

GOLDILOCKS

*and the*

THREE BEARS

A PANTOMIME BY

STEPHEN DUCKHAM

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## GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

### CHARACTERS

Ricki	The Ringmaster
Jocko	A Clown
Tommy	An animal trainer
Gloria	High Wire performer . engaged to Jocko
Sophie Sawdust	Owner of Sophie's Spectacular Circus
Madam Zarina	A Clairvoyant
Goldilocks	Gaspar's ward
Gaspar Grey	An evil money lender
Swindle	)
Filtch	) His assistants
Father Bear	
Mother Bear	
Baby Bear	

Gorilla

Edmund	)
Ermengarde	) Goldilocks's ancestors .
Rufus	) portrait characters
Grandmother	)

Chorus of Circus Folk

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

#### ACT ONE

SCENE 1	OUTSIDE THE BIG TOP OF SOPHIE'S CIRCUS
SCENE 2	BEHIND THE BIG TOP
SCENE 3	SOPHIE'S CARAVAN
SCENE 4	BEHIND THE BIG TOP
SCENE 5	THE COTTAGE OF THE THREE BEARS
SCENE 6	BEHIND THE BIG TOP
SCENE 7	THE DRESSING TENT
SCENE 8	INSIDE THE BIG TOP

#### ACT TWO

SCENE 1	OUTSIDE THE BIG TOP
SCENE 2	BEHIND THE BIG TOP
SCENE 3	INSIDE THE BIG TOP
SCENE 4	THE WOODS NEAR DEADWATER MANOR
SCENE 5	DEADWATER MANOR
SCENE 6	BEHIND THE BIG TOP
SCENE 7	INSIDE THE BIG TOP

### PRODUCTION NOTES

## SCENERY

This Pantomime can be staged as simply or as lavishly as your facilities allow. Suggestions for basic settings are as follows:

Act One Scene 1 & Act Two Scene 1 is a full set with the entrance to the circus dominating the up stage centre to left area. Sophie's caravan entrance is stage right and down stage right is a small tent belonging to Zarina. If Zarina's tent is impractical, the table and stool may be set in front of a sign saying 'Madam Zarina'.

Act One Scene 2,4,6 & Act Two Scene 2 & 6 is a front cloth depicting the grounds of the circus. If you do not have a front cloth, this scene can be played on tabs with additional pieces or props to suggest the circus grounds.

Act One Scene 3 is a half set. It is useful to have a door into the caravan but not essential.

Act One Scene 5 is a three-quarter set. The important items in this scene are the table and three different size chairs and three beds . again different sizes.

Act One Scene 7 is a half cloth with wings the same as scene 8. This scene can be played as the first part of scene 8 as long as there is something for Gaspar to hide behind.

Act One Scene 8 & Act Two Scenes 3 & 7 is a full set. For the final scene additional bunting, balloons and wedding decorations can be added to the interior of the Big Top.

Act Two Scene 4 is a second front cloth or it can be played on tabs.

Act Two Scene 5 is a full set. It is important to have the portraits visible and the clock and secret hiding place well positioned. If space is limited it may be as well to build this set permanently at the back of the stage.

Gloria's High Wire Act. This can be achieved in a number of ways. You may have your own ideas, but here are some suggestions.

1) When I first wrote and directed this pantomime it was staged in a small theatre with no flying facilities but the effect of Gloria's high wire act was achieved very successfully. Here is how it was done.

The double enters wearing a duplicate hooded cloak crosses to a rope ladder up stage. She starts to climb as Swindle and Filch are seen by the audience unscrewing a bolt on the mechanism. When the double is part way up the ladder the lights black out and a black curtain or drop comes in down stage. A platform piece, about 1 metre high, is pushed on from one side of the stage. A length of black wood, strong enough to take a person's weight, with a white rope attached to the front of it connects the platform to a support on the other side of the stage. This piece need not stretch across the whole stage . just enough to give the impression of a tight rope. The scene is lit in UV with a pin spot on Gloria. She appears on the platform and starts her walk. She loses her balance and the lights black out. (A drum roll and perhaps a sound effect scream will add to the drama of the scene.) The blacks, platform and rope are removed and Father Bear picks up Gloria before the lights return on the main scene.

2) Theatres with a stage large enough to house a wire can have it permanently in position near the back of the stage and play all other scenes in front of it. A double

for Gloria enters wearing a sparkling hooded cloak and climbs to the platform. (She will of course wear a harness and wire.) Once on the platform the double takes off the cloak and starts to walk the wire. She loses her balance as the wire is supposed to slacken and looks as though she is falling. The lights black out and the double is pulled up. When the lights return Father Bear is seen holding Gloria in his arms.

3) No wire is visible so the double enters as above and climbs out of sight. (Again she will need a harness and wire.) Other members of the cast look up as though watching Gloria and comment as she falls. The lights black out and when they return Father Bear is holding Gloria.

## CHARACTERS

RICKI, GLORIA, JOCKO and TOMMY are all stock circus characters.

GOLDILOCKS should, of course, have golden hair and be a good singer. If she has any circus skills these can be incorporated in to the act with the Three Bears.

THE THREE BEARS. Costume is all important and as they have dialogue in their scene, do make sure they can be heard. The dialogue suggests certain performing skills that they each have, but these can be changed depending on what each actor can do.

ZARINA should first appear to be an old woman. Perhaps bent, with a croaky voice and a shawl covering most of her head. When she reveals herself as a younger woman she stands upright with the shawl around her shoulders and speaks in her normal voice.

GASPAR is the villain of the piece. He will no doubt be booed at every opportunity, but should never let the audience get the upper hand.

SWINDLE and FILCH are his two assistants. Neither has been blessed with much intelligence. If anything SWINDLE is a little more ~~with it~~ than FILCH. They should provide visual knock-about comedy.

