

ACT ONESCENE 1 OUTSIDE THE BIG TOP OF 'SOPHIE SAWDUST'S SPECTACULAR CIRCUS'MUSIC – OVERTURE

[The curtain rises on a colourful exterior scene of the fairground around the Big Top. The entrance to the Big Top is from up stage centre to mid stage left. Across the entrance is the sign 'SOPHIE SAWDUST'S SPECTACULAR CIRCUS'. On the far left is a ticket booth. Stage right is an entrance to SOPHIE'S caravan and down stage right is a tent belonging to MADAM ZARINA, the clairvoyant. We can see inside the tent that it contains a small round table with a stool either side. On the table is a crystal ball. Other tents and sideshows are depicted on the backcloth. When the scene opens the CIRCUS FOLK, including TOMMY, JOCKO and GLORIA, are on stage singing an up tempo song about life in the circus.]

CHORUS NUMBER

[During the number RICKI, the Ringmaster enters and starts his spiel to the audience, enticing them into the Big Top.]

RICKI Welcome, welcome one and all. Roll up, roll up and see amazing animal acts - a company of comical clowns and death-defying feats of aerial acrobatics. A stunning spectacular all under the Big Top. Come one, come all and discover the wonders of Sophie Sawdust's Spectacular Circus.

[RICKI and the COMPANY finish the opening number. After the applause the CHORUS, GLORIA, RICKI and TOMMY exit. JOCKO crosses down stage to address the audience.]

JOCKO Hello everyone. I'm Jocko, your jocular clown! Well I must say you seem like a very nice bunch. I bet you can't wait to see the delights of the circus, can you? *[The audience responds and JOCKO'S smiling face disappears.]* Oh dear, is that the best you can do? You're supposed to be here to enjoy yourselves! You sound as though you've just come back from a wet weekend in Weymouth! Now come on, liven yourselves up. It's my job to keep everyone happy. In between the acts I do various comedy routines and usually end up by being knocked over or getting a custard pie in the face. But I always end up with a big flourish like this. *[HE does a typical 'big finish' pose and shouts.]* Hey up. Then the orchestra does a "Ta da!" But we haven't got an orchestra out here. *[If you have a pit orchestra there can be a short ad lib with them.]* I know, how about when I come on and shout "Hey up" you be the orchestra and give me a big "Ta da"! Would you do that? *[Audience reaction.]* Let's have a try, shall we? *[HE exits then runs back on with a 'big finish' pose.]* Hey up! *[The audience responds.]* What do you call that? That didn't sound like an orchestra – it didn't even sound like a comb and paper! Now come on – let's have another go and make it much louder this time. *[HE exits and then repeats the big finish.]* Hey up! *[The audience (hopefully) responds louder. JOCKO gives a "thumbs up".]* Great stuff. Now we really can

have a good time. And I'd better introduce the rest of the Circus Troupe. *[HE calls into the Big Top.]* Hey, all of you. Come and meet my new friends. *[RICKI, GLORIA and TOMMY enter. JOCKO introduces each of them.]* This is Ricki, our illustrious ringmaster. *[RICKI bows to the audience.]* And this is Tommy our animal trainer. *[TOMMY bows.]* And last, but not least, this is Gloria, our death defying, high wire, aerial acrobatic act. *[GLORIA executes a move she would normally do on the high wire and then bows. JOCKO speaks aside to the audience.]* I'll let you into a little secret. We're engaged. Well I'm engaged – Gloria's still thinking about it! She's been thinking about it for ten years! *[GLORIA gives him a shove. JOCKO gambols across the stage and ends in his big finish.]* Hey up! *[The audience responds.]* Great stuff.

- GLORIA But where's Sophie? I've not seen her since breakfast.
- TOMMY She went down to the town to give out leaflets advertising the circus. She should be back any time now. *[A voice is heard from the back of the auditorium.]*
- SOPHIE Did somebody call? *[SOPHIE SAWDUST comes down an aisle wearing an outrageous costume. SHE carries a large bag containing a sandwich, a selection of sweets and a pile of leaflets. SHE gives out leaflets to the audience.]* There you are sir, come and see our terrific show. Bring your lovely wife. Oh it's not your wife! Well, bring her anyway! *[SHE makes her way towards the stage, giving out more leaflets and ad libbing with the audience, eventually arriving on the stage.]* Hello you lot.
- ALL Hello Sophie.
- RICKI How did you go on in the town?
- SOPHIE Oh wonderful. I noticed there was a sale on at – *[SHE names a well-known local clothes store.]* – and picked up this bargain. What do you think? *[SHE does a twirl.]*
- GLORIA *[Horried.]* Sophie!
- TOMMY How could you possibly afford that?
- SOPHIE The assistant said it had been reduced.
- JOCKO From what? A hot air balloon?
- SOPHIE Now don't be cheeky. I'm a very snappy dresser.
- JOCKO Yes. Every time she gets dressed something snaps!
- SOPHIE I thought it was rather fetching.
- JOCKO It's a pity the shop won't come and fetch it back!
- SOPHIE Now listen here. I know we're going through a bit of a rough patch, but that shouldn't stop a girl treating herself once in a while.

