

THE PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU
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CHRISTMAS READINGS
HENRY IS SO HELPFUL!

(This monologue suggests a young wife packing Christmas gifts for her husband's people while he endeavors to help her by doing the supper dishes. At one side have a screen suggesting the entrance to the kitchen. In the center of the platform have a confusion, representing the packing of gifts - a box, papers, ribbons, some presents wrapped and others unwrapped. Peggy is costumed in a pretty housedress and may wear a fancy apron. In the course of the interruptions she drops her work, rises, quickly disappears a moment behind the screen and returns at once, resuming her work of packing the box. The "crash" indicated is made by striking broken dishes with a hammer.)

Peggy - (cheerfully, as she seats herself) All right, Henry, you do the supper dishes and I'll pack this box for your folks! There aren't many dishes and it won't take you long, honey! We MUST get this box off! (Aside as she begins to wrap) I DO hope Henry's folks will be pleased with their presents. You DO have to watch your step when it comes to in-laws.

What dear? The dishpan? Under the sink, Henry, where we always have it! Of course it's there! All right, I'll come and find it! (Rises and shortly returns) Right where I said it was! (Continues wrapping) Dishmop? Henry dear, I got that out for you when I got out the dishpan! Yes, I did! Well, look some more! All right, ALL RIGHT. I'll find it! (leaves and returns as before) Now what do you think? (To audience) Exactly where I left it for him! Soap? Henry, my own, the soap is right over the sink! Yes, it ALWAYS is there! Well, use soap powder then! Sure it is, I opened a new one this morning! No, you can't wash with the violet soap from the bathroom! I'll find the soap for you. (Leaves and returns as before) Now I trust that man of mine is all set. Dishpan, dishmop, soap, and I laid out the towels for him. What is it now, Henry? You gave the milk in the little bottle to the cat? That happened to be cream, and I hope your old tomcat liked it! We'll have MILK on our oatmeal for breakfast. Dishtowels? I laid them out for you all ready. Yes, Henry, I did! Look in the drawer and get some more then! No, you will NOT use the hand towel! There's a dozen in the drawer at least. O I'll find them! (Action as before.) Now I MUST get this box packed! (Works rapidly) Now this is mother's luncheon set, and I hope she likes it! (Places gift in box) Scarf for Nelly, and book for Bob. What is it, Henry? I can't come now unless it's important! I MUST come quick? (Action as before) Now WHAT do you suppose he wanted? (To audience) "The cat looked so cute licking the cream off its whiskers!" And the cute cat had its cream out of a hand-painted olive dish!

Well, I HOPE I can get this packed in peace now! (Works rapidly) No, Henry, I DON'T leave creamed potatoes in the saucepan all night! Good housekeepers don't do that way! Put them in a bowl and wash the saucepan. Leave the dishes out? No, dear they belong in the cupboard. I'll have this box done in a minute and we'll drive down town with it! (A crash is heard) That sounds like ALL my dishes! Henry is SO helpful! (Quickly leaves platform)