SOPHIE SAWDUST is the typical panto Dame. Big hearted and with an instant rapport with the audience. She, together with JOCKO, provides a large part of the panto comedy. If possible, at every entrance she should have on a different costume.

## MUSIC

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences . particularly the younger members . like to story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially the ballads.

Two songs have been specially written for this production. The trio in Act 2 scene 4 for Gaspar, Swindle and Filch and the Song Sheet. If you would like to use them in your production, copies of the sheet music are available from NODA.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of ~~Goldilocks~~ and the Three Bears and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

## ACT ONE

### SCENE 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 *[Horrified.] 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 been 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 GOLDILOCKS

[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 GOLDILOCKS.] 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 GOLDILOCKSneck.] *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 GOLDILOCKS' 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's 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 your 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 *[Greedily.]* 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 [Horrified 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 ò ò ò ò]

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's 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 poseq]*

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's 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 ò ò ò ]

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/            *What?*  
 JOCKO

SOPHIE            *The dog act!* [Pointing to the hoop and explaining with a gesture.] *They jump through the hoop!!*

TOMMY/            [Realising.] *Oh!*  
 JOCKO

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's 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.*

G/LOCKS *I'm staying here. I've joined the circus.*

GASPAR *I afraid, my dear, that you haven't. You can't do anything without my permission.*

TOMMY *What are you talking about?*

GASPAR *As her legal guardian until she is twenty-one, I have control of what she can and can't do.*

G/LOCKS *But it's my birthday in a week's time.*

GASPAR *And until then you'll do exactly what I say.* [SOPHIE is heard singing an advert jingle for bubble bath or soap etc. SHE enters wearing an outrageous bathrobe, a large ridiculous bath hat and big furry slippers.]

SOPHIE *Oh! What's going on here?*

TOMMY *This man is trying to kidnap Goldilocks.*

SOPHIE *Gaspar Grey. What are you up to?*

TOMMY *He's trying to force Goldilocks to go back with him.*

GASPAR *And if she doesn't the loan will be called in with an even bigger interest rate.*

SOPHIE *You can't do that.*

GASPAR *You forget who I am. I can do anything I like.*

G/LOCKS *Tommy.*

TOMMY *Don't worry Goldilocks, I'll not let him take you.*

SOPHIE *You may have a claim on the money that I owe you, but at the moment you are trespassing.*

GASPAR *Don't be ridiculous.*

- SOPHIE *Trespassing in a lady's apartment while she is attempting to submerge herself in a luxury aquatic substance!*
- GASPAR *What?*
- SOPHIE *I'm trying to have a bath! And if you don't remove yourself this instant I shall be forced to summon the local [Name of town.] constabulary, who were last seen in Milton Keynes. [Or other town many miles away.]*
- GASPAR *It is I who shall be summoning the constabulary to evict you and your pathetic tribe off this property when I confiscate everything in sight. [To GOLDILOCKS.] You better be home by nightfall young lady, or else! [HE exits left. GOLDILOCKS burst into tears.]*
- SOPHIE *There, there. Don't upset yourself. We'll not let the likes of Gaspar Grey to get the better of us.*
- TOMMY *Sophie's right.*
- G/LOCKS *But he means what he says. That's why I've run away before. He's so mean to everyone.*
- SOPHIE *If only I could find enough money to pay him off. Then he would have no hold on us and you could stay here.*
- G/LOCKS *But surely the circus is attracting good audiences. Everyone likes a circus.*
- SOPHIE *Yes, but we need new acts. People won't keep paying to see the same old thing time after time.*
- TOMMY *And they don't come cheap.*
- G/LOCKS *Oh it's no use. I must leave here. I can't let him take all this out on you.*
- TOMMY *But there must be another way.*
- G/LOCKS *[In tears.] There isn't. I must go. [SHE runs out in tears.]*
- SOPHIE *Go after her Tommy. [HE exits.] Oh dear. What am I going to do? That dreadful man is ruining everyone's life. I'll have to think of something – and there's no better place to sort out your problems than soaking in a hot tub! Now where did I put that aromatic French bubble bath? [SHE picks it up off the table.] Ah, here it is. Now I'm ready to indulge myself.*

SOPHIE'S STRIP ROUTINE

[SHE starts to take off her bathrobe and this turns into a strip routine. SHE gets down to a large bra and bloomers then turns to a man in the front row of the audience.]

*And if you want to any more – mine's a pint in the bar after the show!*

[The lights black out. The scene changes to ò ò ò ]

SCENE 4 BEHIND THE BIG TOP

[Front cloth as before. ZARINA is discovered down right in a spot.]

ZARINA *Oh dear, it's just as I thought. That evil Gaspar Grey has pulled a fast one and insisted Goldilocks return to him. He always seems to get his own way. But I have a few tricks up my sleeve. There may yet be a way for Goldilocks to return to the circus and for Sophie to pay Gaspar what she owes. First I must pay a visit to some old friends. [SHE exits as the lights come up. GOLDILOCKS comes running on from left, TOMMY following.]*

TOMMY *Goldilocks! Wait!*

G/LOCKS *It's no good Tommy. I can't stay – I'll ruin everything.*

TOMMY *No you won't. We'll work something out. [JOCKO comes bounding on and calls to the audience. GLORIA follows him.]*

JOCKO *Hey up! [Audience responds. HE gives the thumbs up.] Great stuff! [To the others.] Hello you two. Is everybody happy? [GOLDILOCKS bursts into tears again.] Is it something I said?*

TOMMY *Oh Jocko, Goldilocks says she's going to leave.*

JOCKO *Leave?*

GLORIA *Why?*

TOMMY *That awful Gaspar Grey is her guardian and he has threatened to call in Sophie's loan unless Goldilocks returns home.*

GLORIA *He can't be serious. He must be bluffing.*

G/LOCKS *No, he means it.*

JOCKO *In that case we'll hide you somewhere else.*

G/LOCKS *It's no good, he'll find me. He always finds me.*

JOCKO *There must be something we can do.*

G/LOCKS *There's nothing. I must leave here.*

GLORIA *But where will you go?*

G/LOCKS *Far away.*

TOMMY *No.*

G/LOCKS *I must Tommy, otherwise he will destroy the Circus and everyone with it.*  
[SHE exits in tears.]