- GLORIA *[Sympathising.]* Well I suppose one little indulgence won't hurt.
- RICKI And it was in the sale.
- TOMMY *[Noticing a label attached to the back of SOPHIE'S dress.]* Sophie, you've left the price tag on. *[HE pulls it off.]*
- SOPHIE *[Quickly.]* Oh thanks. I'll take it. *[SHE grabs the label but not before JOCKO has seen it.]*
- JOCKO Two hundred and fifty pounds?? *[SOPHIE puts the label down her bosom as JOCKO makes a grab for it.]*
- SOPHIE *[Slapping his hand.]* Here, keep your hands off. Down there's by invitation only.
- GLORIA It's an awful lot of money.
- SOPHIE And it's my money, so we'll hear no more about it. Anyway I think we'll get a good crowd in tonight. *[To the audience.]* You'll all come and see my spectacular circus, won't you? *[The audience responds.]* There, you see. We'll have a full house.
- RICKI Does that mean we should get our wages on time this week!
- SOPHIE Don't get carried away! Anyway there won't be a show if you're going to stand around here all day. Go on, all of you. Back to rehearsals. *[RICKI, GLORIA and JOCKO exit into the Big Top.]*
- TOMMY Don't worry Sophie. I think your new dress is very – er – er
- SOPHIE Yes?
- TOMMY Er – I'd better go and feed the elephants! *[HE exits quickly.]*
- SOPHIE *[To the audience.]* You like my new frock, don't you? *[Audience reaction. SOPHIE thinks most of it is complimentary.]* Well at least some of you have good dress sense! *[Pointing to someone in the audience.]* Not everyone, but most of you! But this frock wasn't the only thing I bought in town. I treated myself to a few sweets and as you've been so nice to me I'm going to share them with you. Would some of you like a sweet? *[Audience reaction. SHE throws out some sweets and ad libs with the audience. At the end of the sequence SHE puts the shopping bag on the steps to her caravan.]* There now, I suppose I'd better tell you a bit about myself. As you've already gathered my name's Sophie Sawdust and I own this lovely circus. My husband left it to me when he passed on to that Big Top in the sky. He was a lion tamer and I was a juggler. I used to juggle with clubs, plates, balls – anything you can think of. And I'm still juggling, but now it's the books! To keep the circus going I've had to take out a loan from Gaspar Grey. You don't know him do you? *[Audience reaction.]* No – and you don't want to. Nasty piece of work. He makes – *[Name of current TV villain.]* – seem like a saint! And today is the day I have to pay it back but I'm afraid the piggy bank's empty. *[SHE should get a*

sympathetic “Ah” from the audience.] No, it’s emptier than that! [Bigger “Ah”.] But I’m not going to worry about it. I always believe that something will turn up. Whatever problems I’ve got they all fade away when I smell the greasepaint and hear the roar of the crowd.

SONG & CHORUS – SOPHIE AND COMPANY

[SHE starts to sing and one by one the COMPANY enters and joins in. At the end of the number they all exit. From behind one of the tents GOLDILOCKS, a lovely young girl with golden hair, appears. SHE looks around to see if everyone has gone and slowly moves into the scene. SHE sees SOPHIE’S bag on the steps of the caravan and crossing to it looks in and finds a sandwich. SHE starts to eat. From the Big Top TOMMY enters and sees her. HE is captivated. GOLDILOCKS finishes the sandwich still not noticing him.]

- TOMMY Would you like another one?
- G/LOCKS *[Spinning round. Frightened.] Oh! [SHE goes to run away.]*
- TOMMY No! Please don’t run away. *[SHE stops.]* Are you very hungry? *[SHE nods, not looking at him.]* I could find you some more to eat. *[Slowly SHE turns to look at him.]* Sophie’s sandwich isn’t really a substantial meal.
- G/LOCKS I didn’t mean to steal it. I’ve never done anything like that before in my life.
- TOMMY Well I won’t tell if you won’t! My name’s Tommy. What’s yours?
- G/LOCKS Goldilocks.
- TOMMY *[Staring at her.]* What a perfect name. Have you be travelling long?
- G/LOCKS Since early this morning.
- TOMMY Where are you headed? *[GOLDILOCKS shrugs.]* Are you running away from somewhere - *[SHE turns away.]* - or from someone?
- G/LOCKS *[Nodding.]* From my guardian. Oh please don’t tell on me. I couldn’t bear to go back. He’s such a mean man. I feel as though I’m a prisoner. He never lets me go anywhere or do anything.
- TOMMY I wouldn’t dream of telling on you. But this guardian of yours – won’t he come looking for you?
- G/LOCKS Yes I’m sure he will. That’s why I’ve got to get as far away as possible.
- TOMMY Why don’t you hide here?
- G/LOCKS Here?
- TOMMY Why not? Surely he’d never think to come looking for you at a circus?

