

THE FIFTY-CENT PIECE

NARRATOR: The story is about a couple from New York who are returning home from a trip to New England. They are driving in a horse carriage, and are somewhere near Spiegletown when it starts getting dark and they have to seek shelter for the night.

SCENE 1 (sound of night, wind in the trees, a horse carriage and horses)

WIFE: George, I'm so tired that I can't stay up longer. I want to lie down immediately.

HUSBAND: Can you see that light through the trees? It must be a house. Let's ride our horse quickly there.

WIFE: Yes. Let's do that. The night is as dark as hell! I'm scared.

(Sound of night birds, horse carriage and horses)

NARRATOR: Soon, they reach a little house, and standing at the door, there is an old man and his wife smiling pleasantly.

SCENE 2 (sound of a door creaking, a dog barking)

WIFE: Look at those people at the door. They are dressed in nightclothes. Do you think they can give us a room for the night?

HUSBAND: Let's ask. Good evening! Sorry for disturbing you so late. It seems that you are about to turn in. Do you think we could spend the night here? We are travelling as far as New York but it's already dark.

OLD MAN: We are about to turn in, but

*please, welcome! You look so exhausted.
Our house is not as luxurious as a hotel but
it's cosy.*

SCENE 3 (sound of kitchenware, cups, plates)

*OLD WOMAN: Please, have a cup of hot tea
and some cakes. They are freshly baked.*

*WIFE: Thank you! Really, I haven't tasted
cakes as delicious as these before!*

*HUSBAND: Please, allow me to pay you for
the room and the food you are giving us.*

*OLD MAN: Oh, no! We could never accept
money for a service as small as this! We
consider you as our guests.*

*NARRATOR: The next morning, the travellers
wake up early and get ready to leave the
house quietly.*

SCENE 4 (morning sounds, birds, the wind)

*WIFE: (talking quietly) The bed is so
comfortable that I can't get out of it.*

*HUSBAND: Very few people are as helpful
as this couple. We can't go without leaving
them some money. (Sound of coins) Here, a
fifty-cent coin! I'll put it in the centre of the
kitchen table. They can't miss it.*

*NARRATOR: They get into their carriage and
they go a few miles. They stop for a rest at a
little restaurant in Spiegletown. The husband
talks about the nice old couple to the owner
of the restaurant.*

SCENE 5 (restaurant sounds)

*OWNER: (scared) Where do you say that
house is?*

HUSBAND: On the hill, just outside

Spiegletown.

OWNER: You must be mistaken. That house was on fire ... It... it... killed the Brown family three years ago!

HUSBAND: I don't believe it! Mr. and Mrs. Brown are as alive as you and me.

OWNER: Let's drive back there quickly.

NARRATOR: There they find a burned out shell of a house. It is obvious that nobody can live in that place.

SCENE 6 (spooky music)

HUSBAND: What's that? That place can't be the same! I must have missed the track.

WIFE: (screams) Look! Look on the kitchen table!

NARRATOR: The husband looks into the ruins and there he sees a burnt table with a shiny fifty-cent piece lying in the centre.