



## **Puss In Boots**

A Traditional Family Pantomime by Brian Luff

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## **Puss in Boots**

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### LIST OF CHARACTERS

Dame Doris Morris .....The dame  
Cameron ..... Principal boy  
Princess Emily ..... Principal girl  
Mr Toots ..... Puss in Boots  
Elon Wincy de Quincy ..... A very nasty villain  
Fairy Mary..... A good fairy  
Fairy Suella ..... A bad fairy  
King Egbert ..... The king  
Queen Theresa ..... The queen  
Ruffles ..... A pig  
Sir Rodney ..... A royal equerry  
George ..... Doris's older son  
Charlie ..... Doris's younger son  
Anya ..... A village girl  
Tanya ..... A village girl  
Mr Brinsley ..... A solicitor  
Lieutenant Pigeon ..... A castle guard

Plus, villagers, guards, servants, courtiers, pigs and pigeons.

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

#### ACT 1.

Scene 1 ..... The village green  
Scene 2 ..... De Quincy's castle  
Scene 3 ..... The woods  
Scene 4 ..... The water mill  
Scene 5 .....The village green  
Scene 6 ..... The palace ballroom

#### ACT II

Scene 1 ..... The palace ballroom  
Scene 2 ..... The village green  
Scene 3 ..... Princess Emily's bedroom  
Scene 4 ..... The woods  
Scene 5 ..... De Quincy's castle  
Scene 6 ..... The palace ballroom

## ACT I

### Scene 1

*Enter Wincy de Quincy on tabs. Ominous music, spooky green lighting.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Ha ha ha ha ha! Hello, boy and girls. You are honoured to be in the presence of Count Wincy de Quincy - evil billionaire and owner of The De Quincy Corporation - global leaders in bribery, corruption, fraud and stealing puppies. Now, where is that hopeless assistant of mine, Suella?

*Enter Fairy Suella.*

**Wincy de Quincy** *(To audience)* Suella is an evil witch, you know.

**Fairy Suella** How many times do I have to tell you, De Quincy? I am not a witch, I'm an evil *fairy*!

**Wincy de Quincy** I don't care if you're the Archbishop of Canterbury, you're late! Can't you see I'm doing my big opening speech?

**Fairy Suella** Please continue, your nastiness.

**Wincy de Quincy** Thank you. *(To audience)* With my greediness and dishonesty, I have brought the entire country to its knees. I have also extracted every last penny from the royal family.

**Fairy Suella** Very clever, master.

**Wincy de Quincy** Don't grovel, Suella.

**Fairy Suella** Sorry.

**Wincy de Quincy** I have done everything I can to destroy this kingdom, and now it's up to you.

**Fairy Suella** Me?

**Wincy de Quincy** Yes, you. I want you to use your evil magic to enchant the beautiful princess.

**Fairy Suella** Princess Emily?

**Wincy de Quincy** Yes, Princess Emily. Cast a crafty spell, so that she falls in love with me. Then I can make her my bride.

**Fairy Suella** I shall make it so, your nastiness.

**Wincy de Quincy** *(To audience)* How can that girl possibly resist me? I'm rich, devilishly handsome, and I work out at the gym every second Thursday. I have more muscles than Morecambe Bay.

**Fairy Suella** Cockles.

**Wincy de Quincy** What?

**Fairy Suella** Morecambe Bay is famous for its cockles, not its muscles.

**Wincy de Quincy** What are you, my script editor?

**Fairy Suella** Sorry.

**Wincy de Quincy** Soon, I will rule this kingdom and be married to the most beautiful princess in the world. Nothing can stand in my way. Aha ha ha ha ha ha!

*De Wincey and Fairy Suella stride off stage. Tabs open to reveal the village green. The whole company skip happily onto the stage, and sing the big opening number.*

### Song 1

*At the end of the song, Dame Doris Morris steps forward from the crowd. The villagers listen and occasionally react to Doris's opening chat.*

**Dame Doris** Hello everyone! My name is Dame Doris Morris. It's lovely to meet you all. Thanks for coming out. My, what a good-looking bunch you are! I can see you've made an effort this evening. But this is not about you, it's about me. I live in a quaint little watermill on the banks of the river, and my job is to grind corn to make flour. You'll see a lot of corn in this panto, I can assure you. I sell my corn to the royal palace, and to a little cake shop in the village, which is run by a lovely man called Matt the Baker. He's got a smashing sense of humour. I said to him yesterday, "Is this gluten free?" He said, "No, it costs six quid." Actually, Matt the Baker's having a bit of a tough time at the moment. His investors all want a slice of the pie. I went to work for Matt once, but on the first morning, I logged into the bakery's computer and accidentally deleted all the cookies. That's an I.T. joke. Keep up, I'm not explaining them to you. Of course, this being a panto, you won't be surprised to hear that I'm a poor widow. I said, I'm a *poor window*.

**All** Aaaaaaahhhh!

**Dame Doris** Oh, for heaven's sake it's sadder than that. I'm a *poor window*.

**All** Aaaaaaahhhh!

**Dame Doris** Thank you for your spontaneous and heartfelt sympathy. Oh, and there's someone else you should meet. I was hoping he'd be here by now, but I can't see him anywhere.

*Doris whistles into the wings.*

**Dame Doris** Ruffles? Where are you Ruffles? *(To audience)* Ruffles is my pet pig. Ruffles! Ruffles!

*She whistles again, but he doesn't appear. As soon as Doris turns back to face the audience, Ruffles enters upstage behind her.*

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

**Dame Doris** I can hear him, but I can't see him. He usually comes straight away when I whistle. Can you see him, boys and girls?

**Audience** Behind you!

*Dame Doris turns around, but Ruffles is gone.*

**Dame Doris** Was he there, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes! Behind you!

*Ruffles comes on again, but is gone by the time Dame Doris turns. Ad lib with the audience for a while until the creature finally walks downstage and joins his owner.*

**Dame Doris** Oh, there you are you silly pig. *(To audience)* This is Ruffles. Say hello to the boys and girls, Ruffles.

*Ruffles waves.*

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

**Dame Doris** Say hello to Ruffles everyone!

**Audience** Hello Ruffles!

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

**Dame Doris** He says he's very pleased to meet you all. He's a very attentive pig. And so talented! Show them what you can do, Ruffles.

*The pig does a little tap dance, and ends with a flourish.*

**Dame Doris** I was thinking of putting him on "Britain's Got Talent", but he doesn't like that Simon Cowell.

*Ruffles does a thumbs down.*

**Dame Doris** I'm very fond of my pig, but I've also got three grown-up sons - Cameron, Charlie and George. They're good boys most of the time, but they do drive me up the wall now and again. However, I always try and forgive and forget. Mind you, now that I'm in my "mature years", I forget absolutely everything. My memory is terrible! I told my doctor, I said "I'm so forgetful these days". He asked me how long I've had the problem, and I said "What problem?" Sometimes I even forget my own name. I tell you what, boys and girls, every time I come on, will you remind me by shouting out "Hello Doris Morris!" Let's try that, shall we? I'll go off and come on again.

*She goes off and re-enters.*

**Dame Doris** Hello boys and girls!

**All** Hello Doris Morris!

*Ad lib, Doris practices with the audience a couple more times.*

**Dame Doris** Right, let's get this show on the road.

*Dame Doris and the company sing a final rousing chorus of the opening song. Ruffles dances. Curtain.*

*Enter Fairy Mary on tabs. She waves her wand.*

**Fairy Mary** Hello good folks, my name is Mary,  
I am a very gentle fairy.  
And now our panto has begun,  
We hope you'll have a lot of fun.

Our tale concerns a certain cat,  
A clever one, be sure of that.  
The feline's name is Mr Toots,  
Who's oft been known as Puss in Boots.

*Fairy Mary begins to flutter off stage, but she is stopped by a stern voice from the wings.*

**Fairy Suella** Not so fast, Fairy Mary!

*Enter Fairy Suella*

**Fairy Mary** Oh, dear. It's my arch rival, Suella.

**Fairy Suella** *(To the audience)* What are you lot staring at? Never seen a pair of wings before?

**Fairy Mary** *(To the audience)* Suella hasn't dared show her face 'round here for many a long year.

**Fairy Suella** How are you, Fairy Mary?

**Fairy Mary** Don't speak to me, you wicked witch!

**Fairy Suella** (*Stamping her foot*) I'm *not* a witch, I'm a fairy!

**Fairy Mary** (*To audience*) Suella *is* a witch. But she identifies as an evil fairy. It's not compulsory, but I recommend that you boo her every time she comes on stage.

**Audience** Booooo! Booooo!

**Fairy Suella** Well, that's not very nice, I must say. I thought we might all be friends.

**Fairy Mary** In your dreams, Suella. What are you doing here?

**Fairy Suella** Well, I thought you'd like to know that I have a new job.

**Fairy Mary** A new job? Why would I give a hoot about that?

**Fairy Suella** Because I now work for Count Elon Wincy de Quincy.

**Fairy Mary** Well that doesn't surprise me at all. Wincy de Quincy is a very nasty piece of work.

**Fairy Suella** That's true. But I am rather fond of him. And he pays extremely well.

**Fairy Mary** Of course he pays well. He's a billionaire. He's squeezed every last penny out of the people of this land.

**Fairy Suella** Yes, and now he plans to wheedle his way into the royal family by marrying Princess Emily. I shall see to it.

**Fairy Mary** You don't think I'm going to stand by and let that happen? My magic is far more powerful than yours.

**Fairy Suella** Nonsense. Don't you know that evil always triumphs over good?

**Fairy Mary** I think you'll find that you've got that the wrong way around, Suella.

**Fairy Suella** Well, we'll soon find out, won't we? See you at the wedding, loser.

*Fairy Suella exits.*

**Fairy Mary** Don't worry boys and girls. Everyone in this story lives happily ever after. Except, of course, for bad fairies.

*Enter Sir Rodney. He addresses the villagers.*

**Sir Rodney** Pay attention everyone! I am Sir Rodney, equerry to King Egbert and Queen Theresa. I'm here to announce that the king and queen are on an official walkabout today. (*Aside to the audience*) They like to press the flesh with the peasants from time to time.

**All** Don't call us peasants!

**Sir Rodney** Sorry. Slip of the tongue. If you read the papers, you'll know that the king and queen have recently lost all their money to an unscrupulous billionaire called Count Wincy de Quincy. So, they're on the lookout for a handsome, and ideally very rich prince, to marry their daughter Princess Emily. They will be here shortly. Please be on your best behaviour, and don't swear.

**Dame Doris** Not much chance of that.

*Enter Mr Brinsley the solicitor. He approaches Dame Doris and her pig.*

**Solicitor** Excuse me...

**Dame Doris** Yes?

**Solicitor** Are you Dame Doris Morris?

**Dame Doris** Who wants to know?

**Solicitor** I am here to read your late husband's will.

**Dame Doris** Of course! It's exactly one year since poor dear Boris passed away. Just as soon as my sons get here, we'll get on with it.

