

# ***Under One Roof***

**By Lizzie Allen**

**Extract**

FLORRIE: One day I would like a proper roof over our heads

TODD: And a proper floor under our feet

FLORRIE: And four walls to call our own. *(pause)* Our house will have 6 bedrooms

TODD: I just want two bedrooms

FLORRIE: I like big houses

TODD: I like small houses.

*(pause)*

TODD: Our house will have a bathroom

FLORRIE: The bathroom will be on the roof. I will lie in the bath and count the stars.

TODD: What will you do when it rains?

FLORRIE: When it rains, I will have a shower.

TODD: The moon will see your bottom.

FLORRIE: I don't mind.

*(pause)*.

TODD: Our house will have a garden.

FLORRIE: A small garden?

TODD: No, a big garden. I like small houses and big gardens.

FLORRIE: I would like a garden too.

TODD: With an apple tree

FLORRIE: And a swing

TODD: And a treehouse

FLORRIE: And a cat and a rabbit

TODD: And a cow

FLORRIE: Yes, and 10 chickens.

TODD: And a giraffe.

FLORRIE: A giraffe?

TODD: Yes, I like giraffes.

FLORRIE: *(Florrie looks at him and smiles)* OK

TODD: We could make a house now.

FLORRIE: Together?

TODD: Yes, together.

FLORRIE: But what will we use?

*(They start to look around. Todd picks up some pebbles)*

TODD: We could make a house out of pebbles.

FLORRIE: But we don't have anything to hold them together. (*Florrie finds the earth*) We could make a house out of earth.

TODD: But we'd get dirty. (*He finds the water.*) We could make a house out of water.

FLORRIE: You can't make a house out of water.

TODD: We could carry the water to a place that is very cold (*he starts to pour some of the water into a bucket*) and the water will turn into ice and then we can make a house of ice. (*The water starts to drip out of the bucket*) Oh dear, our bucket has a hole in it.

FLORRIE: Todd, that is not such a good idea.

*They gently bring their hands together, palm to palm. Then they start a clapping game. NB The rhyme may not appear to scan but it does work as you shift the rhythm of the claps. Play around with it until you find a rhythm that works!*

*Clapping rhyme*

T & F: "I have you and you have me  
And all we have is an apple for our tea  
Put the apple in your tummy  
Where it is so very yummy  
Don't save any for the foxes  
We'll build a house from this pile of boxes."

T & F: (*picking up the rhythm from the end of the rhyme*)  
Pile of boxes.....pile of boxes..... we'll build a house from this pile of boxes.

*(Todd and Florrie approach the boxes. In initially manoeuvring boxes Florrie bumps into Todd. This triggers the response from Todd of "Florrie" to which she replies "Sorry". This rhyme of "Florrie" and "sorry" punctuates the action. After the initial bump, Todd suggest:)*

TODD: Safety first. Safety helmet *(and he puts a tall box on his head like a hat)*

FLORRIE: Safety shoes *(Florrie puts boxes on her feet)*

TODD: Safe to go *(and they continue the house building project.)*

*(They start to rearrange the boxes upstage into the semblance of a structure. It really doesn't need to look much like a house but there is a sense of boxes on top of each other, a roof, maybe a cardboard tube for a chimney. Just enough to suggest that a house den is being built. As the house is built most of the clutter of boxes and card on the stage becomes incorporated so that, as well as constructing a house, the space is cleared.) (As part of this building/tidying process, there is a moment where Todd puts a very small box into a bigger one and that into a bigger one etc - nesting boxes - these will come into use later on)*

*(Todd lifts a flattish bit of card that is leaning up against the last box onto the roof of the structure. He stands there, admiring their handiwork. He tries to attract Florrie's attention)*

TODD: Da-naa!*(slightly louder)* Da-naa!