Constantly commenting member of the Granny Gallery</i>
COWGIRL COOKIE (F)	<i>Heroine and mystery solver of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
SNICKERDOODLE (F)	<i>Cowgirl Cookie's friendly sidekick</i>

MEDIUM ROLES

SHERIFF NUTTER BUTTER (M)	<i>Law of town, clueless</i>
SHORTBREAD (M)	<i>Son of Sheriff Nutter Butter, in love with Cowgirl Cookie</i>
GRANDMA SUGAR (F)	<i>Loud, sassy grandmother to Cookie Girl Family</i>
GREASY (M)	<i>Leader of the Mustache Gang</i>

SMALL ROLES

OATMEAL RAISIN (F)	<i>Smarty-pants of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
GINGERSNAP (F)	<i>Diva of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
MOLASSES SPICE (F)	<i>Tomboy of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
MACAROON MERINGUE (F)	<i>Daydreamer of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
PEANUT (F)	<i>Mischievous twin of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
BUTTER (F)	<i>Mischievous twin of the Cookie Girl Family</i>
MUSHY (M/F)	<i>Clueless member of the Mustache Gang</i>
CRUMMY (M/F)	<i>Clueless member of the Mustache Gang</i>
SOGGY (M/F)	<i>Clueless member of the Mustache Gang</i>
YUCKY (M/F)	<i>Clueless member of the Mustache Gang</i>
BURNT (M/F)	<i>Newest member of the Mustache Gang</i>
MISS BUTTERSCOTCH (F)	<i>Town Librarian</i>
CHOCOLATE (M/F)	<i>Melodrama sign holder</i>

SYNOPSIS

Cowgirl Cookie and the Case of the Missing Chocolate Chips is an old-fashioned Western melodrama set in the Wild West. It tells the story of Cowgirl Cookie who loves to read, has a sidekick named Snickerdoodle, and is dying to solve a real mystery. Lucky for her, one comes along when her Grandma Sugar can't find one chocolate chip in town to make her prize-winnin', blue ribbon chocolate chip cookies for the town's cookie contest. Unfortunately, Cowgirl Cookie's six sisters (Oatmeal Raisin, Gingersnap, Molasses Spice, Macaroon Meringue, Peanut, and Butter) know about the chocolate chip crisis but aren't much help. Meanwhile, Sheriff Nutter Butter and his son, Shortbread, are searching for the members of the notorious Mustache Gang (Greasy, Mushy, Crummy, Soggy, Yucky, and Burnt) who just happen to appear right under their noses. Three grannies (Miz Snappy, Miz Sticky, and Miz Chewy) sit side stage and constantly interrupt the narrator with their own comments as well as shameless plugs for the local library, while a sign holder (Chocolate) encourages audience participation throughout the play. In the end, Cowgirl Cookie solves the case of the missing chocolate chips, Grandma Sugar wins the cookie contest, and the town librarian, Miss Butterscotch, makes an appearance to settle accounts.

SETTING

A little town out in the middle of nowhere in the Wild West

CAST

23 performers, but flexible (see Production Notes)

13 Females, 3 Male, and 7 Female or Male

PLAYING TIME

Approximately 45 minutes without an intermission

SCENE 1

GRANNY GALLERY, NARRATOR, COWGIRL COOKIE, AND SNICKERDOODLE

(Miz Snappy, Miz Sticky, and Miz Chewy are all seated in chairs stage left. An easel with a chalkboard is set up just behind them. Miz Snappy is holding a piece of chalk, Miz Sticky is holding a coffee mug and sipping out of it throughout the play, and Miz Chewy is knitting.)

APPLAUSE sign

(Narrator enters stage right.)

NARRATOR: Howdy, folks! Welcome to our little old-fashioned melodrama! I'm your narrator, and the settin' for tonight's show is...

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Interrupts narrator)* Out in the middle of nowhere!

NARRATOR: *(Looks a bit confused at the interruption but turns back to the audience)* Well, I suppose that's true, but we're also back in the time of the wild, wild west...

MIZ STICKY: *(Interrupts narrator)* The good old days, in other words!

NARRATOR: Yes, I suppose you're right about that...in a little town where everybody knew everybody.

MIZ CHEWY: *(Interrupts narrator)* Whether they liked it or not!

NARRATOR: Yes, well, being common folk, everyone in this little town enjoyed life's simple pleasures.

MIZ SNAPPY: A good book!

MIZ STICKY: A strong cup of coffee!

MIZ CHEWY: A comfy pair of britches!

