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**GEE GIRLS, G-MEN**

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# Gee Girls, G-Men

A roaring '20s flapper comedy

By Craig Sodaro



Meriwether Publishing Ltd.  
**Contemporary Drama Service**  
PO Box 7710 • Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7710

# **Gee Girls, G-Men**

**A roaring '20s flapper comedy**

**By Craig Sodaro**

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(15F, 10M, 1 F or M, extras as desired)

**BETTY**

A customer at the Boardwalk Book Shoppe. (F)

**JUNE**

Another customer at the Boardwalk Book Shoppe. (F)

**MRS. SMYTHE**

A wealthy customer. (F)

**JIMBO SMYTHE**

Her ne'er-do-well son. (M)

**FOUR FINGERS FREDDY**

Bartender at the Boardwalk. (M)

**SURE SHOT SUE**

(a.k.a. Mabel Brown) A gangster gal out for revenge. (F)

**PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY**

(a.k.a. Ginny Sawyer) Her partner. (F)

**LUCKY LOUIE**

Don of the North Side. (M)

**HOT SHOT HARRY**

A small-time hood. (M)

**TWINKLE TOES TESS**

Louie's moll. (F)

**J. EDGAR LOOVER**

Head of the new FBI. (M)

**ELLIOT MESS**

A new FBI agent. (M)

**MISS HOLLY**

FBI secretary. (F)

PICKPOCKET  
Nonspeaking role (F or M)

FRENCHIE  
A flapper at the speakeasy. (F)

ROUNDUP  
A cowgirl customer. (F)

CUTIE  
Another flapper. (F)

TOOTIE  
Another. (F)

NORMA  
Another. (F)

HERMIONE BATT  
A reformer. (F)

HARRIET BATT  
Her sister, another reformer. (F)

ALBUQUERQUE AL  
A gangster from where else but Albuquerque. (M)

PEE WEE PETE  
His right-hand man. (M)

DIRTY DAN  
A gangster and owner of a rival speakeasy.

SQUIRRELY SHIRL  
Dan's moll. (F)

CREEPY CAL  
A thug. (M)

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### Setting:

Most of the play takes place at the Boardwalk Book Shoppe located in a large city. This isn't any old bookshop, however. It's 1925, and the Boardwalk is a speakeasy. Entrances are Downstage Left and Right, with one entrance Upstage Center behind a small counter. Behind the counter are shelves on which we see books. Pictures of famous authors decorate the walls, along with ads for a few current bestsellers. There are no windows, but several café-style tables sit here and there with chairs around them. Each table has a thick stack of books in the center. These books, however, are hollow and hold glasses of moonshine if there's a raid. Behind the books on the shelves behind the counter are bottles of sarsaparilla and root beer.

Two additional set elements are required and can be set Downstage Right and Downstage Left if the stage is large enough, or they can be played in front of the curtain. The first is the FBI office, which consists of a small desk with a phone on it, a chair for J. Edgar Hoover, and a chair for Miss Holly. If desired, an FBI crest or insignia can be placed behind the desk or on the front of the desk. The second is a bus stop with a small bench and a sign that says "Bus Stop." For Act II, Scene One, the bench can be removed and a street sign or lamp brought in identifying this as the corner of Thirty-Third Street and Third Avenue.

### Scenes:

#### ACT I

Scene One — The Boardwalk Book Shoppe, one evening.

Scene Two — FBI Headquarters, J. Edgar Hoover's office, the following morning.

Scene Three — A bus stop, later that day.

Scene Four — The Boardwalk Book Shoppe, that evening.

Scene Five — The bus stop, the following morning.

ACT II

Scene One — The corner of Thirty-Third and Third, that night.

Scene Two — The Boardwalk Book Shoppe, an hour later.

**Props:**

Books (Boardwalk Book Shoppe)

Bottles (Boardwalk Book Shoppe)

Envelope (Hot Shot Harry)

Full shopping bags (TWINKLE TOES TESS)

Old candlestick (FBI Office)

Phone (FBI Office)

Drinking glass (MISS HOLLY)

Large rolled-up map (MISS HOLLY)

Paper (ELLIOT MESS)

Purses (SURE SHOT SUE and PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY)

Two hatchets (HARRIET BATT and HERMIONE BATT)

Newspapers (ELLIOT MESS)

Stationery (MISS HOLLY)

Small pad and pencil (MISS HOLLY)

Deed (SURE SHOT SUE)

Box (PEE WEE PETE)

Letter (SURE SHOT SUE)

Card (SURE SHOT SUE)

Wallet (FRENCHIE)

Tommy guns (DIRTY DAN, SQUIRRELY SHIRLY,

    CREEPY CAL, HARRIET BATT, and HERMIONE BATT)

Lipstick (NORMA)

**Sound Effects:**

'20s music

Truck driving up and stopping

Car doors opening and closing

Truck starting and driving away

Loud clunk

### **Synopsis:**

Sure Shot Sue hopes to avenge her gangster brother (cast off to the frozen wastes of Skagway) by finding Lucky Louie, the man who sent her brother north. It doesn't take long for Sue and gal pal Pistol Packin' Patty to find Louie running the Boardwalk Book Shoppe, a.k.a. the Boardwalk Speakeasy, where sarsaparilla and root beer flow freely.

