

MOTHER GOOSE
a Pantomime

by M H Gaunt

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MOTHER GOOSE

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List of Characters: (M = Male F = Female)

M	Mother Goose
F	Jack (<i>Her Son. Principal Boy</i>)
M	Billy. (<i>Her other Son.</i>)
M	Demon King
F	Fairy Queen (<i>Black Country accent. Fed up! No one knows who she is!</i>)
M	Squire Blackheart (<i>Melodramatic type</i>)
M	Tom (<i>Urchin</i>)
M	Dick (<i>Urchin</i>)
F	Harriet (<i>Urchin's Mother</i>)
<i>(Harrie can be Harriet and Tom, Dick can be adults with slight tweaking of lines!)</i>	
F	Gretchen (<i>Goose Maid. Dutch accent</i>)
M/F	Priscilla. (<i>The Golden Goose</i>)
M	King of Birdland (<i>Very broad accent</i>)
F	Nurse
F	Etak (<i>Bird Courtier</i>)
M/F	Villagers

ACT 1	Scene 1	The Village Green.
	Scene 2	A Street in the Village
	Scene 3	Mother Goose's Cottage
	Scene 4	A Street in the Village
	Scene 5	The Village Green
ACT 2		
	Scene 1	The Village Green
	Scene 2	A Street in the Village
	Scene 3	The Magic Mirror
	Scene 4	A Street in the Village
	Scene 5	Birdland
	Scene 6	Song Sheet
	Scene 7	Finale

Act 1 Scene 1

The Village Green, Chello.

(Song and Routine 'One Fine Day'.)

The scene opens straight into the musical number and dance. Most of the cast is involved with Jack leading. Mother Goose's dilapidated Cottage can be seen to one side.

Jack: Hello everybody, I said hello everybody. My name's Jack Goose, and I live here with my brother Billy and our mother. Everyone calls her Mother Goose because we used to have a Goose Farm. We can't afford to run one now, we're not very rich but we are happy. In fact,

I

suppose some would say we are poor, and I would have to agree with them. Have you seen the state of our cottage? It's falling apart? The Squire is the landlord but never does any of the repairs.

Villager: Hello Jack, what's the matter?

Jack: I'm worried about paying the Squire's rent.

Villager: Is he being a pain about it again?

Jack: Afraid so. Mother never seems to worry about it, she's so kind-hearted, will do anything for anyone, and even says she feels sorry for the Squire worrying about all the property he owns.

Villager: Where is she, shopping again? Here she is now. Mother Goose, over here.

Jack: Oh, she'll never hear that she's a bit deaf. We'll have to get all the kids to shout her name. Come on you lot, after 3 shout Mother Goose. One, two, three!

Audience: Mother Goose!

Mother G: *(Loud music, "There is nothing like a dame", Enters in an outrageous costume.)*
Did someone call? Yoo-hoo! It's me, Mother Goose. I bet you thought it was some glamour puss like Elizabeth Hurley. How do you like my new dress? It's a brand-new model from the charity shop, and I've got some Union Jack knickers. Mind you, I think they are in mourning 'cause they're always at half-mast. *(Hitches them up)* It's

either that or the elastic's bust. Talking of busts, I just bought myself a new bra. (*Shows bra. It has three cups*) It's called a PG Tips bra. Look two lumps and one for the pot. Oh, better just say hello to the Band, they get really upset if you ignore them. Hi Gang. (*Aside to audience*) I say, that one on the Clarinet's a right one; he's always on the town you know. Some might say he's promiscuous. So would I if I knew what it meant! Mind you there's too much (*Spells it out!*) S E X about these days. We never had time for it in my younger days, we were too busy having babies.

Jack: Mother, what are we going to do about the Squire's rent?

Mother G: What can we do? We haven't got it! (*Pause*) Oh look at him, he's the spit of his father, God rest his soul. It has been such a struggle to bring you up. It's been 15 years since your father went. He should be there by now!

Jack: Do you know I often wonder about him? How did he die?

Mother G: He died from lumbago.

Jack: You don't die from lumbago.

Mother G: We had to massage his back with brandy, and he broke his neck trying to lick it off.

Jack: Mother!

Mother G: I remember meeting at a Ball. It was a terrible shock!

Jack: Why?

Mother G: I thought he was at home looking after you.

Jack: And your first meeting, was it romantic?

Mother G: Hardly. He was covered in perspiration 'cause he'd just done 1000 meters in 10 seconds.

Jack: Hold on, you can't do 1000 meters that fast.

Mother G: You can when you fall off a cliff!

Jack: And where did he take you on your first date?

Mother G: He took me to the Pub for a Gin and Tonic, and

Schwopped me off my feet. (*Pause*) Gin and Tonic, Schwopped! . . . Oh, please yourselves. We sat in the corner, and he held my hand and whispered soft things in my ear.