TOMMY [Calling.] *Goldilocks.*

JOCKO *I'm afraid, my friend, Gaspar Grey is more than just her guardian.*

TOMMY *What do you mean?*

JOCKO *I'm sorry to have to tell you this but he's her fiance.*

TOMMY [Astounded.] *What? But he can't be!*

GLORIA *He's old enough to be her father.*

JOCKO *Be that as it may. It's what his two sidekicks told me.*

TOMMY *Then we have to do something. We can't leave her to the mercy of that awful creature.*

JOCKO *I agree. But what?* [RICKI enters right.]

RICKI *What's going on? I've just seen Goldilocks running towards the woods in tears.*

JOCKO            *She's running away so Gaspar Grey, won't find her.*

RICKI            *Gaspar Grey? He's her guardian?*

TOMMY           *Yes.*

GLORIA          *[Shuddering.] Oh! The very thought of it gives me the creeps.*

TOMMY           *We've got to do something.*

JOCKO           *Well whatever help you need, we're right here.*

TOMMY           *Thanks.*

SONG – TOMMY, RICKI, GLORIA and JOCKO

[At the end of the number the lights fade to black out and the scene changes to  
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SCENE 5 THE COTTAGE OF THE THREE BEARS

[A warm, cosy cottage. Up stage centre is an open fireplace with a large saucepan of porridge boiling away. A door is to the right of the scene. On stage left are three beds, the largest up stage, the medium size down stage of it and further down still a small bed. Centre stage is a table laid for breakfast with three bowls and spoons. A large chair is on the right of the table, a medium size one above it and a small one left of it. The scene opens with the THREE BEARS eating breakfast. FATHER sitting on the large chair, MOTHER on the medium and BABY on the small one.]

FATHER           [Finishing the last mouthful of porridge.] *Mother, you make the best porridge.*

BABY            *Dad's right. It's scrumptious.* [HE holds his bowl to his face, licking the last drop.]

MOTHER        *Well there's plenty more. Who's for a second helping?*

FATHER/  
BABY            [Both holding up bowls.] *Yes please.*

MOTHER        [Crossing to the fire and picking up the saucepan.] *Here we are then.* [SHE ladles out porridge into FATHER and BABY BEARS' bowls. BABY goes to eat straight away.] *Be careful. It's very hot. You don't want to burn your mouth.*

- FATHER        *Why don't we go for our morning walk and let it cool down?*
- MOTHER       *Good idea.*
- BABY            *[Moving to the door.] I'll race you both to the old oak and back.*
- FATHER        *[Reaching for his scarf.] We'll all walk to the old oak and back.*
- BABY            *Wimps!* *[HE exits through the door. FATHER and MOTHER laugh. MOTHER reaches for her hat.]*
- FATHER        *[Offering his arm to MOTHER.] May I escort you, madam?*
- MOTHER       *I'd be delighted.* *[THEY laugh again and exit. There is a lighting effect and ZARINA enters down right.]*
- ZARINA        *Well, here we are in the cottage of the Three Bears. Aren't they a happy family? We have been good friends for years and now I'm hoping they will be good friends to Goldilocks. I have given all of you out there special powers so you can understand what the bears say, and Goldilocks will be able to understand them too. She is wandering through the woods and will soon discover this cottage. Then we shall see what happens when Goldilocks meets the Three Bears.* *[SHE exits down right. After a few seconds there is a knock at the door. After a moment the door opens and GOLDILOCKS pops her head round.]*
- G/LOCKS      *Hello! Anyone at home?* *[SHE enters.] Hello!* *[SHE looks around.] What a dear little cottage. I wonder who lives here?* *[SHE moves around the room and smells the porridge.] What a wonderful smell. I'm feeling so hungry. I've not eaten for ages.* *[SHE sees the porridge in the bowls.] Porridge! My favourite. I wonder if whoever lives here would mind if I had some?* *[SHE moves to FATHER BEARS bowl and, picking up his spoon, tries some.] Ohh! That's too hot to eat.* *[Seeing MOTHER BEARS.] Perhaps .....* *[SHE tries that one.] Oh no! A little too cold.* *[Looks at BABY BEARS bowl.] I wonder .....* *[SHE tries it.] Just right!* *[SHE quickly eats it all up, then moves back to FATHERSsqchair.] After all that walking I could do with a sit down.* *[SHE sits on FATHERSsqchair.] Oh dear, this chair is very hard.* *[SHE moves to MOTHERSsqand sits.] No! This is no good. Too soft.* *[SHE crosses to BABYSsqand pats the seat with her hand.] Oh yes. This is just right.* *[SHE sits and there is the sound of splintering wood as the back of the chair breaks. SHE jumps up.] Oh, perhaps not!* *[SHE looks across at the beds.] I know, I'll try the beds.* *[SHE crosses to the large bed, pulls back the cover and lies on it.] No. Too lumpy.* *[SHE tries the medium one.] This is too flat.* *[She moves to the small bed.] This is just right.* *[SHE yawns.] Oh, I'm so tired I'll just have a short nap.* *[SHE yawns, stretches and lies on the bed. In no time SHE is asleep. After a moment we hear the BEARS returning.]*
- BABY            *[Off.] I won!* *[ALL THREE enter.]*
- FATHER        *As always.*
- MOTHER       *Come along. The porridge should be just right for eating.* *[THEY move to their places and look at their bowls.]*

FATHER *Somebody's been eating my porridge!*

MOTHER *Somebody's been eating my porridge!*

BABY [Holding his bowl upside down.] *Somebody's been eating my porridge and eaten it all up!*  
[ALL look at each other then sit in their chair.]