NARRATOR: *(Frowns briefly at the Granny Gallery and then continues)* Folks liked to get together at the coffee shop on Mondays, the quiltin' circle on Tuesdays, the book club on

Wednesdays, the town potluck on Thursdays, and the saloon on Fridays. And everyone's favorite place to be any day of the week was, of course....

MIZ SNAPPY: The library!

NARRATOR: *(Turns to Granny Gallery with hands on hips)* Hey now, that wasn't what I was going to say.

MIZ STICKY: But that's what ya meant to say!

MIZ CHEWY: Yup. The library is *the* place to be!

GRANNY GALLERY: *(In a sing-song manner)* THE LIBRARY'S OPEN 10 to 5 MOST DAYS OF THE WEEK!

(Miz Snappy stands, turns, makes a tally mark on the chalkboard, and sits back down.)

NARRATOR: Pardon me, ladies, but I thought I was gonna be the one narratin' this play.

MIZ SNAPPY: *(Smiling sweetly)* Oh, ya are.

MIZ STICKY: *(Smiling sweetly)* Ya, you're the narrator alright.

MIZ CHEWY: *(Emphatic)* Yup, we didn't want that job.

NARRATOR: Well, then if ya don't mind me asking, who are you three?

MIZ SNAPPY: We're the Granny Gallery, of course! I'm Miz Snappy. *(Gestures to Miz Sticky who raises her coffee mug)* This here's Miz Sticky. *(Gestures to Miz Chewy who gives a casual salute with her knitting needles)* And that there's Miz Chewy.

MIZ STICKY: We weren't plannin' on doin' any of the real heavy liftin' in the narration department. We just want to help ya out here and there.

MIZ CHEWY: Yup, and point out anything ya get wrong.

NARRATOR: *(Confidently)* Well, that's nice of ya, but I probably won't need your help. I thank ya, though, you members of the...*(pauses to remember)*

GRANNY GALLERY: *(Happily)* The Granny Gallery!

NARRATOR: Of course. Well, I'm gonna continue with the introduction. (*Grannies nod their approval.*) Now, in this little town there lived a family by the name of Cookie.

MIZ SNAPPY: (*To the other Grannies*) I always thought that was an awful strange last name, didn't you, girls?

MIZ STICKY: (*Shrugs*) Ya, but it could've been worse.

MIZ CHEWY: Yup. Could've been liver. Or anchovies.

NARRATOR: (*Slightly frustrated*) Anyhoo! Ma and Pa Cookie died tragically in a tractor accident, and Grandma Sugar was left to raise their family full of children.

MIZ SNAPPY: Oh, that just made me so sad. Six girls left without a ma and a pa.

MIZ STICKY: Ya, Grandma Sugar was up for the job, though.

MIZ CHEWY: Yup, she just keeps those girls busy as bees.

NARRATOR: Most days you'll find the Cookie girls sewing or baking or studying or playing or...

MIZ SNAPPY: Spending time at the library!

MIZ STICKY: Except for nights!

MIZ CHEWY: And national holidays!

GRANNY GALLERY: THE LIBRARY'S CLOSED AT NIGHT AND ON NATIONAL HOLIDAYS!

(Miz Snappy stands, turns, makes a tally mark on the chalkboard, and sits back down.)

NARRATOR: (*Shakes head in confusion and then recovers*) Well now, I think it's about time the audience met our heroine: Cowgirl Cookie.

HURRAH sign

(Cowgirl Cookie enters stage right, carrying a tall stack of books, and sets them down on the bench center stage. She turns to the audience, smiles, curtsies, and sits down on the bench. She promptly pulls the first book off the top of the pile and begins to read excitedly.)

NARRATOR: Cowgirl Cookie was the oldest girl of the Cookie Family, and I know what y'all are thinking, but as I understand it, her name was not Cookie Cookie.

MIZ SNAPPY: Nope, it sure wasn't. She was awful stubborn and refused to tell anyone her real first name.

MIZ STICKY: So she told everyone to call her "Cookie"—just one name, plain and simple.

MIZ CHEWY: She said if Beyonce could do it, so could she.

NARRATOR: And like any fine heroine, Cowgirl Cookie had a sidekick, and her name was....
(pauses, trying to remember)

SNICKERDOODLE: *(Loudly from off stage)* Snickerdoodle!

NARRATOR: That's right! Snickerdoodle. And here she is now.

(Snickerdoodle enters stage right, carrying a tall stack of books, and sets them down on the bench beside Cowgirl Cookie who doesn't look up from her reading. Snickerdoodle sits down heavily next to the stack, breathing hard, and waves a tired hand at the audience.)

