

DICK WHITTINGTON

An original pantomime

by Gail Lowe

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SYNOPSIS: *DICK WHITTINGTON* by Gail Lowe

6F, 6M, 4 either; plus chorus and scope for dancers if required

6 main sets plus 4 insets or curtains, as elaborate or simple as necessary

This new and original script follows the adventures of Dick and his friends as they travel from London to Morocco in search of fame and fortune. It has a strong, comic story line and some entertaining new characters as well as the traditional favourites of Kitty, Sarah the Cook, King Rat and the Sultan. There are some very strong roles for women such as the tomboyish Alice, the man-chasing Maneeta, the ever-proper Miss Peabody, and the evil Esmerelda. A fun-filled panto from start to finish: a cat, a camel and lots of laughs, culminating in an exciting showdown by a shark pool in King Rat's Lair.

CHARACTERS *(in order of appearance)*

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Fairy Bowbells | A good fairy |
| Esmerelda | A wicked witch - ambitious and ruthless |
| Rosalind | A young girl |
| Kitty | A loveable cat |
| Alderman Fitzwarren | A rich merchant and ship owner |
| Bosun Bowleg | A burly sailor, first mate to Alderman Fitzwarren |
| Sarah the Cook | Cook to the Fitzwarren household |
| Alice Fitzwarren | A tom-boyish principal girl, and daughter to Alderman Fitzwarren |
| Dick Whittington | An attractive but -shy young man |
| King Rat | King of the rats - a slimy, nasty piece of work |
| I | A simple private detective |
| Spy | An even simpler private detective, slightly camp |
| Miss Peabody | An -Ever Ready Girl Guide Captain |
| Jeeves | A traditional English butler to the Sultan |
| The Sultan | A playful ruler of Morocco |
| Maneeta | The Sultana of Morocco |

Various townsfolk, sailors, gaolers, harem girls, guards and rats.

NOTES ON CASTING

The character of *Dick Whittington* can be played by either a male, or female playing principal boy

The character of *I* can be played by either a male or female

Fairy Bowbells and *Kitty* can either be played as separate parts, or by the same person

The chorus can be expanded or contracted to accommodate any number of participants.

ACT ONE

Prologue

A London Dockyard in the early hours of the morning. A row of large houses stands on one side of the stage, one of which is the house of the Fitzwarren family. In front of the houses is an large yard on which several market stalls are set up. The dockside is on the opposite side of the stage to the houses.

The stage is very dimly lit. Mist rises eerily from the river. There is a sudden crack of thunder.

There is a distant sound of bells which gets nearer and nearer. The dawn begins to break. The bells become nearer and Fairy Bowbells enters. She carries a small box and reads from a piece of paper.

Bowbells This must be the place - I've followed the instructions. I just hope I'm not too late.

She looks around fearfully.

Bowbells *(Calling out)* Hello - is anyone there? *(Pause)* I've brought what you wanted.
(Pause) Hello?

Esmerelda *(From the shadows)* Did anyone see you?

Bowbells looks around nervously - looking for the source of the voice.

Bowbells Hello - who's there?

Esmerelda *(Angrily)* I said did anyone see you?

Bowbells No, no - I'm here all alone.

Esmerelda Show me the talisman

Bowbells Where's Rosalind?

Esmerelda The talisman! Show me the talisman.

Bowbells takes a locket out of the box - It is a necklace which glows slightly. She holds it up. A cloaked figure emerges slowly from the shadows. She is bent double and walks slowly.

Esmerelda Give it to me.

Bowbells *(Snatching the talisman away)* Not until I see Rosalind.

Esmerelda Hah! Sentimental idiot. There.

Esmerelda pulls a black drape off a cage. Inside is a little girl.

Bowbells Rosalind

Rosalind Fairy Bowbells.

Esmerelda *(Threatening Rosalind)* Now give me the talisman - we made a deal, remember.

Rosalind No Bowbells - it's a trap.

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Esmerelda Shut up brat! *(She stabs at Rosalind)* The Talisman - give it to me.

Bowbells throws the talisman to the ground out of Esmerelda's reach.

Bowbells There.

Esmerelda struggles slowly towards the talisman. Bowbells rushes to let Rosalind out.

Bowbells *(To Rosalind)* Are you alright?

Rosalind I'm fine, but it's a trap Fairy Bowbells - don't trust her.

Bowbells Don't worry - now run home quickly - go. *(She pushes Rosalind off stage.)*

Bowbells turns to face Esmerelda but Esmerelda has grown tall and strong from holding the talisman. She places it round her neck. There is a crack of thunder.

Esmerelda *(disdainfully)* Too late Fairy Bowbells. The talisman is mine, and with it, comes the source of all your fairy magic. Now I need only acquire the second talisman and my power, and your destruction, will be complete.

Bowbells Their magic comes from love - your hate will destroy them.

Bowbells becomes weaker as her energy is drained by Esmerelda.

Esmerelda You fool. Their magic - and magic is power. See how weak you are now - and see how strong I am. *(She laughs)*

Bowbells *(Becoming weaker)* Please, please - you don't know what you're doing.

Esmerelda Hah. You and your trust! You exchange your most precious source of magic for the life of an ungrateful mortal and then tell me I don't know what I'm doing. Idiot *(She hurls a spell at Bowbells who reels in pain)*. Can't you see they're not worth the bother. But let's see how they love you now, Fairy No-bells.

Esmerelda hurls another spell at Bowbells. There is a crack of thunder and Fairy Bowbells lets out a cry. The stage darkens for a moment as Bowbells is transformed into a cat. When the lights come up, we see Bowbells (now Kitty) who meows loudly in pain. Esmerelda laughs loudly and kicks Kitty as she exits. Kitty limps offstage.

Scene 1 - London Street by the Docks (as Prologue)

The lights come up on a bustling street market full of merchants, townsfolk, sailors etc.

SONG Chorus *(Suggestion: WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK)*

At the end of the song, the people begin selling their wares, loading ships etc. The Bosun and Alderman Fitzwarren enter. Alderman is a finely dressed merchant who has made his money as a ship owner. The Bosun is a large, burly man who tries to affect an upper class accent - poorly.

Alderman Ah Bosun, all ready for tonight? Looks like the weather's going to be perfect.

Bosun Er yes - well you see sir, it's like this. . .

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Alderman Like what?
 Bosun Yesterday was the 24th birthday of Old Wooden Leg's dog, Tigger, the finest and oldest sea dog in the world.

Alderman Yes.

Bosun So the men thought they'd all have a little celebration, cos of his living to a record breaking age without having so much as a flea in his ear sir - h'if you know what I mean.

Alderman Yes yes man, get on with it.

Bosun And so sir, they all celebrated in the traditional way.

Alderman You mean..? *(Alderman mimes drinking a pint)*

Bosun *(Very solemnly)* Oh no sir, much worse than that.

Alderman *(Suddenly struck by panic)* You don't mean.....

Bosun I'm afraid so sir.

Alderman No. How could they do this to me - my best crew. I've warned them before. You can't mean a birthday cake.

Bosun I do sir. I tried to warn 'em but they woz 'aving none of it. I even 'id her recipe book sir, but one of the lads tripped over it and gave it 'er back.

Alderman Chocolate?

Bosun Yes, sir, and a rum 'un at that.

Alderman I see. Then it's serious. Are they all....?

Bosun *(Removing his cap)* It appears so. Not one of 'em is in a fit state to go anywhere - except to the "you know whats" sir. In fact, we've had to take the h'unprecedented step of installing new "you know whats" at the back of the "you know where" sir - that old pier's not what it used to be.

Alderman And the dog?

Bosun Dead sir - took one look and fell stone dead.

Alderman Well this is disastrous. We must sail tomorrow or we'll miss the tide. We'll just have to get another crew. Put up a notice advertising for people with relevant experience. And send my commiserations to Old Wooden Leg will you - what a terrible way to go.

Bosun I, I sir.

Alderman Oh, and Bosun

Bosun Yes?

Alderman What's the daily rate for sailors these days?

- Bosun 4 pence ha'penny a day standard, and sixpence for them wot 'as both legs sir.
- Alderman Right. Well halve it just this once eh. Can't miss an opportunity to save money eh?
- Bosun *(Looking at him knowingly)* Yes sir, leave it to me.

Alderman and Bosun exit. Sarah is heard singing from the back of the stage, "Tiptoe through the Tulips". She enters, carrying a bunch of tulips, her hair in large curlers. She is pushing a shopping trolley loading with make-up products.

- Sarah *(To the audience)* Tip toe through the tulips..... *(to the audience - surprised)* Oh my goodness, an audience at last - you don't know how pleased I am to see you! I was beginning to think I was on El Dorado (or similar). Hello everybody, boys and girls, mums and dads, how are you? (HELLO etc.) My name's Sarah the Cook, and I work for Mr Fitzwarren, the merchant. Well I say work, but I cook all this gorgeous food and no one seems that hungry around here these days - I can't imagine why. Oh but he's a nice man you know - that Mr Fitzwarren, - a very very nice man. He said to me the other day, "Sarah", he said, "what would you give to the man who has everything - wealth, charm, good looks?" I said, "my phone number". I said "I have a ready wit", he said "fine - let me know when it's ready!" Oh, but it's nothing like that you know - he's not my type - he's too refined. I like a man with whose still got all his rough edges, and you see, I've already got a boyfriend, - he's tall, dark and handsome...

The townsfolk have entered and are listening intently from behind.

- Boy ...and blind.
- Sarah *(In a dream)* ... and blind. *(To the boy)* Who asked you? *(To the Audience again)* Ooh he's so hunky. You know, we've got a date tonight and I'm so excited, I've just been to the beauty salon.
- Boy Closed were they?
- Sarah Watch it. *(To audience)* Do you like my new hairdo - cost me a packet.
- Boy ... of spaghetti by the looks of it.
- Sarah *(Ignoring the interruptions)* I haven't felt this good in years - not since I accidentally backed into the spin programme on my washing machine - that brought a tear to my eye I can tell you. *(Singing)* Tip toe, through the tulips....
- Trader Why are you in such a good mood, Sarah?
- Sarah Spring is in the air - the birds are singing, the bees are buzzing, the time has come to pay heed to nature's little calling...
- Trader You too - well you'll have to wait your turn like the rest of 'em. They're putting up a new one behind the pier.

An ill sailor runs quickly across the stage.

- Sarah Love dear boy - I'm talking about love. *(Suddenly poetic)* Love is nature's way of giving, that reason to be living, that golden crown that makes a man a king.
- Trader Oh - I thought you'd got the "you know whats".

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Sarah That's a vicious lie and I'll deny everything!
Alice enters. She is dressed more like a man than a girl and looks like she's just been in a fight.

Alice Morning Sarah

Sarah Morning Alice - at last, someone who appreciates class.

The entire cast look round at Sarah's behind, comparing it for size.

Sarah I said class!

Alice *(Concealing a smile)* Er...nice hairdo Sarah - what's the special occasion?

Sarah No special occasion. Not all us girls want to go around looking like Calamity Jane you know... Oh all right, I've got a date tonight.

Alice Really with a man - who ?

Sarah Of course with a man, and don't sound so surprised. Anyway, it's a secret?

Alice *(With a knowing look)* Oh, yes. Wouldn't be Bosun Bowleg by any chance?

Sarah How do you know?

Alice Feminine intuition - and you're always so rude to him, it couldn't be anyone else.

Sarah It's that obvious huh?

Alice Only if you know what to look for. Anyway, I thought you were married already Sarah.

Sarah *(Melodramatically)* Oh I was, yes - it was tragic, tragic. For 10 years my husband and I were blissfully happy.

Alice What happened?

Sarah We met and got married. It was love at first sight - I just went off him on the second viewing. I asked him if he had any liquid assets and he said "yes". Turned out to be three bottles of scotch and a fizzy orange. You know, my mother used to say "Jack was the sweetest, most darling husband a woman could want - too bad you married George!" But don't you worry about me, cos this time I've got it all worked out, perfectly - I've been reading Lady Di's best seller - "*How to keep your man*" - and you could take a lesson from me too young lady.

Alice Oh yes.

Sarah Yes.

SONG Sarah, Alice and Chorus: (Suggestion: *KEEP YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL*)

After the song, the Chorus exit. Bosun enters carrying a poster.

Alice Look out, now's your chance. (She exits)

Sarah hides. She spies Bosun about to put up the poster and creeps up behind him to make him jump.

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Sarah Boo!

Bosun Do you mind not molesting a member of His Majesty's Naval Forces. I was in the middle of a very delicate manoeuvre.

Sarah His Majesty's what?

Bosun (Proudly) Naval forces.

Sarah Huh. The only naval forces you know are the ones which mean your trousers don't fit. How long were you in the navy?

Bosun About 5 ft 10 inches, same as now.

Sarah *(With a knowing smile)* That's my boy. Anyway what are you doing?

Bosun I'm creating an h'advertisement for crew to sail on the Hey Ho Me Hearty. Thanks to your latest -burnt offering the whole crew's got dire....problems.

Sarah I hope you're not inferring that my cooking was to blame.

Bosun I never h'infer nothing! I was stating a fact!

Sarah Well, how ungrateful can you get. That's the last time I cook anything for your uncouth thugs again. Ever.

Bosun Promise?

Sarah What's wrong with my cooking?

Bosun Well take that spring lamb you cooked yesterday.

Sarah What about it?

Bosun Four of the men broke their teeth on the springs.

Sarah Well, at least you got a choice?

Bosun What's that?

Sarah Take it or leave it.

Bosun If only it were that simple!