- G/LOCKS I don't know. I've tried to run away before, but he's always found me.
- TOMMY He can't keep you against your will.
- G/LOCKS Legally he can until next week. My twenty-first birthday. It was my late father's wishes.
- TOMMY That's awful. *[SHE starts to cry.]* Now don't you worry, you'll be safe here. I'll introduce you to Sophie. She owns the circus and is like a mother to us all.
- G/LOCKS But she mustn't know why I'm here. No one must.
- TOMMY *[Thinks and then gets an idea.]* I know. You do like animals, don't you?
- G/LOCKS Oh yes. When father was alive I had my very own pony.
- TOMMY Perfect. We don't have anyone who can ride our horse in the circus parade. Why don't I suggest to Sophie that you do it?
- G/LOCKS *[Getting excited at the prospect.]* And I could help out with the cleaning and grooming.
- TOMMY There we are. Problem solved.
- G/LOCKS *[Suddenly sad again.]* Oh, but what if she doesn't want to give me a job?
- TOMMY Just leave Sophie to me. I think I can do a pretty good job of persuading her.
- G/LOCKS Oh Tommy – are you sure?
- TOMMY From now on your life is going to change for the better.
- DUET – TOMMY AND GOLDBLOCKS
- [At the end of the number SOPHIE enters from her caravan. SHE carries a straw hat decorated with brightly coloured flowers.]*
- SOPHIE Tommy, Camilla the camel has been nibbling my new hat again. You'll have to keep an eye on her. *[SHE puts the hat on and then sees GOLDBLOCKS.]* Oh hello. Who's your friend?
- TOMMY Sophie, this is Goldilocks. She's just arrived.
- SOPHIE Goldilocks. What a pretty name. And so fitting with all that lovely hair.
- G/LOCKS *[Rather shyly.]* Thank you.
- SOPHIE I'm Sophia Semolina Sawdust, but you can call me Sophie.
- G/LOCKS I'm very pleased to meet you.

- SOPHIE And I'm very please to meet you! *[SHE curtseys and there is a bone cracking sound.]* Oh dear, my backbone's done something awful to my coccyx again! *[SHE notices the locket around GOLDILOCKS' neck.]* Oh my, what a pretty locket.
- G/LOCKS It has pictures of my parents. Father gave it to me before he died and told me to keep it safe.
- SOPHIE How sweet. What a lovely thing to do.
- TOMMY Sophie, I've had the most wonderful idea. Goldilocks is a very good horseback rider. *[GOLDILOCKS looks at him and goes to speak, but he continues.]* So I thought she could lead the circus parade on our white stallion, Prince.
- SOPHIE Oh I don't know
- TOMMY It would be such a thrill for the crowds – especially the children.
- SOPHIE *[Thinking it over.]* Well – I suppose it is quite an impressive sight to have Prince lead the parade.
- TOMMY So
- SOPHIE *[Smiling.]* So we'll give it a try. The salary's not much, but there's a warm place to sleep and as much food as you can eat.
- G/LOCKS Oh thank you so much.
- SOPHIE *[Going to pick up her shopping bag.]* Talking of food, I had a sandwich somewhere in here. *[SHE looks inside the bag.]* That's funny, it's gone!
- TOMMY *[Forcing a smile.]* Camilla strikes again! *[HE and GOLDILOCKS giggle.]*
- SOPHIE Mmm. I'll have a few stern words to say to that devious dromedary.
- TOMMY *[Taking GOLDILOCK'S hand.]* Come on, I'll show you where you can stay.
[TOMMY and GOLDILOCKS exit left.]
- SOPHIE Well they seem to have hit it off. She seems a nice girl and we did need a new horseback rider. *[ZARINA, the fortune-teller, enters down right. SHE appears old and unsteady. A shawl is around her head.]* Oh hello Zarina. *[To the audience.]* This is Zarina, our clairvoyant. She knew you were coming! *[Crossing to her.]* How are you today?
- ZARINA *[In an 'old lady' voice.]* Just the same. Creaking back, aching bones. I couldn't be better!
- SOPHIE Poor dear!
- ZARINA Was that someone new I just saw with Tommy?

SOPHIE Yes. Her name is Goldilocks. She may be joining the circus as a horseback rider.

ZARINA Oh very good. I'm sure she'll make quite an impression.

SOPHIE I think she has already. With Tommy at least!

ZARINA Where is she from?

SOPHIE You know, I don't know. I really ought to find out. She was here with Tommy and the next thing I agreed to give her a trial. [*Slightly worried.*] Oh dear, do you think I've done the wrong thing?

ZARINA I'm sure she's fine. If you like I'll consult the stars. See what they tell me.

SOPHIE Good idea. [*THEY cross into ZARINA'S tent and sit either side of the table.*]

ZARINA [*Circling her hands over the crystal ball.*] The mist is clearing.

SOPHIE This early morning fog can be a real nuisance.