Jack: Soft things in your ear? What did he say?

Mother G: Byrds cream cakes! (*Local Shop*) He was half Irish and half Scots. Loved Guinness but hated paying for it!

Jack: And then you got married.

Mother G: Yes, and he was a model husband.

Jack: But not a working model!

Mother G: Hold on, hold on, I'll do the jokes! Instead of a ring he gave me a pound of cheese, said it was more binding. We went to the Lakes for our honeymoon.

Jack: Windermere?

Mother G: Markeaton and Alvaston! (*A Local Area*)

Jack: How long were you married?

Mother G: 15 years, and not once did we think of divorce . . . He'd have died for me that man.

Jack: He would?

Mother G: Oh, yes, he said many a time that he'd swing for me!

Jack: I think I've heard enough of this. See you later Mother.

Squire : (*Enters*) Ah! It's the goosy, woman. You there. Ahoy!

Mother G: Ahoy? Who does he think I am, Long John Silver? Arr Jim Lad!

Squire: Now goosy, am I getting it? (*Twirls moustache.*)

Mother G: I beg your pardon!

Squire: The rent woman, the rent.

Mother G: I thought my luck had changed! No chance mate!

Squire: That's what you always say.

Mother G: Only when it's rent you're after, cheeky.

Squire: Bah. Give me strength you are incorrigible.

Mother G: Oh, no I'm not. I'm Church of England!

Squire: Look, is there the remotest chance that you will be paying this month?

Mother G: I've no intention of paying till you've fixed a few things around here. And it's so damp in there. Last night I caught a fish in the mousetrap.

Squire: Listen, I'm not an unreasonable chap.

Mother G: Oh, you do tell 'em!

Squire: Oh, I'm not that bad!

Mother G: *(Gets Aud. to join in)* Oh, yes you are! Etc.

Squire: Oh, no I'm not.

Audience: **Oh, yes you are. Etc.**

Squire: I won't be insulted like this. I'll have you evicted, so I shall.

Mother G: *(Aside)* Pompous old twit.

Squire: Right, I heard that. I shall have you out of here lock stock and barrel. Out on the street you shall go. Twenty-four hours is all you have.

Mother G: Now Squire, you know you don't mean it. We've always got on so well. Don't you remember taking me dancing? I was always the Belle of the Ball.

Squire: Then someone pinched her clanger.

Mother G: Go on! You remember. And when we were at school, I was voted "The Girl With Whom You Were Most Likely To Succeed" or something like that. After all, don't you fancy me a little bit? And haven't you got a soft spot for me?

Squire: A soft spot for you? *(Pause)* Come to think of it, I have,

it's called a cesspit. Poor old thing, no one fancies you! You are old and ugly. Remember 24 hours is all you have. Good day to you, madam. *(Exits)*

Mother G:

(Hanky crying.) That wasn't very nice, was it? Look at my face, look at my face! Am I bovered? Am I bovered? *(As per Catharine Tate)* Old and ugly! You bet your life I'm bovered! I may be past my prime, but there are many a good fiddle played on an old tune . . . I mean there's many an old 'un playing a good fiddle. Oh, work it out yourselves.
(Exit)

Fairy Queen :
has a

(Enters down stage right to a tinkle of fairy bells. She

*Black Country accent and is utterly fed up. **Band plays Sugar Plum Fairy each time she enters**)*

Right, this is the bit where I make my entrance. *(The Band is still playing loudly so she tells them off! This continues throughout.)* Will you shut up! *(Pause)* It's me. *(Pause)* Oh, no! Don't tell me you don't know who I am. *(Pause)* Dear oh deary me, doesn't it make you want to spit. Oh well, I suppose I'll have to explain. **I'm** the Good Fairy and I'm here, **again**. Another Pantomime. Every year I have to perform kindly acts and help the goodies to overcome the forces of evil. Usually, it's the evil Demon King who causes the problems. The trouble is 'I never get any of the credit, no one ever recognises me it's as though I don't exist. I'm fed up with it all! *(Pause)* It's so sickening, I'm supposed to help all these people to live happily ever after. Still, it's my job I suppose. Now the next thing that happens is the Demon King enters.
(Flash)

Demon King:

(Enters) Ha, ha, ha!! *(He is dressed like the Devil with horns on his head)*

Fairy Queen:

Do you have to enter with all that noise? You know what my nerves are like.

Demon King:

Bah! What are you doing here? Who are you anyway?

Fairy Queen:

There you are, see? Another! I am the good fairy!

Demon King

Good fairy? Well, how would I know? You, stupid miserable fairy. Where's your wand?

Fairy Queen :

(To Aud.) Oh, what's the point? Still, on with the dialogue, the sooner we've got it all sorted out I can get home, put my feet up and watch Strictly Come Dancing.

You know very well why I am here, I come every year to stop you from making everybody unhappy.