FATHER [Wriggling around.] *Somebody's been sitting in my chair!*

MOTHER [Wriggling around.] *Somebody's been sitting in my chair!*

BABY [Wriggling around.] *Somebody's been sitting in my chair and broken it!* [FATHER crosses to the beds and looks at the large one. MOTHER and BABY follow.]

FATHER *Somebody's been lying on my bed.*

MOTHER *Somebody's been lying on my bed.*

BABY *Somebody's been lying on my bed and she's still there!* [ALL THREE gather around the small bed looking at GOLDILOCKS.]

FATHER *It's a young girl.*

MOTHER *What is she doing here?* [GOLDILOCKS stirs and turns over in her sleep.]

BABY [Shouting.] *Hey, wake up and get off my bed!* [GOLDILOCKS wakes and sees the BEARS looking down at her.]

G/LOCKS *Oh my. Three bears.* [SHE gets up and runs towards the door.]

FATHER *Just a minute. Who are you?*

G/LOCKS *My name is Goldilocks. I was lost in the wood and saw your cottage. I didn't mean to intrude, but I was so tired.*

BABY *You've eaten my porridge and broken my chair!*

MOTHER *Hush Baby.*

G/LOCKS *Oh I am sorry. It smelled so good and I hadn't had a good meal in such a long time.*

MOTHER *Well there's no harm done. I've plenty more porridge.*

FATHER *And the chair is easily mended. Why don't you stay a while?*

G/LOCKS *You're so kind. I don't know what to say.*

BABY *Say yes. There's no one around here to be friends with. Will you be my friend?*

G/LOCKS *Of course. I hope I can be friends with you all.*

MOTHER *Where are you from?*

G/LOCKS *It's a long story. I lived with my guardian who insisted I do all the housework and cooking. When that was done he made me stay in my room for hours on end.*

BABY *How awful.*

G/LOCKS *That's why I ran away. I thought I would be safe with the people at the circus. But he found me, so I ran off again and the next thing I discovered your cottage.*

FATHER *You were going to join a circus?*

G/LOCKS *Everyone was so kind to me. [SHE grows wistful.] One especially.*

FATHER *But don't they do dreadful things to animals?*

G/LOCKS *Oh not this one. It's a wonderful place to be. But I'm afraid they won't be able to go on much longer.*

MOTHER *Why is that?*

G/LOCKS *Sophie, the owner, had a loan off my guardian and he's calling it in. She needs something new to attract the crowds, otherwise the circus will have to close down.*

BABY *Oh no!*

FATHER *Your guardian sounds like a thoroughly nasty person. I wish there was something we could do to help. [At this point they ALL freeze as the lights change and ZARINA enters down right. SHE circles her hands as though putting a spell on them. Mystical music accompanies this after which ZARINA exits and the lights return.]*

MOTHER *Father, I've just had a wonderful idea.*

FATHER *What, my dear?*

MOTHER *Why don't we help Goldilocks and the circus.*

FATHER *How?*

MOTHER *Well you have always been good at juggling. Baby is a natural at acrobatics and with all those years of dance lessons I can do a pretty mean tap!* [SHE executes a tap break, at the end of which the others applaud.]

G/LOCKS *That's wonderful. And it's just what the circus needs. A new and original act.*

BABY [Jumping up and down.] *Oh please Father, can we do it?*

FATHER [Thinks for a moment.] *Well .....* [ALL lean in to him.] *Why not!* [ALL cheer.] *I've always felt that show business was in my blood! And if it gives one in the eye to that guardian of yours – all the better.*

G/LOCKS *Oh thank you. I can't wait to see everyone's faces when I introduce you.*

BABY *I'm so excited.*

MOTHER *Wait 'til the world hears about the fantastic new act.*

G/LOCKS *Goldilocks –*

THREE *- and the Three Bears!*

BEARS

[They ALL link arms and start for the door as the lights fade to black out and the scene changes to ò ò ò ò ò ò ò]

### SCENE 6 BEHIND THE BIG TOP

[The front cloth again. SWINDLE and FILCH enter looking very weary.]

FILCH [Gasping for breath.] *It's no good. We've looked everywhere. She's vanished.*

SWINDLE *I don't know what Mr Grey will say when you tell him you've lost her.*

FILCH *What do you mean 'when I tell him'?*

SWINDLE *I told him she'd run away and he gave me a right belting. Now it's your turn! [GASPAR enters and crosses to them.]*

GASPAR *What are you two doing hanging around here? [SWINDLE pushes FILCH towards GASPAR.]*

FILCH *Well boss, it's like this. We've been looking everywhere for Goldilocks. We looked in all the tents .....*

SWINDLE *And all the caravans .....*

FILCH *And behind all the animal cages .....*

GASPAR *And?*

FILCH *[In a whisper.] And she wasn't there.*

SWINDLE *She's nowhere to be seen boss.*

GASPAR *And you looked everywhere, did you?*

FILCH *Absolutely boss.*

GASPAR *So how was it that I found her in Sophie Sawdust's ramshackle old caravan?*

SWINDLE *You did?*

GASPAR *Yes I did. You two are worse than useless. Whenever I want a job doing, I'm better off doing it myself. [SOPHIE enters.]*

SOPHIE *Gaspar Grey. Still hanging about like a bad smell? It's no use you trying to get Goldilocks to go back with you. She's left the circus.*

GASPAR *What?*

SOPHIE *The thought of being with you filled her with such dread that she's run away!*

GASPAR        *Run away? Why didn't you stop her?*

SOPHIE        *Why should I? Living with you must be like living in the house of horrors.*

GASPAR        [To SWINDLE and FILCH.] *Come on. We must find her before she gets too far away.*  
[JOCKO enters.]

