

## The Mudds

**Characters:** Vern Mudd  
Ethel Mudd  
Repair Man Henry aka RMH

**Props:**

- Box fan
- Spray bottle of water
- 2 rocking chairs
- Tape player
- Sound effects tape
- Hard hat & magnifying glass for Repair Man Henry

**Setting**     *The Mudd's home. Pictures on wall hanging crocked. Noises in the background of things braking and squeaky floors. Vern and Ethel are in their rocking chairs relaxing. Vern is smoking a pipe and Ethel is peeling apples.*

**Ethel:** Vern...

**Vern:** Yes, Ethel...

**Ethel:** Vern, I've been thinking...

*(pause)*

**Vern:** Thinking about what?

*(loud crash of a plate breaking in background)*

**Ethel:** I'm beginning to think there is somethin' wrong with our house.

**Vern:** Our house is fine, Ethel!

**Ethel:** Well, Vern, the youngins' told me the other day that they ain't been very warm here in our house.

**Vern:** I reckon they need to dress warmer.

**Ethel:** Vern! They're already wearing every piece of clothing they own! And I tell you they look pretty ridiculous with their bathing suits on top of their winter jackets.

**Vern:** Oh...

*(turn fan on in background and blow some things - paper, leaves, napkins - around)*

**Vern:** Yeah, I reckon it is a bit drafty in here.

**Ethel:** Haven't you noticed other strange things happenin' in this house?

**Vern:** What strange things?

**Ethel:** Well, for one thing I cain't stand in the kitchen very long.

**Vern:** So THAT'S why your cookin's been so bad lately.

**Ethel:** No Vern, I mean whenever I stand at the kitchen sink I start sliding down the floor and bang into the frig.

**Vern:** Wow, that must hurt..

**Ethel:** And look at the pictures on the walls. Everything is crooked! Plates are breakin', the floor is creakin', the windows are fallin' out...

***(Spray water from background)***

**Vern:** All right, already! We better give Repair Man Henry a call.

***(in walks Repair Man Henry)***

**Ethel:** Repair Man Henry! We were just talkin' about you.

**Vern:** How did you get in here? I didn't hear a knock on the door.

**RMH:** I knocked but you couldn't hear me because your front door is gone.

**Vern:** Gone!!

**RMH:** Yeah, I think it's laying out in the front yard. It must have come off the hinges.

**Ethel:** Repair Man Henry, I'm so glad yer here. We need you to fix our house—it's fallin' apart around us.

**Vern:** Now Ethel, let's not go overboard. I guess it is about time for a new coat of paint.

**RMH:** I can do that.

**Ethel:** What about the floor?

**Vern:** Repair Man Henry, could you lay some nice thick, pea green, shag carpet for us?

**RMH:** I can do that, too. I LOVE to repair things but I need to take a look around to see what the problem is.

***(Henry looks up and down and all around through his magnifying glass)***

**RMH:** Ya know, I think the problem is here in this outlet.

***(leans over and sticks finger near outlet. Jumps back as if shocked by the current)***

**RMH** WHOA!!! I guess there's nothing wrong with your electricity! Let's look over here. I bet I know... It's the ceiling tiles.

***(tries to jump up and touch the ceiling tiles and falls flat on his back)***

**RMH:** Well, I guess the ceiling tiles must be okay. I just can't figure it out! Guess I better go downstairs and look in yer basement.

***(Repair Man Henry walks off stage for a few seconds and then returns, scratching his head and looking puzzled and worried)***

**RMH:** Well, Mr. and Mrs. Mudd, I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that I can fix just about anything. And...

**Vern:** Well that is GREAT news!

**Ethel:** What's the bad news?

**RMH:** The bad news is that you have a cracked, crumbling and cruddy foundation.

**Vern:** That's no problem, I'll run right out to Walmart and get me one of those and you can put it on with the paint and carpet.

**Ethel:** Great idea, Vern. I always knew you were full of good ideas!

**RMH:** Excuse me, you two. You can't get a foundation at Walmart.

**Vern:** Well, I'll go to Meijer then.

**RMH:** Vern, do you know what a foundation is?

**Vern:** No, but I'm sure the store clerk can get one for me.

**RMH:** Vern, the foundation is the walls in the basement that hold up your house. I say it is cracked, crumbling and cruddy.

**Vern:** What's wrong with super glue? I use it for everything- great product.

**RMH:** Sorry, Vern, the foundation has to be completely rebuilt. The foundation is the most important part of the house. It's the solid, strong base that the house is built on. If it is cracked, crumbling and cruddy, the whole house has problems. I'm afraid the house has to be knocked down and a new foundation laid.

**Ethel:** Oh dear, Vern, it's worse than we thought.

**RMH:** Don't worry, my buddy. Rebuild Man Henry can help you out. I'll send him out here tomorrow. See ya! I'll show myself out.

***(Vern & Ethel sit quietly rocking in their chairs. Pause, silence)***

**Vern:** I guess we don't need any new pea green, shag carpet now.

***(Noises of things breaking and creaking in the background)***