Sarah *(Noticing to the poster)* And what, may I ask, is that?

Bosun *(Proudly)* This is the h'advertisement.

Sarah That won't get you a crew?

Bosun Why not?

Sarah Well for a start, you don't spell enquire with an "h", and there's an "a" in seamen!!

Sarah exits.

Bosun Oh. *(He hurriedly changes the poster which now reads:)*

CAPTAIN & ABLE SEAMEN WANTED
to sail with the
Hey Ho Me Hearty
Able Seamen 3p per day
Not-So-Able Seamen 4p / 2 per day
Enquire within.

He pins the poster to the door and exits.

Dick Whittington enters. He is alone and carries a small stick with a handkerchief tied onto it.

Dick This must be London, but I've walked round three times and there's no sign of any streets paved with gold. My feet are killing me, I've not eaten since yesterday and if I don't find a job soon, there'll be nothing left of me to worry about. Better just rest here a while - I'm lost anyway.

He sits down and closes his eyes. Several rats enter, carrying Kitty in a net. They are about to throw her into the river when Dick wakes up.

Rats Ding Dong Bell, Pussy's down the well....

Dick Hey you - stop that - leave the cat alone.

They put Kitty down and turn on Dick.

Rat Who's going to make us fishface?

Dick I will, now leave her alone.

Rat Get him lads.

The rats attack Dick Whittington, three to one and appear to be winning. Kitty meows loudly from the net. Suddenly, Alice enters and runs to help Dick. Together they fight off the rats. Dick unties Kitty from the net.

Dick Are you alright little cat?

Kitty purrs loudly.

Dick *(To Kitty)* Lucky for you I came along when I did - *(to Alice)* and lucky for me you came along when you did. Thanks - for a minute there I thought I was a gonner.

Alice That's OK. Three onto one's not a fair fight.

Dick Where did you learn to fight so well?

Alice Oh, round and about - there're some pretty rough characters around here you know.

Dick So I see. *(Introducing himself)* Dick Whittington, at your service.

Alice Alice Fitzwarren - pleased to meet you.

Dick *(Taken aback)* Alice? As in Wonderland - as in girl?

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Alice I'm not so sure about the Wonderland - but definitely as in girl.

(Alice removes her hat letting her hair down)

Dick Sorry - I'd didn't mean to be rude. It's just that you're clothes, I mean, they're .

Alice That's OK - I'm used to it. Everyone says I don't dress or act much like a girl so I guess it's no surprise.

Dick It is for me - do you live round here?

Alice Round about, yes. What about you?

Dick Oh no. A small village miles from here. There's not much there now so I left.

Alice And you've come to find fame and fortune in the big city, right?

Dick Something like that, yes. This is London isn't it?

Alice Yes - the very heart of it.

Dick *(Disappointed)* I thought so.

Alice It's not that bad really - not when you get to know it.

Dick I'm sure. It's just not what I expected that's all.

Alice What did you expect? No, don't tell me - all the street's to be paved with gold, right? *(She laughs)*

Dick laughs uneasily at first - then realises she is only teasing him.

Dick Now you mention it - it does sound a bit silly. I thought I might at least be able to find a job, but I've been round the city three times now and there's nothing.

Alice Well I may be able to help you there - they're looking for crew on the Hey Ho Me Hearty. It's a ship that's sailing on tomorrow's tide. How are your sea legs?

Dick I've never had the chance to find out.

Alice I wouldn't let that bother you - you look OK to me. And nothing's impossible you know.

SONG Alice / Dick: *(Suggestion: PICK YOURSELF UP)*

Dick Do you think I stand a chance - about a job I mean? Where can I apply?

Alice *(Pointing to the Fitzwarren House)* Over there - ask for Mr Fitzwarren, he's the owner.

Dick Isn't that your name - Fitzwarren?

Alice *(Smiling)* I dare say they could do with a ship's cat too. Better hurry though, it sails tomorrow. I'd better be off, I've got things to do.

Kitty starts to pull Dick over to the house

Dick Yes. Right. *(Alice begins to exit) (To Alice)* Oh, wait, I mean, nice to meet you.

Alice And you too. *(She tries to leave)*

Dick *(Calling after her)* Yes....., er, and thanks again.

Alice You're welcome. *(She tries to leave again)*

Dick *(Calling her back again)* Alice...I, er...well, I.... will I see you again? I mean, hypothetically speaking, do you think the daughter of a rich ship owner would speak to a poor cabin boy if she saw him again?

Alice *(With a knowing smile)* Hypothetically speaking - I think she would. *(Alice exits).*

Dick and Kitty cross to the house, as Esmerelda enters. Kitty suddenly sees Esmerelda and cries out, running off stage in fright.

Dick Hey, Kitty, where're you going, come back. *(He runs after Kitty)*

King Rat enters, followed by several smaller rats dragging caskets.

Esmerelda *(Striking King Rat)* Where have you been - you know I don't like to be kept waiting. I was just beginning to think you weren't going to turn up. You're lucky I'm feeling patient today.

King Rat *(Squirming and hissing as he speaks)* We had a little problem with one of the guards mistress.

Esmerelda I trust you "negated" the situation?

King Rat Of yes mistress, - he's definitely "negated".

Esmerelda Good, it wouldn't do to have my reputation tarnished. Did you get all the treasure?

King Rat All eighteen cases - yes.

Esmerelda I think you'll find it's twenty cases, don't you?

King Rat Ah, yes..of course - twenty cases - slip of the tongue, slip of the tongue.

Esmerelda *(Threateningly grabbing his ear)* Well make sure you don't have any more slips eh? I can be prone to a little "accident" myself. *(She throws him to the ground)*

King Rat No mistress, I won't mistress, pretty mistress.

Esmerelda Now show me the goods.

King Rat opens one of the caskets to reveal that it is full of jewels, Esmerelda picks them up

Esmerelda You're sure this will be enough to secure the second talisman.

King Rat Of course mistress. Only a fool would refuse 20 caskets of treasure in exchange for one necklace.

Esmerelda That's what worries me. You're sure that old fool the Sultan has the second talisman.

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King Rat Oh yes mistress.

Esmerelda Good, and if he won't part with it in exchange for the treasure, there are always alternative methods of persuasion. Where are those guards you hired - I don't want Fitzwarren nosing.

King Rat They should be here soon mistress.

Esmerelda Well get this lot out of sight and go and check.

King Rat Yes mistress.

They all exit taking the treasure with them.

I & Spy enter talking as they go. They are dressed as American private detectives with trilbys and overcoats. Spy carries a very colourful umbrella and I carries a large book entitled "How to Be A Successful Spy". Throughout the scene, they act as if they are watching for something.

Spy Hey, this is a great disguise eh?

I Brilliant.

Spy No one will ever recognise us now, will they?

I Never. *(Pretending not to recognise Spy)* Sorry - who are you?

Spy I'm Spy

I Oh yes, didn't recognise you for a minute.

They continue to look around suspiciously.

Spy Hey - and it's a great name, isn't it?

I What?

Spy You know - "I Spy - private detectives".

I Oh that - yes, brilliant.

Spy You're I, and I'm Spy - I Spy.

I Yes yes, brilliant.

They continue to look around

Spy Hey - what are we doing?

I *(Reading from the book)*. Surveillance.

Spy Oh right. I thought we were just looking around.

I *(Again from the book)* A good spy always checks out his position....

Spy *(He turns around and looks down his trousers)* Mine's fine thanks.

I *(Not listening)* I and checks for bugs.

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Spy *(He looks down then stamps on something)* Got one.

I What?

Spy A bug.

I Not that kind of bug, stupid - a listening bug.

Spy *(Picking up the dead insect)* I don't think it's listening now.

I *(To Spy)* Idiot!

Spy Oh *(to the insect)* Sorry!

I We must now wait for the rendezvous

Spy Oh I like them. I've got all their records.

I Simpleton!!

Spy Can we play a game while we're waiting. I love games.

I Oh alright. *(He looks around)* I spy with my little eye, something beginning with

Spy Hang on a minute, you're not Spy.

I So?

Spy Well you just said, "I, Spy".

I I know, "I spy with my little eye".....

Spy But you're not Spy, that's me. You should say "I, I", not "I Spy".

I I, I. That's not it. It's "I, I, what have we here then", not "I I with my little eye. That doesn't make sense.

Spy Neither does "I, Spy", because you're not Spy, you're I.

During the next dialogue, I becomes increasingly annoyed with Spy.

I Look, it's not "I Spy", meaning I want to be Spy instead of I; but "I spy". It's a game stupid - that's all. I say "I spy with my little eye something beginning with U".

Spy U what?

I *(Repeating)* I spy with my little eye, something beginning with U.

Spy You just said that.

I I know you idiot. Then you say "umbrella"

Spy Oh I get it. Go on then.

I Right. I spy with my little eye, something beginning with "T"...

Spy Umbrella

I Wrong!

Spy What's wrong?

I Umbrella

Spy You just told me to say "umbrella"

I Yes but it's wrong. I said something beginning with "T".

Spy So why did you tell me to say umbrella if it's wrong?

I I'm not going to tell you the answer am I?

Spy Look. Are you trying to make me look like a fool?

I Hardly - you're doing a good enough job yourself.

Dick is heard offstage.

I Listen, there's someone coming. Look inconspicuous.

They put up their umbrellas and start whistling 'conspicuously'. Dick and Kitty enter. They both notice I and Spy, giving them a strange look. Dick continues upto the door of the Fitzwarren house and knocks on it. Sarah answers. During the next sequence, I and Spy try to eavesdrop on the conversation.

Sarah Not today thank you.

She closes the door. Dick knocks again

Sarah Are you deaf? I said "there's nobody home!"

She again closes the door, but Dick persists

Sarah *(Opening the door, she thrusts a TV or similar into Dick's hands.)* Oh take the damn thing back then, I was only 12 months behind with the payments; that's the trouble with you people, no understanding for the slaving classes! *(She slams the door again, then opens it after a couple of seconds.)*

Sarah *(To Dick)* You're not the bailiff?

Dick No.

Sarah Well, what do you want? Coming here disturbing a poor woman's cooking.

Dick I've come about the job - on board the Hey Ho Me Hearty.

Sarah Well why didn't you say so before. Wait here.

She shuts the door, then opens it, snatches back the TV and closes the door again behind her. Dick turns round to find I and Spy listening behind her. They immediately try to act inconspicuous again.

Sarah *(Opening the door)* You'd better come in. What's your name lad?

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Dick Dick Whittington. And this is Kitty.

Sarah Here Kitty Kitty - Oh, never mind! *(To I & Spy)* And whatever you two are doing you can go and do it somewhere else!! *(She slams the door in their faces).*

Spy What are we doing now?

I I told you, we're waiting for the rendezvous - that lad might be one of them.

Spy Really - him too.

I Shut up! Let's try and get inside.

I and Spy creep up to the window and peer inside. They hide under the windowsill when they hear Sarah singing. Sarah opens the window and tips food scraps out over I.

I You idiot - that was your fault.

Spy How can it be my fault

I You're in the wrong place. Change places. *(They change places)*

Again they try to climb in through the window. Sarah comes to a second window (now above I) and covers him in potato peelings. Spy begins to laugh.

I That's not funny? Give me that. *(He snatches the umbrella).*

Spy again tries to climb in, but on hearing Sarah coming, I puts up the umbrella. They both crouch down under the umbrella, beneath the window. Sarah comes out of the door this time, and without noticing I and Spy, throws a bucket of water sideways onto the flowers, covering both of them - she goes back inside still singing.

I You idiot!

Spy *(Accepting the blame)* Sorry.

They climb out of the flower bed and Spy tries to wipe I down. As this happens, Esmerelda enters followed by King Rat. She walks up behind them. She interrupts them causing Spy to jump into I's arms.

Esmerelda What are you doing?

Spy Aargh!

I You must be the er.....

Spy We were just.....I mean....he wasI mean.....oops!

Esmerelda gives a disdainful look towards I who suddenly notices Spy in his arms and immediately drops him, grinning at Esmerelda nervously

Esmerelda You should've been here and hour ago.

Spy Why, what happened?

Esmerelda Imbecile. Why are you dressed like that?

I We're in disguise.

Esmerelda As what?

Spy Private detectives.

Esmerelda I thought you were private detectives.

Spy I know. It's a good disguise eh?

Esmerelda It's pathetic. Now listen very carefully. I will say this only once. Here's what I want you to do. You must pose as sailors to gain access to the Hey Ho Me Hearty which is sailing tomorrow.

Spy Oh goodie, I've always fancied a sailor myself.

I What he means is he's always fancied himself as a sailor, don't you?

Spy You mean what you mean, and I'll mean what I mean!

Esmerelda You must guard the cargo of the Hey Ho Me Hearty whilst it is at sea. No one must be allowed near it. Do you understand?

I Yes - guard the cargo and don't let anyone near it. I've got it.

Esmerelda *(To Spy)* What about you - have you got it?

Spy I had it when I came in.

Esmerelda Aaargh. *(To King Rat)* Why did you hire these fools, this one's a perfect idiot.

Spy *(Flattered)* Oh, thanks very much.

King Rat There're all I could find - But they'll be alright - I'll be on board.

Esmerelda You'd better be - I don't want any more mistakes. *(To I & Spy)* Get it? got it? good. Now move.

I Right. Come on Spy. Let's get going. *(They start to leave)*

Esmerelda *(Grabbing I as he passes)* This way *(Pointing to the door)* And haven't you forgotten something?

I Please, let's get going?

Esmerelda *(Dropping I)* No, imbecile - a proper disguise.