JOCKO         *Hey up!* [Audience responds. HE gives the thumbs up.] *Great stuff!*

GASPAR        *You. Did you see where Goldilocks went?*

JOCKO         *Yes.*

SOPHIE        [Shouting towards him.] *No.*

JOCKO         [Realising he shouldn't say anything.] *No!*

GASPAR        *Well, which is it? Yes or no?*

JOCKO         *Yes it's no I didn't see where she went.*

GASPAR        *Oh, I'm in the company of complete idiots.*

JOCKO         [Holding his hand out.] *How do you do?*

GASPAR        [Shaking it.] *Very well, thank you.* [Realises what he has done.] *Ohhh! Come on you two. Goldilocks can't have got far.* [All THREE start to exit. JOCKO puts his foot out and SWINDLE falls over it. HE lies on the floor as FILCH and GASPAR walk over him as they exit. JOCKO helps him up.]

JOCKO         [Spinning SWINDLE round and pointing in the opposite direction.] *They went that way.*

SWINDLE       *Thank you.* [HE runs off the other side of the stage.]

SOPHIE        *That's got rid of them – for the moment anyway. Oh I'm so upset that Goldilocks has gone. I was getting quite fond of her.*

JOCKO         *We all were.*

SOPHIE        *Do you think she will come back to us one day? I would hate not to see her sweet smile and hear her voice again saying "hello Sophie".* [GOLDILOCKS enters.]

G/LOCKS *Hello Sophie!*

SOPHIE [To JOCKO.] *I didn't know you were a mimic.*

JOCKO [Seeing GOLDILOCKS.] *Goldilocks!*

SOPHIE [Turning.] *Oh my dear girl, you're back.*

G/LOCKS *And I think I've got the answer to all our problems.*

SOPHIE *What do you mean?*

G/LOCK *Jocko, would you get everyone together and meet me in the big top.*

JOCKO *But why?*

G/LOCKS *You'll see. Now hurry. We haven't a moment to lose.*

JOCKO OK [HE runs off.]

SOPHIE *What's going on?*

G/LOCKS *Oh Sophie, I'm so excited. Wait 'til you see what I've found. I think all our troubles are over.*

DUET – GOLDILOCKS AND SOPHIE

[At the end of the number the lights fade to Black Out and the scene changes to  
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SCENE 7 THE DRESSING TENT

[A half set with racks of costumes. Various items of circus props are around the place and a screen is to one side with a skip full of costumes in front of it. As the scene opens, all the CIRCUS FOLK are gathered including TOMMY, GLORIA and ZARINA.]

GLORIA *What's going on?*

TOMMY *Jocko said Sophie wants everyone together.*

GLORIA        *What for?*

ZARINA        *We'll know soon enough. Here's Jocko now. [JOCKO runs on.]*

JOCKO         *Hey up! [Audience responds. HE gives the thumbs up.] Great stuff!*

TOMMY         *Jocko. What's all this about?*

JOCKO         *Goldilocks is back and she's got some news for us all.*

TOMMY         [Concerned.] *Goldilocks? What if that awful Gaspar is still lurking about?*

JOCKO         *Don't worry. We've sent him on a wild goose chase. He won't be bothering us for a while. [SOPHIE enters.]*

SOPHIE         *Oh good. Everyone's here?*

GLORIA         *Sophie. Are you going to tell us what's going on?*

SOPHIE         *Of course my dear. Well troupe, I've got some very exciting news. [SHE starts the showmanact.] Sophie Sawdust's Spectacular Circus has always prided itself in bring you the best in entertainment. Over the years we have presented stupendous acts from the four corners of the earth. Tumblers, jugglers, death-defying tightrope walkers –*

GLORIA         [Taking a bow.] *Thank you so much.*

SOPHIE         *- animal performers from alligators to zebras. But never before has an act been so unique, so stunning, so amazing .....*

ALL             *Oh do get on with it!*

SOPHIE         *All right, all right. I'm only doing the big build up! Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow artistes I give you the latest addition to our family circus – [At this point GLORIA looks off stage and screams.]*

GLORIA         *Oh my! Look over there. Wild bears loose in the big top. [ALL start to panic.]*

SOPHIE         [To GLORIA.] *You really know how to ruin a big moment! [GOLDILOCKS runs on.]*

G/LOCKS       *There's nothing to worry about. They won't harm you. They're my friends.*

TOMMY *Friends? Goldilocks what is all this?*

G/LOCKS *Everyone. I want you to meet my new friends and latest addition to the circus. The Bear Family. [The THREE BEARS enter and at first seem rather nervous.] This is Father Bear. [FATHER BEAR steps forward and bows. ALL react.] This is Mother Bear. [MOTHER BEAR steps forward and curtseys. ALL smile and start to relax.] And last but not least, Baby Bear. [BABY BEAR gambols across the front of the stage to the delight of everyone. ALL applaud.]*

SOPHIE *It'll be the perfect act to attract large crowds. When word gets out the crowds will come from miles around. With the increase in ticket sales I'll soon pay off what I owe Gaspar. Then he'll no longer have a hold over Goldilocks. [ALL cheer.] Jocko, get the parade ready. We'll march through the town and announce the Three Bears will be opening tonight.*

JOCKO *Right oh. Come on everyone. [JOCKO and the CHORUS exit.]*

TOMMY *Goldilocks, are you sure this is safe?*

G/LOCKS *Of course. [To the BEARS.] This is a very dear friend of mine, Tommy. [To TOMMY.] This is Father Bear. [FATHER BEAR holds out his hand and TOMMY shakes it. HE then smiles and turns to MOTHER BEAR.]*

TOMMY *Mother Bear I presume? [MOTHER BEAR turns away slightly embarrassed and then bobs a curtsey. BABY BEAR runs to him and gives him a hug.] And Baby. Well I'm very pleased to meet you all.*

SOPHIE *Come on then. Let's get ready for the show. We've got a big night ahead of us. [They ALL exit. After a moment GASPAR slowly puts his head around the screen.]*