**Sir Rodney** But the king and queen will be here at any minute! The royal carriage is just pulling into the car park.

**Dame Doris** Well, their majesties will have to wait. Oh good, here come George and Charlie.

*George and Charlie enter on skateboards. Anya and Tanya swoon.*

**Anya** Ooooh, look Tanya. It's hunky, chunky George!

**Tanya** More chunky than hunky, if you ask me.

**Anya** I wasn't asking you.

**Tanya** Charlie is much hunkier

**Anya** George, you're such an amazing skateboarder!

**Tanya** So are you, Charlie. And so handsome!

**Charlie** I know, I know.

**George** Hello ladies.

**Dame Doris** *(To Charlie & George)* As soon as you two have finished flirting, we'll get on with reading your father's will. I've been waiting a year for this.

**George** We're going to be rich. Charlie! I'm going to get a new skateboard!

**Charlie** Skateboard? I'm getting a yacht.

**Dame Doris** *(To villagers etc)* Come on you lot, shove off. The family need a bit of privacy.

*All leave except for George, Charlie, Dame Doris, Ruffles and the solicitor.*

**Dame Doris** We should wait for Cameron to get here, really.

**Charlie** Nah.

**George** Cameron is always fashionably late.

**Charlie** Let's just get on with it.

*The solicitor unrolls a long scroll. They all cluster around him.*

**Solicitor** This is the last will and testament of Boris Morris esquire. Miller of this parish. *(Reads)* "I, Boris Morris, being of sound mind and body..."

*Enter Cameron with a very elegant-looking cat, Mr Toots.*



**Cameron** I hope you're not going to read that without me.

**George** Oh, here he is. The big "I am".

**Dame Doris** Better late than never.

**George** And look, he's brought father's stupid old cat with him.

*Mr Toots looks very affronted by this.*

**Cameron** Don't call Mr Toots stupid. He may be just a simple mill cat, but he's a lot smarter than you are. He's been a very loyal servant to this family. He caught mice at father's mill for years!

**Charlie** I don't know why you bothered to come today, Cameron. You know you're not going to get anything in father's will. You're adopted.

**George** Yes, you arrived on the doorstep in a basket.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Dame Doris** Ruffles says, "Stop being so unkind to your brother!"

**Charlie** (*Spitefully*) Step-brother.

*Enter Princess Emily*

**Dame Doris** Whoops! Best behaviour, boys, it's the princess!

**Cameron** Wow! Is that Princess Emily? I've never seen her before.

**Dame Doris** Your highness, what are you doing here?

**Charlie** Roughing it with the lower orders, are you?

**Dame Doris** Sshhh, Charlie. Show some respect.

**Emily** I've run away from home.

**Dame Doris** What, dear?

**Emily** I've absconded. From the palace.

**Dame Doris** Why?

**Emily** My parents hate me.

**Dame Doris** Oh, I'm sure they don't, dear. What's the matter? Tell Doris.

*The princess puts her head on Doris's shoulder.*

**Emily** Oh, Doris, they expect me to marry someone rich.

**Dame Doris** (*Patting the princess's arm*) There, there...

**Emily** Just because they were gullible enough to lose all their money.

**Dame Doris** There, there, ever so there.

**Emily** I don't want to get married for money. I want to get married for love.

**Cameron** I'm sure you'll fall in love with someone, Princess Emily.

*Emily sees Cameron. Her eyes light up.*

**Emily** Hello.

**Cameron** Hello.

*The pair stare into each other's eyes.*

**Emily** I don't believe we've met. What's your name?

**Cameron** Oh, er... Cameron. Cameron Morris. And this is my late father's cat, Mr Toots.

**Emily** Hello, Mr Toots.

*Mr Toots looks a little bashful.*

**Cameron** Sir Rodney says the king and queen will be here soon. They're on a royal walkabout apparently.

**Emily** Oh. Then, I'd better go. I don't really want to bump into them. I do hope we meet again soon, Cameron.

**Cameron** I hope so too.

*Princess Emily runs off.*

**Dame Doris** Can we please get on with reading this will?

**Cameron** Yes, of course.

*They all gather around again.*

**Solicitor** *(Reads)* "This is the last will and testament of..."

**Dame Doris** Yes, yes, we've done that bit. Cut to the chase.

**Charlie** Just tells us who gets the money?

**Solicitor** It says, "To my sons George and Charlie, I leave four pounds."

**Charlie** Four pounds?

**George** Four pounds each?

**Solicitor** No. Four pounds between you.

**Charlie** Only two quid each?

**Solicitor** That's what the document says.

**Charlie** Well, there goes my yacht.

**George** That mean old skinflint.

**Dame Doris** Don't talk about your father like that. He was a very generous man.

**Solicitor** *(Reads)* "To my wife's pig, Ruffles, I leave five pounds."

*Ruffles jumps up and down.*

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Charlie** The pig? Father left the pig more money than us?

**George** Well, that's a slap in the face.

**Solicitor** *(Reads)* "To my loving wife, Doris, I leave my beloved watermill."

**Dame Doris** Hooray! I'm a mill owner!

**Solicitor** Not quite, Doris. There is an outstanding mortgage to pay on the property.

**Dame Doris** How much is that?

**Solicitor** Fifty thousand pounds.

**Dame Doris** I can't afford to pay that.

**Solicitor** In that case, the bank will be repossessing the property at the end of this month.

**Dame Doris** Oh well, easy come, easy go.

**Solicitor** There's one more clause in the will. Your husband writes *(Reads)* "And to my adopted son, Cameron..."

**Charlie** Wait for it...

**Solicitor** *(Reads)* I leave my loyal cat, Mr Toots.

**Cameron** *(To Mr Toots)* Well, well, how about that? Now you belong to me!

*The cat runs over to Cameron, and nuzzles up to him.*

**Solicitor** There's also a little note attached to the back of the document.

**Dame Doris** Oh?

**Solicitor** *(Reads)* It's addressed to Cameron.

**Charlie** Read it out.

**Solicitor** It's marked "private."

**Cameron** I don't mind if you read it out. Go ahead.

**Solicitor** It says, *(Reads)* "Cameron, I always loved you like my own son..."

**All** Aw!

**Solicitor** *(Reads)* And rest assured, there is more to your humble inheritance than meets the eye."

*Everyone looks at everyone else. Mr Toots shrugs.*

**Cameron** I wonder what father meant by that.

*Blackout. Everyone exits. There is a puff of smoke and Fairy Mary enters in a single spotlight.*

**Fairy Mary** As this strange tale now unfolds,  
Who knows what the future holds.

But you can be quite certain that  
This is a *very* special cat.

When Cameron's luck is wearing thin,  
He always should stay close to him,  
For he will find that in the end,  
This cat will be his loyalest friend.

*Fairy Mary exits. Lights up on the village green again. Cameron is talking to the cat.*

**Cameron** It's you and me against the world now, Toots. Friends, allies, and bestest buddies forever!

*Cameron and Mr Toots bump fists.*

**Cameron** I haven't got a penny in the world! But I also don't have a care in the world, and I've got you.

*Cameron sings a song to Mr Toots about being friends. The pair do a little dance together.*

## Song 2

*At the end of the song, enter Sir Rodney with the villagers, Dame Doris, Charlie and George.*

**Sir Rodney** Make way for their majesties King Egbert and Queen Theresa! It's time for the royal walkabout.

*Fanfare. The king and queen enter. The king catches sight of Dame Doris in the crowd.*

**King** Doris! How lovely to see you!

**Dame Doris** Your majesty!

**King** And here's your charming pig.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Cameron** I didn't know you knew the king, mother.

**Dame Doris** Oh, I've got friends in very high places. The flour from our mill is "By Royal Appointment."

**King** Doris, can I have a word?

**Dame Doris** Do you have a royal appointment?

**King** No.

**Dame Doris** Don't worry, I'll squeeze you in.

**King** I must compliment you on the quality of the flour you've been making for the palace. It really is as light as a feather! My wife calls it "floaty flour."

**Dame Doris** Floaty flour?

**King** Yes!

**Dame Doris** Well, it's floaty flour because it's "finely milled".

**King** Finely milled?

**Dame Doris** Yes. Our floaty flour is finely milled because I am highly skilled.

**King** Highly skilled, indeed.

**Dame Doris** Thank you. I'm thrilled.

**King** Thrilled?

**Dame Doris** Yes, I'm thrilled that you think I'm highly skilled and that our floaty flour is finely milled.

**King** I'm thrilled too.

**Dame Doris** I hope you will continue to be thrilled by our highly skilled, finely milled, floaty flour.

**Charlie** Mother, leave the king alone.

**King** I was so sad to hear of the loss of your husband.

**Dame Doris** Boris?

**King** Yes. Poor, dear Boris Morris. His flour was also finely milled and highly skilled.

**Dame Doris** And floaty.

**King** Yes.

**Dame Doris** My husband taught me everything I know about floaty flour.

**George** Mother! The king is a very busy man.

**Queen** I don't suppose you've seen our daughter Princess Emily. She disappeared from the palace this morning, and we can't find her anywhere!

*Princess Emily runs on.*

**Emily** Here I am, daddy!

**Queen** There you are! Where on earth have you been?

**Emily** Oh, I just went for a little walk. I wanted to be on my own for a while.

**Queen** *(To Sir Rodney)* Let's get this little shindig under way, shall we?

**Sir Rodney** Yes, your majesty. *(To the crowd)* Ladies and gentlemen, King Egbert and Queen Theresa wish to address their subjects.

*The villagers gather round. The king and queen climb onto milk crates.*

**Queen** My husband would like to say a few words, wouldn't you dear.

**King** Yes, my love.

**Sir Rodney** Pray silence for his majesty!

**King** Ladies and gentlemen, I regret to inform you that the royal purse is empty.

**All** Empty?

**Queen** The treasury is bare, the exchequer has no money, and the palace safe has nothing in it.

*Charlie puts up his hand.*

**King** Yes?

**Charlie** Aren't those all the same thing?

*The king thinks about this for a moment.*

**King** Well, yes, I suppose they are. Anyway, to summerise, we are skint.

**All** Skint?

**Queen** Yes, skint. Broke, bankrupt, insolvent, depleted, impoverished, strapped for cash and destitute.

**King** *(To audience)* The queen has been reading her thesaurus again.

**Queen** Count Elon Wincy de Quincy has defrauded us out of every brass farthing.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Dame Doris** Ruffles says, "Can't you sell the palace?"