I Oh yes. *(Turning and blaming Spy)* Idiot. Trying to pass yourself off as a private detective, hah it's pathetic.

Spy But that was your idea . . .

I thumps Spy to shut him up

Esmerelda *(Grabbing Spy by the throat - threateningly)* And don't get it wrong, right?

Spy Noerm... I mean yes.

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Esmerelda Unless you want to end up as shark's dinner?

I and Spy both shake their heads vigorously

Esmerelda Good . Now get out of my way. *(She exits)*

I, Spy and King Rat exit.

Miss P enters. She is dressed as a Girl Guide leader with lots of badges and enthusiasm. She rattles a collecting tin.

Miss P *(To Esmerelda)* I say, excuse me.

Esmerelda ignores her and tries to walk past but Miss P stands in her way.

Miss P I say, excuse me - I'm collecting for the children's orphanage on Runaway Hill, would you like to make a donation?

Esmerelda Why not - we could do with some more orphans - leave it to me. *(She exits)*

Miss P I'm not sure that's quite what I meant..... *(Looking around and seeing Alderman and Bosun enter)* Now they look like a couple of charitable gentlemen.

Alderman How's it going Bosun

Bosun Not too good sir, we're still need a captain and some more able seamen - looks like we may have to postpone the trip sir.

Alderman Out of the question, if I don't make this voyage, I ruined.

Miss P *(Interrupting them)* I say, excuse me. I'm collecting for the children's orphanage on Runaway Hill, would you like to make a donation?

Alderman What? Erm...oh yes *(He fumbles for some change, then indicates to the Bosun to pay Miss P)*

Bosun Glad to be able to 'elp madame.

Miss P Erm, miss actually. Miss Peabody, Captain of the 122nd Ever Ready Brigade. Pleased to meet you.

Alderman Captain, did you say Captain?

Miss P Yes, well, actually only since yesterday. *(Proudly)* I was promoted on account of my Community Service - now I've got a golden woggle.

Bosun I thought she walked a bit funny

Alderman Well Miss Peabody....you may be the very person we've been looking for. May I call you Captain Peabody?

Miss P *(Flattered)* Oh, well, it does have a certain 'ring' to it, doesn't it.

Alderman It does indeed. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Alderman Fitzwarren, and this is Bosun Bowleg.

Bosun Pleased to meet you maam.

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Miss P Oh, pleasure, pleasure.

Alderman You see Captain, we're in a spot of bother, and we thought you might be able to help us out.

Miss P Well, I always try to do my best to help out.

Alderman Good, good. Now we have a ship sailing tonight and unfortunately, all our crew have been unavoidably detained. Unless we can make the journey, I'm ruined.

Miss P Oh dear. Sounds like you're in a bit of a pickle.

Alderman Yes, yes....But since you're a Captain, we thought you may be able to help out and captain the ship for us.

Miss P But I'm not a sea Captain, I'm a Guide Captain - 122nd Ever Ready Brigade, Be Prepared and all that.

Alderman Yes, yes....But you must have some experience of sailing, surely, with all those badges.

Miss P Oh well, I have got my 'Boom handling' badge - there's no one can handle a boom like me you know.

Alderman Really? Now that would come in useful. *(He kneels at her feet, pleading)* Captain Peabody please - we're desperate men.

Miss P Oh, well, if you put it like that - I'll do it.

Alderman Splendid.

Bosun H'excellent.

Alderman Come Captain Peabody, let me introduce you to everyone, and Bosun - start the preparations, we sail at first light.

Alderman and Miss P exit. I & Spy enter dressed as pirates including wooden leg and parrot.

I Fifteen men on a dead man's chest.

Spy Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum.

I They all fell off and then there were none.

Spy Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum.

Bosun 'ello, 'ello. What have we here then?

Spy *(To I)* You told me it was "I I, what have we here then".

I Shut up idiot. *(He thumps Spy)*

Spy Oww. *(I thumps him again)* I mean - ooh argh - ha ha, ha ha.

Bosun Can I help you lads?

I *(In a phoney pirate's accent)* Only if you be the cap'in of the Hey Ho Me Hearty. Ooh argh, ooh argh.

Spy Pieces of ate. Pieces of ate. *(I thumps him again).*

Bosun I'm the Bosun, what can I do for you?

I We'd like the job of able seaman on the ship sir.

Spy I'dl just have the able seaman if it's alright with you.

I surreptitiously hits Spy.

Bosun *(Warily)* Well, we are looking for able seamen as it happens. 'ave you any qualifications?

I Oh yes sir, lots.

Bosun What kind?

I 4 GCSEs sir.

Bosun That sounds good. What in?

I Needlework, sir.

Bosun I thought you said you had 4.

Spy She had to take it 4 times to pass, sir.

Bosun I see, and how about you? Where are your qualifications?

Spy *(Taking Bosun by the arm)* I thought you'd never ask. Come with me and I'll show you!

I *(Grabbing Spy)* He's got 25 metres breaststroke and cycling proficiency, haven't you?!

Spy Oh yes sir, ha ha, ha ha.

I So, do we get a job sir?

Bosun Only if you can answer 3 questions. OK. Where's Felixstowe?

I *(Putting his hand up)* On the end of Felix's foot sir.

Bosun Correct. And where does the general keep his armies?

Spy *(Putting his hand up)* Up his sleeve's sir.

Bosun Good. Now what's higher than an Admiral?

I *(thinks for a moment)* ...er....his hat, sir!

Bosun H'excellent. And since we're desperate - you're hired. Be at the pier at 6 tonight. And don't be late.

Sarah enters with a large soup bowl.

Sarah You hoo, hello everybody. Are you enjoying yourself? (YES?) Course you are - nothing else to enjoy is there?

Bosun Don't tell me they've fixed the cooker.

Sarah Yes and good news, I've made the chicken soup.

Bosun Thank goodness for that. For a minute there I thought it was for us.

Sarah Who're these two? (*meaning I and Spy*)

Bosun I've just hired 'em for the trip.

Sarah Looks like you just hired them from a fancy dress shop. Well you can start by taking this inside to the others - and don't spill it.

I (*Looking into the soup pot*) Spill it? - I'd have a hard job to even slice it.

Sarah hands the bowl to I and Spy who take one look and recoil in horror. They exit with the soup bowl. The Bosun tries to sneak off but is dragged back by Sarah

Sarah Oh Bosun - we're alone. I hope you haven't forgotten our little date tonight.

Bosun What date?

Sarah Now don't pretend you've forgotten. I have a memory like an elephant.

Bosun And a body and face to match.

Sarah I'll have you know, I have the face of a 17 year old.

Bosun Well, give it back -cos you're getting it wrinkled.

Sarah (*Grabbing him melodramatically*) Oh Ivor Bowleg, you treat me so cruel. When are you going to turn me into an honest woman?

Bosun It's not the honest I'm worried about - it's the woman.

Sarah Will you kiss me?

Bosun Madam - I have scruples.

Sarah That's OK, I've been vaccinated.

Bosun Will you unhand me woman - someone might see.

Sarah (*Playing for sympathy*) You're ashamed of me - I can tell.

Bosun (*Softening*) I'm not.

Sarah Oh yes you are.

Bosun Oh no I'm not....etc.

Sarah Oh yes you are..

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Bosun No - it's just that there are people watching.

Sarah Oh, are you shy. *(The Bosun becomes bashful)* Will you still love me when I'm old and wrinkly?

Bosun *(Softening)* Of course I do.

SONG Sarah and Bosun. *(Suggestion: I WANNA BE LOVED BY YOU)*

They exit

Esmerelda enters followed by I and Spy.

Spy I think it was my cycling proficiency that did it - I think he was really impressed by that.

Esmerelda *(Dubiously)* At least you've got yourself aboard. And you're sure no one suspected anything?

I Why should they? - don't you think we look the part?

Esmerelda You look like a spare part. Just be at the harbour tonight to let me aboard. Nine o'clock sharp - Don't be late!

They all exit.

Miss P and Alderman enter.

Alderman It really is very good of you Miss P, er I mean Captain - to step into the breach at such short notice.

Miss P Well, I've stepped into some things in my time, but never into the breach before.

Alderman Yes, quite.

Miss P Ready by name, and ready by nature, you know.

Alderman Exactly.

Miss P I say Mr Fitzwarren, I wonder if I may ask a favour.

Alderman Oh, Alderman please.

Miss P Alright, Alderman. I don't like to bother you, but as you know I was collecting for the children's orphanage on Runaway hill, and I really think I should get this money back to them before we sail. Do you think I may be excused?

Alderman But of course, of course. Better still, I'll get someone to take it back for you. Where's that Dick Whittington? We'll get him to take it back.

Alice enters.

Alderman Ah, Alice.

Alice Hello father, Captain.

Alderman Alice. The Captain would like to return her collecting tin to the orphanage on Runaway hill before we sail. Could you find Dick Whittington and ask him to return it for us, please.

Alice OK - I think I saw him in the kitchen with Sarah.

Alderman Thank you. *(To Miss P)* There you are Captain, it's settled. Now, if you'd allow me - I have a wonderful collection of exotic etchings to show you.....

Alderman and Miss P leave. There is a loud shriek from offstage and Sarah enters holding her skirts round her waist.

Sarah Help, help.

She runs around the stage, screaming. A large furry mouse is seen running across the stage. Dick and Kitty enter.

Dick What's the matter, Sarah?

Sarah Help, help - it's a mouse. I think I'm going to faint. *(She faints into Dick's arms)*

Kitty attacks the mouse and scares it off. Alice enters and watches from the side.

Dick Well done Kitty. *(To Sarah)* It's alright now, it's gone.

Sarah Did you see it? It was horrible, horrible. It must have been that big *(indicating an exaggerated size)* - all big and hairy it was - horrible.

Alice Talking about the Bosun again, Sarah? *(To Dick)* Hello again.

Dick Alice.

Sarah It's no good - my nerves just can't stand it, I need to lie down, - brandy. *(She picks up a large bottle of brandy, takes a large swig,)* *(To the audience)* Medicinal purposes only you understand....medicinal purposes only.*(She exits).*

Alice Looks like you have an interesting effect on women.

Dick *(Embarrassed)* She fainted.

Alice Don't worry - she's always doing that - it's a good excuse for some of her "medicine".

Dick I got a job - thanks to you.

Alice I told you they needed someone - *(Kitty comes and brushes against Alice)* oh, and a cat of course. How're you getting on?

Dick Great, everyone's really friendly - we've got a job, somewhere to live - it's great - and it's good to see you again.

Alice Oh Yes?.....

Dick *(becoming embarrassed)* Er, yes, because, er, - well just to make sure you haven't got into any more fights....

Alice I think I've had quite enough fights for one day don't you? *(Remembering the collecting tin)* Oh, I nearly forgot. My father asked if you would drop this back to the orphanage on Runaway hill, it's the money the Captain collected.

Dick Sure. Which way?

Alice To the top of the hill and turn left - you can't miss it.

As Alice hands Dick the tin, they touch hands, and gaze into each other's eyes for a moment.

Dick *(Breaking away)* Right, yes - thanks. Erm . . *(exiting)* Top of the left, and hill at the turn . . . , come on Kitty.

Alice smiles to herself and exits.

Scene 2 - A Road on the way to Runaway Hill

Dick and Kitty enter carrying the collecting tin.

Dick She's nice isn't she Kitty. *(Pause)* Alice I mean. *(Pause)* She'd never look at me though, after all, she's the daughter of a rich merchant, and me, well, I don't have a penny to my name. *(Kitty gives a knowing sigh. Dick stops and looks out as if surveying London.)* Look at that Kitty - London - where fortunes are won and lost overnight. *(Pause)* Hey but we've made a start, haven't we? We've got a job, and who's knows - one day....

Several rats, including King Rat, have entered and sneaked up behind Dick. They have covered Kitty in a net.

Rats Ding Dong Bell. Pussy's down the well....

King Rat Here, Kitty Kitty.... Pretty little Kitty. *(He stabs at Kitty)*

Dick Leave her alone.

There is a fight between Dick and the rats. He is overpowered and the rats steal the collecting tin.

King Rat *(Taunting Dick and Kitty)* Ding dong bell, pussy's down the well.....next time, cat.

The rats exit leaving Dick and Kitty alone. Dick helps Kitty out of the net, and they exit. Blackout.

Scene 3 - London Docks as scene 1.

Alderman, Alice, Sarah, Bosun, I and Spy are all loading the cargo onto the ship.

Alderman Well, all seems ship shape - won't be long now Bosun.

Bosun No sir. We'll set sail at first light, sir.

Spy Ooh argh, ooh argh.

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I thumps Spy to shut him up.

Alderman Are you feeling alright sailor?

Spy I wish I was!

Alderman Where's the Captain?

Alice I think she went to check that the orphanage received the money.

Alderman Didn't you send Dick Whittington.

Alice Yes, he left earlier today but he should have been back ages ago.

At that moment, Miss P rushes in.

Miss P It's gone, all of it, vanished, and Dick Whittington with it.

Alderman Calm down Ermintrude.

Bosun/Sarah Ermintrude?!
I/Spy

Alderman Ignore them Captain. What is it, what's gone.

Miss P The money. Dick Whittington never arrived at the orphanage - he must have stolen it!

Huge gasps of surprise.

Bosun I thought he looked like a good for nothing.

Sarah I knew it. That cat - flea ridden if you ask me.

Alice Father. Dick would never do that - something must have happened to him.

Alderman Well it certainly seems very suspicious. *(to Bosun)* Bosun, take these two "men", and send out a search party. Dick Whittington must be found and brought to justice.

