

MEET SUSIE

By Jerry Rabushka

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PROPS

Sound effect of doorbell ringing.

Normal living room furniture, perhaps a couch and some chairs.

CAST: SUSIE, CHAD, MOM, and DAD

SETTING: A normal living room

SUSIE: **(CHAD and SUSIE are walking toward CHAD'S house. SUSIE is annoyed)** Okay, Chad! Leave off! This isn't the Geneva Peace Conference. It's only dinner with your parents.

CHAD: I know, but my folks are very conservative. I don't want you...

SUSIE: If you tell me NOT to say the wrong thing again, you'll arrive at dinner with blood running out your nose.

CHAD: I'm sorry. You're just not the type of girl they're used to, being from the big city.

SUSIE: Oh relax. I haven't lived there in several months. Besides, I'm just a country girl at heart.

CHAD: Here we are.

(mimes ringing doorbell—sound effects are optional)

SUSIE: Relax. I'll be good.

MOM: **(MOM and DAD enter, crossing from opposite side of stage)**
Oh they're here! I can't wait to meet Chad's girlfriend. He's told us so much about her.

DAD: I know. He says he's serious about this girl. I'll bet she's a real firecracker!

MOM: I hope she likes lamb chops. They're my specialty! **(opens door)**
Chad, hello! And you must be Susie!

CHAD: Mom, Dad, I'd like you to meet my girlfriend, Susie. Susie, my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Green.

MOM: He's told us so much about you.

DAD: But he didn't tell us you were so pretty.

SUSIE: Thank you, Mr. Green.

MOM: Well, come in and sit down. Dinner is almost ready. Tell me, what have you two been doing all afternoon?

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CHAD: Oh, same as every afternoon...studying.

SUSIE: Studying? Since when do you study, Chad?

CHAD: Uh...I always study. I studied all afternoon, Susie. Remember?

SUSIE: **(looks confused)** Huh? Oh, I get it. Yeah, guess I studied with him, all right. We learned a lot, too. We studied the works of AC/DC and Arrowsmith, for starters.

DAD: The music groups?

SUSIE: See, Chad? Your parents are 'with it.' They know the good music groups.

MOM: **(pause, MOM and DAD look at each other)** Dear, did you not get a chance to study this afternoon?

CHAD: Of course I...

SUSIE: **(cuts him off)** Don't you mean this semester? Chad, are you still enrolled in college?

MOM: WHAT?

CHAD: Of course I am. Don't be ridiculous.

SUSIE: Well, when you go to class once or twice a month...

CHAD: Susie!

DAD: You're not going to class, son?

CHAD: Sure I am.

SUSIE: He goes...sometimes. It's mostly my fault when he skips. Like last Monday, he was all set to trot off to class, and I'm like "Chad, you are such a bookworm, sweetie. What a beautiful morning. The water would be perfect for sailing." I promised to get him back for his afternoon classes, but he was having such a good time, I couldn't drag him away.

MOM: What about the rest of the week?

CHAD: I went...

SUSIE: **(speaks over him)** He meant to go. Chad always has good intentions. You should be proud of him. Really, you should. But after Monday's fun, he had no will power. He certainly can't say no to ME. What guy can, though? It's a curse, but I live with it.

MOM: **(nervously)** Uh...That's nice, dear.

CHAD: Mom, Dad, I missed a few classes, but I made up for it by hours of hard studying.

DAD: I'm glad of that.

SUSIE: Me too. I was over the other day and he actually cracked a book.

MOM: That's what I like to hear.

SUSIE: He was studying for an exam and I made him take his studies down to the pizza place. I said, "Chad, honey, if you can't study and party simultaneously, you shouldn't be studying." Am I right...or am I right?

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DAD: You're correct...I guess. I hope you did manage to sneak some homework time into all the fun.

CHAD: Of course I did.

SUSIE: You would have loved it, Mr. Green. Your boy was so funny. He used chapter five (*pause for effect*)...as a napkin!

DAD: Really?

CHAD: Dad, that's not how it...

SUSIE: No loss, really. So he rips up a textbook for fun. It's not a flag or the Bible or anything sacred. It's only chapter five.

DAD: I suppose so... (*sternly, toward CHAD*) Son...

SUSIE: Don't worry about the exam. He told me he had a sure way to ace the test.

CHAD: So Mom, Dad, how was your day?

DAD: Son, that's wonderful.

MOM: I can't believe you could make an 'A' with so little effort.

SUSIE: I deserve the credit. I'm helping him.

MOM: Oh?

SUSIE: I located a girl that agreed to let Chad copy her test. She kind of does that to earn extra money.

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