NARRATOR: Well, now, it looks like those two have been to the library again.

MIZ SNAPPY: No surprise there. That Cowgirl Cookie—she's always down at the library!

MIZ STICKY: Yup, she's always got her nose stuck in a book.

MIZ CHEWY: And she's always checkin' out her limit.

GRANNY GALLERY: THE BOOK CHECK-OUT LIMIT IS 35 AT THE LIBRARY!

(Miz Snappy stands, turns, makes a tally mark on the chalkboard, and sits back down.)

NARRATOR: Well, it looks like Snickerdoodle has caught her breath, so I'll let them start their scene.

(Narrator exits stage left.)

SNICKERDOODLE: Land's sakes, Cookie! You've worn me out again carrying all your library books! I can't believe ya checked out this many. My eyes would fall right out of my head if I tried to read this much!

COWGIRL COOKIE: *(Stands up and talks excitedly)* Well, I can't help it, Snickerdoodle. I just have to know what happens next!

SNICKERDOODLE: Next after what?

COWGIRL COOKIE: After Nancy solves Case #52 "The Secret of the Forbidden City"!

SNICKERDOODLE: You mean to say this Nancy Drew character has solved 52 mysteries so far?

COWGIRL COOKIE: That's right! Fifty-two down, and one hundred twenty-three more to go! I finished reading all the Harry Potter books, the Goosebumps collection, the Hunger Games series, and the Hardy Boys. Nancy was next!

SNICKERDOODLE: *(Shakes head)* Well, whatever churns your butter. I just can't imagine the library fines you're rackin' up with Miss Butterscotch.

GRANNY GALLERY: BOOK FINES ARE 10 CENTS A DAY AT THE LIBRARY!

(Miz Snappy stands, turns, makes a tally mark on the chalkboard, and sits back down.)

COWGIRL COOKIE: *(Stage whispers to Snickerdoodle)* Ya, well, just between you, me, and the fencepost, I know a lil' something about our librarian Miss Butterscotch. She's got a real sweet tooth. Turns out I can pay my fines with brownies.

SNICKERDOODLE: Ya don't say!

COWGIRL COOKIE: Ya, but ya need to keep that under your hat. Just like how ya promised to never tell anyone my real first name.

SNICKERDOODLE: *(Indignant)* Of course! I'm a sidekick, not a snitch!

COWGIRL COOKIE: Good! *(Sits down on one end of the bench next to the stack of books and props her head up on her palm, disappointed.)* And here's another secret. I've been readin' all these mystery stories, and I haven't gotten to solve one in real life.

SNICKERDOODLE: Sure ya have!

COWGIRL COOKIE: Nah. I know what you're thinking, but finding Miss Petunia doesn't count.

SNICKERDOODLE: Sure it does! She disappeared, didn't she? Wasn't your Grandma Sugar about to file a missing person's report with the Sheriff?

COWGIRL COOKIE: Ya, but it wasn't a real mystery. I just found her in one of her favorite spots--under my bed.

SNICKERDOODLE: Exactly, Cookie! Ya put the clues together, acted on a hunch, and ya solved the mystery!

COWGIRL COOKIE: *(Brightening)* You're right, Snickerdoodle! Miss Petunia is a most precious member of our family. We would've been devastated to have lost her! Even if she is a chicken!

SNICKERDOODLE: That's right! So, Cookie, ya solved your *Case #1: (in a dramatic voice)* The Desperate Disappearance of Miss Petunia. And now, you just gotta be on the lookout for *Case #2!*

COWGIRL COOKIE: Yup! And then *(swings a cowgirl hat onto her head)* it'll be Cowgirl Cookie to the rescue!

HURRAH! sign

SNICKERDOODLE: You've been reading those Louis L'Amour westerns, too, haven't you?

COWGIRL COOKIE: Yup!

SNICKERDOODLE: *(Shakes her head)* Land's sakes, Cookie. That's four shelves worth.

COWGIRL COOKIE: Well, for now...*(pulls the top book off her stack while Snickerdoodle stands up from the bench, picks up her stack of books, and exits stage left)*...I need to finish #53 "The Strange Message in the Parchment," and #54 "The "Mystery of Crocodile Island," and *(looks up to realize Snickerdoodle has exited)*...hey, Snickerdoodle? Aren't sidekicks supposed to wait for the heroines?! *(Exits stage left with stack of books.)*

APPLAUSE sign

To Be Continued...this is a 10-page sample of the playscript