Bosun I I sir.

I I I sir.

Spy I'm Spy sir, I mean, I I sir.

Bosun, I and Spy exit.

Alice Father, please, don't jump to conclusions. There must be a good explanation.

Alderman Well I'd certainly like to hear it.

Miss P To rob those dear little orphans like that - it's too awful for words.

Alice I'm sure you're mistaken. He wouldn't do that....

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Bosun, I and Spy return with Dick Whittington and Kitty.

- Bosun Ere we are sir, caught him.
- Alderman What have you got to say for yourself boy? Where's the money for the orphanage?
- Dick We were robbed, sir - on the hill. A group of rats attacked us and made off with the money. We were just coming back to tell you, when we bumped into the Bosun.
- Sarah Rats - where? *(She jumps into the Bosun's arms)*
- Alderman A likely story, I'm sure.
- Dick It's true - we were robbed - by a group of rats.
- Alice Father, I'm sure he's telling the truth, earlier today we were attacked as well...
- Alderman That's enough. A group of rats indeed. I never heard such nonsense. Now where's the money boy - that's all we want?
- Dick I don't know - I keep telling you we were robbed.
- Alice Father, please listen...
- Alderman Silence! Rats. You're the rat my boy. You're nothing but a common thief. I ought to have you arrested right now.
- Spy Yes, rat face.
- I Bounder!
- Alice Father, no.
- Alderman However, as we're leaving port in the morning, I cannot become involved in a lengthy investigation. Therefore, I advise you to leave London now lad, and don't come back unless you want to spend the rest of your youth in jail! Now get out of here.
- Dick But I'm innocent.
- I You heard the man, now beat it.
- Spy Yes, push off, push over.
- Dick I'm innocent I tell you, innocent. Alice, you must believe me...

Alice pleads with Alderman as the others push Dick and Kitty offstage. The lights fade.

Scene 4 - A Road somewhere outside London

Dick and Kitty enter looking very dejected

- Dick Sorry Kitty, here we are again - right back where we started - no food, no job and no home. *(Calling back to London as if someone could hear)* I hate London, and
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all Londoners too! *(He slumps down and Kitty snuggles next to him.)* I don't mean it - most of them were really nice, especially Alice. Can't say I blame Mr Fitzwarren either - I suppose he had to blame someone, just why did it have to be me? Better try and get some sleep I suppose. It's been a very long day. Maybe tomorrow will be better eh.

SONG Dick *Suggestion: (DREAMING)*

After the song Dick and Kitty lie down and go to sleep. The lights dim except for a few spotlights on the opposite side of the stage which come on and off separately - this is Dick's dream. Alderman appears in the spotlight, he re-enacts the earlier scene when he sent Dick away.

Alderman *(In spotlight)* You're nothing but a common thief - get out of here, and don't come back.

Alice *(In spotlight)* You thought the streets were paved with gold, right?

King Rat *(In spotlight)* Not so fast, my pretty one....

Esmerelda *(In spotlight)* A real little hero isn't he - throw them overboard..

Alice *(In spotlight)* Leave me alone....*(Calling out)* Help me, Dick Whittington...

The voices repeat, becoming faster, more confused.

Alderman *(In spotlight)* You're nothing but a common thief - get out of here, and don't come back.

Alice *(In spotlight)* You thought the streets were paved with gold, right?

King Rat *(In spotlight)* Not so fast, my pretty one....

Esmerelda *(In spotlight)* A real little hero isn't he - throw them overboard..

Alice *(In spotlight)* Leave me alone....*(Calling out)* Help me, Dick Whittington...

(Their voices overlap)

Alderman *(In spotlight)* Dick Whittington...

King Rat *(In spotlight)* Dick Whittington...

Esmerelda *(In spotlight)* Dick Whittington...

The lights fade but their voices are still heard gradually dimming to become a low whisper. The sound of church bells mixes with the sound of the voices. Fairy Bowbells voice is heard above the church bells.

Fairy Bowbells Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London
Turn again Whittington, Thrice Mayor of London

The voices from before join in to repeat the poem.

All Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London
Turn again Whittington, Thrice Mayor of London

The light goes sharply out and Dick awakes with a start. Kitty wakes too.

Dick What a dream - or rather a nightmare - it was so real. I dreamed that Alice was in some kind of danger. Do you think she's alright? I wonder if we should go back. No, I'm being silly, it was only a dream after all - what can that mean? (*Laughing at himself*) I also dreamed that I'd be Lord Mayor of London, huh, that shows how silly it was. Anyway if we did go back they'd only lock us up. No, it's back home for us Kitty. Come on.

He picks up his bag and begins heading off stage. Kitty has become very agitated, trying to get Dick to go back to London.

Dick What's the matter Kitty - it was only a dream - wasn't it? What if it wasn't? What if it was some kind of omen - maybe Alice really is in danger. What shall we do?

Kitty points to the audience.

Dick What? You mean we should ask the boys and girls? (*Kitty nods enthusiastically*) OK. (*To the audience*) Hello boys and girls, can you help me. (*Kitty nods with the audience*) (YES) Is Alice in some kind of danger? (YES) Are you sure? (YES) Then you think I should go back to London and warn her? (YES). Right - come on Kitty, looks like we've got work to do. London, here we come.

Dick gets to the edge of the stage and then stops. He looks at the audience quizzically.

Dick (*To audience*) If you lot know so much - am I really going to be Lord Mayor of London one day?

Before the audience have time to answer, Kitty pushes Dick offstage

Scene 5 - On board the Hey Ho Me Hearty.

The deck of the ship. A ship's wheel is centre stage, and a large oven sits one side of the stage.

SONG Chorus, Miss P, Alderman, I, Spy and crew. (*Suggestion: ON THE CREST OF A WAVE*)

Miss P I say, this is jolly good fun. I'm awfully glad I said yes.

Alderman Yes, this is the life eh Miss Peabody? Sea air, calm waters, a beautiful woman at the helm - what more could a man want?

Miss P (*Becoming embarrassed and taking her hands off the wheel.*) Oh I say Mr Fitzwarren, erm, Alderman, thanks.

The ship veers to the left and all the crew run to one side of the ship then the other.

Alderman Hold her steady though, captain, hold her steady.

Miss P Sorry.

Alderman How are all the men Bosun?

Bosun Couldn't be better sir - Sarah's seasick again sir so there's not been one report of food poisoning since we left port.

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Alderman Good good - that's what I like to hear.
I and Spy enter carrying Sarah in a bath chair.

Spy Here - I thought it was her stomach that was sick, not her legs.

I It is - it's just that her legs got sick of carrying her stomach!

Spy I can see why!

Sarah I heard that - and don't think I didn't. Now go and fetch the ingredients. It's baking time again. *(I & Spy go off muttering)*

Alderman Morning cook - feeling better today?

Sarah A little. I thought I'd bake a cake to cheer us up. Those two layabouts are going to help.

Bosun Are you sure that's wise?

Sarah They can go that wrong.

Bosun I meant you baking a cake. I thought you were supposed to be resting.

Sarah I was, but all that resting was making me tired so I gave it up.

I and Spy return with large sacks labelled flour, sugar and place them next to some identical sacks labelled salt and gunpowder.

Alderman Time to retire myself I think. This way Captain.

Bosun Good idea sir.

I & Spy bring on a table with cooking utensils on it. Bosun, Captain and Alderman exit quickly.

Sarah Good. Now have you got everything?

The following slap-stick scene can be expanded as desired to include ad libs and the audience should be involved as much as possible.

Sarah Now let's start with the flour. *(To audience)* They don't call me Fanny for nothing you know.

Spy *(To I)* Which one's flour?

I I don't know - I thought you knew.

Spy I don't know. You're the one with the GCSE.

Sarah It's the white powder.

I *(Finding a sack marked gunpowder)* Ah ha - here it is. *(To the audience)* Is this it? (NO) Oh yes it is. (OH NO IT ISN'T etc)

They eventually tip gunpowder into the bowl

Sarah Good - now the sugar. As if I'm not sweet enough!

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I Sugar. What's that like?
Sarah White granules.

Spy I got it.

They find the salt and add this to the mixture. They run through the audience participation part here as well if required.

Sarah Now the eggs.

I and Spy throw the eggs around the stage between themselves and Sarah. One egg finally gets broken all over Spy. All the ingredients finally make their way into the bowl, as well as over I, Spy and Sarah.

Sarah Now give it a good stir, put it into a tin, and into the oven.

They do all these thing, placing the cake in the oven on the side of the stage.

Sarah And all we have to do now is wait.

Spy (*Indicating Sarah*) Yes, and speaking of weight.

She clicks her fingers, and I and Spy carry her off.

Esmerelda enters with King Rat.

Esmerelda So far, so good. Those idiots managed to swap the cargo before we left port so the jewels are aboard in place of the spices. All you have to do is keep up your end of the bargain when we get to Morocco.

King Rat Don't worry about me mistress - before we reach Morocco, the ship and the cargo will all be in our hands...

Esmerelda ...and those who previously sailed in her.....(*she draws her finger across his throat*) can all go visit Davy Jones' locker. Now stay out of sight until I give the signal.

Esmerelda and King Rat exit. Dick and Kitty come out of hiding.

Dick We were right, Alice is in danger, but it's worse than we thought - someone wants to steal the cargo, and kill everyone on board. We must find Alice, she's the only one who'll believe us. Look out, someone's coming.

Dick and Kitty hides as Alice enters.

Alice Captain? Is that you?

Dick (*Emerging from his hiding place*) Alice, thank goodness.

Alice Dick, what are you doing here? I thought you'd left London, if anyone finds you here!

Dick I did, but I had a dream warning me that you were in danger and telling me to come back. (*He takes her by the shoulders*) Alice you must believe me - I didn't steal anything.

Alice I never thought you did.

Dick Really?

Alice Really.

Alice and Dick have been looking lovingly into each other's eyes. Kitty interrupts them by tugging on Dick's jacket.)

Dick Kitty, of course. Alice, we're all in great danger. There's someone on board who's planning to take over the Hey Ho Me Hearty and kill everyone on board..

Alice But who would want to do that?

Dick I've only heard their voices. But they can't be far away. We must tell your father immediately.

Alice Yes, I'll sound the alarm.

Alice turns to sound the alarm but runs straight into King Rat who grabs her.

King Rat Not so fast, my pretty one.

Alice Let me go. *(She elbows King Rat in the belly and gets free. Esmerelda enters and casts a spell on Alice which knocks her out.)*

Esmerelda Too late.

Dick Alice!

Esmerelda Stand still human *(She casts a spell which freezes Dick to the spot).*

Dick I recognise that voice. You're the one who wants to take over the ship.

King Rat *(Recovering)* Clever, isn't he?

Esmerelda A real little hero. Too bad you're hour of triumph will be so short lived. Throw them over board.

A host of rats emerge from hiding places around the ship and start to carry Alice and Dick to the side.

Kitty has been watching the action from the sidelines unnoticed. As Esmerelda is distracted with Dick and Alice, Kitty rushes towards Esmerelda, scratches her face, then jumps on the alarm button. There is an immediate alarm noise and Alderman, Miss P, Bosun and sailors run on stage but are held back by the rats.

Esmerelda What the....?

Alderman What's going on, who sounded the alarm? Whittington - I should have know. I'll have you arrested for this. *(Seeing Esmerelda and the Rats)* Who are you?

Esmerelda Stand back, or she's shark's meat! *(indicating Alice)*

Alderman Alice!

Bosun Miss Alice!

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Miss P I say, that's not on.
 Alderman *(To Esmerelda)* Don't you dare hurt her. What do you want?

Esmerelda I knew we could reach an understanding. It's simple really, even you should be able to comprehend. It's not quite as we planned. But never mind. You see, we're taking over the ship, and you're all getting off, right now.

Alderman But we're nowhere near land yet.

Esmerelda Oh dear, aren't we? Looks like time for an early dip then, doesn't it?

Esmerelda signals to the rats who line up Bosun, Miss P, Alderman and Dick.

Bosun This is mutiny sir, mutiny.

Alderman Hardly Bosun, she's not exactly one of the crew is she?

Miss P Now I say, I'm the Captain of the 122nd Ever Ready Girl Guide Brigade and I demand that you release us. We're British!

King Rat Be quiet.

The rats put up a plank over the side of the ship and push Dick to the end lining up the others behind him. I and Spy enter, see Esmerelda and quickly turn about face. She grabs them.

Esmerelda Where are you two idiots going?

I Us? I thought, I'd just go and powder my nose, actually.

Spy And I thought, I'd go and powder his nose too,

Esmerelda Nice of you to drop in, literally.

She pushes I and Spy into the line.

I Well that's gratitude for you.

Esmerelda Parting is such sweet sorrow....

Esmerelda signals to the rats to push them in. Sarah comes running on in a panic.

Sarah Abandon ship, abandon ship. They put gunpowder in the cake instead of flour. There's going to be an explo.....

There is an almighty explosion in which the oven (which has been smouldering) blows up. Everyone begins to panic and everything becomes confused.

Bosun We're sinking!

Alderman Abandon ship.

Esmerelda *(To King Rat)* The jewels, get the jewels. *(They exit)*

Dick *(Running to Alice)* Alice, are you alright?

Alice *(Coming round)* Yes, what happened?

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Dick No time to explain, we must get off the ship.
I We're going to drown.

Spy I know - and I can't swim.

Miss P *(Trying to organise everyone in the chaos)* I say, excuse me everyone. If we do this in an orderly fashion no one will get hurt. Women and children first, women and children first.....

