

**READINGS AND
MONOLOGUES
À LA MODE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649030651

Readings and Monologues à la Mode by Walter Ben Hare

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WALTER BEN HARE

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BY
WALTER BEN HARE

AUTHOR OF
*The White Christmas and Other Merry Christmas
Plays,* "And Home Came Ted," "Assisted
by Sadie," "The Gold Bug," etc.



CHICAGO
T. S. DENISON & COMPANY
PUBLISHERS

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Readings and Monologues à la Mode

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S-M-I-L-E

(*An Opening Recitation for a Child or Adult.*)

Good evening, Mrs. Audience,
And Mr. Audience, too;
I hope you're glad to see me,
And will like me 'fore I'm through.
I'm here to bid you welcome,
I'm sure I like your style;
We'll soon become right friendly
If you will only smile.

I'll try to entertain you
With monologue and rhyme—
But if you won't assist me
We'll have a dreadful time.
The world is full of worry,
Let's forget it for a while,
And take a trip to Funland—
So stretch your mouth and smile.

Some speakers talk of trouble,
Of pessimistic creeds,
But just an S-M-I-L-E (*spell*)
Is all the old world needs.
Be gay, enthusiastic,
And cheerful all the while,
Forget your gloom and worries,
And smile, smile, smile!

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And now the ice is broken,
We're friends, that's how it stands,
And if you feel as I do,
You'll tell me with your hands,
 (*Pantomime applause.*)
With song and jest and story,
I shall an hour beguile;
I'll do my best to please you,
If you'll smile, smile, smile!

A BLACK BLUE-GRASS WIDOW

(The selection is in three parts. The first part, "Aunt Dicey Contemplates Matrimony," introduces our heroine, a stout, middle-aged Kentucky house-mammy. The second part, "Here Comes the Bride," is supposed to take place about two months after the first part. And the third part explains itself.)

My lawsy lands, ef it ain't Miss Johnny Bell. Hope you-all is well, Miss Johnny. How's your maw? *(Pause.)* Is she? I shore gwine come ovah one of these days an' see you-all.

Say you saw me down at d' Pos' Office last night? Yas'm, I reckon you did. I'z with old Uncle Amos Peters. Um-uml *(Sound made with closed lips signifying assent.)* Dat old fence-lizard shore is got persuasive ways, he shore is.

Yas'm, ma husban' only been daid two months, dat's a fac'. I'z in ma second mournin' now. First month black, an' second month light complected colors.

Yas'm, Miss Johnny, 'course I 'lowed Uncle Amos Peters to 'scort me down to d' Pos' Office. You see, it's jes' dis-away. Ma husban' only done daid two months,