

Two Country Boys, One Spoon
(This play was written in 12 hours for a 24 hour
play jam)

By Travis Barkefelt

Characters:

Bartholomew (Bart) Jacobson: One of our country boys, though the eldest of the two, is a playful and silly thing, loves wrasslin', farmin' and Nascar. Learned to raise a barn a three and build a woodshed at six. Believes he should own the farm because he's more experienced with the dirty work and older. Surprisingly dabbles in accents in foreign language.

Played by: Ben Steffey

Jameson (Jay) Jacobson: Younger but ever so slightly more mature, at the very least took the time to learn proper English. Smart, or at least thinks he is, more bookish than his older brother. Believes he should own the farm because he is more mature and has more experience with the business side of things. Has a weird thing for disco.

Played by: Griffin Sendek

Mildred (Millie) Bovine: A high class city girl. Ended up in the endless farmland after falling asleep on the bus. Love interest of Bart, but absolutely hates the work of country life, yet is surprisingly good with animals.

Played by: Erin Carbone

Gertrude (Gertie) Fields: A shy and quiet city girl, often has trouble expressing her feelings, catches the eye of Jay. Also not used to country life but enjoys a nice garden and has even sold her plants at markets.

Played by Olivia Higgins

Setting: The entire show is set in a field, presumably one on the Jacobson farm. Scattered around the stage are props that enforce this idea such as plants, haybales and cornstalks. In the center of the stage sits a large, coffin sized box with the Big Spoon and a bible resting on top.

(The show opens with Taps, this fades as the lights fade on, as this is happening Bart and Jay are standing around the coffin. Bart has been whistling taps before the music even begins to fade, creating the effect of the somber Taps melding into the unintentionally comical whistled version. The men stand in silence, save for Bart's whistling for a beat or two. Finally, Jay speaks up.)

Jay:

I can't believe Dad is dead.

Bart:

I reckon he's racing Nascar with Jesus now.

Jay:

For once, I agree.

Bart:

With Pa gone...

Jay:

Yes of course, (Jay picks the spoon up from the top of the coffin.) I assume full responsibility of wielding the spoon...

Bart:

What in the world are you doing?

Jay:

Well because I'm clearly smarter and better at keeping this place afloat, the Big Spoon, and therefore the farm, goes to me.

Bart:

But I'm older and tradition states that eldest gets the Big Spoon.

(He quickly grabs the spoon from his brother.)

Jay:

Yeah, by ten minutes!

(Jay grabs the spoon back)

Bart:

The best gosh darned ten minutes of my life, I do say.

Jay:

You may be older, but I've done so much more for this family. I was out learning how to run a business making sure we were able to actually sell our crops and make money to survive!

(Bart takes the spoon from his brother)

Bart:

Yeah, while you were out with your book learning and showering, I was out here in the fields doing the real work. I raised my first barn at three and built a woodshed with Pa at six.

Jay:

With lumber purchased with money that I made for this family! Besides, we've been performing less than average since Mom died and now that Dad's dead too, I don't know what we're going to do. Even with the Spoon.

(Jay attempts to take the spoon back but is denied by his brother holding it up too high for Jay to reach.)

Bart:

Doubter! Doubter! If only Ma and Pa could hear you now! Doubting the spoon! The Big Spoon. The Spoon of our family. Our family's Spoon. Family tradition states that he who wields the Big Spoon is guaranteed a fruitful harvest and financial success.

Jay:

Which means they are entitled to the farm, yeah, I get it. You know what, instead of fighting, let's just calm down and remember what Dad has to say. Dad stipulated in his Will that whoever here gets married first, gets the Big Spoon.

Bart:

Well the only lady around these parts is old lady Lynn and she's a bit old for me, but you do you I guess.

Jay:

She's also our cousin!

Bart:

Twice removed!

(A beat)

Bart:

I'll wrassle you for it.

Jay:

Bart, please! No!

(Bart tackles Jay to the ground, dropping the Spoon in the process, they both land behind the box. A moment or so passes of them fighting, Millie and Gertie enter.)

Millie:

Oh, it seems this community is a bit more inclusive than we thought.

Gertie:

(tries to intervene): Oh, um excuse me...

(Both brothers emerge from behind the box, looking embarrassed. They dust their clothes off, and Jay, who now has the spoon sets it down on the box.)

Jay:

I swear it's not what it looks like!

Bart:

Yeah we're brothers. We was just wrasslin' is all.

(Gertie and Millie both exchange a quick glance)

Jay:

(suddenly, extending his hand for a handshake) Hello, it's uh nice to meet you two. I just wish the circumstances were different. You see our Father recently passed and my brother and I were in the midst of a... friendly dispute.

Bart:

Well howdy. (To Jay, obvious enough for the girls to notice) Uhh Jay may I speak to you... away from the ladies here.

Jay:

We'll just be a minute.

Bart:

Jay you seein' what I am? Not one, but two purdy ladies right here, must be some kind of miracle.

Jay:

Yes, I have eyes, Bart.

Bart:

And they ain't even our cousins.

Jay:

Well I sure hope not.

Millie:

Uh, guys? You good? We fell asleep on our bus and ended up here. You guys are the first people we saw. Well, besides that creepy old lady over there.

Gertie:

(Timidly) Is...is she dead?

Jay:

What? Of course not, haven't you ever seen an old-

Bart:

Uh, Jay?

Jay:

Yes Bart.

(Bart points outwards)

Jay:

Oh. Yeah, she's dead.

Bart:

Should I make space in the funeral box?