Demon King: What you? YOU? Stop me? Don't make me laugh.

Fairy Queen: *(To Aud.)* I could have predicted he would say that. It's so boring; he always does, every year. Yes me! I will make sure your evil scheming is overcome.

Demon King: Don't be foolish. You can see what I have done. Mother Goose is finished, kaput! Her farm is collapsing she has no food, all the geese have gone, and the Squire is demanding his rent. And this is all my doing.

Fairy Queen: You don't get any better, do you?

Demon King: Of course not, I am the Demon King! I am evil and my power will always triumph.

Fairy Queen : *(To Aud.)* Here we go again! Same ritual, I'd better get on with it, I suppose. Mother Goose shall overcome your scheming. I have made all the necessary arrangements. I am sending her a new goose, and if she is good and kind and looks after it well, as I know she will, it will help her to make a fortune.

Demon King: What utter drivel, how can a goose help to make a fortune?

Fairy Queen: You shall see, you shall see. Now I must carry on with my good work. Tarra each. *(Exits)*

Demon King: *(Mimics)* Now I must carry on with my good work. Tarra each. Bah! Stupid fairy! A goose, how can a goose help? *(Pause)* It must be a magic goose; I'll have to find a way to foil her. She said, Mother Goose must be good and kind and look after the goose. Well, I shall have to change all that. What can I do? I know, I'll start by making sure the Squire does evict her from the cottage. Ha, ha, ha. We shall soon see who has the power around here. Ha, ha, ha. *(Exits)*

Billy: *(Enters)* Hello everybody. I said, hello everybody. I hope you are a good audience, 'cause I can always tell a good audience. We had trouble with the audience last night. They wouldn't come in! No, no really, they were with us all the way, but I managed to shake them off at 'The Spot'! *(Local place)* Now, my name is Billy and I'm

very

rich, in fact, I'll tell you all about it. **(Song for Billy**

here. 'Lazing on a Sunny Afternoon') No, I'm not really rich, I'm Mother Goose's other son. You met Jack, the one with the legs, earlier. Now, I've got a very special friend and I want all you children, mums, dads, and grandparents to help me to look after it. Will you help me? Can you bring my friend on stage? It's in this box over here. *(Brings on a rabbit in a box.)* I bet you don't know what's in here. Shall I show you? Look it's a rabbit. Isn't it nice? Now we must be careful what we give it to eat. I want you to help me 'cause a lot of people don't know what rabbits eat. But we do, don't we?
(Aud. YES) They eat carrots. What do rabbits eat? *(Aud. CARROTS!)* Can't hear you. What do rabbits eat? *(Aud. CARROTS!)* Thanks kids, that's great. I'll put it in this corner. Now, if anyone goes to touch it, I want you all to shout out as loud as you can '**BILLY!**' and I'll rush on to make sure it's OK. Will you do that for me? Well, will you? *(Aud. YES)* Right, that's smashing. Now we'll just have a little practice, I'll pretend to creep up to it and you call out. OK here we go. *(Creeps towards box Music 'Run rabbit, run rabbit' each time this happens!)*

Audience:

Billy!!

Billy:

What do rabbits eat?

Audience:

Carrots!!

Billy:

Oh, that was ever so good, do you think you can come all week? Now, what were we talking about? Oh yes, I'm out of work at present, 'cause I lost my last job through illness. *(Pause)* The Boss got sick of me! So, I'm between jobs at the moment, just waiting for my potential to be spotted. It's OK lady it comes off at the Dry Cleaners! Oh, it's hard trying to get a job now, there are just none about. Oh, I must tell you this; I was at the Railway Station the other day and this fellow asked for a ticket to Jeopardy. The chap at the desk said "Jeopardy? Never heard of it. What do you want to go there for anyway?" And the fellow said "Well, I've just read in the Evening Telegraph 200 hundred jobs in Jeopardy!". Right, I'm off 'cause I think I can see Mother coming and I'm ever so good to her. I stay out of her way!! Now don't forget, what do rabbits eat?

Audience:

Carrots!! (Billy Exits)

Gretchen:

(Enters) Ja I think zis is ze place where I am to com.
(Reading sign) Mother Goose's cottage. It am very down run ja. -- Ere am com somevon. I will to ask her.

Mother G: *(Enters)* Hello, who are you?

Gretchen: I am a stranger ja.

Mother G: Do you know, the moment I set eyes on you I said to myself, that girl would make a perfect stranger.

Gretchen: I am Gretchen:chen:chen Ja. De von vith whom I am com vith ze goose. I vill to vork in England.

Mother G: Aye up you don't half talk funny? Now't like we do me duck!

Gretchen: Pardon. Vot is it vat you vay, it is a goose not a duck.

Mother G: Oh, very good! Now, why did you say you were here?

Gretchen: I am sent from magic lady who is kindly one, to Mother Goose, with whom I am to vork an bring ze goose to after look.