ZARINA Ah yes. Taurus is entering the house of Sagittarius.

SOPHIE Oh let's invite Leo and Virgo and we can have a party!

ZARINA But Gemini and Aries are casting a cloud on the proceedings.

SOPHIE Party poopers!

ZARINA But wait.

SOPHIE Yes?

ZARINA I see something.

SOPHIE Yes, yes?

ZARINA A figure approaching.

SOPHIE What sort of figure?

ZARINA A tall, dark one.

SOPHIE Oh at last. Brad Pitt – [*Or another film star.*] – is coming for me! [*SHE calls.*] I'm here Brad.

ZARINA It's all very confusing. The picture isn't clear.

SOPHIE Well alter your horizontal hold. Turn up the brightness!

ZARINA I'm sorry. The picture is fading.

- SOPHIE Oh no! Haven't you gone digital yet?
- ZARINA It's no good. The crystal will tell me no more.
- SOPHIE *[Standing and moving out of the tent.]* Well that's a lot of good.
[JOCKO enters from the Big Top. HE carries a large prop fish and calls to the audience.]
- JOCKO Hey up! *[Audience responds. HE gives thumbs up.]* Great stuff. *[To SOPHIE.]* Sophie, you're wanted in the Big Top. Sammy the Seal's not eating again!
- SOPHIE Oh no! *[SHE takes the fish off JOCKO.]* How many more times have I got to show him? *[SHE puts the fish in her mouth and exits with JOCKO into Big Top. ZARINA moves out of her tent and turns her back to the audience to watch them go. SHE then turns front and pulls back the shawl around her head to reveal a younger person.]*
- ZARINA *[In a normal voice.]* Hello there. Now we're on our own I can tell you who I really am. My name is Zarina, but I'm more than a clairvoyant. I'm here to watch over Goldilocks. A whole new life is about to open up for her, but there are those who would try to rob her of what is rightfully hers. I have been given the task to make sure no danger befalls her. That's why I disguise myself as an old woman. But for the time being it must remain our secret. *[SHE notices someone approaching.]* Ah, I see the villain of the piece is coming. I'll go back to my tent and observe what he's up to. *[SHE replaces the shawl and exits into the tent, pulling the curtain across the entrance. The lights dim slightly and GASPAR GREY enters down left. HE is a sinister looking man and carries a whip.]*
- GASPAR *[HE calls off left.]* Swindle. Filch. Come on you two idiots, I haven't got all day. *[SWINDLE and FILCH, his two assistants enter. SWINDLE is the more assertive of the two. FILCH is to say the least vague. SWINDLE carries a hat with a piece of the brim missing. Presumably Camilla the Camel has been eating again.]*
- SWINDLE Coming Mister Grey. *[Holding his hat up.]* Look, that camel has just taken a bite out of my hat!
- FILCH Well it should fit you now.
- SWINDLE Are you saying I've got a big head?
- FILCH Well
- SWINDLE I don't think I like you attitude.
- FILCH It's not my attitude – it's your hat he chewed!
- GASPAR *[Cracking whip.]* Will you two shut up? We've got to search this place to see if my ward, Goldilocks, is hiding here.
- SWINDLE What make you think she would have come to a circus?

- GASPAR She's hidden in all sorts of places when she's run away before.
- FILCH *[Ever the simpleton.]* Well if she keeps running away doesn't that mean she doesn't want to live with you?
- GASPAR *[Getting angry.]* But she has to live with me. *[With his whip under FILCH'S chin.]* It's a condition of her father's will. Besides, I'm going to marry her.
- SWINDLE Oh congratulations boss. When's the happy day?
- GASPAR As soon as we find her. According to her late father's will when she reaches the age of twenty-one – in a week's time – she'll inherit Deadwater Manor and all the land that goes with it. Somewhere hidden in that Manor is the old man's fortune. I have been searching for it for years, ever since he died. But its whereabouts has eluded me so far. The only way that I can get my hands on her – *[HE chuckles evilly. NOTE: This should happen every time HE mentions the inheritance.]* – inheritance is if I marry Goldilocks. Then if anything should *accidentally* happen to her the fortune becomes mine!
- SWINDLE But you're rich. Haven't you got enough money?
- GASPAR *[Greedy.]* You can never have enough money.
- FILCH How do you know she'll marry you?
- GASPAR She will if she knows what's good for her. She has a roof over her head, food on the table, clothes to wear. What more does she want?
- FILCH *[Smiling inanely.]* How about a bit of love and tenderness?
- GASPAR *[Snarling.]* Love and tenderness? What use are those? Wealth and power is what gets you through this life. That's what she'll learn to love.
- FILCH But
- SWINDLE *[Clapping his hand over FILCH'S mouth.]* Don't worry boss, we'll find her. You know what they say – two heads are better than one.
- GASPAR *[Looking at them.]* Not necessarily! Now start searching around here. Check every caravan, turn over every tent.
- FILCH What do we do if we find her?
- GASPAR Bring her to me, you numbskull.
- SWINDLE Right boss.
- GASPAR At least this visit won't be a futile one. Sophie Sawdust, who owns this ramshackle set of wagons, owes me money on a loan I made to her six months ago. And it's time to pay up.
- SWINDLE Oooh, have we got to be menacing and sinister?