GASPAR *So, that's the plan is it? [HE moves centre stage. SWINDLE and FILCH follow him out.] Sophie Sawdust has got herself a new act. And my ward is taking part in it.*

SWINDLE *It sounds like a very good act.*

FILCH *I can't wait to see it.*

GASPAR *[Hitting FILCH.] Well you're going to wait a long time. They'll be no new act.*

SWINDLE *Why not?*

GASPAR *Because I'm going to have this miserable side-show closed down.*

FILCH *How?*

GASPAR *A terrible accident is going to happen.*

- SWINDLE     *How do you know?*
- GASPAR     *Because you are going to arrange it.*
- FILCH       *Us?*
- GASPAR     *Yes. It's about time you started earning your keep. The authorities will close the place down because it's unsafe and Sophie will have to refund everyone's money.*
- SWINDLE    *Oh what a dastardly plan.*
- GASPAR     *One of my best I think! Goldilocks will have no alternative but to come home and marry me. In no time I shall get my hands on her – [HE laughs evilly.] – inheritance. [SWINDLE and FILCH join in laughing.] Come on, the show is about to start. [ALL THREE exit as the music starts and the COMPANY enters dressed for the circus parade and the scene changes to ò ò ò ò ]*

SCENE 8 INSIDE THE BIG TOP

[The main ring ready for the start of the show. To one side there is a rope ladder leading up to the high wire. Next to the ladder is a mechanism with large bolts for holding the wire.]

GRAND CIRCUS PARADE

[This should be as elaborate as possible. At the end the COMPANY part as SOPHIE enters dressed outrageously as a drum majorette . twirling batons.]

- SOPHIE     *Welcome one and all to Sophie Sawdust's Spectacular Circus. Ringmaster Ricki. Start the show. [SOPHIE crosses down right to where ZARINA is standing. RICKI moves forward and cracks his whip.]*
- RICKI       *Ladies and Gentlemen, for your delight tonight we have dozens of exciting acts. And first a dazzling display of dexterity on the high wire. Defying gravity itself – the fabulous Gloria! [GLORIA enters and starts to climb up the ladder leading to the high wire. SWINDLE and FILCH crawl on unseen by the others and with a large spanner start to loosen a bolt holding the wire.]*
- ZARINA     [Aside to SOPHIE.] *Something is not right. You must stop this act.*

SOPHIE *What are you talking about?*

ZARINA *I can feel it. Danger is all around.*

SOPHIE *Of course it is. That's what makes the act so good. Don't worry. Gloria has done this a thousand times.*

ZARINA *Something is wrong I tell you.*

SOPHIE *Oh Zarina, save your talents for your tent.*

[By now GLORIA is on the wire. (See notes at the front of the script.) SHE walks across and then begins to realise something is wrong. SHE stumbles and looks as though she is falling. SHE screams and the lights black out. When they return FATHER BEAR is holding GLORIA in his arms. HE has caught her. MOTHER BEAR and BABY are standing by them. The COMPANY rush on stage. JOCKO crosses to GLORIA as FATHER BEAR puts her down.]

RICKI *Gloria! Are you all right?*

GLORIA *Yes. Thanks to Father Bear. What could have happened?* [TOMMY has been inspecting the mechanism.]

TOMMY *It's been tampered with. The bolts have been deliberately loosened.*

SOPHIE *Who's responsible for that.*

JOCKO *Only one person I know. [To the audience.] Do any of you know who did this? [The audience responds.]*

SOPHIE *Gaspar Grey. I might have known. When I get my hands on him he'll wonder what's hit him.*

RICKI *Join the queue!*

G/LOCK *If it wasn't for Father Bear, who knows what would have happened?*

SOPHIE *Three cheers for Father Bear. [ALL cheer.] And now the drama is over I think we should carry on with the show. Ricki?*

RICKI *Ladies and Gentlemen, the act you have all been waiting for. For the very first time under the Big Top. Goldilocks and the Three Bears.*

MUSIC – BEARS ACT AND END OF ACT ONE

[GOLDILOCKS and the THREE BEARS perform their act. At the end of it the COMPANY sing a short reprise of the opening number. The curtain falls.]

*End of Act One*

# ACT TWO

## SCENE 1 OUTSIDE THE BIG TOP

[As Act One Scene One. When the curtain rises we see the entire circus troupe celebrating the success of GOLDILOCKS and the THREE BEARS.]

# PRODUCTION NUMBER

[At the end of the number everyone surrounds GOLDILOCKS and the THREE BEARS. SOPHIE takes centre stage and speaks to them all.]

SOPHIE Well done, everyone. *[To GOLDILOCKS.]* My dear. Your act is a triumph. Thanks to you and these wonderful Bears the circus is saved. *[ALL cheer.]* In nearly a week we've taken more than enough to pay that awful Gaspar Grey what he is owed . and there may even be a bit over for a new frock!

JOCKO *[Sternly.]* Sophie!

SOPHIE Oh all right! I'll pay your back wages instead! *[More cheers.]*

G/LOCKS I'm so pleased. I wanted more than anything for the circus to survive.

SOPHIE Well, come along everyone, there's a lot of work to be done before tonight's show. *[The RICKI, GLORIA, JOCKO and the CHORUS start to exit.]*

G/LOCKS Sophie, don't you think the Three Bears ought to have somewhere to stay here?

SOPHIE You're quite right my dear. And I have the perfect spot. There are some very nice quarters over by the elephants.

G/LOCKS Isn't that where Jocko lives?

TOMMY He won't agree to move.

SOPHIE You leave Jocko to me! Give Goldilocks a hand in getting the Bears settled. *[GOLDILOCKS, TOMMY and the THREE BEARS exit. SOPHIE calls.]* Jocko, have you got a minute?

*[JOCKO bounds on.]*

JOCKO Hey up. *[The audience responds. HE gives thumbs up.]* Great stuff. *[To SOPHIE.]* Did you want me, Sophie?