Mother G: Well, I'm Mother Goose. To work you say, I'm afraid I can't afford you. Magic lady? And what's this about a goose?

Gretchen: You am pleased ja to meet. Ze goose you are to after look.

Mother G: I can't after look, - sorry – I mean look after, any more geese, I've had to let all the others go. I couldn't afford them. Where is it anyway?

Gretchen: It is here vith me behind. Com ere goosy. *(Goose Enters upstage)*

Mother G: Ahhh! What a lovely goose you are. *(To Aud.)* Oh, look I think she has taken a fancy to me. *(Goose is resting her head on Mother G, and brushing up to her)*

Gretchen: Then you will take care of her Ja.

Mother G: Oh, but...

Gretchen: And me to vork with you am com.

Mother G: But I can't.

Gretchen: I will to vork for nothing.

Mother G: *(The goose is again making a lot of fuss of her)* Oh, look boys and girls, isn't she lovely? Look, I'll tell you what we'll do, **(To Aud.)** you can decide. Shall I let Gretchen and the goose come o live with my two boys and me? **(Aud. Yes!)**

Mother G: Are you sure?

Audience: **Yes!**

Mother G: Oh, good. We wouldn't have a show if you had said no. It's a deal then.

Gretchen: Zat is good. *(Goose wanders to rear stage)* Oh, look to here a rabbit. I shall to feed it.

Audience: **Billy!!** *(Billy and Jack Enter. Music Run rabbit, run rabbit.)*

Billy: What do rabbits eat?

Audience: **Carrots!!**

Billy: Thanks kids, that's great. Hello Mum.

Mother G: Right boys, I want you to meet Gretchen. She is with us to live.

Jack: Pardon? What did you say?

Mother G: She's got me at it now! Gretchen is coming to live with us.

Jack: Nice to meet you, Gretchen. *(He is totally smitten.)*

Mother G: Now, turn round and close your eyes 'cause I've got another surprise for you.

Billy: Oh great, I love surprises.

Mother G: Right, you can look now. *(Brings goose forward.)*

Billy: It's a goose!

Mother G: Wonderful thing education! Isn't she smashing?

Jack: She's lovely, what's her name?

Mother G: That's right we shall have to give her a name. (*Goose gets excited and keeps nudging MOTHER G*) Now, stop it dear, we are trying to think of a name for you.

Jack She's trying to tell you she already has one.

Mother G: You're right. Billy you're good with animals have a word with her see if you can understand what she is trying to tell us.

Billy: She says her name is Priscilla Hydrangeas Goose, but we can call her Priscilla.

Jack: What about Hydrangeas?

Billy: (*Quick word with Goose.*) They lost to Celtic 2 nil! (*Billy puts his arm round the goose's neck and she whispers in his ear*) She says she has come all the way from Birdland, she is going to make us rich and famous, and she would like very much to stay with us.

Mother G: Gerroff! She never said all that.

Billy: Oh yes, she did.

All: Oh no, she didn't.

Billy: Oh yes, she did. (*Etc. etc.*)

Jack: Well, whatever she said, we're pleased to have her.

Mother G: Well, come along then Priscilla let's show you our little farm. I'm afraid it's not much, but it's all we have, and it's right next to 'The Wool Pack'! (*All Exit. Jack chatting to Gretchen.*)

Curtain.

(Play off with Music. Possibly theme tune from Emmerdale)

Act 1 Scene 2

A Street in the Village

(This scene comprises of the Demon King, the Squire and Tom, Dick and Harriet plotting to remove Mother Goose from the cottage.)

- Demon King: *(Enters)* That stupid fairy won't defeat me, I'll sort out the Squire, play on his evil thoughts and get Mother Goose kicked out of her cottage. Here comes the stupid pompous fool now. Watch and I'll show you how easy it is to control people who have evil thoughts. *(Hides face behind cloak.)*
- Squire : *(Enters)* Curses on Mother Goose, the silly old bat.
- Demon King: You Sir, come here.
- Squire: Who me?
- Demon King: Yes you, come here. NOW!
- Squire: Look here, you can't talk to me like that! I am the Squire!
- Demon King: I know who you are, but it seems you don't recognise me. Boo!! *(Shows his face)*
- Squire : Ahhh!! It's the Demon King! *(He is hysterical)* Ahh! Help me!
- Demon King: Silence when you speak to me!! *(Squire shivers with fright)* That's better. You have every reason to be afraid. I am master of the universe. What am I?
- Squire: You are the master of the University.
- Demon King: Universe! Idiot! I hear Mother Goose won't pay her rent and you want her out of her cottage. Well, it's your lucky day, 'cause I'm going to help you.
- Squire: But...Why should you do that?
- Demon King: Because it suits my dastardly evil plans, and you now belong to me!
- Squire: But . . . I . . . don't know about that . . . I was . . .
- Demon King: Quiet fool! Ha, ha, ha!!
- Squire : *(Frightened)* Oooooower . . .