But they're not the only ones looking to do Louie in. New FBI director J. Edgar Hoover has assigned his only agent, Elliot Mess, to clean up the North Side where Louie operates. Unfortunately when the naïve Mess stumbles into the Boardwalk, he thinks it's just a bookshop. And why shouldn't he? A sweet girl he's just met at a bus stop works there. What he doesn't realize is that she's really Sue, who together with Patty, gets a job as a waitress so she can keep an eye on Louie and figure out the perfect time to take over his operation.

When Sue and Patty overhear Louie and his right hand man Four Fingers Freddy planning to steal some goods bound for Dirty Dan's South Side Speakeasy, the girls see their golden opportunity. They beat Louie's men to the corner of Thirty-Third and Third and trick Albuquerque Al into turning over the goods to them. Their plan to take over Louie's operation and control the whole North Side looks like it's in the bag.

But even though Elliot's on the side of the law, he's a thief. He's stolen Sue's heart, and when he shows up at the Boardwalk, she drops her plans to take over Louie's operation. Instead she foils Dirty Dan, Albuquerque Al, and Lucky Louie by turning them all over to the FBI.



ACT I  
Scene One

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*(The Boardwalk Book Shoppe located in a large city. At rise, BETTY and JUNE sit at a table left. JIMBO SMYTHE and MRS. SMYTHE sit at a table left. They are nursing their drinks. EXTRA CUSTOMERS may sit here and there.)*

BETTY: The Boardwalk's pretty quiet tonight, don't ya think, June?

JUNE: Yeah ... usually it's the cat's meow.

BETTY: Tonight it's a kitten's snore.

MRS. SMYTHE: Jimbo.

JIMBO SMYTHE: What?

MRS. SMYTHE: My glass is empty.

JIMBO SMYTHE: So?

MRS. SMYTHE: Any well-mannered son would fetch his mother another refreshment.

JIMBO SMYTHE: Yeah, well, your son ain't well-mannered.

MRS. SMYTHE: I'm asking nicely, Jimbo.

JIMBO SMYTHE: You got legs.

MRS. SMYTHE: *(With force)* Get me a drink or I'll cut off your trust fund at the knees, Jimbo.

JIMBO SMYTHE: *(Sweetly)* All you have to do is ask, Mother. *(JIMBO SMYTHE moves to BETTY and JUNE. To BETTY)* Say, are you a library book? 'Cause I'm checkin' you out.

BETTY: Oh, brother. You got "overdue" stamped on your forehead, bozo. Scram!

JIMBO SMYTHE: You don't know what you're missin'.

BETTY: I'll take my chances. *(JIMBO SMYTHE saunters to the counter.)*

JUNE: Betty, are you crazy?

BETTY: That guy's a real flat tire.

JUNE: With a five-million-dollar trust fund.

BETTY: No lie?

JUNE: No lie!

BETTY: *(Rising, moving to JIMBO SMYTHE)* Say, fella ... I just renewed you for a couple of weeks.

JIMBO SMYTHE: Oh, yeah? Well, maybe I'm not interested no more. I ain't much of a reader.

BETTY: I ain't much of a book.

JIMBO SMYTHE: *(Calling center)* Hey, where is everybody? We need a volume or two out here. *(FOUR FINGERS FREDDY enters center.)*

FOUR FINGERS FREDDY: No need to shout. All you gotta do is ask.

1 JIMBO SMYTHE: Three sarsaparillas (*Pronounced sass-puh-RILL-*  
2 *uh*) ... one for the old lady there.

3 FOUR FINGERS FREDDY: Your mother?

4 JIMBO SMYTHE: Right. And two for those petunias right over  
5 there.

6 FOUR FINGERS FREDDY: Comin' right up! (*FOUR FINGERS*  
7 *FREDDY opens books, takes out bottles, and takes off tops.*) Here  
8 are your "books." Happy reading. (*JIMBO SMYTHE takes*  
9 *bottles to BETTY and JUNE.*)

10 BETTY: (*Taking two bottles*) Thanks, Romeo ... or do you have a  
11 real name?

12 JIMBO SMYTHE: Jimbo. Jimbo Smythe.

13 BETTY: C'mon over and see me sometime.

14 JIMBO SMYTHE: Let me just drop this book off for Mumsy, and  
15 I'll be back in a flash. (*BETTY sits with JUNE and carries on*  
16 *an animated conversation. JIMBO SMYTHE places bottle before*  
17 *MRS. SMYTHE.*) Any other last requests?

