



Jennie Entertains Sister's Beau

By Walter Ben Hare

Good evening! No, my sister isn't ready yet. Yes, I'm her little sister. I'm almost six, but I'm real tall for my age. My sister's twenty-three, but she tells folks she's eighteen 'cause she thinks that's such a sweet age. Hey, do you know what a "sweet age" means? Maybe it's when somebody really, really likes sweets! If that's what it means, I guess six is a sweet age, too, 'cause I love candy! Yep! I'm in love with candy!! But you know what? I don't even have as much of it as my sister does, because she has lots of boyfriends who give it to her. I'm going to have lots of boyfriends when I get big. Hey, the last candy you gave my sister, she gave most all of it to me and my brother – 'cause it wasn't any good. Oh, I don't know what was the matter with it. My sister just said it was too cheap for her, or something like that. She likes things that cost lots of money! She drives my mommy crazy asking for money, and daddy gets mad at her and tells her it's time she got a husband to s'p'ort her.

I guess my sis will have an awful mise'r'ble time tonight. Oh, yes, she wants to go with you, all right, but she's going to wear some new shoes that hurt her feet something awful! Daddy says she has no business wearing sevens when she needs tens, but she loves to have her feet look little. If she wiggles her feet around you have to pretend you don't notice. I'm warning you! Once when she had on some new shoes that just killed her, she wiggled her feet so much that Harry Jones asked her if she had fungus on her feet, and she was so mad at him!! Her face turned beat red, and she swore she'd never date him again! I think she was extra mad because it was true, and she didn't want anyone to know it!

Oh, um....no! I don't think she'll be ready for quite a long time. She has to put white stuff out of a bottle on her face, and it takes her forever to get her hair right! You should see all the stuff she puts in her hair! Gels and foams, and conditioners and sprays! Then, after she's done putting that stuff in, she blows it, and steams it, and irons it and curls it! I get tired just watching her!

Hey, mister, you aren't a fish are you? No, you don't look like one, but my brother, Joe, told my sister that maybe if she used the right kind of bait and plenty of it, she could catch you! I wonder what he meant?

I think she'll be down pretty soon now. She likes to get there sort of late so people will look at her come in with her nice clothes and shoes, and whichever boyfriend she's with.

You know what? The other day, mommy got mad at daddy and said if man was a worm, woman was the early bird that caught him, and if that's so, I guess my sister won't ever catch you! She just HATES to get up early! I think it's because she looks so awful in the morning. Daddy says she looks like "death warmed over."

Oh, here she comes now! I'm really glad I met you. You seem real good even if you aren't very nice looking. Don't you tell my sister anything I told you! Oh, there she is! Gotta go! Bye!!