Demon King: Now, what you need is help to get the goose woman out of the farm. Ah, look here are some more fools. They might suit my purpose. We'll watch from over here. Move yourself man! *(Both Exit to wings)*

Harriet: *(Tom, Dick and Harriet enter. **Comedy music each time they appear, Laurel & Hardy, Cuckoo Waltz.** Harriet is a Fagin type character. Tom and Dick are her urchin children. They stand looking gormless throughout)* Oh, you're there, are you? where have you been, you naughty children? I told you to be quick, didn't I? Be quick I said. But you weren't, were you? No, you left me there, didn't you? Where have you been?

Tom: But . . .

Harriet: It's no use saying 'but'. Be quick I said!

Dick: Well . . .

Harriet: You may well say 'well'. A poor defenseless woman stood standing, by herself, all alone, waiting for you. I'll have you know a fellow has followed me. Yes, a fellow followed me. Where were you pair? Nowhere to be seen! I was so worried . . . followed by a fellow! *(To audience)* I walked ever so slow, but he still didn't catch up!

Tom: *(To Harriet)* I've got a bone to pick with you!

Harriet: *(To Dick)* He's got a bone to pick with you.

Tom: *(Pause)* Not him, you. *(Double head sequence)*

Harriet: Did someone else come on? Oh, me.

Tom: Now listen here Mum, I think it's a bit off telling people that I'm a thicky!

Harriet: 'm so sorry, I didn't realise it was meant to be a secret. *(Aside to Dick)* He's getting worse, do you think he's naturally stupid?

Dick: No. He practices a lot.

Harriet: *(To Aud.)* No. Don't laugh it will only encourage them.

Dick: Don't be hard on him, he's very musical. *(To Tom)* I was saying, very talented aren't you? Tell her, what you've got.

Tom: I've got a Tuba.

Harriet: Oh, let have a look? (*Inspects his neck*) Is it painful?

Tom: And I've got a Saxophone.

Harriet: Wash your mouth out. (*To Dick*) I'll stop him watching Big Brother!

Dick: And I've just joined the free fall parachute club.

Tom: He gets four free jumps a year.

Harriet: (*Long pause. Funny face. Speaks into Wings*) Is he allowed to say that at his age!

Dick: I've already had one.

Harriet: Were you full of confidence?

Dick: No. Just a MacDonald's Big Mac!

Tom: Tell her about it.

Dick: I jumped out of the plane, but didn't pull the ripcord till I was 10 feet off the ground.

Harriet: Good grief didn't you hurt yourself when you landed.

Dick: Don't be silly, 10 feet's not far to fall!

Demon King: (*Enters with Squire*) Right, you know what the plan is, get over there and get that woman and her stupid kids to make it rough for Mother Goose. I'll have my eye on you, so just make sure you don't fail! Ha, ha, ha. . (*Exits*)

Squire: (*Grovels*) Right you are Sir. Ah, Madam, now you look an intelligent woman. (*Tom and Dick look around to see whom he means!*)

T & D: Who does he mean?

Harriet: Behave yourselves! I think he means me! It's amazing what drink can do!

Squire: I thought you might be the very person to help me.

Harriet: You can rely on me your Squireship.

Squire: Good, good. But how can I be sure you are capable?

Harriet: My boys and me are capable of doing anything.

Squire: Anything? Can you cook a four-course meal?

Harriet: Well, anything within reason!

Squire: Right, now this is my dastardly scheme. Come closer. (*T & D are right next to him*) Not that close. Get away. Now this is the plan.

T, D & H: The plan.

Squire: What I want you to do, (*Pause, he looks around, they look as well.*) is go to Mother Goose's cottage and . . .

T, D & H: Yes, yes.

Squire: If she won't pay the rent . . .

T, D & H: Yes, yes.

Squire: Remove goods and chattels to the value owing.

Harriet: Fine.

Tom: Goods and chattels? What's that then?

Squire: You know, things like pewter and china.

Dick: Pewter and china?

Tom: But how will we tell the difference?

Harriet: Sorry Squire, they are so thick! Look china is fragile and breaks when you hit it and pewter doesn't.

Tom: Right.

Dick: Right.

Harriet: Get it?

T & D: Got it!

Squire: Good now come along I'll show you where she lives.

(All Exit. Laurel and Hardy Cuckoo Waltz music.)

Act 1 Scene 3

Mother Goose's Cottage

(The kitchen of the cottage. Villagers are larking around.)

Gretchen: *(Enters.)* Ah zer you all are. Vot is all you people a doing of?

Villager: Hello Gretchen, we were just getting all the utensils out for a spot of cooking.

Gretchen: Yar, zere is some vork of ze cooking ve ave to do. Billy say he vill to help.