Sarah *(Obviously panicking)* Don't panic. Don't panic. *(She runs around the stage and faints in the Bosun's arms. The ship begins to sink and there is general panic everywhere.)*

SONG Principals and chorus *(Suggestion: WAY DOWN)*

At the end of the song, the water rises as the ship sinks - and the curtain closes.

ACT TWO**Scene 1** - Sultan's Palace

SONG Chorus *(Could be an Eastern type dance)*

Jeeves enters. He is the archetypal English butler, very well spoken and immaculately dressed in tails.

Jeeves All bow and pay homage to the most eminent Highness, the Sultan of Morocco.

Suddenly, Jeeves is hit in the face by a squirt of water, and the Sultan enters firing the pistol at Jeeves. Jeeves gives a large sigh and wipes his face. During the dialogue the Sultan trots around the stage on a hobby horse. The Sultan wears the 2nd talisman around his neck.

Sultan Got you! Ha ha! That's the fourth time today Jeeves, you'll have to do better than that you know.

Jeeves *(Mopping his face)* Yes sire. I'll try sire.

Sultan No good just trying Jeeves. You've got to quick as a flash you see, quick as a flash.

Jeeves Yes sire, it won't happen again sire.

Sultan Good man, good man. Now, where's Maneeta?

Jeeves I think she was last seen playing hide and seek with the new date collector - although when I saw her last she was chasing him through the palace with her tassels swinging sire.

Sultan That doesn't sound like hide and seek to me.

Jeeves It's the Sultana's version. It's her version of most games sire.

Sultan Just so long as she's enjoying herself eh Jeeves?

Jeeves Yes sire. Will that be all?

Sultan Think so Jeeves, except, I want to go over a few jumps after supper so set them up in the dining room will you. *(Handing Jeeves the hobby horse)* And fix that squeaky wheel on Dobbin, I'll give the old boy a good exercise stint later.

Jeeves *(Exiting)* Very good sire.

Sultan Oh and Jeeves.

Jeeves Yes sire?

Sultan *(Squirting him with water again)* Got you again. Too slow man, too slow.

Jeeves How very clever sire. I must try to be quicker. *(He starts to exit then comes back on)* There is one other thing sire...

Sultan Yes.. come back for some more have you?

Jeeves The prisoners sire - what should I do with them?

Sultan Good lord yes. I'd forgotten all about them. What jolly good fun to have real prisoners for a change. *(To Jeeves)* Bring them up Jeeves, bring them up.

Jeeves Yes sire.

Jeeves exits. A man runs across the stage followed by Maneeta.

Sultan Ah there you are Maneeta, been playing hide and seek I hear.

Maneeta I was trying, but that new date collector's very 'fit' - he's too fast.

Sultan Have to run faster then won't you old girl, keep them on their toes.

Maneeta *(Aside)* It's not his toes I want him on. *(Changing the subject)* Will you be in for dinner dear?

Sultan Don't think so, coochy coo, I'm going to take Dobbin over a few jumps in the dining room. How about you?

Maneeta I'm sure I can amuse myself.

Sultan Good good, no sense in getting bored now is there?

Maneeta Precisely.

Jeeves leads in the prisoners - Sarah, Bosun, I, Spy, Dick, Alice, Alderman, Miss P, Kitty and Esmerelda.

Jeeves I've brought the prisoners sire.

Maneeta What prisoners? You didn't tell me we had prisoners. *(Seeing all the men)* Where did they come from?

Sultan They were all found on the private beach and under the law, they must be punished.

Maneeta *(To Alderman)* Oh good. I love a good punishment, don't you?

Alderman *(Embarrassed)* Well, er, now and again.

Sultan Now the charges against you, are very serious indeed, and before I pass sentence.....

- Alderman Now listen here.....I mean. We didn't know we were on a private beach as you call it - we were shipwrecked.
- Sultan That's no excuse - a rule is a rule, isn't it Maneeta?
- Maneeta *(Rather taken in with all the men)* Oh, rather.
- Sultan Now I wonder what I should do with you all.....how about torture? Oh yes, that's it. That's what you do with prisoners, isn't it. But which torture - boiling in oil? No, the smell's always so awful. What about, buried in sand upto the neck - no, too many of those this year already. I've got it - how about the old scooping out the belly button fluff with a rusty old spoon routine.
- Sarah *(Checking)* I don't think I've got any belly button fluff.
- Dick Let's just hope we don't have to find out.
- Bosun But we haven't had a fair trial.
- Sultan Oh yes, I forgot. A trial, that sounds like fun.
- Sarah I've got a bad feeling about this.
- Sultan I'll be the judge and jury, and Jeeves can be the prosecution, can't you Jeeves?
- Jeeves Very good sire.
- Maneeta What about me, what can I be.
- Sultan Oh alright, you can be the witness.
- Maneeta winks at Alderman.*
- Sarah Witness to what - she wasn't even there.
- Dick And who's going to be our defence?
- Maneeta *(In a predatory manner)* Oh, you don't need a defence, you've already been found guilty - it's useless to resist.
- Dick Then why this court case - surely that's not fair?
- Sultan Of course, it's perfectly fair - you're going to get a fair trial, you'll be found guilty and then you'll be sentenced. That's fair isn't it?
- Esmerelda *(Trying to break free from the others)* I would at this stage, like to disassociate myself from these vagabonds. It is purely by some terrible stroke of bad luck that I came to be in their company. You see they kidnapped me, and I was just about to escape when we were shipwrecked. I'd never seen any of them before today.
- Bosun Why the lying little....

Sarah Hold me back, hold me back.....

Alderman Steady, steady. Now's not the time.

Sultan Oh goodie, a kidnapping too. That's even more exciting.

Dick But she's lying. She was using the ship to smuggle some jewels.

Esmerelda Nonsense. That was the ransom money raised to secure my release - but they took the money and refused to let me go.

Sarah *(Rolling up her sleeves as if for a fight)* Right, that's it, she asked for it.....

Bosun *(To the Sultan)* You can't honestly believe her. I mean, just look at her.....

Sultan I see what you mean. *(To Esmerelda)* I say, fancy a game of gin rummy later?....*(Esmerelda looks at him disdainfully)*

Sarah I've got a very bad feeling about this.

Sultan Silence all of you. Now this is my court and you will do as I say.

Several rats have entered, including King Rat. The only ones to have noticed are Miss P and Esmerelda.

Miss P Excuse me, could I say something, please?

Sultan No! Jeeves has to make the prosecution first. Go ahead Jeeves.

Jeeves But sire. If they really were shipwrecked, shouldn't we be helping them?

Sarah Well said that man.

Sultan Silence - if there are any more interruptions, then you *(meaning Sarah)* will be first for the belly button scoop. Go ahead Jeeves.

The guards lead Spy forward.

Jeeves Very well sire. It is alleged that the defendants were swimming near the private beach without permission. *(To Spy)* How do you plead, guilty or not guilty?

Spy Is there another choice?

Jeeves Were you or were you not, swimming on the Sultan's private beach?

Spy I think I may have been splashing about a bit. I don't think you could call it swimming, more like doggy paddle really.

I I thought you were doing quite well actually, not a bad technique.

Spy Do you really think so?

- Bosun Yes, not bad at all, considering.
- Spy *(more confidently)* Oh, well, thankyou very much.
- Sultan Will you pay a little attention.
- Spy I'm paying as little as possible.
- Sultan He's confessed, onto the next one Jeeves.
- Miss P Excuse me, could I have a word now?
- Sultan No!
- Bosun is led forward.*
- Jeeves *(To Bosun)* What about you - what were you doing on the private beach?
- Bosun *(Proudly)* I was doing a rather fine breaststroke I am proud to say. I'm a very good swimmer you know - fastest 100 metres in my class, sir.
- Maneeta Really? *(Advancing on Bosun)* How fascinating.
- Bosun Oh yes maam, got to be fit to be in the navy.
- Maneeta This is getting more and more interesting, go on.
- Alice Look this is ridiculous. we're not here to decide who's going to make the next Olympics - we were shipwrecked and were just trying to stay alive.
- Dick She's right. Our ship was sabotaged and
- Miss P Could I please have a word now?
- Everyone No!
- Sultan I've heard enough. Let's get on to the interesting bit - the punishment. They've all confessed anyway, so it is the decision of this court that you have all been found guilty and you will now be escorted to the dungeons.
- Maneeta Oh, goodie.
- Sultan Take them away to the belly button scoop.
- The guards approach to take the prisoners away. Suddenly, King Rat appears followed by the other rats. Maneeta and Sarah scream and faint.*
- King Rat Stay where you are everybody.
- Sultan I say!

Dick The rats!

Alderman Well I never - giant rats.

Miss P That's what I was trying to tell you.

There is a short struggle with the palace guards which the rats win.

King Rat *(To Esmerelda, holding out his hand)* Mistress - allow me.

Esmerelda Where have you been, imbecile?

King Rat Nice to see you too mistress.....

Esmerelda *(Pointing to the Sultan)* Get me out of here, and get that talisman.

King Rat approaches the Sultan menacingly. Kitty suddenly leaps forward at King Rat. There is a general panic and fight between the prisoners, the guards and the rats.

Dick Alice, quick, this way.

In the panic, Alice, Dick and Kitty escape, but the others are recaptured by the guards. King Rat and Esmerelda also escape but without the talisman.

Scene 2 - A Corridor in the Palace

King Rat and Esmerelda enter.

King Rat See mistress, I saved you from a fate worse than death.

Esmerelda You did no such thing. I was perfectly in control.

King Rat *(Kissing her hand)* I feel a little gratitude wouldn't go amiss.

Esmerelda Gratitude, You! Don't make me laugh. You disgust me.

King Rat Thank you, mistress...

Esmerelda Where are the jewels?

King Rat They sank with the ship mistress.

Esmerelda Fool, I told you to save them.

King Rat *(Stroking Esmerelda)* I was holding you, mistress, if you remember.

Esmerelda Don't touch me. Your incompetence has cost me a fortune, and that idiot Sultan will never trust us now. We'll just have to think of another way to get the second

talisman. The power of the first talisman, its failing. We must get the second part as soon as possible - tonight. Then no one will be able to stop me.

King Rat Have you a plan mistress?

Esmerelda Yes. We'll kidnap the Sultana Maneeta and demand the 2nd talisman as a ransom. Come - we have work to do.

King Rat What if the Sultan won't pay?

Esmerelda We'll make him an offer he can't refuse. Quickly, I need your assistance.

King Rat Excellent mistress, excellent.

King Rat and Esmerelda leave.

Alice, Dick and Kitty enter.

Dick Are you alright Alice?

Alice Yes, fine - thanks to Kitty.

Dick *(To Kitty)* Yes, you were very brave, thanks.

Alice Did you see what happened to the others?

Dick I think they were all captured by the palace guards. They were heading in the other direction.

Alice We must do something to help them. We can't sit back and let them be tortured. We've got to think of something, and quick.

Dick I know, but what? The palace is crawling with guards and rats. We'll be discovered as soon as we move. Some hero I've turned out to be.

Kitty exits unseen.

Alice Don't say that. You didn't have to come back to London - after the way everyone treated you, I'm surprised you did. It took a lot of courage to do that, thanks.

Dick Not courage really, just a bit of hope.

Alice Hope?

Dick Hope that I'd see you again *(getting embarrassed)* er, and that I'd be Lord Mayor of London one day. I had a dream you see. It said, "Turn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London". Silly huh?

Alice Not at all. I think you'd make a very good Lord mayor.

Dick You think so?

Alice Yes. And a handsome one too.

Dick *(now very embarrassed)* oh, well, thanks.

Alice smiles to herself.

Dick Alice?

Alice Yes?

Dick Erm,I mean....do you think that one day, if they were both back safely in London, the daughter of a rich merchant, would ever consider going out with a hopeful, would-be Lord Mayor, hypothetically speaking, of course?

Alice Hypothetically speaking, I think she'd like that very much.

SONG Dick and Alice. *(Suggestion: COCK-EYED OPTIMIST)*

Dick Come on, let's try and find the others? *(noticing Kitty is no longer with them)*
Where's Kitty?

Alice She was here a minute ago. I hope nothing's happened to her.

Kitty enters, dragging a large sack.

Dick Kitty, thank goodness. What have you got there?

Alice Looks like it's full of old clothes. Where on earth did you get this?

Kitty points off stage

Dick Well done Kitty. This is just what we need to get past the guards. You're a clever little cat aren't you?

Alice Quick - let's get going.

They all exit.

Scene 3 - The Dungeons of the Palace

Alderman, I, Spy, Bosun, Miss P and Sarah are chained to the walls in the dungeons.

Sarah This is all my fault. If I hadn't wanted to bake a cake, none of this would have happened. We'd be safely back on the ship now.

Alderman No - we'd have been fed to the sharks by that Esmerelda.

Bosun She's a rum -un sir, no doubt about that.

Miss P This really is most unfortunate. Suppose they really are going to torture us.

Bosun Don't you worry Captain Peabody. No one's going to touch my belly button and get away with it.

Sarah I shouldn't think anyone would want to!

Alderman Don't worry Ermintrude, everyone - We'll all get out here, if it's the last thing we do.

Sarah That's what worries me.

Two guards enter and unchain Spy. They tie him to a table centre stage.

Alderman What are you going to do with us?

There is no reply from the guards, just a large grin!

I Don't worry Spy - I'll save you!

The Sultan, Jeeves and Maneeta enter.