**King** We don't own the palace, Doris. De Quincy owns the palace now.

**Cameron** How exactly did De Quincy trick you into giving him all your money?

**Queen** Impudent boy.

**King** That's a fair question, dear. The truth is, we don't know.

**Dame Doris** Sounds like witchcraft to me.

**King** Witchcraft?

**Queen** And now De Quincy wants to marry our daughter!

**All** No!

**Charlie** He owns most of the village.

**George** And he's doubled all the rents!

**Villager** None of us can afford to pay.

**Queen** What we need is a hero! Someone brave and rich who can get rid of De Quincy, marry our daughter and pay off all our debts.

**King** Any volunteers?

**George** I've got money!

**Dame Doris** George?

**Queen** How much have you got?

**George** Two pounds.

**Anya** *(Swooning)* Oh, George, you're so satirical!

**Queen** *(To George)* Do you have a palace?

**George** Er... I support *Crystal* Palace.

**Queen** Pass!

**George** Oh, well. It was worth a try.

**King** Anyone else?

*Everyone shrugs. Cameron puts up his hand.*

**Cameron** I'll be your hero.

**Dame Doris** Cameron?

**King** You?

**Queen** This boy is far too young to be a hero!

**Dame Doris** Oh, no he isn't!

**Queen** Oh, yes he is!

**Doris & Audience** Oh, no he isn't!

**Queen** Oh, yes he is!

**Doris & Audience** Oh, no he isn't!

*Continue ad lib until...*

**Cameron** I'm *not* too young to be a hero, and I'll prove it to you. I will save this kingdom!

### **Song 3**

*Cameron sings a song about about being a hero, and the whole village joins in with him. At the end of the song, curtain.*

### **Scene 2**

*Enter Count Wincy de Quincy on tabs. Spooky green light.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Hello again, boys and girls.

**Audience** Booooooo!

**Wincy de Quincy** Oh, shut up. Booing just encourages me. You won't boo me when I'm the ruler of this miserable little kingdom.

**Audience** Booooooo!

*Enter Fairy Suella.*

**Fairy Suella** Count De Quincy, I bring news!

**Wincy de Quincy** News? What news?

**Fairy Suella** There is a boy.

**Wincy de Quincy** A boy?

**Fairy Suella** A boy, yes. His name is Cameron, and he says he's going to stand up to you.

**Wincy de Quincy** What nonsense. How can a mere boy interfere with my evil plans?

**Fairy Suella** The boy has a cat.

**Wincy de Quincy** A cat?

**Fairy Suella** He doesn't know it yet, but it is a magical cat.

**Wincy de Quincy** (*Aside to audience*) This is beginning to sound like the plot of a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

**Fairy Suella** Every fairy story has its hero, Count De Quincy, and I suggest that you should be very wary of this one.

**Wincy de Quincy** I can assure you, Fairy Suella, that I am not afraid of a boy and a cat.

**Fairy Suella** I'm very pleased to hear it.

**Wincy de Quincy** Now, go and enchant that princess, and don't come back until you've done it.

*He strides off, his evil laugh echoing around the stage.*

**Fairy Suella** (*To audience*) Oh well, I did warn him.

*Blackout.*

### Scene 3

*Tabs open to reveal the woods. There is a neat little line of trees upstage. Enter Cameron and Mr Toots who is wearing a duffel bag on his back.*

**Cameron** I can't stop thinking about the princess, Mr Toots. We've only spoken a few words, but I think I might be in love with her.

*Mr Toots mimes a pumping heart.*

**Cameron** You're right. My heart is pumping like a steam hammer. We simply cannot allow Princess Emily to marry Wincey De Quincy. But then, why would she want me? I'm as poor as a church mouse.

*He rummages in his pockets.*

**Cameron** Let's see. All I have is some chewing gum, a conker, two buttons and a twenty pence piece.

*Mr Toots does his boo hoo mime. Cameron looks around.*

**Cameron** This is a very dark and creepy forest, Toots. I hope we don't get robbed.

*Mr Toots sees an old woman approaching, and he points cautiously. The woman is wearing a dark cape, and has a hood draped over her face. She is carrying a pair of boots.*

**Fairy Mary** (*Old woman voice*) Boots for sale! Boots for sale!

**Cameron** What a funny place to sell boots. I shouldn't think she gets much trade in the woods.

**Fairy Mary** You are absolutely right, young man. There is very little footfall around here.

**Cameron** Pardon?

**Fairy Mary** It's a joke about shoe retailing, dear. You wouldn't understand it.



*Mr Toots clutches his tummy and laughs. The cat gets the gag.*

**Cameron** I see.

**Fairy Mary** Are you interested in buying this very fine pair of leather boots?

**Cameron** I'm sorry, I'm afraid I haven't got much money on me.

**Fairy Mary** How much do you have?

**Cameron** Twenty pence.

**Fairy Mary** Twenty pence? Is that all?

**Cameron** How much are the boots?

**Fairy Mary** They're in the winter sale, dear. Knocked down price from £19.99...

**Cameron** To?

**Fairy Mary** Twenty pence.

*Cameron grabs the boots.*

**Cameron** Let me see those.

*Cameron examines the footwear.*

**Cameron** These are splendid boots.

**Fairy Mary** Naturally.

**Cameron** But, they're far too small for me.

*Mr Toots grabs the boots.*

**Fairy Mary** Your cat seems to like them.

**Cameron** He does.

*Mr Toots gives a thumbs up.*

**Fairy Mary** Oh, go on. Buy the boots for your cat. You won't regret it.

**Cameron** But twenty pence is all the money I have in the world!

**Fairy Mary** Trust me.

**Cameron** Well, I suppose if he really wants them, the money's well spent.

*He gives a coin to Fairy Mary. Mr Toots jumps for joy.*

**Fairy Mary** I'm sure your pet will repay you ten thousand-fold for the gift.

*Fairy Mary exits. Mr Toots quickly puts on the boots. There is a flash and a puff of smoke. When the smoke clears...*

**Mr Toots** (*French accent*) So, what do you think?

**Cameron** They're very smart, Mr Toots.

**Mr Toots** Merci.

**Cameron** Hold on...

**Mr Toots** What?

**Cameron** You can talk?

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**Cameron** And you're French?

**Mr Toots** Oui. I have always been able to talk. I just did not have these boots.

**Cameron** I don't understand.

**Mr Toots** Neither do I.

**Cameron** How can a pair of boots enable a cat to talk?

**Mr Toots** I do not know. It is a mystery.

**Cameron** *(To audience)* Who would have guessed that Mr Toots was a magical cat? That's must be what father meant in that note he left me.

**Mr Toots** Your father was a remarkable man, Cameron.

**Cameron** I know.

**Mr Toots** He taught me many things. I think perhaps he guessed that one day you and I were destined for greatness.

**Cameron** And all you needed was the right footwear.

**Mr Toots** It would appear so.

**Cameron** But now what?

**Mr Toots** You have to grab everything you want from life, Cameron. *(The cat grasps his fists)* Like this. With both hands.

**Cameron** I'll certainly try. But how?

**Mr Toots** First, you must win over the king and queen. Do you know what the king likes most?

**Cameron** Money, of course.

**Mr Toots** Apart from money?

**Cameron** No.

**Mr Toots** The king likes truffles.

**Cameron** Truffles?

**Mr Toots** Oui. truffles.

**Cameron** What are truffles?

**Mr Toots** Truffles are a strong-smelling underground fungus that grows around the roots of trees.

**Cameron** Yuk!

**Mr Toots** Truffles look like potatoes with a rough skin. But they are delicious.

**Cameron** Are they?

**Mr Toots** Oui. They grow in woodlands just like this one. They are considered a great delicacy in France, and they are extremely hard to find.

**Cameron** Really?

**Mr Toots** Oui. They are also very, very expensive to buy.

**Cameron** How do we find truffles?

**Mr Toots** It is easy.

**Cameron** Is it?

**Mr Toots** All we need... is a pig.

**Cameron** A pig?

**Mr Toots** Pigs are very good at snuffling out truffles.

**Cameron** Snuffling out truffles?

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**Cameron** But, we have a pig!

**Mr Toots** Of course. And I am sure that Monsieur Ruffles can snuffle truffles.

**Cameron** He's a very talented pig. I'll whistle for him now.

*Cameron whistles into the wings. Ruffles immediately comes running onto the stage.*

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Cameron** Ruffles, we have a job for you.

*Ruffles does a thumbs up.*

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Cameron** Do you know how to snuffle for truffles?

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Mr Toots** What did he say?

**Cameron** He says all pigs can snuffle for truffles.

**Mr Toots** Excellent. Monsieur Ruffles, do you know any other pigs?

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Cameron** He says he knows lots of other pigs, and they all know how to snuffle for truffles.

*Ruffles whistles into the wings and a group of children dressed as pigs come running onto the stage. Ruffles greets them warmly. They all jump up and down with excitement.*

**Pigs** Oink, oink!

**Cameron** Ruffles says the pigs will start snuffling for truffles right away.

**Mr Toots** Fantastique!

**Cameron** You can put them in your satchel.

**Mr Toots** It is not a satchel, Cameron. It is a duffel bag.

**Cameron** A duffel bag?

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**Cameron** A duffel for truffles.

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**Cameron** *(To the pigs)* Pigs! Stand by to snuffle for truffles. Ready, steady, go!

*Music. The pigs oink noisily and go and sniff at the roots of the trees. They twitch their piggy noses and wiggle their curly tails in unison. Every now and again, one of them throws a truffle into the air, and Mr Toots puts it into his duffel bag.*

**Mr Toots** Snuffle, snuffle, snuffle... truffle in the duffel!

**Cameron** Hurray!

**Mr Toots** Snuffle, snuffle, snuffle... truffle in the duffel!

**Cameron** Another one!

**Mr Toots** *(Rhythmically, with a little dance)* Snuffle, snuffle, snuffle... truffle in the duffel! Snuffle, snuffle, snuffle... truffle in the duffel!