SOPHIE Yes, Jocko. Oh isn't it wonderful. Our little circus is such a success.

JOCKO It won't be *little* for much longer. When word gets around we'll be playing all the big cities in the world. London, Paris, Las Vegas . even Bognor Regis! *[Or local town. SOPHIE starts to talk passionately about the circus, putting an arm around his shoulder.]*

SOPHIE You love the circus, don't you?

JOCKO Oh yes.

SOPHIE It's in your blood, isn't it?

JOCKO Oh yes.

SOPHIE You love the roar of the greasepaint and the smell of *this* crowd, don't you?

JOCKO *[Looking at the audience.]* Oh yes.

SOPHIE You'd do anything for it, wouldn't you?

JOCKO Oh yes.

SOPHIE Even give up your quarters for the Three Bears?

JOCKO Oh yes.

SOPHIE *[Taking her arm away. Very matter of fact.]* Thanks. I knew you'd agree. *[SHE starts to exit.]*

JOCKO *[Realising what he has just said.]* Hey, just a minute. What do you mean give up my quarters?

SOPHIE Well it's a large area and there's three of them and only one of you.

JOCKO But where am I going to go?

SOPHIE Ah, I've got it all sorted out. There's a rather tastefully designed tent next to the dancing hippopotamus.

JOCKO But that's tiny!

SOPHIE And just right for a cuddly little chap like you.

JOCKO Besides, that hippo snores.

SOPHIE I'd buy you some earplugs!

JOCKO *[Sulking.]* It's just not fair.

SOPHIE You did say you'd do anything for the circus.

JOCKO I know . but ò ò

SOPHIE Oh Jocko, you're a trouper. Come on, I'd give you a hand moving your things. *[She gives him a big push and HE disappears off stage. With a big wink at the audience, SHE follows him. ZARINA enters from her tent.]*

ZARINA So at the moment all is well with Sophie's Circus. But I have had a premonition that things could still turn nasty. That awful Gaspar Grey will stop at nothing until he gets Goldilocks back and his hands on the inheritance. I'd bet he's plotting away right now. I must keep a watchful eye and try to keep her from harm. *[SHE looks off stage.]* Ah, here she comes now. *[SHE becomes an old woman as GOLDILOCKS enters.]*

G/LOCKS Hello Zarina.

ZARINA Hello my dear. You must be very pleased that your act with the Three Bears has been such a success?

G/LOCKS Yes. I can't quite believe it.

ZARINA And you are happy here?

G/LOCKS Oh yes. Everyone is so kind. This really does feel like home.

ZARINA Fortune has favoured you so far. *[GOLDILOCKS nods.]* Let me see what the future has in store for you. *[SHE takes GOLDILOCKS' hand and looks at the palm.]* Ah yes . I see happiness all around you at the moment with all the good friends you have made. And the Three Bears will continue to bring you luck.

G/LOCKS I'm so lucky to have found them. *[ZARINA sees something else in GOLDILOCKS hand that makes her frown.]*

ZARINA But beware. There are people around who will try to destroy your happiness.

G/LOCKS *[Concerned.]* Oh?

ZARINA You must be careful how you go. Heed my warning.

G/LOCKS *[Pulling her hand away.]* I don't want to hear any more.

ZARINA I only tell you this as a friend.

G/LOCKS No don't. You're frightening me. *[SHE starts to cry. TOMMY enters.]*

TOMMY Goldilocks. What's the matter?

G/LOCKS *[Turning away and drying her eyes.]* Nothing.

ZARINA Look after her Tommy. She needs her friends around her. *[SHE exits into her tent.]*

TOMMY Are you all right?

G/LOCKS *[Putting on a brave face.]* Yes. Zarina was telling my fortune. Sometimes there are things you don't want to hear.

TOMMY Whatever it was you mustn't be afraid. Remember that you're among friends.

G/LOCKS That's what she said.

TOMMY There you are then. *[SHE turns away, still tearful.]* Come on, dry your eyes.

G/LOCKS Oh Tommy, how can I ever thank you all for being so kind?

TOMMY It's us who should be thanking you.

G/LOCKS Why?

TOMMY You came into our lives and saved the circus. We don't ever want you to leave. *[Sincerely.]* I don't want you to leave. *[HE starts to sing and the number develops into a duet.]*

DUET - TOMMY AND GOLDILOCKS

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

## SCENE 2 BEHIND THE BIG TOP

*[On stage left is a piece of circus equipment, either packing cases, a barrel, a large box etc. Something big enough to hide behind. From behind the wing stage right SWINDLE'S head appears. Then, below it, FILCH'S head appears. Two hands grab each man's collar and pull him back and then GASPAR'S head appears. HE looks round and slowly enters. HE beckons SWINDLE and FILCH to follow him.]*

GASPAR      No one around. That's good. Now come close you two.

SWINDLE      *[Close to one side of GASPAR.]* Yes boss?

FILCH         *[Close to the other side of GASPAR.]* Yes boss?

- GASPAR Not that close! *[The MEN move away slightly.]* Listen carefully. *[HE looks around. Each MAN cups a hand over one ear.]*
- SWINDLE I can't hear anything.
- FILCH It's as silent as the grave.
- GASPAR Which you will soon be in if you don't pay attention.
- FILCH Sorry boss.
- SWINDLE Sorry boss.
- GASPAR Since those bears have become the star attraction, this circus is going from strength to strength.
- SWINDLE That's a bit of luck, isn't it?
- FILCH Yes. Now Sophie will be able to pay you what she owes.
- GASPAR *[Very angry.]* But I don't want her to. It will ruin all my plans.
- SWINDLE But I thought o o
- GASPAR You're not paid to think.
- FILCH *[Aside.]* We're not paid at all!
- GASPAR *[HE gets a look from GASPAR.]* I need this circus to fail, then Goldilocks will be forced to come home and beg me to take her back. I will then marry her and, in time, get my hands on her . *[HE chuckles evilly.]* inheritance.
- SWINDLE But how can the circus fail while the bears are the big attraction?
- FILCH Everyone's buying tickets to see their act.
- GASPAR Exactly. But if there was no act o ..
- SWINDLE Nobody would buy tickets o .
- FILCH o ..and the circus would have to close down.
- GASPAR *[Loaded with sarcasm.]* You know your brains ought to be left to medical science.
- SWINDLE So how do we get rid of the Three Bears?
- GASPAR I've devised a dastardly plan.
- FILCH Is it any good?
- GASPAR Good? Of course it's good. It's better than good. It's brilliant.
- SWINDLE What is it then?