Sultan Now hear this prisoners. You have all been found guilty of a very serious crime. Not only were you swimming on the private beach, but you have brought a plague of rats into my palace, and they've knocked over and ruined all my horse jumps. You're obviously a group of spies come to undermine my authority. Have you anything to say before we commence the torture?

I Sorry?

Maneeta *(To Alderman)* I think this one's the ring leader - give him to me and I'll extract his 'testimony'.

Bosun I'd go for the belly button scoop if I were you sir.

Sultan Now listen up all of you. We intend to get to the bottom of this.....

Sarah Oh, it's getting worse.

Sultan Jeeves - the spoon please.

Jeeves The spoon sire?

Sultan Yes Jeeves, the rusty spoon for extracting the belly button fluff, come on man, come on.

Jeeves Oh that spoon. It's still in your bedchamber sire, as the bridge for your train set.

Sultan Oh, is it? Right, well, we'll be back in a minute - don't go away now. Come along Maneeta.

The Sultan, Jeeves and the guards exit.

Maneeta (To Alderman) I'll be back.....*(She exits)*

Maneeta exits.

Sarah (Referring to the Sultan and Maneeta). I don't know which one's worse - That 'Overgrown Peter Pan' or 'Vampira' there.

Bosun She does seem to have taken a fancy to you sir.

Sarah Yes, and that's not all she'll take if she gets her way.

Miss P (Directly to the audience) Oh dear, and I was so looking forward to the happy ever after bit as well!!!

I It's alright for you lot. It's Spy who's on the table there - he's the one they're going to torture with a rusty old spoon. What about him?

Alderman You're right. (To Spy). Don't worry lad, keep your chin up - it may not be that bad you know - stiff upper lip and all that.

Spy I'm not worried about his stiff upper lip, I just hope he's got warm hands.

A noise is heard offstage.

Alderman There coming back - come on everyone, don't let them see we're scared.

They all begin to tremble uncontrollably. Alice (in a harem costume) and Dick (as a guard) appear. Alice is carrying some keys and Dick is dragging in the sack of clothes. Alice begins to free everyone.

Alice Father.

Alderman Alice, thank heavens. Where have you been?

Alice We escaped when the rats attacked.

Alderman Are you alright?

Alice Yes fine, how about you. Is anyone hurt?

Bosun No. I think their bark's worse than their bite.

Sarah Speak for yourself.

Dick Quickly, we don't have much time. Everyone take a disguise and put it on quickly. You'll need one to get past the guards.

They all begin pulling costumes out of the sack. A noise is heard offstage.

Sultan (offstage) Come along Jeeves, keep up.

Dick Someone's coming. Quick, hide.

Alice, Miss P, I and Spy hide behind the entrance to the dungeon. Sarah, Bosun and Alderman hide under the table centre stage, and Dick and Kitty hide in an alcove.

The Sultan, Jeeves and two guards enter. They see that the prisoners have gone.

Sultan Now then you lot.....they've gone. Call out the guards Jeeves, call out the guards.

Jeeves Yes sire. Out the guards, out the guards.

Alice Now!

Two guards rush in. Alice and the Captain trip them up. Alice, Captain, I and Spy exit, followed by the guards. The Sultan spots Sarah under the table.

Sultan Get em Jeeves.

Sarah Oh no you don't.

After a short, comic chase, Sarah, Alderman and the Bosun run off in another direction chased by the Sultan and Jeeves.

Suddenly, Maneeta appears through a secret door in the alcove where Dick and Kitty were standing. She is carrying a set of keys. Dick and Kitty disappear through the secret door, leaving Maneeta on an empty stage.

Maneeta I'm here my little captive.....(she sees she is alone).....They've escaped - damn!!

Scene 4 - A Corridor in the Palace

The Sultan and Jeeves enter.

Sultan They must be here somewhere Jeeves. Can't just disappear into thin air.

Jeeves No sire. The guards are looking for them now.

Sultan Where's Maneeta?

Jeeves I believe she retired to her chamber sire.

Sultan Good, good, safest place for her if you ask me. All these prisoners running around - could get dangerous. I say, this is jolly good fun though, isn't it. Much better with real prisoners.

Jeeves If I may be so bold sir?

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Sultan Yes Jeeves, what is it man?

Jeeves Their story about the shipwreck sire, don't you think there could be some truth in it? They did look very dishevelled.

Sultan That's no reason to believe them Jeeves, no reason at all. Anyway, if they had been shipwrecked, we'd have to stop playing the game, wouldn't we, and it was just getting so interesting. Come on Jeeves.

Jeeves Yes sire.

Sultan Oh, and Jeeves....

Jeeves Yes sire?

The Sultan fires his water pistol again, hitting Jeeves.

Sultan Got you again....

Jeeves How very funny sire.

The Sultan and Jeeves exit.

I and Spy enter dressed in a camel costume - their heads making the camel humps.

I Why didn't you get a guard's costume, idiot - this is so humiliating.

Spy This was the only one left - anyway, I quite fancied this camel.

I I have no wish to know your personal problems.

Spy But I really wanted one of those harem costumes, you know, one with all those glittery bits - I think it would be more me - what do you think?

I I'm seriously worried about you. *(Hearing something off stage)* Quick - someone's coming. *(They cover their heads and hide)*

Alice and Miss P enter, both dressed as harem girls.

Alice They ran off in this direction. I didn't see what happened to them.

Miss P Me neither. Oh dear. We're in a bit of a mess aren't we?

Alice I'm sure it will all work out in the end. If only we could find some of the others.

I *(From the camel costume)* Miss Alice?

Alice *(To Miss P)* Yes.

Miss P I didn't say anything.

Alice Oh. I thought I heard something.

I and Spy move round to the other side of the stage.

I *(Again, from the camel costume)* Miss Alice?

Alice There it is again.

Miss P What?

Alice I thought I heard someone say...

I *(Shouting)* Miss Alice!

Alice Exactly. *(They turn round to see the camel. I and Spy remove the cover hiding their faces).*

Miss P Well, I never, a talking camel.

Alice It's I and Spy. Thank goodness.

Spy *(Indicating Alice)* She's got a nice harem costume.

I Will you shut up about a harem costume - you're a camel, and that's that!

Alice Did you see what happened to any of the others?

I No

Spy Nor me.

Alice Well we'll just have to keep looking. You go that way, and we'll go this way. Meet back here in ten minutes. OK?

I OK.

They exit in opposite directions. As Alice and Miss P approach the exit, King Rat, Esmerelda and some smaller rats enter. Esmerelda signals, and the rats capture Alice and Miss P. I and Spy watch from their camel costume.

Esmerelda Well, well, what have we here. Some escaped prisoners if I'm not mistaken.

Alice Take your hands off me.

Miss P I say, could you please be a little more gentle, that's hurts.

King Rat It's supposed to.

Esmerelda Silence.

King Rat What should we do with them mistress - feed them to the sharks?

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Esmerelda No. I have a better idea. Three hostages are better than one, don't you think. Bring them with us - I think I'm going to enjoy this.

The rats lead Miss P and Alice away. I and Spy watch as they are led off.

Spy Now what do we do?

I I'll follow the rats, and you find the others and tell them what's happened - they'll know what to do.

Spy Right.

They both try to exit in different directions.

I This way idiot! *(They exit)*

Alderman, Sarah and Bosun enter. Alderman is dressed as a guard/Moroccan merchant and Sarah and Bosun are dressed as harem girls with veils. They look around cautiously.

Alderman You two wait here, I'll check if it's safe to go ahead. *(He exits)*

Sarah Oh, you do make a lovely woman Bosun - very fetching.

Bosun I wish I could say the same for you!

Sarah Huh, I'll have you know I'm the epitome of female charm.

Bosun You're the pit of something but it sure ain't charm.

Sarah You're only jealous.

Bosun Me, jealous. Huh. I'll have you know that was the third guard who's made a pass at me in the last ten minutes.

Sarah *(Indicating a sock sticking out of his bra)* Must be your feminine wiles coming out.

Bosun *(Tucking the padding back in)* Any wiles I've got are staying firmly inside - feminine or otherwise.

Sarah Well maybe it's your hairy chest they like.

Bosun Huh! Look who's talking!!

Sarah Shush, someone's coming.

They all strike a most ridiculous pose, trying to look seductive. The Sultan and Jeeves enter

Sultan No news yet then Jeeves?

Jeeves No sire. But every guard in palace is on the look out.

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- Sultan Good, good. (*Seeing Bosun and Sarah*) Hello girls, lost our way have we?
- Bosun (*Starting in a deep voice, but realising his mistake and finishing in a higher voice*) Not at all....I mean yes, er...no... we were just on our way to the bathroom...to powder our noses.
- Sultan (*To Bosun*) And what a pretty little nose it is. Your face looks familiar - where have I seen it before?
- Bosun I don't know sire, it's always been between my ears.
- Sultan And where did you get those lovely eyes?
- Bosun They came with my face.
- Sultan (*Taking the Bosun by the arm*) Hah hah. Quite a little joker, eh Jeeves. I say, why don't you come into my room for a night-cap on your way back eh? We could have a good game of scrabble? (*He pinches his bottom*)
- Bosun gives a high pitch nervous laugh.*
- Bosun (*To Sarah*) Help me.
- Sultan (*To Bosun*) What would I have to give you, to get a little kiss?
- Bosun Chloroform.
- Sultan (*Laughing*) I like the ones with spirit. (*Whispering to Bosun*) I'dl come by the harem, later. (*He winks and slaps the Bosun on the bottom*) Come on Jeeves.

The Sultan and Jeeves exit

- Bosun Why the....his hands were all over me.
- Sarah And he doesn't even know where you've been.
- Bosun Cheek!
- Sarah (*Slightly put out!*) And what've you got that I haven't?
- Bosun Well if you don't know, now is definitely not the time to find out....come on, let's find Alderman. (*They exit*)

Scene 5 - Maneeta's Harem.

A rich luscious room. Large cushions lie on the floor and a large bed is centre stage, draped with rich looking curtains.

Dick and Kitty enter.

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Dick I wonder where we are, Kitty, and what happened to the others. We seem to be going from bad to worse. Things are not looking good for me being Lord Mayor.

There is a noise and Dick and Kitty hide behind two large urns. Esmerelda and King Rat enter.

King Rat This is it mistress, the harem. Looks like there's no one here.

Esmerelda Perfect. Is everything ready? Where are your followers?

King Rat Outside, mistress. We await your command.

Esmerelda Good. It seems you have done something right for once. I may even have a chance to recover some of the wealth you lost. Catching that pseudo captain and that Fitzwarren girl can only strengthen our position.

Dick Alice?!

Esmerelda What was that?

Esmerelda and King Rat look around but don't find Dick.

King Rat Nothing mistress...

Esmerelda And as soon as we have Maneeta as well, our little trap will be set. The second talisman will be mine, or our three dinner guests will get more than they bargained for.

King Rat A lot more, mistress.

Esmerelda Quickly, we haven't much time. I need to replenish the talisman's power soon.. Go and get ready.

King Rat and Esmerelda exit. Maneeta is heard offstage.

Dick *(Emerging from his hiding place)* Alice! They've kidnapped Alice and the Captain. And they intend to kidnap Maneeta too in exchange for some talisman. We should do something - and quick - we've got to find the others and warn them. *(He hears another noise and hides again)*

Maneeta enters.

Maneeta Damn, damn and blast! Just my luck - they escaped!

SONG Maneeta *(Suggestion: I NEED A MAN)*

Dick It's the Sultana - we should try and warn her.

He starts to come out of hiding, when Alderman rushes in followed by Sarah and the Bosun. Dick hides again.

Bosun *(Pointing after Alderman)* There he is. I mean.....*(he giggles girlishly.)*

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Maneeta A man - thank heavens (*not very convincingly*) I mean, help, help.

Alderman Madam, I'm most desperately sorry. (*They turn around and start to exit*)

Maneeta That's alright, so am I - most desperately.....

Sarah Out of the frying pan, into the fire....

Maneeta (*In a mock cry for help*) Help, help, a man come to ravish me in my boudoir, help, help.

Alderman Calm down madam, please. I won't harm you, please, calm down.

Maneeta You mean you haven't come to ravish me in my boudoir?

Alderman Not at all.

Maneeta How about on the bed then?

Bosun Looks like your lucky day sir!

Alderman I'm sorry, madam, there seems to be a mistake. You see, we're lost. (*Thinking up an excuse, indicating Sarah and Bosun*) I have some slaves to sell and I was looking for a buyer.

Sarah (*To Alderman, warningly*) Watch it?

Alderman I think I took a wrong turn.

Maneeta That depends on your point of view. Are these the slaves?

Alderman Yes, worth their weight in gold, don't you think?

Maneeta Id' be surprised if there was that much gold around. They look a bit past it to me. (*Indicating Sarah*) This ones got more chins than the Chinese phone book.

Sarah (*Aside*) Look who's talking.

Maneeta You realise who I am?

Alderman Of course.

Maneeta No man has ever seen my face and lived.

Alderman Really?

Sarah (*Aside*) What did they die of, fright?

Maneeta Pardon?

Alderman I said, it must be a wonderful sight.

Maneeta They died the death of a thousand screams.

Bosun I think I know why.

Maneeta And you too have now seen forbidden fruit - the Sultana 'unveiled'.

Sarah Looks more like an old prune.

Maneeta What was that?

Alderman Nothing, I said, er....what a lovely old room.

Maneeta *(Advancing)* Cosy isn't it?

Alderman Where's your husband, the Sultan?

Maneeta Oh, if he found you here, he'd.....*(she moves her hand across her throat)* But don't worry, his mind is elsewhere.