*The pigs snuffle for truffles until the bag is nearly full.*

**Cameron** I think we've got enough truffles now. How much do you think they're worth, Mr Toots?

**Mr Toots** At least ten thousand pounds!

**Cameron** Really?

**Mr Toots** Perhaps more. There are many, many truffles in the duffel.

**Cameron** The king will be impressed. A big bag full of his second favourite thing. Let's go to the palace now.

**Mr Toots** No, wait. I will take the duffel of truffles to the palace.

**Cameron** You?

**Mr Toots** Oui. I will say they are a gift from a secret admirer of the princess.

**Cameron** And what do I do?

**Mr Toots** You wait, Cameron.

**Cameron** Wait?

**Mr Toots** You wait until it is time to be a hero!

**Cameron** (*Picturing it*) A hero.

**Mr Toots** And I will be beside you all the way, my friend. I will be your heroic Puss in Boots!

*Cameron and Mr Toots sing a song together.*

#### **Song 4**

*At the end of the song, they run off with their duffel full of truffles. Curtain.*

*George and Charlie enter on tabs.*

**George** Cameron seemed to be in a bit of a hurry just now.

**Charlie** I wonder what he's up to. There was a very funny smell coming from that bag.

**George** Yes, and I'd swear that the cat was wearing boots.

**Charlie** I'm glad you saw that as well, George I thought I was seeing things.

**George** There was something else, too.

**Charlie** What?

**George** I heard the cat say "Good morning."

**Charlie** Did you?

**George** Yes.

**Charlie** Ok, a cat in boots, maybe. But a talking cat? I don't think so.

*They exit.*

#### **Scene 4**

*Tabs open to reveal Dame Doris's mill. There is a big water wheel at the back of the stage, and a handcart stands downstage left. Plastic sheeting covers the floor.*

*Enter Dame Doris with Ruffles, George and Charlie.*

**Dame Doris** Hello, boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello, Doris Morris!

**Dame Doris** It's time to get this week's flour delivery loaded onto the cart. Come and help me, you lot.

**George** Do we have to?

**Dame Doris** Yes you do.

**Charlie** I hate working.

**Dame Doris** Stop complaining.

**Charlie** Ruffles, go and get the flour.

*The pig gives a thumbs up and runs off stage.*

**George** Hurry up, we haven't got all day!

*Ruffles returns carrying a big flower in a flower pot.*

**Dame Doris** Not that kind of flower, you daft pig. Self raising flour.

*Ruffles holds up the flower, and to the sound of an ascending slide whistle, the flower magically rises upwards in the pot.*

**George** Look at that. A self raising flower!

**Dame Doris** I suppose you think that's funny, Ruffles.

*The pigs nods yes.*

**Dame Doris** *(To audience)* Sometimes that animal is just too intelligent for his own good.

**George** Stop messing about Ruffles.

**Charlie** *(To Ruffles)* Go and get the *real* flour!

*The pig runs off and comes back with an armful of flour bags. He places them on the ground. Dame Doris goes and stands next to the pile of bags.*

**Dame Doris** Right, pay attention everyone. I'll throw the flour bags to Ruffles, and he'll throw the bags to Charlie. Then Charlie, you throws the bags to George, and George you throw the bags into the cart.

**Charlie** Righto, mother.

*Doris produces four see-through plastic macs, with little hoods.*

**Dame Doris** But first, put these on.

**Charlie** Why do we have to put these on?

**Dame Doris** Have you never seen a panto before?

**Charlie** Uh oh.

**George** Charlie will be rubbish at this. He can't catch to save his life.

**Charlie** *(Annoyed)* Is that so?

**George** Yes.

*Doris, the pig, and the two brothers spread out in a line across the stage.*

**Dame Doris** Ready, steady go!

*Doris throws the first bag of flour to Ruffles. Ruffles throws it to Charlie. Charlie walks over to George and tips the bag over his head.*

**George** Aaagghhh! What did you do that for?

**Charlie** You said I was rubbish at catching.

*The boys square up to each other. Ruffles quickly runs between them and keeps them apart.*

**George** Oh, no I didn't!

**Charlie** Oh, yes you did.

**Dame Doris** Stop that at once! We're not doing that again!

**George & Charlie** Sorry mother.

**Dame Doris** Charlie, you go and stand where George was standing, and George, you go and stand where Charlie was standing.

**George & Charlie** Yes, mother.

**Dame Doris** Ready, steady, go!

*Doris throws the second bag of flour to Ruffles. Ruffles throws it to George. George throws it to Charlie. Charlie catches it, walks back to George and tips the bag over his head as before.*

**George** You did it again!

**Charlie** Don't be a cry baby.

**George** I'm not a cry baby!

*The brothers square up to each other again, and Ruffles is once again the peacemaker.*

**Dame Doris** Stop it, I say, stop it! If your father was here he'd he'd treat you both like we treat the flour.

**Charlie** What do you mean?

**Dame Doris** You'd be grounded.

*(Beat)*

**Charlie** Mother, even I have to admit that that was a half decent joke.

**Dame Doris** Thank you. I'm here all week.

**George** Can we stop doing this now? The flour is going up my nose.

**Dame Doris** No. We haven't finished yet. Ruffles, you go and stand where Charlie was standing. George, you go and stand where Ruffles was standing.

*They all change places as instructed.*

**Dame Doris** Ready, steady, go!

*Dame Doris throws the third bag to George. George throws it to Charlie. Charlie throws it to Ruffles. Charlie immediately whistles to Ruffles and holds out his hands. Ruffles obediently throws the bag back to Charlie, who walks over to George and tips the bag over his head again.*

**George** Aggghhh! Will you please stop doing that!

*The boys square up to each other once more, and are again separated by the pig. Dame Doris strides over to the her sons angrily.*

**Dame Doris** Right, I've had just about enough of this. Ruffles chuck me another bag of flour.

*Ruffles throws a bag to Doris.*

**Dame Doris** Charlie, come over here!

*Charlie walks sheepishly over to his mother, who carefully opens the bag of flour and holds it close to her son's head.*

**Dame Doris** Now, say sorry to your brother.

**Charlie** (*Sarcastically*) Sorry, George.

**Dame Doris** Say it like you mean it!

**Charlie** (*Sincerely*) Sorry, George.

**Dame Doris** (*To Charlie*) Well done. Now, what are you going to do next?

**Charlie** This.

*Charlie grabs the bag of flour and empties it over his mother's head. Chaos ensues. Everyone grabs a bag, and they all throw flour over each other until Dame Doris blows a full time whistle.*

**Dame Doris** That's it! You're all grounded! Now go and get cleaned up.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

**Charlie** What did the pig say?

**Dame Doris** He said we can't get go and cleaned up, we have to sing a song first.

**George** Seriously?

*Music starts, They all take off their plastic macs, and Dame Doris sings a song with George, Charlie and Ruffles.*

## Song 5

*At the end of the song, they exit. Curtain.*

## Scene 5

*Enter king, queen and Princess Emily on tabs. They are carrying picnic baskets.*

**King** What a lovely day it is today, dear.

**Queen** Yes, it was such a good idea of yours to take a picnic to the village green.

**King** Come on Emily, keep up.

**Emily** I don't want to go on a picnic. I want to see Cameron.

*Mr Toots enters carrying his duffel bag.*

**Mr Toots** Excusez moi, your royal majesties!

**Queen** What is it? Can't you see this is a private family outing?

**King** You are infringing our royal privacy. What are you, paparazzi?



**Mr Toots** A thousand apologies, your majesty. I bring a very precious gift from my master.

**Queen** Really. But, if I am not very much mistaken, you're a cat!

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**King** A French cat at that.

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**Princess** Father, why is that creature talking like Raymonde Le Blanc?

**King** Do not worry, my dear, this is a fairy story. We should expect some of the animals to talk.

**Queen** What is this gift you speak of?

**Mr Toots** It is a gift for his majesty.

**King** Oh goody. I love pressies.

**Queen** Well, don't just stand there you feline freak. Open the sack!

**Mr Toots** It is not a sack. It is a duffel bag.

*Mr Toots reaches into the bag and pulls out a truffle.*

**Queen** A potato? You dare to give a potato to the king? We have millions of potatoes.

*The king's eyes light up.*

**King** Ooooooh. It's not a potato, my dear. It is a truffle.

**Mr Toots** Oui. It is a truffle.

**King** But where did you manage to snuffle a truffle? They are very rare.

**Mr Toots** We did not merely snuffle one truffle, your majesty. We snuffled many, many truffles.

*He tips out the duffel bag.*

**King** But, these truffles are worth a small fortune.

**Mr Toots** And my master can show you where to snuffle thousands more.

**Queen** Who is your master? We simply *must* meet this man.

**King** In fact, our daughter should marry him!

**Princess** But father, I *met* someone yesterday!

**King** Nonsense! Fetch this mysterious man to me. Anyone who brings me a duffel full of truffles, deserves to become my son-in-law!

**Princess** *(To the audience)* What an absolutely ridiculous premise.

*Tabs open on the village green. The king, queen, and Princess Emily walk into the scene. Mr Toots follows behind.*

**Queen** Cat! Come here!

**Mr Toots** Moi?

**Queen** Yes, moi. My daughter Princess Emily would like to meet your master.

**Princess** Would I?

**King** *(To Mr Toots)* When is he available to come to the palace?

*The cat produces a retro-looking Filofax and flips through the pages.*

**Mr Toots** Well, I know he has a very busy diary at the moment.

**King** Really? Oh, dear.

**Mr Toots** But I think he could be available to attend a grand ball at the palace tomorrow.

**Queen** We're not having a grand ball at the palace tomorrow.

**Mr Toots** You are now.

**Princess** Are we?

**Mr Toots** Oui.

*Enter Sir Rodney.*

**King** Do what the cat says, Sir Rodney! Make the preparations right away!

*Everyone exits. Enter Tanya and Anya. Tanya is holding some tickets in her hand.*

**Anya** What have you got there, Tanya?

**Tanya** Tickets.

**Anya** Tickets? Tickets for what?

**Tanya** I'm not telling you, Anya. You have to guess.

**Anya** Are they theatre tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Bus tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Plane tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Train tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** England v Spain tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** "Singin in the Rain" tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Zoo tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Jump the queue tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Restricted view tickets?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** Are they laundry tickets to pick up your mum's dry cleaning?

**Tanya** No.

**Anya** I've got it. They're parking tickets!

**Tanya** What?

**Anya** You left your dad's horse and cart on a double yellow line again.

**Tanya** I did not!

**Anya** Well, what are they for?

**Tanya** They are tickets to a royal ball at the palace.

**Anya** Wow! Where did you get those?

**Tanya** I have my contacts.

**Anya** I'm impressed. How many tickets do you have?

**Tanya** Four.

**Anya** Cool.

**Tanya** Who are we going to take?

**Anya** Oh, I don't know.

**Tanya** Jack?

**Anya** No.

**Tanya** Mac?

**Anya** No.

**Tanya** Zack?

**Anya** Zack didn't call back.

**Tanya** Oh dear. Barry?

**Anya** No.

**Tanya** Gary?

**Anya** No.

**Tanya** Freddie?

**Anya** No.

**Tanya** Eddie?

**Anya** Eddie's not ready.

**Tanya** Who you taking, then?

**Anya** George.

**Tanya** Your boyfriend?

**Anya** Yes.

**Tanya** Loser.

**Anya** Who you taking?

**Tanya** Charlie.

**Anya** Who's a loser now?

*Enter Charlie & George.*

**Tanya** *(Swooning)* Hi Charlie!

**Anya** Hi George.

**Charlie** What were you talking about?

**Tanya & Charlie** Oh, nothing.

*Charlie, George, Tanya and Anya sing a song about going to a party.*

### **Song 6**

*At the end of the song, they all run off.*

### **Scene 6**

*Tabs open on the royal ballroom at the palace. It is set up for a grand ball. Guests are already arriving, dressed in smart tailcoats and big ballgowns. Mr Toots and Cameron enter.*

**Cameron** Wow! I've never been inside the royal palace before.

**Mr Toots** The king and queen are excited to meet you.

**Cameron** Are they?

**Mr Toots** I have told them that you a very rich man. A truffle tycoon.

**Cameron** Truffle tycoon? There's no such thing as a truffle tycoon.

**Mr Toots** If I say you are a truffle tycoon, you are a truffle tycoon. There is nothing wrong with being a truffle tycoon.

