

# Miss Fit

**NICK:** Really?

*Ladies nod in agreement and Lily enters followed by Fred, Ma Baker and her girls. During the next lines of dialogue chorus members enter.*

**LILY:** Who are these strange people?

**MA BAKER:** Doggone it! Ya can't insult ya audience like that!

**LILY:** No, No! I mean on stage.

**IRMA:** They say, they're the (*purity League*).

**NICK:** And this is their general. Would you believe ..... Miss Fit!

*Ritzy people laugh.*

**MISS FIT:** You won't find it so funny when we close this place down.

**LILY:** (*horrified*) Close it down? You can't do that!

**IRMA:** You've no right!

**MISS FIT:** Oh, yes we have. (*she produces sheet of paper from her handbag*) According to this order, signed by the governor of the state himself, we can close down any questionable establishment. Particularly those where we find liquor!

**LILY:** Then, you'll have to find it first, won't you?

**MISS FIT:** That's easy! (*calls*) Miss Tiddly!

**TIDDLY:** Here I am!

*Tiddly steps forward.*

**MISS FIT:** If anyone has a nose for liquor, it's our Miss Tiddly.

**TIDDLY:** When it comes to smelling .... there's no-one like me!

**MA BAKER:** She ain't stood downwind o' grandpaw!

*Ma Baker and girls laugh.*

**MISS FIT:** She means, she can smell out liquor better than anyone. If it's here, she'll find it! Miss Tiddly, go and sniff it out.

**TIDDLY:** I'm on my way.

*She salutes and exits nose in air sniffing, then points and stops like a gun-dog, then excitedly bounding off.*

**ENID:** Go, get it, Tiddly!

**RITA:** Find that liquor!

**MAUDE:** It's not just the liquor. You have gambling also on these premises.

**NICK:** *(innocently)* Gambling! That's illegal! Ya can't think that we have gambling here.

**MAUDE:** Yes, I do. In fact, I'd lay odds on it!

**NICK:** *(quickly)* How much?

**IRMA:** Nick!

**NICK:** Sorry. There's no gambling here.

**MAUDE:** Really? Then where did this gambling chip come from?

**NICK:** A gambling chip? Is that what they look like?

**FRED:** No, that's not a gambling chip.

**MISS FIT:** Then what is it?

**FRED:** It's a .... it's a ..... a milk token!

**NICK:** Yeah, sure! It's a milk token!

*O'Riley enters with Aggie*

**AGGIE:** Here he is! I managed to get him here - but he didn't want to come.

**MISS FIT:** Yes, it's time you got here, Officer.

**LILY:** That's what I was about to say.

**MISS FIT:** Officer, we want this place officially closed.

**O'RILEY:** *(uncomfortably aware that Lily is looking at him)* Do you have a good reason?

**MA BAKER:** Hell, what's that got to do with anythin'. Git rid o'them, O'Riley.

**MISS FIT:** Officer, we are the *(purity league)* with an order signed by the governor of this state that allows us to close down any place that sells liquor ... or *(glares at Nick)* .... allows gambling.

**LILY:** Tell her you won't do it, O'Riley.

**MISS FIT:** Tell her you will, O'Riley.

**O'RILEY:** Well now, I'm in a wee bit of a quandary here.

**LILY:** I though you were supposed to protect us.

**O'RILEY:** Yes, from extortion by gangsters - this is the government.

**LILY:** So, what's the difference?

**O'RILEY:** This one's legal. *(to Miss Fit)* But you have to actually find drink on these premises.

**MISS FIT:** Don't worry, we will.

**AGGIE:** You're only got to look round this place to see it's sinful.

**FRED:** It is?

**AGGIE:** You girls should be ashamed of yourselves - earing skirts that show your knees ..... and ..... shimmying!

**ALL:** Shimmying!

*Pause.*

**BLOSSOM:** Ma! What in tarnation is shimmying?

**MA BAKER:** Well, ya remember when ya grandpaw had a bath?

**BLOSSOM:** Yeah, I think I remember.

**MA BAKER:** And he got out - and backed onto the dog's cold nose.

**BLOSSOM:** Yeah?

**MA BAKER:** Boy, did he shimmy! Oooops!

*She demonstrates and they all laugh.*

**NICK:** Yeah, that's shimmying all right.

**IRMA:** All this fuss about a little whisky.

**MISS FIT:** It's not just whisky. It's all the things that go with it.

**IRMA:** What sort of things?

**MISS FIT:** It leads to temptation.

**NICK:** Now, Miss Fit, just what would you know about temptation?

**MISS FIT:** I know all about it.

**NICK:** Oh, well, if it's temptation you want.

**SONG 6 .....**

*During song, Nick, O'Riley and Fred dance with an unwilling Miss Fit. At the end of song, Miss Tiddly is heard offstage singing drunkenly.*

**MISS FIT:** What a dreadful noise! Is that your nightclub singer rehearsing?

**FRED:** *(looks offstage)* No, it's your Miss Tiddly ..... burping!

*Miss Tiddly staggers on.*

**MISS FIT:** Miss Tiddly! What are you doing?

*Miss Tiddly attempts a salute.*

**TIDDLY:** At your service. Mission accomplished .... hic!

**MISS FIT:** I take it, you tested it!

**TIDDLY:** I tested it all right ... and it's got my seal of approval!

**MA BAKER:** *(proudly)* What did I tell ya?

**MISS FIT:** Thank you, Miss Tiddly, you've done well. Officer, you have your proof, now you can close this place down. And, just to make sure that it is kept closed, we are going to sit right here. To your places, ladies.

*Ladies sit at the tables erectly. They freeze.  
The following dialogue is straight out to the audience.  
Each actor runs to the front of the acting area and adopts a melodramatic pose at the end of his / her line.*

**LILY:** What are we going to do? How can we open the club while they're sitting there? *(pose / freeze).*

**O'RILEY:** How can I do my job and keep the love of Lily?  
*(he poses, kneeling down and looking up at Lily imploringly).*

**IRMA:** Will Nick have to go to jail for Tax Evasion?  
*(she freezes with one arm out stretched).*