Bosun I think I know why.

Maneeta What was that?

Alderman I said, er....he seems like a nice guy.

Maneeta Maybe. But I am a full bodied woman.

Alderman You can say that again.

Maneeta I am a full bodied woman. *(Pressing up against Alderman)* Take me, take me, I'm all yours.

Alderman What, all of you!

Maneeta Don't you find me even a little attractive?

Alderman I find it hard to describe you as a little anything, madam.

Maneeta I could call for help you know.

Alderman For me or for you?

Maneeta But I'll give you half an hour to put me down. *(She throws herself at Alderman).*

Sarah Why not put her down now, and put her out of her misery.

Alderman Madam, please, you're obviously not feeling well.

Maneeta Not yet, but I could be if you'd let me.

Alderman Madam, please, unhand me.

Maneeta pushes Alderman onto the bed and falls on top of him. At that moment, the Sultan and Jeeves enter.

Sultan Maneeta, the prisoners have escaped andI say!!

In order to cover what is happening on the bed, Bosun grabs the Sultan and starts to belly dance with him. Sarah joins in with Jeeves. They all dance. Alderman manages to free himself from Maneeta's grip.

DANCE Bosun, Sarah, Sultan. *(Suggestion: Egyptian Reggae)*

At the end of the dance, King Rat suddenly appears with lots of other rats. He grabs Maneeta. Everyone comes to an abrupt halt.

King Rat Stay right where you are.

Maneeta Rats!!!

Sultan I say, what's all this?

The rats discover Dick and Kitty and push them into the centre of the room.

Alderman Whittington?

Dick We were trying to warn you - the rats have also got Alice and Captain Peabody.

Alderman Ermintrude!

King Rat Silence. Now keep very still, all of you, or this one gets it.

Sultan Hold on Maneeta.

King Rat Stay back I said. And don't try to follow - you'll be contacted.

The rats herd Alderman, Dick, Kitty, Sultan, Jeeves, Sarah and Bosun into the middle of the room. King Rat exits with Maneeta, followed gradually by the other rats.

Dick Looks like they've gone underground. We'd better follow them.

Sultan *(Sitting down, quite bewildered)* Oh dear, they've got Maneeta - what shall we do?

Jeeves Don't panic, sire - I'm sure Maneeta can look after herself.

Dick I overheard them plotting but couldn't warn you in time. That rat is working for Esmerelda. They intend to hold Maneeta and the others for ransom.

Sultan Oh dear Jeeves. This isn't a game any more is it?

Jeeves No, sire - unfortunately not.

A rat returns and drops a note. Dick crosses and picks it up.

Dick It's the ransom demand. *(Reading the note)* If you don't want to see a sliced Sultana, bring the talisman to the rat's lair before midnight - and don't be late.

Another rat enters and drops a second note. Sarah picks it up.

Sarah *(Reading)* Oh, and bring some gold, in exchange for the other two.

Sultan What talisman. I don't even have a talisman.

Kitty goes over to the Sultan and indicates the necklace he is wearing.

Sultan You mean this. *(Kitty nods)* But this isn't worth anything - it's been in my family for generations.

Kitty shakes her head vigorously.

Dick *(Looking at the talisman)* I think Kitty's trying to tell us something different. It must be worth a lot to Esmerelda for her to go to all this trouble. May be it's worth more than you thought.

Sultan What can we do lad?

Dick Well for a start, I suggest we hang onto this talisman - who knows what could happen if Esmerelda gets her hands on it.- may I?

Sultan Of course - I think it would be safer with you. *(He hands the talisman to Dick)*

Dick *(He puts the talisman in his pocket)* Now, Alderman, the Bosun and I will go after them. You stay here and look after Sarah.

Sultan What Bosun??!

Bosun *(Revealing his true identity)* Sorry.

Sultan Oh dear!

Sarah Hold on a minute, I'm not staying alone with him - he was going to remove my belly button fluff with a rusty old spoon.

Sultan No please, I'm sorry - it was just a bit of fun.

Sarah Not for me it wasn't.

Sultan Please I've learnt my lesson. This is serious, they've taken Maneeta, my little Sultana.

Sarah And your fruit and nuts as well if you ask me.

Dick Alright. We'll all go together - but stay close behind. This could be dangerous.

They all exit.

Scene 6 - On the way to King Rat's Lair

Esmerelda enters dragging Alice and Captain Peabody, who are tied together.

Esmerelda Keep going before I make it even harder for you to walk. *(To Alice)* Not so goody-two-shoes now are we, my poor little rich girl. No one to protect you now. *(Alice remains defiant)* I just hope your father's wealth is enough for my needs, otherwise you might find yourself dining with the sharks - as the first course.

Alice I'm not scared of you.

Esmerelda No?

Alice You're nothing but a big bully.

Esmerelda Maybe this will teach you a lesson. *(She slaps Alice)* *(To Miss P)* And you? You can stop looking like a overgrown pixie. *(She pushes Miss P)*

Miss P I'm going to report you to the executive council - just see if I don't. They know how to deal with bullies.

Alice The others will find us - you won't get away with this.

Esmerelda Well let them try. I'm more than a match for those fools. I'll feed them all to the sharks. Now get moving!

They exit

I and Spy enter, still dressed as a camel.

I There they are ahead - keep up.

Spy I'm going as fast as I can - you're not the easiest hump to follow you know.

I Oh I'm not am I? Well let me tell you something Mr know-it-all - you're not exactly Morocco's answer to Desert Orchid yourself. If you hadn't got us this stupid disguise in the first place, we'd be safely back with the others by now.

Spy No we wouldn't. We'd still be in that dungeon facing the Sultan's belly button scoop.

I Don't try and be clever with me, sonny. I'm the brains around here - you're just the brawn *(She looks doubtfully at Spy).*

SONG I and Spy. *(Suggestion: ANYTHING YOU CAN DO)*

Spy is trying to scratch his back, from inside the camel costume.

I Now what's the matter - why are you scratching yourself?

Spy Because no one else knows where I itch!

I Idiot!

Spy It's this costume, it's flea ridden.

I That's rich, coming from you. Keep walking - and mind where you're going.

I and Spy exit.

King Rat appears with Maneeta, followed by some smaller rats..

King Rat Come along my dear - dinner's ready.

Maneeta Put me down - I'm the Sultana. I'll have you boiled in oil for this.

King Rat Of course.

Dick is heard offstage.

Dick *(offstage)* This must be the way - keep up everyone.

King Rat Quickly, take her to the lair. I'll get the others.

King Rat, indicates to some smaller rats to take Maneeta offstage. He waits behind, hiding behind a pillar.

Dick, Kitty, Alderman, Bosun, Sarah, Jeeves and the Sultan enter on tiptoe one behind the other and cross the stage. King Rat joins the line behind the Sultan. The following dialogue is passed down to the line in a sort of Chinese whispers.

Dick *(To Alderman)* No sign of them yet.

Alderman *(To Bosun)* no sign of them yet.

Bosun *(To Sarah)* no sign of them yet

Sarah *(To Jeeves)* no sign of them yet

Jeeves *(To Sultan)* no sign of them yet

Sultan *(To King Rat)* no sign of them yet

The Sultan is grabbed by King rat and taken off stage by the other rats.

King Rat *(To Jeeves)* Who?

Jeeves (To Sarah) Who?

Jeeves is taken off by the rats.

Sarah (To Bosun) Who?

Bosun (To Alderman) Who?

Alderman (To Dick) Who?

Dick (To Alderman) The rats

Alderman (To Bosun) the rats

Bosun (To Sarah) the rats

Sarah (To King Rat) the rats

King Rat grabs Sarah who is taken off

King Rat (To Bosun) Good

Bosun (To Alderman) Good

King Rat grabs the Bosun.

Alderman (To Dick) Good

Dick (To Alderman, as if hearing a noise) Listen.

Alderman (To King Rat) Listen.

Alderman is grabbed by King Rat, who then tails Dick and Kitty.

Dick What was that? I thought I heard a noise. *He looks around and sees the others are missing, but does not see King Rat.* Where are the others? Hello? Is there anyone there? (BEHIND YOU, etc etc.) What, behind me? (YES) There's no one there. Are you sure (YES)

This continues until Dick and Kitty turn round and comes face to face with King Rat. At this point, Kitty launches at King Rat, and they both escape. King Rat exits licking his wounds.

I and Spy run back across the stage the other way, lost.

Scene 7 - King Rat's Lair

Alice, Captain Peabody and Maneeta are on a platform slightly above a shark's pool where shark's fins are seen swimming round. They are being taunted by rats. A large lever is on one side of the stage in the 'off' position.

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Esmerelda It's now five to midnight, your friends have only 5 minutes left before you say good bye to them forever.

Alice But you said you'd let us go in exchange for the talisman and jewels.

Esmerelda Oh, what a shame - I lied.

Miss P You're nothing but a cheat, a liar and a murderer.

Esmerelda Flattery won't get you anywhere.

Alice You mean you really are going to feed us to the sharks?

Esmerelda Why not? - they're hungry, aren't you my pets. *(The shark's fins move faster)*

Maneeta It's all my fault - I'm paying the price of being a wicked woman.

Esmerelda Stop whimpering before you get on my nerves. If there's one thing I can't bear, it's a whimpering female.

Alice My father will find you, and then you won't have a leg to stand on.

Esmerelda What a rather unfortunate expression my dear - I fear it is you that will soon be without a leg to stand on.

King Rat enters with Sarah, Bosun, Jeeves, Sultan and Alderman - all tied up together.

Esmerelda At last - our other guests have arrived.

Alice Father!

Alderman Alice!

Miss P Alderman!

Alderman Ermintrude!

Maneeta Mustapha!

Sultan Pooky!

All Pooky? *(They all look at him, and the Sultan shrugs)*

King Rat It's time mistress.

Esmerelda Patience my servant - after all, it is a virtue. *(Addressing the Sultan)*. Have you brought the talisman?

Sarah *(To the Sultan)* Play dumb

Bosun That shouldn't be difficult.

- Sultan What talisman? I don't know what you mean.
- Alderman *(Repeating what he says in unison)* He doesn't know what you mean.
Sarah
Bosun
Jeeves
- Esmerelda Silence. *(To the Sultan)* Don't play games with me - I'm not in the mood. Now where is it?
- Sultan Where's what?
- Alderman Where's what?
Sarah
Bosun
Jeeves
- Esmerelda The talisman you imbeciles - give it to me.
- Sultan I haven't got it.
- Alderman He hasn't got it.
Sarah
Bosun
Jeeves
- Esmerelda *(Very angry)* Be quiet all of you. *(She sways slightly, unsteady on her feet. King Rat holds her.)*
- King Rat Mistress, the sharks....
- Esmerelda *(Regaining her composure)* Quite, quite. *(To the others)* Now it may have escaped your attention, but you're not in a position to argue, and your chances of referring to ACAS are somewhat less than negligible! *(She crosses to the lever, and points to the girls on the platform.)* Now your friends are in a very precarious position. If I pull the lever, like so, *(She pushes the lever to ON, and a wall begins to move, pushing the three women forward, to the edge of the platform and closer to the shark pool - there is a large gasp)* - it's dinner time!! But if I close the lever, like so *(She turns the lever to OFF and the wall returns to normal)* - dinner is postponed! *(There is a large sigh of relief.)* Be reasonable, all I want is the talisman. So which is it to be - off or on?.
- King Rat crosses to the lever. There is a short discussion between the prisoners.*
- All Off!
- Sarah He doesn't have any talisman - not even like that one *(pointing to the talisman round Esmerelda's neck)* - Oops!.

The others hit her.

Esmerelda Imbeciles! *(She takes off her own talisman, and starts to hypnotise the Sultan.)*
So you do have it. Ill give you to a count of five, to tell me where it is - or the sharks get dinner. One.....

Alice Don't tell her - if she gets the other talisman, she'll be indestructible.....

Esmerelda Exactly!.....two....

Sarah You'll never get away with this.

Esmerelda Just watch me. Three....

Sultan I think we should tell her.

All No!

Miss P She's going to feed us all to the sharks if she gets it anyway....

Esmerelda Hah, fools....four.....

Bosun Why the double crossing little.....

Esmerelda four and a half.....

Esmerelda is just about to say five, and pull the lever, when I and Spy come rushing in.

I We're here....

Spy Hello - oh dear!

In their haste they knock Esmerelda flying, she drops her own talisman, accidentally pushing the lever to ON. The trap is sprung and general panic ensues.

Esmerelda My talisman.....find my talisman. *(She stumbles round the floor feeling for the talisman, all the time becoming weaker and weaker.)*

Alderman Alice! Ermintrude!

Sultan Maneeta!

Alice/Maneeta Help

Miss P

King Rat rushes to help Esmerelda, but Sarah trips him up and they all pull his tail. I and Spy run around in a daze. All the prisoners shout at I and Spy to turn off the lever, but to they don't understand.

Esmerelda finds the talisman, just as Dick and Kitty enter. Dick stands on the talisman, so Esmerelda can't pick it up. He holds the 2nd talisman in his hand.

Dick Looking for something?

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All Dick!!!

Dick *(Directly to the audience)* It's time's like this, I wish my name was "Jack!".....*(continuing again in character - seeing Alice)*..... Alice!

Esmerelda Give that to me, boy.

Dick I think you forgot to say 'please'. Now surrender.

Esmerelda Never.