**Cameron** Stop saying truffle tycoon.

**Mr Toots** D'accord. *(Ok)*

**Cameron** But Mr Toots, I'm not dressed like a rich man.

**Mr Toots** Do not worry. You look smart but casual. Truffle tycoons do not concern themselves with trifles.

**Cameron** He's very good with words, isn't he?

*Enter Dame Doris & Ruffles.*

**Dame Doris** Hello, boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello, Doris Morris!

**Dame Doris** It's about bloomin' time they had a party at the palace, isn't it Ruffles?

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

**Dame Doris** And we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you. If I'd known you were so good at snuffling truffles, I'd have got you doing it years ago. We could have sold the mill and moved into a big stately home.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

*Enter Charlie, George, Anya and Tanya*

**Anya** Oooh, my first royal ball.

**George** You look lovely, Anya. I wish we could go to a ball every day.

**Anya** Wouldn't that be nice.

**Charlie** Where did Tanya get the tickets?

**Anya** She says she has a royal contact, but I reckon she just bought them on StubHub.

**Tanya** Look Charlie, there's your step brother with his strange cat.

**George** He's always sniffing around the aristocracy.

**Tanya** Don't you mean snuffling?

**George** Sniffing, snuffling, whatever.

**Anya** George, there is nothing wrong with trying to better yourself.

**Tanya** True. Both of you should take a leaf out of Cameron's book.

**Charlie** He always been a crawler.

**George** At school he was teacher's pet.

**Charlie** He used to run around in a wheel, and the teacher would feed him lettuce.

*Enter the king and queen, Sir Rodney and Princess Emily.*

**Queen** Well this is it dear, the big day!

**King** I do so love a ball!

**Sir Rodney** Princess Emily, are you going to join your father and mother in mingling with the guests?

**Emily** No! I'm going to stand here and stare moodily out of the window.

**Sir Rodney** Oh, dear.

**Emily** I don't want to meet any suitors.

**Sir Rodney** But Emily, the truffle tycoon is here. Surely you want to meet him.

**Emily** I've already met the man of my dreams. Everything was fine before this... truffle kerfuffle!

*Sir Rodney goes and fetches Cameron and Mr Toots, and brings them over to the king, queen and princess.*

**Sir Rodney** Your majesty, your royal highness, may I introduce the truffle tycoon.

**King** Welcome, sir!

**Sir Rodney** And his... cat.

*The princess gasps and puts her hands on her cheeks.*

**Emily** It's him!

**Queen** What?

**Emily** It's the handsome man I met a few days ago. The one I told you about.

**King** What? The truffle tycoon is Cameroon. I mean, Cameron?

**Emily** Yes!

**Cameron** Hello, Princess Emily.

**Queen** Well, thank heavens for that.

**Charlie** Oh, here we go. Cameron's got his foot in the door.

**Dame Doris** Stop being so mean about your step brother. Thanks to him, we'll all be royalty soon.

*Sir Rodney addresses the guests.*

**Sir Rodney** My lords, ladies and gentlemen. Dinner will be served shortly in the orangery.

**Cameron** The orangery. *(To Mr Toots)* What's the orangery?

**Mr Toots** It is a long room overlooking the garden.

**Cameron** What colour is the orangery?

**Mr Toots** Blue.

**Cameron** *(To audience)* There's still so much I don't understand about rich people.

*The guests start to drift off stage. Enter Fairy Suella. She grabs Charlie and George and leads them front and centre.*

**Charlie** Oops! Look out. Someone's come in fancy dress.

**Fairy Suella** This is not fancy dress, gentlemen. I am Fairy Suella.

**George** Yeah, right.

**Fairy Suella** I can assure you, I am a real fairy. A very *evil* fairy.

**Charlie** We're listening...

**Fairy Suella** I have a job for you, Charlie and George. A very important job.

**Charlie** Will you pay us?

**Fairy Suella** I will reward you handsomely.

**George** Then we'll do it.

**Fairy Suella** But you don't know what it is yet.

**Charlie** It doesn't matter. We are young and reckless and we're keen to move the story forward.

**Fairy Suella** Excellent.

**George** What's the job?

**Fairy Suella** I want you to kidnap the princess, and take her to Count Wincey de Quincy's castle.

**Charlie** That sounds dangerous.

**George** Mm. I'm not sure about that.

**Fairy Suella** Do you want to be paid, or not?

**Charlie** We want to be paid.

**Fairy Suella** Then go!

*George & Charlie run off.*

**Fairy Suella** Time for an evil laugh, I think Aha ha ha ha ha ha!

**Audience** Booooooo!

*She exits. Enter Cameron and Emily.*

**Emily** Oh, Cameron, now we can get engaged.

**Cameron** I can't believe it. And all because of my clever cat.

**Emily** Now you must formally ask father for my hand.

**Cameron** Which hand?

**Emily** Both of them, silly!

*Emily stretches out her hands and Cameron takes hold of them. The couple spin around happily and sing a love duet together.*

## Song 7

*At the end of the song, enter George and Charlie wearing masks on their faces.*

**George** There's the princess. Grab her!

*Charlie and George throw a sack over Princess Emily's head.*

**Emily** Help! What are you doing?

**Cameron** Let go of her, you hooligans!

*Cameron tussles with the masked men. Enter Mr Toots.*

**Mr Toots** Gentlemen, unhand that girl!

**Charlie** Says who?

**Mr Toots** It is I, Puss in Boots!

**George** It's that ridiculous cat, again. Get him!

*Using impressive unarmed combat, Mr Toots quickly defeats the two assailants. Cameron removes the sack from Emily's head and the two hug. Meanwhile, Mr Toots pulls the masks from Charlie and George's faces.*

**Cameron** George? Charlie? What are you doing?

**Charlie** She forced us to do it.

**Cameron** Who forced you to do it?

**George** An evil fairy!

**Cameron** Evil fairy?

**Mr Toots** Did she place a spell on you?

**Charlie** No.

**Cameron** Did she hypnotise you?

**George** No.

**Cameron** Then, what did she do?

**Charlie & George** She put money in our hands!

**Cameron** Typical. Mother will have your guts for garters.

**Charlie & George** Don't tell mother!

**Cameron** Are you alright, Emily?

**Emily** I'm fine.

*Everyone dashes onto the stage.*

**King** What's going on? We heard a commotion.

**Mr Toots** Your majesty, my master has saved Princess Emily from being kidnapped!



**Emily** It's true, father, Some men tried to drag me away.

**Mr Toots** My master has once again proved himself to be a worthy suitor for the princess!

**Queen** He has indeed.

**King** I hereby decree that this gathering is now officially a royal engagement ball!

**All** Hooray!

**Cameron** *(To Emily)* Is someone getting married?

**Emily** Yes, silly. You are!

*The whole company sing a bright, celebratory song.*

### Song 8

*At the end of the song, curtain.*

## ACT II

### Scene 1

*The palace ballroom. Courtiers and villagers are dressed in their finest. Enter the king, queen, Mr Toots, Dame Doris, Ruffles, Anya, Tanya, George, Charlie and Sir Rodney.*

**Sir Rodney** Your royal majesties, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, please welcome Princess Emily and her fiancée Cameron, the truffle tycoon.

*Enter Emily and Cameron.*

**Cameron** *(Aside to audience)* I do wish they'd stop calling me that.

**Sir Rodney** Now, let there be song and dance and happiness for all!

*Everyone claps and cheers. They all perform a big celebratory opening number for Act II.*

### Song 9

*At the end of the song, Dame Doris steps forward.*

**Dame Doris** *(Waving)* Hello, boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello, Doris Morris!

**Dame Doris** Oooh, I do love a good song and dance number. I'm sweating like a pig.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

**Dame Doris** No offence, Ruffles. Did you all have a nice interval, boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Dame Doris** It's all very exciting here at the palace. Cameron and the princess are now officially engaged, and the king has declared a Bank Holiday to celebrate. Mind you, all the banks are closed anyway since Wincy de Quincy took them over and conned everyone out of their savings. You know what they say. Give a man a gun and he'll rob a bank. Give a man a bank and he'll rob everyone! I once walked into a bank, pointed a twig at the

ceiling and said "This is a stickup!" Would you like another bank-related gag? Who said no? What did the comedian say when he walked into a bank? "This is a stand-up!" These are the jokes, folks. They're not going to get any better. Oh, well, onwards and upwards. Let's get on with the story. What are those two good-for-nothing sons of mine up to?

*Charlie and George walk to centre stage. The rest of the assembled cast drift off into the wings, but Dame Doris lurks upstage.*

**Charlie** I hate to say it, but our step brother Cameron has done pretty well for himself.

**George** True. Maybe we should stop being bad and be responsible citizens like him.

**Charlie** No more pranks.

**George** No more dodgy schemes.

**Charlie** No more messing around.

**George** We'd probably live longer that way.

**Charlie** No, George. We wouldn't live longer. It would just *seem* longer.

*Tanya and Anya walk towards the boys.*

**George** Look out, here come Tanya and Anya.

**Charlie** Oh, dear. I do love Tanya, but I never know what to say to girls.

**George** Neither do I.

*Old-fashioned dance music starts up. A slow foxtrot, like they do on Strictly Come Dancing. Dame Doris walks downstage and stands with her sons.*

**Dame Doris** Charlie, George, aren't you going to ask the girls to dance?

**George** We can't dance.

**Charlie** I've got two left feet.

**George** I've got three left feet.

**Tanya** Oh, go on boys...

**Anya** Ask us to dance. It'll be romantic.

**Dame Doris** Just watch me. I'll show you how to do it.

**Charlie** Oh, dear. This is going to be soooo embarrassing.

**Dame Doris** First, I'll need a partner.

*Doris whistles into the wings.*

**Dame Doris** Ruffles, get in here.

*Ruffles runs on. Doris takes hold of him in an elegant dance hold.*

**Dame Doris** I shall now dance the foxtrot, with this pig. (*Aside*) I'm supposed to do it with a fox, but we can't afford another costume.

**George** I can't look.

**Dame Doris** Take your partners, boys.

*George takes hold of Anya, and Charlie grabs Tanya.*

**Dame Doris** The foxtrot goes like this. *(She demonstrates the steps with the pig)* Slow... slow... quick, quick slow.

*The two couples copy Doris and Ruffles, but not very well.*

**All** Slow... slow... quick, quick slow. Slow... slow... quick, quick slow.

*Mr Toots enters and watches with interest.*

**Dame Doris** Oh dear. I think I speak for everyone, when I say that that was rubbish. Craig Revel Horwood would be tearing his hair out.