- GASPAR Yes. If she doesn't cough up the dough we'll have to use some strong-arm tactics.
- FILCH Oh I don't think I can do that.
- SWINDLE Why not?
- FILCH I've hurt my wrist!
- GASPAR *[Cracking his whip.]* We'll use whatever methods we need to. But first you must find Goldilocks. Now get on with it. *[HE cracks his whip again. SWINDLE and FILCH give a yelp and run for the exit. SOPHIE appears at the entrance of the Big Top.]*
- SOPHIE Who's practising the lion taming act? *[SHE sees GASPAR.]* Gaspar Grey as I live and drink! *[SHE crosses down to him.]*
- GASPAR Sophie Sawdust. Still peddling your little side shows I see.
- SOPHIE *[Indignantly.]* Side shows? I'll have you know this is a highly respected organisation.
- GASPAR *[Mocking as he points to the sign over the Big Top.]* Sophie Sawdust's Spectacular Circus?
- SOPHIE Yes. Everywhere we play people call us a *spectacle*.
- GASPAR I've no doubt. But is it making money?
- SOPHIE We're managing.
- GASPAR Yes. On what I loaned you six months ago.
- SOPHIE You'll get it back. The takings have been getting better and better.
- GASPAR Well it's time to pay what you owe, or else I shall confiscate this mouldy menagerie and sell it to the highest bidder.
- SOPHIE *[Playing up to him.]* Oh you wouldn't take a poor woman's livelihood away, just because of a few pounds?
- GASPAR *[Looking her over.]* A few pounds? More like a few hundred weights!
- SOPHIE I'm talking money. *[SHE starts to play up to him again.]* I mean what are a few pounds between friends? And we are friends, aren't we Gaspar?
- GASPAR *[Horried at what she is saying.]* What?
- SOPHIE All those years ago when we were at school together and you used to arm-wrestle me to see who would buy lunch!
- GASPAR I did no such thing.

- SOPHIE Oh yes you did. And do you know what. I used to let you win just so that we could hold hands!
- GASPAR You used to let me win? I don't think so. I was always the strongest at school.
- SOPHIE Oh you were. All those muscles rippling away under your Rugby shirt!
[*SHE runs her hands over his chest.*]
- GASPAR Madam! Please!
- SOPHIE [*Trying to grab him.*] I know, why don't we arm wrestle again? If I win I don't have to pay you what I owe!
- GASPAR [*Pulling away.*] Certainly not.
- SOPHIE What's the matter? Afraid you might lose?
- GASPAR I won't lose because I'm going to collect my money, so hand it over.
- SOPHIE But I haven't got it.
GASPAR What?
- SOPHIE I mean I don't keep that sort of money lying around. You never know who's going to rifle through your drawers! [*GASPAR is speechless.*] Tonight's takings should more than cover it. I'll have it for you tomorrow.
- GASPAR Tomorrow it is then, but not a minute longer. [*SWINDLE and FILCH enter.*]
- SWINDLE No sign of her, boss.
- FILCH We've searched everywhere.
- SOPHIE Oh hello. Who are your friends?
- GASPAR Swindle and Filch, my business associates.
- SOPHIE [*Dubious about them.*] Yes, I'll bet they are. Who are you looking for?
- SWINDLE) [*Together.*] A young girl –
FILCH) His ward –
- GASPAR [*Stopping them.*] It's my fiancée.
- SOPHIE Your *financy*?
- GASPAR Yes. She went out for a walk this morning, so I'm going to meet up with her and surprise her.
- SOPHIE Surprise her? I should think meeting up with you would give her heart failure!
- GASPAR I can't think what you mean.

SOPHIE I never thought anyone would be brave enough to take you on!

SWINDLE Mr Grey has given her everything.

FILCH And she's going to give him everything! *[GASPAR hits him and he falls.]*

SOPHIE Well I hope you'll both be very happy. My condolences to the bride.

GASPAR *[Wanting to leave.]* We must be going. Until tomorrow.

SOPHIE Not too early. I need my beauty sleep! *[SHE beams at him. HE shudders and exits followed by SWINDLE and FILCH. SOPHIE suddenly gets agitated.]* Oh dear. What am I going to do? *[JOCKO comes bounding on.]*

JOCKO Hey up. *[Audience responds and he gives the thumbs up.]* Great stuff! *[To SOPHIE.]* What's up with you? You look like a – *[Name of a football team not doing very well.]* – supporter!

SOPHIE *[Pacing back and forth.]* Oh Jocko, I've been a very silly girl.

JOCKO What now?

SOPHIE Well six months ago I borrowed some money off Gaspar Grey.

JOCKO Not that measly moneylender?