Millie:

You country folk sure get off topic really easily.

Bart:

Only if there's an opportunity for a cheap laugh.

Jay:

Anyway, my name is Jameson, but I prefer Jay, and this is my darling brother...

Bart:

Name's Bartholomew ma'am. But friends call me Bart.

Millie:

Well my name is Mildred, err uhm please just call me Millie.
Nice to meet you-

Jay:

Oh, the pleasure is all mine!

Millie:

And this is my friend! Introduce yourself G!

Gertie:

And my name is Gertrude, I mean Gertie.

Bart:

Hey our great aunt's name was Gertrude.

Gertie:

(Looks down, embarrassed) Yeah...

Bart:

I love that name; it rolls right off the tongue like pomme de
terre fraîchement récoltée (pronounced phonetically with
extremely cheesy French accent)

(Gertie giggles at his obviously off base attempt at flirtation.
Jay notices this and immediately attempts to woo Millie by doing
a little dance. Something to which Millie seems clearly
unimpressed by.)

Millie:

Alright G, I'm going to try to get some cell service and get us
out of this hell hole.

(Gertie begins to follow Millie then pulls away and runs off
past the boys looking sad.)

Bart:

Well, look you went an' scared 'em away with your attempts at
dance moves. I told you disco wasn't coming back.

Jay:

Have you done the research "Mister I can make up French words?"

Bart:

Well clearly I didn't scare my girl away! She enjoyed my
accents. I know you think I'm dumb but I can do smart things

too. (Vaguely British accent) Pip-pip cheerio old gov why don't you put some shrimp on the barbie huh love?

Jay:

Oh please! Accents are easy; anyone can do an accent. Watch this. (Proceeds to do a pathetic British accent.)

Bart:

Please, that just sounded like a British person being strangled by a cat. Anyone can dance. (proceeds to not be able to dance)

Jay:

You call that dancing? Now this is dancing. (Jay tries some more outdated disco moves and begins shouting indiscernibly in a vague European accent.)

Bart:

Whatever. My lady likes me better, so I'll be taken' that there spoon.

Jay:

No bro, no you aren't.

Bart:

Watch me.

(Bart reaches for the spoon, Jay reaches for the other side of the spoon, putting them into a tug of war match, they mime shouting at each other as attention turns to Millie.)

Millie:

Come on...come on. Still no signal. How about you G? G? Gertie? Gertrude? Where did that girl run off to? Hopefully she's having better luck than I am getting out of this hell hole. (sits down, takes a beat) I guess it's not so bad, the air here is fresher than it is in the city. And there's no constant horn honking or blaring of sirens. And look, some animals. (She points somewhere off stage and then proceeds to make animal sounds.) Aww so cute! I wish I could take all of you home with me!

(Gertie is wondering about the stage, inspecting the plants.)

Gertie:

I could have a much nicer garden out here than I could in the city. I could grow vegetables to sell like these men do and live a simple life. If only... oh Millie would never be up for it. I just wish I could tell her that I l-(suddenly she's interrupted

by the men screaming, she shoots an angry glance their way but says nothing, they pay no notice to her. They go back to miming when she begins speaking) I want to tell her that I want- (suddenly she can here Millie making animal sounds in the distance, interspersed with complaining about the lack of cell signal, she again glances and this time begins walking before stopping. Millie mimes when she begins speaking again) Millie needs to know that I am completely and totally in lo-(now both parties are being loud and disruptive cutting her aside short)

Gertie:

Fine, if I can't say how I feel, I'll show it.

(She proceeds to interpretative dance around the stage, when she does this, the brothers stop bickering and drop the spoon and Millie stops complaining about cell service and making animal noises. All stop to look at her. After some time, she stops and looks directly at Millie, who suddenly realizes what's happening and begins to well with tears.)

Millie:

Of course, Gertie! I will marry you. I've always loved you, and have just been too afraid to say it.

Gertrude:

You were too afraid to say you loved me?

Millie:

Yes, yes I have. I didn't want to frighten you away. But I have always and will always love you.

(The brothers suddenly collapse to their knees, overcome with emotion.)

Jay:

That... was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

Bart:

I completely forgot what it was like when this here farm had love and happiness. Ever since Ma and Pa...

Jay:

I love you brother!

Bart:

I love you too brother!

(The two men embrace but in a brotherly way, not in a weird way.)

Jay:
Bart?

Bart:
Yes, Jay.

Jay:
I think we know who the Big Spoon belongs to.

(Jay picks up the Big Spoon)

Bart:
Pa said whoever got hitched first, not that it had to be one of us.

Jay:
Millie, Gertie, you reminded us of the spirit Ma and Pa used to cultivate here. We bestow upon you the Big Spoon.

(Jay bestows the spoon as one would a sword. The lights go dark, they come back on and Millie and Gertie are the only people left on stage, holding hands.)

Millie:
It's been 2 years since the Jacobson brothers gave us their farm.

Gertie:
And things have been wonderful since.

Millie:
With teamwork and love back at the farm, me working with the animals..

Gertie:
And me with the plants..

Millie:
We had our biggest harvest yet.

(Suddenly, Bart and Jay walk onto the stage)

Jay:

You see it wasn't the Big Spoon itself that brought prosperity to the farm, it was what it represented; unity and strength.

Bart:

Since then I went to the big city and utilized my wood-shed building and barn raising skills to build low cost homes for the homeless.

Jay:

And I decided to write about our experiences. My book? "Two Country Boys, One Spoon."

(Fade to Black, outro music is "All You Need is Love" by the Beatles)