*The cat steps forward.*

**Mr Toots** Perhaps I can be of some assistance.

**Dame Doris** Mr Toots?

**Mr Toots** There is clearly something lacking here.

**Charlie** You can say that again.

**Mr Toots** There is clearly something lacking here. What this dance needs is a little bit of magic.

*The cat waves his arms in a magical gesture. There is a flash and a puff of smoke. The band fires up with a fast, foxtrot to a modern track. Sir Rodney, the king, the queen and Princess Emily enter and form a line like the judges on Strictly. They also do the vocals for the track.*

### **Song 10**

*The three couples twirl around the stage, performing an almost perfect ballroom dance. At the end of the routine, the judges quickly hold up four paddles. They all have the number 10 on them.*

**Sir Rodney** Ten!

**King** Ten!

**Queen** Ten!

**Princess** That's four tens!

*Mr Toots leads the applause as the other guests re-enter the ballroom. The three dance couples step forward and take several bows. A bouquet is chucked onto the stage.*

*Suddenly, we hear an ominous chord and the lighting changes to a sickly green. Enter Fairy Suella.*

**Audience** Boooooo!

**Dame Doris** Uh, oh. It's that wicked witch again.

**Fairy Suella** I am *not* a witch. I'm an evil fairy.

**Dame Doris** What do you want, duckface?

**Fairy Suella** Your royal majesties, ladies and gentlemen, I am Fairy Suella, and I am here to introduce your new lord and master. Please welcome his nastiness Count Elon Wincey de Quincy!

*Enter Wincey De Quincy.*

**Audience** Boooooo!

**Wincey De Quincy** Oh, shut up. I'm here, I'm bad, get used to it!

**King** You are not invited to this party, De Quincy.

**Cameron** No! You're not welcome here at all!

**Wincey De Quincy** I am your honoured guest, whether you like it or not. It's not my fault if you forgot to send me an invitation.

**Audience** Boooooo!

**Wincey De Quincy** Wait. I am forgetting my manners. We have a royal engagement to celebrate.

**All** Yes!

**Wincey De Quincy** But I'm afraid there will now be a change of groom.

**All** What?

**Dame Doris** I think we know what he's going to say next.

**Wincey De Quincy** The new groom is... me.

**All** No!!!

**Emily** I'll never marry you, you hideous, villainous scoundrel!

**Cameron** If you want to marry Princess Emily, you'll have to get past me first!

**Wincey De Quincy** You and which army?

**Cameron** I don't need an army. I have this cat!

*Mr Toots steps forward and raises a crafty eyebrow.*

**Mr Toots** Bonjour.

**Wincey De Quincy** I shall ignore this ridiculous display of groundless optimism. *(He goes to Princess Emily)* Let's do this properly, shall we?

*De Quincy gets down on one knee.*

**Wincey De Quincy** Princess Emily, will you do me the honour of becoming my wife?

**Emily** I would rather poke myself in the eye with a pencil.

**Wincey De Quincy** That's a bit harsh.

**Emily** Now, do one.

**Wincey De Quincy** Very well, I'll take my leave. But I'm warning you. I shall be revenged on all of you. And revenge is a dish best served cold.

**Cameron** Your tired cliches will do you no good here, Wincey De Quincy. If you ever show your face again, I will destroy you! (*To Mr Toots*) How was that?

**Mr Toots** Very impressive. You look like a hero, you sound like a hero, now all you have to do now is *be* a hero.

*Wincey De Quincy exits.*

**Cameron** He's gone.

**Mr Toots** But not for long. The royal marriage must not be delayed any longer! And we must be sure to keep Princess Emily from harm.

*There is a flash and a puff of smoke and Fairy Mary enters.*

**Fairy Mary** The cunning feline is correct,  
This brave princess we must protect.  
Arrange the marriage right away,  
Do not delay another day!

**Emily** Oh, Fairy Mary! Thank you for your council. But is your magic really stronger than the magic of that wicked witch?

**Fairy Mary** I can assure you that it is. So, fear not, Emily. You have the love of a good man, and a magical cat to protect you. Not many princesses can say that.

**Emily** True.

*Fairy Mary pins a silver rose onto Emily's dress.*

**Fairy Mary** I'll also gift a lucky charm,  
This silver rose protects from harm.  
And if you sense that danger's near,  
Just touch the flower, and I'll appear.

**Emily** Thank you, good fairy.

*Fairy Mary exits. The king steps forward.*

**King** I decree that the wedding shall take place tomorrow morning.

**Emily** Oh, thank you father.

*Mr Toots steps forward.*

**Mr Toots** May I suggest that someone stays with the princess tonight. In her bed chamber.

**Charlie** I'll do it.

**Tanya** (*Annoyed*) Charlie?

**Mr Toots** I do not think that would be appropriate, master Charlie.

**Charlie** Oh.

**Dame Doris** I'll do it. I'll stay with Princess Emily tonight.

**King** Thank you Doris. For your bravery and loyalty, I shall make you a Dame.

**Dame Doris** I thought I was already a dame.

**King** Not a panto dame. A Dame of the Empire.

**Dame Doris** Ooooh. Like Judy Dench?

**King** Like Judy Dench, yes.

**Dame Doris** I'm ever so honoured. Do I get a badge?

**King** Yes Doris, you get a badge. And I shall tap you on the shoulder with my sword.

*He taps her with his sword and pins a big ornate badge onto her.*

**Dame Doris** I've always wanted a badge.

**Mr Toots** I shall also accompany the princess and Dame Doris tonight. I will see that no harm comes to either of them.

**Cameron** That's settled then. And tomorrow we'll all go to the church.

*Cameron sings a song about getting married in the morning. The company join him.*

### **Song 11**

*At the end of the song, curtain.*

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 2**

*Enter Charlie and George on tabs.*

**Charlie** So, by this time tomorrow, our stupid step-brother will be a prince.

**George** That does it. If being a goody two-shoes gets you a royal princess, then I'm going to be a goody two-shoes as well.

**Charlie** Right back at you, big brother. I'll be a goody two-shoes too.

**George** Then we'll be two goody two-shoes.

*Enter Wincy de Quincy and Fairy Suella. The light switches to evil green.*

**Charlie** Look out.

**Audience** Booooooo!

**Wincy de Quincy** What's that noise, Suella? Is it bees buzzing?

**Fairy Suella** No, master. It's boooooos.

**Wincy de Quincy** Boooooos? Not bees?

**Fairy Suella** Yes. Boooooos, not bees.

*The evil pair approach Charlie and George.*

**Wincy de Quincy** What were you two idiots talking about?

**Charlie** We were talking about being two goody two-shoes.

**Fairy Suella** Two goody two-shoes?

**George** Yes. No more villainy for us. We are two goody two-shoes from now on.

**Wincy de Quincy** How amusing.

**Charlie** Thank you.

**Wincy de Quincy** But, I'm afraid I'm going to have to disappoint you, gentlemen.

**George** Disappoint us?

**Wincy de Quincy** Yes. You will be returning to a life of crime, forthwith.

**Charlie** Forthwith?

**Wincy de Quincy** Forthwith. I'm going to give you a second chance to kidnap the princess!

**George** In return for what?

**Wincy de Quincy** In return for not being turned into frogs.

**Charlie** (*Laughingly unconvinced*) You can't turn us into frogs.

**Wincy de Quincy** No. But she can.

**George & Charlie** (*To Suella*) Can you?

**Fairy Suella** What sort of frogs would you like to be?

**Charlie** What sort of frogs are there?

**Fairy Suella** Well, there's bullfrogs, purple frogs, rain frogs, desert frogs. How about being a red-eyed tree frog?

**George** What colour are red-eyed tree frogs?

**Fairy Suella** Green.

**George** Green doesn't suit me.

**Wincy de Quincy** Enough of this. If you let me down again, I will throw you into a dungeon for a thousand years!

**Charlie** Oh dear, here we go again, George.

**Fairy Suella** All you have to do is break into the palace, find the Princess, and take her to Wincy de Quincy's castle.

**George** What if someone recognises us?

**Wincy de Quincy** They won't recognise you.

**Charlie** They won't?

**Wincy de Quincy** No. Because you are going to disguise yourselves as... ghosts.

**George** We can't afford ghost costumes.

**Fairy Suella** You don't need costumes. Just put a couple of sheets over your heads.

**Charlie** Sheets?

**George** They'll have to be cotton sheets. Polyester brings me out in a rash.

**Wincy de Quincy** My patience is wearing thin. I will count to three.

**Charlie** Then what?

**Wincy de Quincy** Then you and that pee brained brother of yours are going to go and get the princess for me.

**Fairy Suella** Do we have a deal?

**Charlie** Looks like we have no choice, George.

**George** Ok, the answer is yes, wicked witch.

**Fairy Suella** I am not a witch, I'm an evil fairy!!!

**Charlie** Let's go.

*All exit. Tabs open to reveal...*

## ACT II

### Scene 3

*The princess's bedroom. Night. There are three beds on stage. Enter the princess, Dame Doris and Mr Toots. They are all dressed in nightwear.*

**Emily** Well, this is it. My personal, private bed chamber.

**Mr Toots** It could do with a new coat of paint.

**Emily** I know.

**Dame Doris** Why has it got three beds?

**Emily** I'm not sure. I think we borrowed the scenery from another panto.

*Doris gets into the bed stage left.*

**Dame Doris** I'll have this bed. Ugggh!. This mattress is way too hard.

**Mr Toots** Dame Doris, we are not doing "Goldilocks and the Three Bears". Try and focus. We are here to protect the princess.