Villager: Haven't seen him for some time.

Gretchen: Vot is it you are a eating?

Villager: Some chocolate raisins I found over there. *(Points in direction of rabbit)*

Villager: Ergh!

Villager: Can I give the rabbit some food?

Audience: Billy!! (Music. Run rabbit, run rabbit.)

Billy: What do rabbits eat?

Audience: Carrots!

Billy: Thanks kids, that's great. Hey, do you know you really are a great help. It's terrific to have friends like you.

Villager: What are we going to cook?

Billy: We're going to roast a pheasant.

Villager: Is it a wild pheasant?

Billy: Well, it's not very pleased about it.

Gretchen: I sought ve would make some custard pies.

Villager: Oh, yummy, can we help?

Gretchen: Of course, you can. You can collect ze ingredients.

Villager: Six eggs. (*Reading from Delia Smith's Cookbook.*)

Billy: (*Cracks one in the bowl, gives up and tips rest in with the*) One, and 5 makes 6.

Villager: Flour.

Billy: Flower.

Villager: No! Two pounds of flour.

Billy: Two pounds of flour. (*Throws all in with bag*)

Villager: One pint of water.

Billy: One pint of water.

Villager: Half a pound of butter.

Billy: Half a pound of butter.

Villager: Large tin of custard powder.

Bill: Large tin of custard powder.

Villager: Lard.

Billy: Lard.

Gretchen: Ave ze all there is?

Billy: All present and correct.

Gretchen: Is ready now? Right, let's go.

Billy: OK (*Starts to leave*) See you bye.

Gretchen: Ere just a minute where are you a going?

Billy: You said let's go.

Gretchen: Zat's right, stay here, and let's go!

Billy: You mean stay here, and let's go?

Gretchen: Zat is correct. (*Villagers vigorously stir mixture.*)

Billy: Now I don't know if I'm coming or going, and with all that running about I'm shattered. I need a drink. (*Pours*)

one.) I'll just put this mixture in the oven. (Villager takes a drink!)

Villager: Just what I needed.

Billy: Hey! *(Goes to take it. As he does another person also takes a sip.)*

Villager: Oh, that's lovely.

Billy: That's my drink. I'll make sure no-one else gets any. *(Picks it up and holds above his head)*

Villager: Billy surely you will let me have a drink.

Billy: Not likely. *(A villager picks up an umbrella, with a plastic tube taped to it, puts it into glass and siphons it into another glass, drinks it.)*

Gretchen: Villager you not to give her a drink Billy?

Billy: But she's too young to drink.

Villager: I think you should be kind and give her a sip.

Billy: She's got no chance of getting my drink.

Villager: Are you sure Billy?

Billy: I'll make sure by drinking it myself. Blimey where's it gone?

Villager: Ha, ha, ha. Here, Billy, try mine. *(Trick pint pot from any Joke Shop. He pours liquid into Billy glass, and it shows third full. Then pours it back showing full pint. Billy is confused.)*

Gretchen: Right, washing up. *(Billy, is sneaking off)*

Villager: Billy, stop sneaking off, what about the chores?

Billy: Chores? What chores?

Villager: Mines a pint, what's yours? *(Villagers and Gretchen exit with some washing up.)*

Billy: Oh, go on get out of it.

Mother G: *(Enters with Jack)* Lookout everybody Tom Dick and Harriet are on the prowl.

Jack: I bet they are after the rent.

Mother G: We must show a united front. I'll head them off.
(Hitches up bust, rolling up sleeves. Exits)

Billy: If she does, that'll frighten them off.

Harriet: *(Enters with Tom and Dick. Cuckoo waltz music)* Ahhh there you are, where's your mother?

Jack: She went outside to meet you.

Harriet: But we're in here.

Billy: We know you're in here. But she didn't know you're in here.

Dick: When?

Jack: When she went outside to meet you.

Tom: We came in the back door.

Billy: When you came in the back door she went out.

Harriet: I never saw her.

Billy: Well, you wouldn't. Would you?

Tom: Why not?

Jack: When you came in the back door, she went out the front.
(Opens door)

Mother G: *(Enters. She was standing behind door)* Oh, I thought you'd gone.

Harriet: Where have you been?

Mother G: Outside looking for you.

Harriet: But we are inside. *(Jack opens door and she exits)*

Jack: She knows you're inside.

Dick: Then why did you go outside? *(Jack opens door and he exits)*

Billy: She didn't know you were inside till she'd been outside and found you were not there, so she came inside found you were not here, went outside again, but you had come inside, so she came inside to see if you were here.

Harriet: Say that again? (*Peers through window*)

Billy: You're joking!!

Mother G: Look, I know you are inside now, but I didn't know you were inside then.

Tom: When?