18 MRS. SMYTHE: Sit down, Jimbo.

19 JIMBO SMYTHE: I thought I might socialize a bit.

20 MRS. SMYTHE: Not with those two.

21 JIMBO SMYTHE: There's nobody else here tonight. I told you  
22 we should have gone to Dirty Dan's.

23 MRS. SMYTHE: Dirty Dan's doesn't have atmosphere.

24 JIMBO SMYTHE: But they got Albuquerque Al's sarsaparilla,  
25 and that's a whole lot better than this rot gut.

26 MRS. SMYTHE: It's not my fault that Prohibition passed and we  
27 have to sneak into speakeasies just to wet our whistles.

28 JIMBO SMYTHE: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So I'm gonna make the best  
29 of a bad situation. (*JIMBO SMYTHE rises and moves to*  
30 *BETTY.*)

31 MRS. SMYTHE: Sit down, Jimbo.

32 JIMBO SMYTHE: Why?

33 MRS. SMYTHE: She's just after your money.

34 JIMBO SMYTHE: So? I got enough to share.

35 MRS. SMYTHE: Not if you go over there.

36 JIMBO SMYTHE: Anybody ever tell you you're a killjoy? (*JIMBO*  
37 *SMYTHE sits as SURE SHOT SUE and PISTOL PACKIN'*  
38 *PATTY enter right dressed in classic flapper style. They stand*  
39 *Downstage Right.*)

40 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Not much of a joint, Sure Shot.

41 SURE SHOT SUE: Shhhh! I ain't Sure Shot Sue and you ain't  
42 Pistol Packin' Patty. Got it? I'm Mabel. You're Ginny.

43 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Yeah, yeah, yeah. But what makes you  
44 think this place belongs to Lucky Louie?

45 SURE SHOT SUE: Lousy Louie, you mean.

1 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Yeah, OK, so you hate the bum.  
2 SURE SHOT SUE: (*Suddenly teary-eyed*) He took care of my  
3 brother, Ginny. And I'm gonna take care of him!  
4 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Hey, your brother — or Spiffy  
5 Spencer, as all the wanted posters called him — was tryin'  
6 to take over Lucky Louie's operation.  
7 SURE SHOT SUE: So what? You gotta problem with that?  
8 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: No problem, Sure Shot ... I mean,  
9 Mabel. But he was playin' with fire. And when you play  
10 with fire, you might get burned.  
11 SURE SHOT SUE: But there was no cause for Louie to do what  
12 he did to old Spence.  
13 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Yeah, it was pretty abominable.  
14 SURE SHOT SUE: Abominable! Who taught you a word like  
15 that?  
16 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: I figured since we were comin' to the  
17 Boardwalk Book Shoppe with an "e" I oughta sound  
18 "educated."  
19 SURE SHOT SUE: Smart thinkin', cookie. And you're right.  
20 What Louie did to poor Spence was abominable. I still cry  
21 every time I think about it! (*SURE SHOT SUE begins to cry.*)  
22 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Just remember, Spiffy Spence has  
23 gone to a better place.  
24 SURE SHOT SUE: Whaddaya mean, a better place? Louie  
25 shipped him off with a one-way ticket to Skagway! You  
26 know how cold it is there?  
27 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Abominable!  
28 SURE SHOT SUE: Poor Spiffy's probably a snowman by now.  
29 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: An abominable snowman.  
30 SURE SHOT SUE: You can say that again. (*A beat*) But don't!  
31 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: So you still ain't told me how come  
32 this joint?  
33 SURE SHOT SUE: You heard Crusher. He said the last time he  
34 saw Spence was in this joint nursin' a bottle of root beer.  
35 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Root beer! Wow, he went in for the  
36 hard stuff.  
37 SURE SHOT SUE: Somethin' must've gone wrong.  
38 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: You got that right. So what's the plan?  
39 SURE SHOT SUE: Dunno. Let's get a table, keep our eyes and  
40 ears open.  
41 PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY: Sure thing, Sure Shot.  
42 SURE SHOT SUE: And our mouths shut. (*SURE SHOT SUE and*  
43 *PISTOL PACKIN' PATTY select a Downstage table and sit down.*  
44 *JIMBO SMYTHE notices them and rises.*)  
45 MRS. SMYTHE: Sit down, Jimbo.

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