SOPHIE Yes. I had so many debts to pay off; otherwise I could have lost the circus.

JOCKO But things are better now – surely.

SOPHIE Well – yes they are.

JOCKO And I suppose he wants his money back?

SOPHIE Yes. I've told him I'll pay him tomorrow – but I won't have the money.

JOCKO Why not?

SOPHIE Because I spent it on my new outfit! *[SHE bursts into tears.]*

JOCKO But what about the takings for tonight's performance?

SOPHIE I need that to pay the daily bills. Oh Jocko, I'm back where I started six months ago! *[SHE cries big tears. TOMMY and GOLDILOCKS enter followed by RICKI and GLORIA.]*

TOMMY What's the matter?

SOPHIE Oh Tommy, I've been a very silly girl.

JOCKO A very, very silly girl!

- SOPHIE *[Glaring at JOCKO.]* All right. I can fight my own battles thank you very much! *[To TOMMY.]* It's that moneylender I told you about. He's come to get what I owe him.
- TOMMY That awful man Gaspar Grey? *[At the mention of his name, GOLDILOCKS gasps. SOPHIE nods and TOMMY turns to GOLDILOCKS.]* Do you know him?
- G/LOCKS Er – no! Never heard of him.
- SOPHIE Aren't you the lucky one? Nasty piece of work. And those two sidekicks of his were snooping around looking for someone. *[GOLDILOCKS turns away rather distressed.]*
- RICKI We'll just have to make sure we do capacity business and tell him we'll pay him next week.
- TOMMY *[To SOPHIE.]* And no more new frocks!
- SOPHIE I promise. But do you think we can guarantee full houses?
- JOCKO What this circus needs is a new act. Something to attract the customers.
- TOMMY Yes. Something out of the ordinary – something no one has ever seen before.
- SOPHIE But we can't afford a new act!
- GLORIA I could always do some more tricks on the high wire.
- TOMMY And Goldilocks could do the bareback riding sequence.
- G/LOCKS Yes.
- RICKI I've always wanted to have a go at lion taming. What do you think? *[HE strikes a pose with his whip. ALL laugh.]*
- SOPHIE Oh you are all so kind. I don't know what to say.
- GLORIA Come on Sophie, cheer up. We're not going to let someone like Gaspar Grey do us down.
- ALL No. That's right. *etc.*

NUMBER

[The song starts during which the CHORUS enters. The number builds to a big production sequence. At the end the lights fade to black out and the scene changes to

SCENE 2 BEHIND THE BIG TOP

[A front cloth scene. As the lights come up ZARINA enters down right.]

- ZARINA Goldilocks seems to have found a lot of new friends at the circus, but how long will it be before Gaspar discovers where she is hiding? Her destiny lies here and not with that evil moneylender, so I must keep watch and try to thwart his plans. *[SHE looks off stage.]* Ah, here she comes now. *[SHE resumes her 'old lady' look as GOLDILOCKS enters left.]* Good day my dear.
- G/LOCKS Oh, hello.
- ZARINA I am Zarina – the clairvoyant. Perhaps you have seen my tent?
- G/LOCK It's by the Big Top, isn't it?
- ZARINA That's right.
- G/LOCKS I've only just arrived. There's so much to learn about the circus.
- ZARINA Don't worry. You'll soon find your way around. Let me see your hand.
- G/LOCKS Oh I'm afraid I have no money
- ZARINA I need no payment. This I do because of who you are. *[SHE takes GOLDILOCKS' hand and looks at it.]* You have been unhappy, my dear. *[GOLDILOCKS turns her head away.]* But don't fret. Things are starting to change for you. Here you will find yourself amongst friends who will care for you. One especially. *[SHE sees something in the hand.]* But wait! What is this? A dark figure crossing your destiny line. *[GOLDILOCKS looks worried and pulls her hand away.]* The course of true happiness doesn't always run smoothly, but have faith and trust in yourself - and in your friends.
- G/LOCKS *[Slightly wary about ZARINA.]* I will. Thank you.
- ZARINA No need to thank me. But remember what I have said. Trust in your friends. *[SHE exits down right. GOLDILOCKS is troubled and looks at her hand. JOCKO Runs on from left and does his 'pose'.]*
- JOCKO Hey up! *[Audience responds. HE gives thumbs up.]* Great stuff! *[To GOLDILOCKS.]* Hello Goldie. How are you settling in?
- G/LOCKS Fine, thank you Jocko. I've just met Zarina. She read my palm.
- JOCKO Oh yes. She's our regular – *[Gives the name of a well know clairvoyant or astrologer.]* Has her own column in the – *[Name of local paper.]*
- G/LOCKS She said my destiny lay here.
- JOCKO Then you've come to the right place! Anyway I've come to tell you that Tommy has saddled up Prince for you to try out. He's in the main ring.

G/LOCKS Oh thank you Jocko. I'll see you later. *[SHE exits right. JOCKO starts to cross to stage left. SWINDLE and FILCH enter down left and stop him.]*

SWINDLE Just a moment mate. You might be able to help us.