Esmerelda, picks up a sword and a fight ensues between Dick and Esmerelda, King Rat and Kitty. Meanwhile, the girls are being pushed closer and closer to the edge of the platform by the moving wall. Eventually, Kitty chases King Rat off stage. Dick pushes Esmerelda to the edge of the shark pool, she totters on the edge for a moment and then falls in with a scream. Dick rushes to switch off the lever - there is a general sigh of relief. Dick unties everyone.

Alderman Well done lad - very brave. There'll be a reward in this for you.

Sarah Oh my goodness, I thought my goose was well and truly cooked.

Bosun It'd be the first time ever.

Maneeta *(To the Sultan)* Darling - you were so brave.

Sultan Pooky.

Alderman Ermintrude.

Miss P Alderman.

Dick *(To Alice)* Alice - are you alright?

Alice Yes, thanks to you and Kitty.

Dick Where is Kitty?

Miss P I think she went off after that rat. Oh, I do hope she's alright.

They all look round shouting "Here, Kitty, Kitty." There is no reply.

King Rat staggers in injured. He too falls into the shark pool. They wait for Kitty to come on but she doesn't.

Sarah You don't suppose she's.....

They all rush over to the shark pool and peer in solemnly, bowing their heads. Suddenly Kitty appears, limping on, hurt.

Dick Kitty! Are you alright?

Kitty limps over to Dick and indicates the talismans.

Dick What is it? - what are you trying to tell me? Something to do with the talismans?
(He holds them up and realises that they fit together) I see - they fit together.
The talismanø are really two halves of the same piece.

He puts the talismans together. There is a crash of thunder and a flash of light. When the lights come up, Kitty is no longer there, but Fairy Bowbells stands in her place.

Alderman What the.....

Dick Kitty?

Fairy Bowbells Do not be afraid, I won't harm you. My name is Fairy Bowbells, and I was transformed into the cat you called Kitty by the witch, Esmerelda. By placing the pieces of the talisman back together, you have restored their magic, and me to my former self. Thank you.

Dick You mean, Kitty was really you, all the time. I mean, you were Kitty?

Fairy Bowbells Yes.

Spy A real fairy - wow!

Sarah I thought there was something odd about that cat.

Bosun Yes, you said it had fleas.

Sarah thumps the Bosun to shut him up.

Fairy Bowbells I must thank you all for looking after me, I mean Kitty, so well. And thank you Dick Whittington for your bravery in facing Esmerelda.

Alderman Here here - I'm going to recommend you for high office when we return to London - how does Lord Mayor sound?

Dick It sounds wonderful - thank you very much sir.

SONG Everyone *(Suggestion: IT'S NOT WHERE YOU START)*

Miss P Well, I must say this has been quite an adventure.

Sultan And one, which I fear, I have made worse. Please, let me make amends. Come back and stay at the palace as my guests - and no spoons this time. Jeeves, make the arrangements.

Jeeves Very good sire.

Sultan Oh, and Jeeves.

Jeeves Yes, sire?

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Sultan *(Handing over his water pistol to Jeeves)* Thank you.

Jeeves Very good sire. *(He exits)*

Alderman Well, I think this calls for a little celebration, don't you.

Sultan *(Offering Maneeta his arm)* Maneeta. *(He and Maneeta exit)*

Alderman *(Offering Miss P his arm)* Ermintrude...*(Alderman and Miss P exit)*

Bosun *(Offering Sarah his arm)* Sarah? *(Bosun and Sarah exit)*

Spy *(Offering I his arm)* I?

I Get out of it. *(They exit)*

Alice Mr Whittington?

Dick Miss Fitzwarren. *(They start to exit. Dick suddenly stops and turns to face Alice.)* Er..... Alice?

Alice Yes?

Dick There is just one thing. I mean...hypothetically speaking, do you think the daughter of a rich merchant would ever consider.....

Alice Yes! *(She pushes him off)*

Scene 8 - A London Street

Sarah enters.

Sarah Hello again everybody. (HELLO) Having fun. (YES??) Well, here we all are, back in jolly old London. What an adventure eh? A shipwreck, the dungeons, the rat's lair, just like one of those fairy stories isn't it? Still, it all worked out in the end. Dick is finally Lord Major of London. And do you know, there's to be a triple wedding today, Dick and Alice, Alderman and Ermintrude, and Bosun and "you know who". Oh, I'm so excited, I feel like baking a celebration cake.....

The Bosun enters.

Bosun Oh no you don't, we not going through all that again. Listen, if we're to be married, I want you to promise you'll never bake another cake. Now promise?

Sarah *(To the audience)* Oh, he's so domineering - don't you just love him? *(To Bosun)* Alright, Ivor, I promise I'll never cook another cake as long as I live. *(She crosses her fingers behind her back).* Anyway, I don't have to - I've got some helpers now.

Bosun You don't mean.....?

Sarah I most certainly do.

I and Spy enter. They are dressed as chefs.

Spy *(With a knowing look to the audience)* Well, we've stuffed the turkey - now what?

Sarah Everyone must go and get ready for the weddings.

Bosun What about the boys and girls - do you think they'd like to come to the wedding?

I As long as there isn't any wedding cake.

Sarah Oh alright - what about some sweets instead?

I and Spy go off and return with some sweets for the audience. An audience participation song follows.

SONG Sarah, I, Spy, Bosun: Audience Participation *(Suggestion: CLOSE THE DOOR)*

Scene 9 - London Dockyard - A Street Party.

The walkdowns and bows.

SONG FINALE *(Suggestion: Reprise - IT'S NOT WHERE YOU START)*

PRODUCTION NOTES

This pantomime can be staged as simply or elaborately as space and budget allows. The sets can be simply represented by the use of small items and props such as barrels and boxes for the dockyard, and cushions for the harem; or it can be staged on full-blown sets requiring flats, drapes and other more rigid structures. The same principle applies to the moving wall in King Rat's Lair which can be created either simply or elaborately. A simple platform with a small moving flat behind it will suffice in a small intimate space, as well as a well-oiled, truck system for larger theatres.

FURNITURE AND PROPERTY LIST

ACT ONE

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>On stage</i> | Cage covered with cloth, barrel (<i>Prologue</i>) Barrels and boxes (<i>Scene 1</i>) Signpost to Runaway Hill (<i>Scene 2</i>) Boxes of cargo (<i>Scene 3</i>) Signpost to London (<i>Scene 4</i>) Oven (<i>Scene 5</i>) Ship's wheel (<i>Scene 5</i>) Ship's alarm (<i>Scene 5</i>) Plank (<i>Scene 5</i>) |
| <i>Off stage</i> | Goods for sale - cloths, spices, bread (<i>Traders</i>) Shopping trolley or similar full of beauty products (<i>Sarah</i>) Poster (<i>Bosun</i>) Net (<i>Rats</i>) Caskets of treasure (<i>Rats</i>) Colourful umbrella (<i>Spy</i>) Spy book (<i>I</i>) Television or similar - could be in a box (<i>Sarah</i>) Food scraps (<i>Sarah</i>) Bucket of water - or coloured paper bits) (<i>Sarah</i>) Collecting tin (<i>Miss P</i>) Large soup bowl (<i>Sarah</i>) Furry mouse Bath chair or similar (<i>Sarah</i>) Sacks of ingredients - salt, sugar, gunpowder, flour, (<i>I & Spy</i>) Eggs (<i>I & Spy</i>) Small table (<i>I & Spy</i>) Mixing bowl (<i>I & Spy</i>) |
| <i>Personal</i> | Small box containing first talisman, piece of paper (<i>Bowbells</i>) Stick and handkerchief (<i>Dick</i>) Small change (<i>Bosun</i>) |

Small sword or dagger (*Dick*)

FURNITURE AND PROPERTY LIST**ACT TWO**

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>On stage</i> | <p>Large throne (<i>Scene 1</i>) Shackles (<i>Scene 3</i>) Table (<i>Scene 3</i>) Large cushions (<i>Scene 5</i>) Bed (<i>Scene 5</i>) Shark pool and platform (<i>Scene 7</i>) On/off lever (<i>Scene 7</i>)</p> |
| <i>Off stage</i> | <p>Hobby horse (<i>Sultan</i>) Prisoners' shackles Large sack of clothes (<i>Kitty</i>) Set of keys (<i>Alice</i>) Set of keys (<i>Maneeta</i>) Audience sweets (<i>I & Spy</i>)</p> |
| <i>Personal</i> | <p>Second Talisman (<i>Sultan</i>) Water pistol (<i>Sultan</i>) Small knives or daggers (<i>Rats</i>) Small knife or dagger (<i>King Rat</i>) Ransom Notes x 2 (<i>Rats</i>) Sword (<i>Esmerelda</i>)</p> |

LIGHTING PLOT

Property fitting required : optional street lamps

ACT 1

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| <i>To open</i> | Blackout | |
| <i>Cue 1</i> | As house lights go down <i>Slow fade up to general early morning lights - fairly dim</i> | (Page 1) |
| <i>Cue 2</i> | Esmerelda ðí love you now, Fairy No-bellsö <i>Lightening flash, then blackout</i> | (Page 2) |
| <i>Cue 3</i> | When Kitty / Bowbells have swapped places on stage <i>Fade up lights</i> | (Page 2) |
| <i>Cue 4</i> | Kitty exits <i>Cross fade to general morning lighting situation</i> | (Page 2) |
| <i>Cue 5</i> | Alice exits at end of scene 1 <i>Cross fade to road</i> | (Page 21) |
| <i>Cue 6</i> | Dick & Kitty exit at end of scene 2 <i>Blackout</i> | (Page 21) |
| <i>Cue 7</i> | Start of action scene 3 <i>Fade up lights on general dockyard</i> | (Page 21) |
| <i>Cue 8</i> | Dick ðAlice, you must believe meí ö <i>Fade to black</i> | (Page 23) |
| <i>Cue 9</i> | Dick and Kitty enter at start of scene 4 <i>Fade up lights on road</i> | (Page 23) |
| <i>Cue 10</i> | Dick and Kitty fall asleep <i>Cross fade from road to FX spotlight</i> | (Page 24) |
| <i>Cue 11</i> | Esmerelda ðDick Whittingtoní ö (final one) <i>Fade out FX spotlight, fade up general lighting - dim</i> | (Page 24) |
| <i>Cue 12</i> | All ðTurn again Whittington, Lord Mayor of London <i>Snap to general road lighting</i> | (Page 24) |
| <i>Cue 13</i> | Kitty pushes Dick off stage at end of scene 4 <i>Cross fade from road to ship</i> | (Page 25) |
| <i>Cue 14</i> | Sarah ðThere's going to be an exploí . <i>Flash for exploding oven</i> | (Page 29) |
| <i>Cue 15</i> | End of scene 5 | (Page 30) |

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Fade to black, fade up house lights

LIGHTING PLOT

Property fitting required : optional torches in palace

ACT 2

| | | |
|----------------|---|-----------|
| <i>To open</i> | Black out | |
| <i>Cue 16</i> | Start of scene 1 <i>Fade up General acting area - Sultan's palace - day</i> | (Page 31) |
| <i>Cue 17</i> | Dick ðAlice, quick this wayö <i>Cross fade to palace corridor</i> | (Page 36) |
| <i>Cue 18</i> | Alice, Dick and Kitty exit at end of scene 2 <i>Cross fade to dungeons</i> | (Page 38) |
| <i>Cue 19</i> | Maneeta ðTheyöve escapedí .damn!ö <i>Cross fade to palace corridor</i> | (Page 41) |
| <i>Cue 20</i> | Bosun and Sarah exit at end of scene 4 <i>Cross fade to Harem</i> | (Page 45) |
| <i>Cue 21</i> | Dick ðThis could be dangerousö <i>Cross fade to corridor on the way to King Rat's lair</i> | (Page 51) |
| <i>Cue 22</i> | I and Spy cross stage at end of scene 6 <i>Cross fade to King Rat's Lair</i> | (Page 53) |
| <i>Cue 23</i> | Dick places the two halves of the talisman together <i>Flash / Blackout as Kitty changes to Bowbells</i> | (Page 58) |
| <i>Cue 24</i> | Alice ðYes!ö <i>Fade lights to blackout</i> | (Page 59) |
| <i>Cue 25</i> | Start of scene 8 <i>Fade up general street scene</i> | (Page 59) |
| <i>Cue 26</i> | After final bows <i>Fade to black, fade up house lights</i> | (Page 60) |

EFFECTS PLOT

ACT 1

| | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| <i>Cue 1</i> | As house lights go down <i>Thunder crack</i> | (Page 1) |
| <i>Cue 2</i> | Esmerelda öí love you now, Fairy No-bellsö <i>Thunder crack</i> | (Page 2) |
| <i>Cue 3</i> | Esmerelda öDick Whittingtoní .ö (final one) <i>Church bells and Fairy Bowbells</i> | (Page 24) |
| <i>Cue 4</i> | Kitty hits ship's alarm <i>Ship's alarm</i> | (Page 28) |
| <i>Cue 5</i> | Sarah öThere's going to be an explosion .ö <i>Explosion</i> | (Page 29) |
| <i>Cue 6</i> | End of scene 5 <i>Water rising</i> | (Page 30) |

ACT 2

| | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|
| <i>Cue 7</i> | Sultan and Jeeves enter the harem <i>Dance: Suggestion: Egyptian Reggae</i> | (Page 49) |
| <i>Cue 8</i> | Esmerelda pulls the lever to ON <i>Moving wall sounds</i> | (Page 55) |
| <i>Cue 9</i> | Esmerelda accidentally knocks the lever to ON <i>Moving wall sounds</i> | (Page 56) |
| <i>Cue 10</i> | Dick places the two halves of the talisman together <i>Magical explosion</i> | (Page 58) |