**Dame Doris** Sorry.

**Emily** I'm going to bed.

*Emily gets into the bed in the centre.*

**Mr Toots** And I am going to bed, also.

*The cat heads for the bed stage right.*

**Dame Doris** *(To Mr Toots)* Aren't you going to take your boots off?



**Mr Toots** I *never* take my boots off.

**Emily** That's gross.

**Dame Doris** Turn off the light, please, Mr Toots.

*The cat climbs into bed and switches off the lamp. The lighting state changes to a creepy blue.*

**Mr Toots** Bonne nuit.

**Dame Doris** Good night, Mr Toots. Good night Princess Emily.

**Emily** Sleep well.

**Dame Doris** There's not much chance of that.

*A clock ticks loudly. Time passes.*

**Emily** It's no good, I can't sleep.

**Dame Doris** Would you like me to sing you a lullaby?

**Emily** I think I might be a little too old for a lullaby, Doris.

**Dame Doris** Nonsense. You're never too old for a lullaby.

**Mr Toots** I would like a lullaby.

**Dame Doris** Would you, Mr Toots?

**Mr Toots** Oui.

*Dame Doris sings a soothing lullaby.*

## **Song 12**

*At the end of the song, we suddenly hear a deep, booming snoring noise.*

**Dame Doris** Mr Toots?

**Mr Toots** Oui?

**Dame Doris** Is that you snoring?

**Mr Toots** How can it be me? I am talking to you.

*The cat switches on the light and sits up. Dame Dora is already sitting up and they are both looking at Princess Emily, who is in a deep sleep and snoring like a fog horn.*

**Dame Doris** It's her.

**Mr Toots** Your son is going to sleep in the same room as Princess Emily? For the rest of his life?

**Dame Doris** Yep.

**Mr Toots** Starting tomorrow?

**Dame Doris** Yep.

**Mr Toots** Well then, I wish them both the very best of luck.

*The cat switches off the light again. The deafening snoring continues. There is a smash of glass. Mr Toots, Emily and Dame Doris all sit bolt upright in bed.*

**Dame Doris** What was that?

**Emily** It sounded like someone trying to break in?

**Dame Doris** Or maybe it was a ghost.

**Mr Toots** I do not believe in ghosts.

**Emily** Do you believe in ghosts, boys and girls?

**Audience** No! / Yes!

**Emily** Switch the light on.

*Click.*

**Mr Toots** I have tried to switch on the light, but it is not working.

**Emily** Oh, no!

**Dame Doris** We'd better get up and have a look around.

*In semi-darkness, all three of them get out of bed and tiptoe downstage. They each have torches and they flash them around the stage and into the audience.*

**Mr Toots** I cannot see anything.

**Dame Doris** I can't see anything either.

*Two ghostly figures appear and creep across the back of the stage. They are wearing white sheets over their heads.*

**Emily** Can you see anything, boys and girls?

**Audience** Behind you!

**Dame Doris** What's that? Is there something behind us?

**Audience** Yes!

*They turn around. The ghostly figures have gone.*

**Mr Toots** There is nothing there. We should go back to bed.

*Going in the opposite direction, the ghosts creep across the stage again.*

**Audience** Behind you!

**Emily** What can you see, boys and girls? Is it a ghost?

**Audience** Yes! / No!

*They turn and face upstage again. The ghosts have disappeared.*

**Dame Doris** There's nothing there, boys and girls.

**Emily** You must be imagining things!

**Mr Toots** There is no such thing a ghost!

**Emily** Let's go back to bed.

*They all go back to bed.*

**Emily** Dame Doris...

**Dame Doris** Yes, dear?

**Emily** I think I'd feel safer if you got into bed with me.

**Dame Doris** I'd be happy to, dear. This is the most uncomfortable bed I've ever slept in.

*Doris gets out of bed and climbs in with the princess. The snoring starts again.*

**Dame Doris** Oh, dear me. It sounds like the Piccadilly Line.

*The clock ticks for a while. Everyone seems to be asleep. An owl hoots in the distance. The two ghosts appear from opposite sides of the stage and creep towards the princess's bed. They stand either side of it.*

**Charlie** *(Whisper)* What do we do now?

**George** *(Whisper)* We put the princess in the sack.

**Charlie** What sack?

**George** You didn't bring a sack?

**Charlie** I thought you were bringing a sack.

**George** It doesn't matter. We'll wrap her in her own bed sheet.

**Charlie** Good idea.

**George** I'll count to three. 1 -- 2 -- 3 --

*Charlie and George yank the sheet off the bed, and wrap up what they believe to be Princess Emily. It is, of course, their mother. In the tussle, Princess Emily rolls off the bed and onto the floor. Then she crawls under the bed and hides. Charlie and George bundle Dame Doris off the stage, tightly wrapped in the sheet. The lights come back on.*

**Mr Toots** What is happening?

**Emily** Oh, Mr Toots! Two ghosts were here, and they took Dame Doris.

**Mr Toots** But, why would they take Dame Doris?

**Emily** I don't know. They must have thought she was me.

**Mr Toots** Princess Emily, I suspect that these so-called ghosts are not ghosts at all.

**Emily** No?

**Mr Toots** They are probably working for Count Wincy de Quincy.

**Emily** He tried to kidnap me again?

**Mr Toots** Oui.

**Emily** Cameron will be furious when he finds out that De Quincy has his mother.

**Mr Toots** We must go after them right away!

*Emily and Mr Toots dash off stage. A moment later we hear Cameron's voice.*

**Cameron** (*Calling out*) Emily? Mother? We thought we'd stop by to check that you're all safe.

*Enter Cameron, Sir Rodney, the king and the queen.*

**Queen** Emily?

*They tear off the blankets and sheets and peer under the beds.*

**Sir Rodney** Oh no! Princess Emily is gone!

**King** So is the cat!

**Cameron** And so is my mother.

**Sir Rodney** They must have all been kidnapped by De Quincy.

**King** That despicable villain.

**Cameron** We have to rescue them! Come on, let's go!

*They all dash off stage. Curtain.*

## ACT II

### Scene 4

*Enter the princess and Mr Toots on tabs. Lighting indicates the woods.*

**Emily** They must have come this way. Look, there are footprints heading towards De Quincy's castle.

**Mr Toots** We must be very careful. De Quincy has posted his guards throughout these woods.

*A large pigeon flaps and waddles from behind a tree. He is wearing armour and he draws a sword.*

**Pigeon** Halt! Who goes there!

**Emily** Uggghhh! A pigeon. I hate pigeons.

**Pigeon** Identify yourselves!

**Emily** I am Princess Emily, daughter of King Egbert.

**Mr Toots** And I am the legendary Puss in Boots!

**Pigeon** Never heard of you.

**Mr Toots** My name is on all the posters.

**Pigeon** (*Unimpressed*) Oh, really.

**Mr Toots** Who, may I ask, are you?

**Pigeon** I am Lieutenant Pigeon. Officer in the castle guard and a card-carrying member of the National Union of Annoyingly Obstructive Minor Characters.

**Emily** Let us pass.

**Pigeon** No.

**Mr Toots** Why not?

**Pigeon** To pass this checkpoint, you must first answer three tricky questions.

**Emily** Is it multiple choice?

**Pigeon** No.

**Emily** Damn.

**Mr Toots** What is the first question?

**Pigeon** The first question is a picture question.

**Emily** Oh.

**Pigeon** What is this?

*The pigeon holds up a picture of a chicken.*

**Emily** Is this a trick question?

**Pigeon** No.

**Mr Toots** It is a chicken?

**Pigeon** Correct.

**Emily** That was suspiciously easy.

**Pigeon** They get harder.

**Mr Toots** What is the second question?

**Pigeon** The second question is, what is the name of this song?

*We hear the first few bars of "The Chicken Song" by Spitting Image (1986)*

**Emily** I know this one. It's the Chicken Song. My mother and father did their first dance to it at their wedding.

**Pigeon** Really?

**Emily** Yes.

**Mr Toots** Are are all the questions about chickens?

**Pigeon** Yes.

**Emily** *(To Mr Toots)* We've totally got this.

**Mr Toots** What is the third question?

**Pigeon** The third, and final question is this. If a chicken and an egg cost one pound, ten pence, and the chicken costs a pound more than the egg, how much is the egg?

**Emily** Oh no! I'm terrible at maths.

**Mr Toots** Do not worry, Princess Emily. I have a first class degree in advanced mathematics from the University of the Sorbonne.

**Emily** Do you?

**Mr Toots.** Oui.

**Emily** You are a very clever cat.

**Mr Toots** Merci.

**Emily** Do you know the answer?

**Mr Toots** No.

**Emily** Then we're stuck. No, wait! The good fairy said that if I need help, all I have to do is touch this little silver rose.

**Mr Toots** It is worth a try. What do you have to lose?

**Emily** Everything.

*Fairy Mary touches the silver rose. There is a flash and a puff of smoke. Fairy Mary appears.*

**Fairy Mary** Did you call, Princess Emily?

**Emily** Yes, I did. Are you any good at maths?

**Fairy Mary** Mm. That's not a question I am asked very often these day. What do you need to know?

**Emily** If a chicken and a egg cost one pound, ten pence, and the chicken costs a pound more than the egg, how much is the egg?

**Pigeon** Well?

*Fairy Mary thinks about it for a moment, then whispers in the princess's ear.*

**Fairy Mary** You must subtract one pound from one pound ten pence.

**Emily** Then, the answer is ten pence?

**Fairy Mary** No. That's what everyone thinks. You must then divide that answer by two.

**Emily** By two?

**Fairy Mary** Of course. Because a chicken and an egg are two things.

**Emily** So the answer is not ten pence, it's five pence.

**Fairy Mary** Why yes.

**Emily** Are you sure?

**Fairy Mary** Of course I'm sure. It was one of the questions in my maths GCSE paper.

**Emily** What luck.

**Fairy Mary** May I go now?

**Emily** Yes. Thank you so much.

**Fairy Mary** Don't mention it. Let me know if you need anything else. I'm quite good at geography as well.

*Fairy Mary disappears.*

**Pigeon** Come on, what's the answer?

**Emily** *(To Pigeon)* The answer is five pence.

**Pigeon** Correct. You may pass on your way.

**Emily** Come on Mr Toots, De Wincy's castle can't be far now

*They exit. Enter Cameron soon afterwards.*

**Cameron** *(Calling in the wings)* Come on, this way. I'm sure I heard Emily's voice.

*Enter Sir Rodney and the king and queen.*

**King** We can't be far from the castle now.

**Sir Rodney** Yes, but we must look out for De Quincy's guards. They are pigeons.

**Cameron** Pigeons?

**Sir Rodney** Yes. They're not very intelligent, but they work for bird seed.

*Enter Lieutenant Pigeon.*

**Pigeon** Halt! Who goes there!

**Cameron** Uggghhh! I hate pigeons.

**Pigeon** Identify yourselves!

**King** I am King Egbert!

**Queen** And I am Queen Theresa.

**Pigeon** Never heard of either of you.

**Sir Rodney** I told you pigeons aren't very intelligent.

**Pigeon** To pass this checkpoint, you must answer three tricky questions.

**Cameron** We haven't got time for this.

*Cameron draws his sword and the pigeon draws his. There is a swordfight, and Cameron is a far better swordsman than the hapless bird. He chases the pigeon from the stage.*

**King** Well done, lad!

**Queen** You are surprisingly good with a sword.

**Cameron** Well, you have to step up when it's your time to be a hero.

*Cameron, the king, the queen and Sir Rodney sing a song.*

### **Song 13**

*At the end of the song, they all march off bravely.*

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 5**

*Tabes open to reveal De Quincy's castle. De Quincy and Fairy Suella enter, followed by two pigeon guards wearing armour.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Aha ha ha ha ha! Welcome to my wicked castle, boys and girls.

**Audience** Boooooooo!

**Fairy Suella** Er... excuse me for saying this your nastiness, but a castle cannot be described as "wicked".

**Wincy de Quincy** What?

**Fairy Suella** People can be wicked. But a castle is inanimate.

**Wincy de Quincy** Inanimate?

**Fairy Suella** Not alive.

**Wincy de Quincy** I know what it means! I know what it means! How dare you come in here and use your long words on me, you old witch!