JOCKO The only person who can help you is a plastic surgeon!

SWINDLE What was that?

JOCKO Nothing. Just a little joke.

FILCH 'ere, who are you calling a little joke?

JOCKO *[Pointing to SWINDLE.]* Him.

FILCH Oh, that's all right then.

JOCKO What can I do for you?

SWINDLE We're looking for someone.

JOCKO You've found him!

SWINDLE Not you. We're looking for a young girl.

JOCKO Aren't we all?

FILCH She's run away.

JOCKO Who from?

SWINDLE Our boss.

FILCH And he's not very happy.

JOCKO What does this girl look like?

SWINDLE Well she's about this high. *[Hold out his hand measuring GOLDILOCKS' height.]*

FILCH *[With too big a gesture.]* And about this wide!

SWINDLE *[Hitting him.]* No she's not! She's very slim. And she's got red hair.

FILCH No she hasn't. It's yellow.

SWINDLE Well it's a sort of reddy yellow.

FILCH More like golden.

JOCKO *[Realising they could be talking about Goldilocks.]* Golden?

SWINDLE And such a good cook.

FILCH Yes. We missed dinner last night and breakfast this morning.

SWINDLE We need to find her – and quick.

FILCH She's going to marry our boss.

JOCKO Then why has she run away? Did she get cold feet?

FILCH No, she had her shoes on! *[JOCKO rolls his eyes and shakes his head at the audience.]*

SWINDLE Just wedding nerves I expect. *[TOMMY enters left and listen to them.]*

JOCKO And what did you say her name was?

FILCH Goldilocks.

TOMMY Goldilocks?

SWINDLE *[Turning to him.]* Yes. You haven't seen her have you?

TOMMY *[Shaking his head and indicating JOCKO should do the same.]* No!

JOCKO No! No one of that name around here.

FILCH Well if she should turn up just let us know.

JOCKO OK

TOMMY Why don't you try looking on the other side of the circus? By the woods.

SWINDLE The woods. Good idea. *[To FILCH.]* Come on.

FILCH Yes, when we've got a task to do we keep at it until we get a result. We're very fastidious.

JOCKO Yes. He's fast and you're hideous.

TOMMY *[Pointing off left.]* The woods are that way.

SWINDLE Are they? *[HE points right.]* But I thought it was

JOCKO *[Pointing left.]* No that way. It's a short cut.

FILCH Oh, thank you. See you again.

JOCKO Don't bet on it mate!

SWINDLE What?

TOMMY He said, "can't wait!" *[Pushing them off left.]* Goodbye. *[SWINDLE and FILCH exit left. TOMMY turns to JOCKO.]*

JOCKO What's going on Tommy? Why are those two looking for Goldilocks?

- TOMMY They must work for her guardian. She's run away from him because he was so mean to her. Oh Jocko, please don't tell anyone who she really is.
- JOCKO Of course not. Her secret is safe with me.
- TOMMY Thank you. It's only until next week - her twenty-first birthday. Then she will be free of him.
- JOCKO And good riddance by the sound of it. *[RICKI and GLORIA enter right.]*
- RICKI Tommy, there you are. Goldilocks is ready to try out Prince in the main ring.
- TOMMY Oh, really?
- GLORIA *[Knowingly.]* We thought *you* might like to watch.
- TOMMY *[Slightly embarrassed.]* Yes, yes I suppose I should. Make sure everything is all right with Prince. *[HE exits right.]*
- RICKI And I better make sure everything's all right with Tommy! *[HE exits right.]*
- GLORIA I think Tommy is quite smitten with our new horseback rider.
- JOCKO Really?
- GLORIA Surely you noticed?
- JOCKO Noticed what?
- GLORIA How he's been following her around ever since she arrived.
- JOCKO He's just making her feel welcome.
- GLORIA You mean like how you made me feel welcome when I first arrived?
- JOCKO Did I?
- GLORIA No!

DUET – GLORIA AND JOCKO

[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to]

SCENE 3 INSIDE SOPHIE'S CARAVAN

[A brightly coloured inset scene with an entrance left and a curtained entrance up right. A small table is against the wall down right. On it

are various items including a large container of bath salts. As the scene opens we hear SOPHIE singing to herself off.]