Jack: When she went outside. (*As Jack opens door Tom exits*)

Harriet: You've lost me. (*Peer through door. Jack closes door on her.*)

Mother G: That's why I went outside, to find you.

Dick: You went outside, but we were inside.

Mother G: And now you're all outside!

Jack: And that's the end of that!

Harriet: Hold it, hold it. Don't start all that again. Now you know why we are here. (*Through window.*) **(Music, The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.)** (*D, H & T enter in turn, wearing cowboy hats and guns. Silly cowboy walk.*) Don't play silly games with me.

Dick: Don't play silly games with me too.

Tom: Don't play silly games with me three.

Harriet: The Squire wants his rent. Now!

Mother G: (*To Aud. **Melodramatic music.***) Right here we go then, the bit where I play on their feelings. Oh, deary deary me, what ever shall I do. I've no money to pay the rent. Times are so hard. Struck down by the cruel 'and of fate. I shall be cast out, CAST OUT; I'll be another poor wretch with nowhere to lay my weary head. Can't you feel some pity for me; think of my poor children, what will become of us?

Harriet: (*To Aud.*) We've heard it all before.

Jack: Yeah, but you must admit it was rather good!

Harriet: If you don't pay, you will be kicked out of your cottage.

Tom: If you don't 'cough up' the rent . . .

Billy: Yeah, yeah . . .what?

T, D & H: Quick!! *(All three draw finger across throats)*

Mother G: Not another operation. *(To Aud.)* Do you know girls? I haven't been the same since I turned forty last year. You know what I mean? And that HRT hasn't done any good, you know!

Harriet: We have been instructed to take goods and chattels to the value owing. Tom, Dick, start collecting. I'll have a look through here. *(Exits)*

Mother G: She's not going through my drawers behind my back. Billy, Jack, you keep your eyes on this pair I'll go with her. *(Exits)*

Dick: Now, we have to collect goods and chattels. Put pewter in one sack, and china in the other.

Tom: Yeah. Pewter and china. How will I know the difference?

Dick: Just tap it with a hammer if it breaks its china.

Tom: *(Taps with hammer.)* That is pewter, that's china *(doesn't break)* No that must be pewter, that's pewter *(breaks)*

No,
that's china, here take it.

Dick: Put it in the sack.

Tom: Can't do that. This sack's for pewter, that's for china.

Dick: *(Doing the same. It goes on for some time.)* That's china, that's pewter, etc.

Tom: China, pewter, china. *(Tom is throwing them to Dick. Billy catches last one.)*

Jack: We'd better put a stop to this Billy. Hey, drop everything. *(Billy drops china.)*

T & D: *(Hands on hips looks at him.)* Stupid Boy!

Billy: Look, we've some custard pies over here.

Tom: Custard pies, I love custard pies.

Dick: Yeah, he can eat them faster than anyone I know.

Jack: Would you like one?

Tom: Each?

Billy: Yes, we'll give you one each, but first you have to solve a little riddle.

T&D: We are good at riddles.

Billy: *(To Aud.)* Well, everybody's got to be good at something! *(Jack & Billy pick up a pie)* Now the riddle is: Tom, Dick and Harriet and Splatme, went to the Gym to train. Tom, Dick and Harriet returned early, so who decided to remain?

T & D: **SPLATME!** *(Both get a pie in the face)* **Ahhhh!** *(Both exit, threatening to get their own back)*

Harriet: Nothing worth taking in there, what have you two managed to . . .? Where's Tom & Dick?

Jack: We gave them a custard tart each and I they left.

Harriet: Custard tart, ooh, have you got any left for me?

Billy: Certainly, but first you have to solve a little riddle.

Harriet: No problem to someone of my intellect.

Billy: Oh! Big head!

Harriet: Pardon?

Jack: Nothing. Now this is the riddle: Tom, Dick and Harriet and Splatme, went to the Gym to train. Tom, Dick and Harriet returned early, so who decided to remain?

Harriet: **SPLATME!** *(Gets a pie in the face)* Ahhhh! You've not heard the last of this. Mark my words. *(Harriet exits)*

Mother G: *(Enters)* Oh, no. The disgrace of it! Struck down in my prime, stabbed in the back, right under my nose. I had me best foot forward, back to the wheel, finger on the pulse

and nose to the grindstone. And I can assure you that's not easy!

Jack: Have they? Oh, what a pity I was getting warmed up! But how did you get rid of them?

Billy: It was easy, wasn't it kids. (*Aud. Yes!*) Shall I show her how I did it? (*Aud. Yes!*) Well, I told them a little riddle and if they got it right, said they could have a custard pie. Would you like one? (*Picks up pie*)

Mother G: Oh, yes please.

Billy: This is the riddle: Tom, Dick and Harriet and Splatme, went to the Gym to train. Tom, Dick and Harriet returned early, so who decided to remain?

Mother G: Tom?

Billy: No.

Mother G: You know I'm not very good at riddles.