**Fairy Suella** I am not a witch! I am an evil fairy!!!

**Wincy de Quincy** Those useless brothers should be here by now. They must have failed in their mission once again.

**Fairy Suella** You can be sure that I shall punish them, master. I have a new spell that will turn them into slimy, grimy toads.

**Wincy de Quincy** What is this thing you have about frogs and toads?

**Fairy Suella** I like frogs and toads.

*The sound of a doorbell.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Who's that at the door?

*Enter Charlie, George and Dame Doris, who is still draped in a bed sheet. We cannot see her face.*

**Charlie** It's us, your excellency! Charlie and George!

**George** We've done as you asked and kidnapped Princess Emily!

**Wincy de Quincy** Excellent! Bring her over here.

*The boys bundle their covered captive towards De Quincy and Fairy Suella.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Finally, the princess is mine! Aha ha ha ha ha ha!

**Audience** Boooooooo!



**Wincy de Quincy** Tonight, will be a night for wooing and cooing, and pursuing evildoing.

**Fairy Suella** Remove the bedsheet from the princess!

**Wincy de Quincy** I cannot wait to look into her beautiful blue eyes.

*Charlie and George remove the sheet with a flourish.*

**Charlie & George** Voila!

*Dame Doris is revealed.*

**Charlie & George** Mother?

**Dame Doris** Good evening.

**Wincy de Quincy** (*Furiously*) You???

**Fairy Suella** (*To audience*) I had a bad feeling about this.

*De Quincy draws his sword and advances on the two brothers, who back away.*

**Wincy de Quincy** You had one job, just one job. All you had to do was kidnap the princess. Instead you dare to turn up here with this... this ancient, aged, decrepit, over-the-hill old fossil!

**Charlie** Oy, don't talk about our mother like that!

**George** She might be getting on a bit, but she's not a fossil.

**Charlie** No! A fossil is an impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded and preserved in rock...

**Wincy de Quincy** Shut up.

**Charlie** ..in a petrified form.

**Wincy de Quincy** Silence, you bonehead!

*Dame Doris puts up her hand.*

**Dame Doris** Excuse me, can I say something?

**Wincy de Quincy** What?

**Dame Doris** I'd just like to say thank you to my sons for standing up for me just now.

**Charlie** Thank you, mother.

**Dame Doris** And for mistaking a sweet, beautiful, elegant, alluring female... like me.... for Princess Emily.

**George** It was very dark.

**Dame Doris** It was a brilliant plan, boys.

**George** What?

**Dame Doris** By deliberately swapping me for the princess, you assured the safety of the heir to the throne.

**Charlie** Did we?

**Dame Doris** I'm very proud of you.

**Wincy de Quincy** Enough of this nonsense! *(To the guards)* Take these two nitwits to the dungeons!

*Two pigeon guards grab hold of Charlie and George and march them off. Dame Doris tries to follow, but De Wincy points at her angrily.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Not you. You stay here.

**Dame Doris** You're very forceful, aren't you?

**Wincy de Quincy** Where is the Princess Emily?

**Dame Doris** I have absolutely no idea.

*The doorbell rings.*

**Dame Doris** Maybe that's her now.

*Enter Cameron, the king, the queen, Sir Rodney, Mr Toots and Princess Emily. They are all brandishing swords.*

**Cameron** Mother! Thank goodness you're safe!

**Fairy Suella** How did all you lot get past our guards?

**King** Mr Toots simply chased them away.

**Queen** Pigeons are terrified of cats.

**Fairy Suella** Curses ! Whose idea was it to hire pigeons to guard the castle?

**Wincey De Quincy** Yours.

**Fairy Suella** Oh.

**Wincy de Quincy** So, Princess Emily. You're here at last. Welcome to my wicked castle.

**Emily** Castles cannot be wicked, De Quincy. They are inanimate!

**Wincy de Quincy** *(To audience)* Oh, for heavens sake!

**Cameron** *(Drawing his sword)* Arm yourself, De Quincy. It's time for your reign of tyranny to come to an end. Come here and fight me like a man!

**Wincy de Quincy** You? Don't be ridiculous, I refuse to fight a mere boy!

*Mr Toots draws his sword and strikes a pose in the centre of the stage.*

**Cameron** Well, perhaps you would prefer to fight my cat!

**Wincy de Quincy** *(Laughing)* A cat? You want me to fight a cat?

**Cameron** Are you afraid of the legendary Puss in Boots?

**Wincy de Quincy** *(To audience)* Now, let me see. What would be the best way to defeat a cat? I've got it...

*He turns to Suella.*

**Wincy de Quincy** Fairy Suella...

**Fairy Suella** Yes, you nastiness?

**Wincy de Quincy** Would you be so kind as to turn me into... a dog.

**Fairy Suella** Well, I mainly do frogs and toads...

**Wincy De Quincy** Just do it.

*Fairy Suella waves her wand. There is a flash and a puff of smoke, followed by the sound of a dog barking. Wincy de Quincy disappears. In his place is a big dog holding a sword.*

**Mr Toots** What is this hocus-pocus?

*Barking furiously, the dog runs towards Mr Toots and there is a swordfight. The dog and the cat exchange insults as they duel skilfully.*

**Dog** A dog will always beat a cat, so-called Puss in Boots. You are doomed.

**Mr Toots** I think you are forgetting something, Monsieur Fido.

**Dog** What's that, you moth-eaten moggy?

**Mr Toots** I am the greatest cat in the world!

*The swordfight continues. The battle swings one way, then another, and the dog is finally defeated. There is a flash and a puff of smoke, and Wincy De Quincy appears in place of the dog. He is on the floor and Mr Toots is holding his sword to the villain's throat.*

**Mr Toots** *(To audience)* It is lucky he did not turn him into a mouse.

*Fairy Mary appears with a flash, and she goes and squares up to Fairy Suella.*

**Fairy Mary** I warned you that my magic  
Was more powerful than yours.  
And now you are defeated,  
And we've settled all our scores.

Our story's nearly over  
And your plans have met a hitch.  
You're not an evil fairy,  
You're a cruel and wicked witch!

*Fairy Mary waves her wand and Fairy Suella disappears in a puff of smoke. Everyone cheers. The entire cast enter.*

**Wincey De Quincy** Where did she go?

**Fairy Mary** Where all bad fairies go.

**Wincey De Quincy** Where?

**Fairy Mary** Somewhere awful.

**Wincey De Quincy** Tell me.

**Fairy Mary** Somewhere dreadful.

**Wincey De Quincy** Where's that?

**Fairy Mary** Gillingham.

**Wincey De Quincy** Gillingham?\*

*\*This place name can be replaced by a local reference.*

**Fairy Mary** Yes. There's a prison there for bad fairies. She'll get twenty years, but she'll probably be out in seven.

**Wincey De Quincy** And what is to become of me?

**Fairy Mary** I have cast a spell on you, Count Wincey De Quincy!

**Wincey De Quincy** A spell?

**Fairy Mary** Yes. I have turned you into a nice person.

**Wincey De Quincy** No! Not that! Anything but that!

**Fairy Mary** Now all you have to do is to find someone to love you.

**Wincey De Quincy** The princess?

**Fairy Mary** I'm afraid the princess is spoken for.

*Mr Toots steps forward.*

**Mr Toots** Your Majesties, ladies and gentlemen, I have an announcement to make.

**All** Hooray for Puss in Boots!

**Mr Toots** We seem to have arrived at our happy ending.

**All** Hooray!

**Mr Toots** And may I take this opportunity to welcome you to all to the castle of my master - soon-to-be Prince Cameron.

**Cameron** I don't understand. How is this suddenly my castle?

**Mr Toots** This was your father's castle, Cameron. He lived here alone after your mother passed away.

**Cameron** My father's castle?

**Mr Toots** When you were just a tiny baby, De Quincy swindled your father out of the castle, and he could no longer give you a home. He placed you in a basket and left you on the doorstep of a watermill.

**Cameron** Is my father still alive.

**Mr Toots** I am afraid not.

**Wincey De Quincy** *(To the audience)* Well, this is all going pear-shaped

**Mr Toots** Cameron, you are the rightful owner of De Quincy Castle.

**Cameron** Well, we'd better change the name, then.

**Mr Toots** What will you call it?

**Cameron** I shall name it after the wonderful woman who adopted me.

**Princess** Cameron, that's so sweet.

**Cameron** Henceforth, this place shall be known as "Castle Doris".

**Princess** Castle Doris. What a lovely name!

**Dame Doris** (*Dabbing her eyes*) I'm filling up. (*To Ruffles*) What do you think of that, Ruffles?

**Ruffles** Oink, oink!

**Cameron** What did he say?

**Dame Doris** He said, "So, the princess is not marrying a poor man after all."

**Cameron** That's right.

**Emily** And now we have our very own castle!

*George & Charlie walk over to Tanya and Anya.*

**George** Is there any chance that we can have a happy ending too?

**Anya** George Morris, you are a scoundrel and a rascal.

**Tanya** And Charlie, I wouldn't trust you further than I can throw you.

**Charlie** But we were bewitched by a bad fairy!

**Anya** Oh, well. I suppose we ought to give you both one last chance.

**Charlie & George** Oh, thank you!

*The two couples hug. Dame Doris points at Wincey De Quincy.*

**Dame Doris** Oy, you! Get over here! You've pulled.

**Wincy De Quincy** What?

*Wincy De Quincy walks over to Doris. She links arms with him.*

**Wincy De Quincy** What are you doing?

**Dame Doris** Well, now that you've become a nice person, all you need is a good woman.

**Wincy De Quincy** And who is that?

**Dame Doris** Me, you great twit!

**Wincy De Quincy** Oh, dear.

**Dame Doris** Come on, we've got four weddings to arrange.

*Everyone runs off. Curtain.*

*Sir Rodney, Fairy Mary and Ruffles re-enter on tabs.*

**Fairy Mary** Well, that was quite a story, wasn't it boys and girls?

**Audience** Yes!

**Sir Rodney** While everyone's getting changed for their weddings, Fairy Mary and I thought you'd like to sing a song with us. Would you like that, boys and girls?

**Fairy Mary** Would you like to sing a song with us?

**Audience** Yes!

**Sir Rodney** Ruffles, would you be so kind as to go and get the words.

**Ruffles** Oink, oink.

*Ruffles gives a thumbs up and runs off, returning quickly with a big board with song lyrics on it. Sir Rodney and Fairy Mary teach the kids a well-known audience participation song.*

#### **Song 14**

*At the end of the song...*

### **ACT II**

#### **Scene 6**

*Tablts open to reveal the stage set for a big celebration at the palace. The entire company enter in their grand wedding costumes, and sing a happy song.*

#### **Song 15**

*At the end of the song, walkdown and bows. Curtain.*