- SOPHIE I feel pretty, oh so pretty! *[There is a knock at the door.]* Come in if you dare! *[TOMMY enters.]*
- TOMMY Hello Sophie.
- SOPHIE Is that you Tommy.
- TOMMY Yes.
- SOPHIE Just a minute. *[There is another knock.]* Come in if you're wealthy! *[JOCKO enters.]*
- JOCKO Hey up. *[The audience responds. HE gives thumbs up.]* Great stuff. *[To TOMMY.]* Hello Tommy, where's Sophie.
- TOMMY She's back there. *[HE calls.]* Sophie, what are you doing?
- SOPHIE I'm trying on my circus costume. I've been altering it to suit all my performances.
- JOCKO Come on then, let's have a look. *[SOPHIE emerges wearing an outrageous costume. It has a ballerina and tights bottom, two containers on her bosom with brightly coloured balls in and a hoop for a headdress. On her behind is a bum-bag.]*
- SOPHIE *[Doing a twirl.]* Well, what do you think?
- TOMMY *[Open mouthed.]* It's certainly different.
- SOPHIE To save money I've incorporated everything I do in one costume. See. *[SHE points out the various functions starting with the ballet dress.]* This is for the parade and my speciality ballet! *[SHE kneels down.]* This is for the Canine Capers! *[TOMMY and JOCKO look at each other with surprise.]*
- TOMMY/
JOCKO What?
- SOPHIE The dog act! *[Pointing to the hoop and explaining with a gesture.]* They jump through the hoop!!
- TOMMY/
JOCKO *[Realising.]* Oh!
- SOPHIE *[SHE takes out some balls.]* And my juggling extravaganza! *[SHE juggles – if possible SHE gets the balls back into the containers.]*
- JOCKO *[Pointing to the bum-bag.]* And what's that for?
- SOPHIE *[Reaching round and pulling out a bottle of gin.]* Interval refreshments! *[SHE takes a drink and puts the bottle back.]*

JOCKO Very impressive.

TOMMY But you don't need to do all those acts.

SOPHIE I do. With what I owe that awful Gaspar Grey I need to save as much money as possible. That means not taking on any more artists.

TOMMY Talking of that, what did you think of Goldilocks riding Prince?

SOPHIE She was very good.

TOMMY So will it be all right for her to stay?

SOPHIE *[Teasing him.]* Well

TOMMY Sophie!

SOPHIE Yes, of course.

TOMMY I'll go and tell her the good news. *[HE exits.]*

SOPHIE I think our Tommy is smitten. And he's not the only one. Did you know old Gaspar is getting married again? He told me so this morning.

JOCKO Who on earth would want to marry him?

SOPHIE Well he was considered quite a catch in his day.

JOCKO Quite a catch? The only thing to do now is throw him back!

SOPHIE He was out looking for his *financy*. Had a couple of shady looking characters with him.

JOCKO *[Picking up on this.]* Was one of them – *[HE describes SWINDLE.]* and the other – *[HE describes FILCH.]?*

SOPHIE Yes. Do you know them?

JOCKO No! Never seen them!

SOPHIE Well you've got a pretty good idea of what they look like!

JOCKO Just a guess.

SOPHIE *[Suspicious.]* Jocko, is there something you're not telling me?

JOCKO No! I'd better go and do – er – some clown things?

SOPHIE Clown things?

JOCKO Yes! You know – *[Thinking of how to get away.]* Hey up! *[Audience reacts. HE gives the thumbs up.]* Great stuff! *[HE exits quickly.]*

- SOPHIE Must be something in the water! Oh well, I'm going to get changed and have a long hot bath. *[SHE exits behind curtain. After a moment the left door opens and GASPAR enters.]*
- GASPAR Ah good. No one around. I'm sure that ward of mine is here somewhere. She can't have just vanished into thin air. I've got to get her back and make her marry me, and then I can get my hands on her - *[HE laughs evilly.]* -inheritance! It's a good thing I persuaded her father to make me her guardian before he popped his clogs. Now all I need to do is get her to the altar before her twenty-first birthday! *[GOLDILOCKS' voice is heard off.]*
- G/LOCKS *[Off.]* Sophie? Sophie are you there?
- GASPAR That's her. I knew she was hiding here. *[HE moves up stage of the door left and waits for GOLDILOCKS to enter. SHE enters and moves into the room.]* Hello my dear. Enjoying your day at the circus? *[GASPAR slams the door and stands in front of it.]*
- G/LOCKS *[Spinning around to face him.]* Gaspar!
- GASPAR *[Oozing charm.]* I thought I'd escort you back home. Make sure you don't get lost again!
- G/LOCKS But I don't want to go back. I hate it there.
- GASPAR How can you say that? Haven't I always given you everything you wanted?
- G/LOCKS Everything except my freedom.
- GASPAR But I promised your poor father I would look after you.
- G/LOCKS I don't need looking after. I'm not a child any more.
- GASPAR *[Turning angry.]* I'm not going to listen to this. You are still my ward and you will come home now. No more arguments. *[HE grabs her by the wrists.]*
- G/LOCKS No. Stop it. You're hurting me. *[TOMMY enters.]*
- TOMMY What's going on?
- G/LOCKS Tommy!
- TOMMY What are you doing to Goldilocks?
- GASPAR *[Letting go of her.]* Just come to take my ward back home.
- TOMMY *[As GOLDILOCKS runs to him.]* Your ward? *[To GOLDILOCKS.]* Is this true? *[SHE nods. HE looks back at GASPAR.]* I don't think she wants to go with you.
- GASPAR I advise you to keep out of this.

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