



## Birthday Stew

Show but don't tell. After all, it is Mollie's birthday and a family party is good. Mollie stood near her stove and said, "Now, Don, there's no need in doing a lot for my day. I just made a pot of Culpepper Stew for us."

Don stepped near the stove and leaned over the hot pot. "It looks good. And smells good, too. But, why in the world did you put store-bought frozen meatballs in this Culpepper Stew?"

"That's all I had ready! And, I only made enough for the two of us. It's not like the whole family will be here today."

Don backed away from the stove and said, "Well, I guess I'll have to tell you – they're ALL coming tonight for a surprise birthday party."

Mollie continued to stir the Culpepper Stew, "Now, that'll be nice. I guess everybody can get a small bowl of this stew."

"Maybe so, but the main thing is that it's not REAL Culpepper Stew because you stuck those ole ready-made meatballs in it."

Within the hour, kids, grandkids, and the whole family came-in, walked straight for the kitchen, and got close to Mollie's cooking. "Oh, Mama, it smells so good!"

After every compliment, Don added, "It might be all right, but it ain't REAL Culpepper Stew,"

Candice hugged her mother and said, "I know it'll be delicious. And, Daddy, here's that leftover piece of Wedding Cake that you told me to get from my friend's wedding four days ago. It's not the REAL thing; however, like you told me – it will do for Mama's Birthday Cake."