Billy: I'll tell you again: Tom, Dick and Harriet and Splatme, went to David Lloyds to train. Tom, Dick and Harriet returned early, so who decided to remain?

Mother G: Dick?

Billy: NO!

Mother G: I must be thick 'cause I haven't got a clue.

Billy: Look, it's simple the answer is, **SPLATME**. (*MOTHER G brings up Billy's own hand and pushes pie into his face.*) (**BLACKOUT**)

Act 1 Scene 4

A Street in the Village

(*Jack and Gretchen walk across stage arm in arm. Jack waves her goodbye.*)

Jack: Bye Gretchen, I'll see you later. (**Song here for Jack 'That's my Goal'**)

Jack: Oh, here's Billy's rabbit, I'll just give it some food.

Audience: Billy!! (**Music. Run rabbit, run rabbit.**)

Billy: *(Enters.)* What do rabbits eat?

Audience: **Carrots!**

Billy: Thanks kids, that's great. Hey, Jack, I saw you. You're getting a bit cosy with Gretchen!

Jack: I think she is the most wonderful girl in the world, and I intend to marry her.

Billy: Oh, don't get all soppy on me. I've thought how to make some money. I've bought a book of magic tricks.

Jack: Magic tricks?

Billy: If I can learn some of these, I should be able to make some money busking in the Market place. I've learnt two already, do you want me to show you?

Jack: *(To audience)* I'd better humour him I suppose. OK show me. *(Billy goes to wings and comes back with an egg in a pint glass, cotton thread tied to it and around his neck.)*

Billy: Right, here we are eggo in glasso, eggo rises out of glasso. *(Does this a few times, Jack is impressed.)*

Jack: Hey, that's really good!

Billy: Yeah! *(Leaves egg hanging from his neck)* Oh, blast it!

Billy: OK, a second trick. Right, go and get a bandana.

Jack: OK. Wonder what he wants that for. *(Exits to Wings)*

Billy: Hello, hello, what a wonderful crowd we have today! My next trick will be the disappearing bandana trick. *(To Jack)* Have you got that bandana?

Jack: Yes. Coming. *(Off)*

Billy: Now don't watch me but do everything as I say. *(Jack enters with a banana. Billy and Jack face in opposite directions).* First, of course, you need a bandana. Do you have a bandana?

Jack: *(Holding up a banana.)* Yep.

Billy: *(Opening his bandana and waving it a bit)* First, open the bandana.

Jack: *(Peels the banana.)* OK.

Billy: *(Carefully folding his bandana.)* Now fold it.

Jack: Um, fold it, you say?

Billy: *(Slightly irritated.)* Yes, fold it.

Jack: *(Folding the banana)* Well, OK.

Billy: *(Folding his bandana smaller.)* And fold it again, and again. *(Jack folds the banana several times, making gooey mess, and making facial expressions like he's not sure that Billy is in possession of his senses)*

Billy: *(Holding his fist out behind him)* OK? Now, stuff the bandana into my fist.

Jack: *(Stuffing the gooey messy banana into Billy's fist who turns around and stare in disgust)* Fine, have the banana. You'll never make any money doing this. I'm through with this stupid game! *(Exits followed by Billy chasing him.)*

Mother G: *(Enters with Harriet.)* How many times do I have to tell you? I don't have any money to pay the rent.

Harriet: Then I shall have to take goods and chattels like the Squire has instructed.

Mother G: Look, I tell you what, we'll play a little game and if you win, I promise to try to pay something towards it.

Harriet: What's the game?

Mother G: *(Fetches a blackboard.)* These people down here shout out numbers, which I put on this board. We have to make up rhymes, which end in the numbers, then we rub them off and the one who ends up with a clean board wins.

Harriet: OK. Right can you call out some numbers please? *(They write them on the board. A stooge calls out 4million, 4 hundred and 44 thousand, 4 hundred and 44.)*

Mother G: There's always one!! OK. Now you can go first. *(Ad Lib banter between them during this sequence)*

Harriet: Mary at the cottage gate
Eating cherries off a plate

2, 4, 6, 8. *(Rubs them off)*

Mother G: Twinkle, twinkle, pussy cat
What naughty games you're playing at
You've many lives before you go to heaven
3? , 5? , 9? , or is it 7?
(Rubs them off)

Harriet: Little Jack Horner sat in the corner
Drinking bottles of beer – Oh lors
He drank so much Ale
He turned very pale
And crawled away home on all fours.
(Rubs 444444 off)

Mother G: Oh, very good! I'll have to work hard to beat that! Er.
Mary had a little lamb
Its fleece had lost its sheen
So, she stuck it in the bathtub
And washed the whole lot clean.
(Rubs all the rest off)
I win. Ha, ha, ha.

*(Exits followed by Harriet: moaning loudly) Play off to
'There is nothing like a Dame' Music*