FILCH           *[Jumping up and down and shouting.]* Oh yes. Tell us . tell us.

GASPAR         Keep your voices down. *[SWINDLE and FILCH "Shh" each other.]*  
We're going to kidnap the star attraction.

SWINDLE       Who's that?

FILCH           Who's that?

GASPAR         *[To SWINDLE.]* The bears, you idiot.

SWINDLE       *[To FILCH.]* The bears, you idiot!

GASPAR         During their act, you back the lorry up to the side entrance. As soon as they've finished we'll bundle them in and drive away before anyone realises they've gone.

FILCH           Now that's what I call a dastardly plan.

GASPAR         Not bad, even if I do say so myself. Now go and get the lorry ready.

SWINDLE       OK boss. *[SWINDLE and FILCH exit left and GASPAR calls after them.]*

GASPAR         And make sure there's petrol in it this time! *[To the audience.]* Oh it's all going to work beautifully. *[HE counts off on his fingers.]* I'll get rid of the bears, get rid of the circus, get my hands on the . *[Chuckles.]* . inheritance and then get rid of Goldilocks! *[HE laughs evilly and exits left. JOCKO enters right. HE is in very low spirits.]*

JOCKO           *[With no enthusiasm.]* Hey up! *[The audience responds.]* Great stuff. *[HE puts his head down and scuffs the floor with his foot.]* Oh I'm sorry, I just don't feel in the mood to be a jocular clown. *[Hopefully he will get some sympathetic sounds from the audience.]* You know I've been ousted from my quarters, don't you? *[Reaction.]* How bad is that? *[RICKI enters right.]*

RICKI           How bad is what?

JOCKO           I was just telling my friends here that I've been re-homed!

RICKI           But it is in a good cause.

JOCKO           I know. The three bears do need somewhere to stay. If only Gloria would agree to marry me there wouldn't be a problem. Her quarters are really cosy. Just right for a young couple. *[HE gets an idea.]* Hey, do you think you could help me?

RICKI           What can I do?

JOCKO           If you could convince her that we should tie the knot, then everyone would be happy.

RICKI           Oh I don't know ò ò

JOCKO Oh go on. Be a pal.  
 RICKI What do you want me to do?  
 JOCKO Just persuade her that I'm the right man for her.  
 RICKI How?  
 JOCKO Tell her of all my good qualities.  
 RICKI What are those?  
 JOCKO Ricki! Look, she's coming. I'll hide over here. *[HE crosses to the hiding place stage left and ducks behind.]*  
 RICKI But I don't know what to say. *[GLORIA enters right.]*  
 GLORIA Don't know what to say about what?  
 RICKI *[Spinning round to face GLORIA.]* Oh! Hello Gloria.  
 GLORIA Who were you talking to?  
 RICKI No one. *[Flustered.]* I mean I was thinking aloud. *[SHE looks at him quizzically.]* Are you looking for Jocko?  
 GLORIA *[Surprised at the question.]* Not particularly. I'm just going to practice my act.  
 RICKI Oh, right O. See you later. *[HE starts to exit left as JOCKO appears and mimes that he should say more.]* Er, nice chap.  
 GLORIA *[Starting to do some acrobatics.]* Who?  
 RICKI Pardon?  
 GLORIA Who's a nice chap?  
 RICKI Er õ õ  
 JOCKO *[Prompting.]* Me.  
 RICKI Me! Er, I mean . Jocko.  
 GLORIA He's all right. *[JOCKO looks a little surprised at her mild response. RICKI crosses to stage right as GLORIA continues to practice.]*  
 RICKI *[Stumbling for words.]* Yes, he's all right. *[HE looks across at JOCKO who mimes to elaborate. NOTE: This sequence should be played with pace.]*  
 He's . *[JOCKO mimes laughing, his hands to his stomach.]* . got stomach ache! *[JOCKO signals "no" and mimes being knocked over.]*  
 . comical.  
 GLORIA He is when he has a bucket of water thrown over him.

- RICKI He . *[JOCKO mimes being handsome by stroking the side of his face.]* . needs a shave! *[JOCKO signals “no” again and walks around with a swagger.]* He’s got a strange walk! *[JOCKO signals “no” and points to one of his hands.]* He’s hand o o *[JOCKO mimes stretching the word.]* . handy. *[JOCKO mimes again. RICKI finally gets it.]* Handsome.
- GLORIA If you say so!
- RICKI He’s . *[JOCKO mimes being a good lover by smiling and winking.]* . got a twitch! *[JOCKO mimes “no” then turns his back and runs his hands up and down his back as though someone is kissing him.]* He’s got an itchy back!
- GLORIA What are you talking about? *[JOCKO turns round and mimes puckering up.]*
- RICKI He’s got a face like a fish! *[JOCKO makes a fist at RICKI. Thinks, then kisses his fist and blows a kiss. RICKI smiles as he gets it.]* He’s very romantic. *[By now GLORIA has stopped rehearsing and is looking strangely at RICKI.]*
- GLORIA Ricki, is there something you’re trying to tell me?
- RICKI *[Quickly.]* No! I mean . *[In a deep ‘manly’ voice.]* – well they all say what a swell guy he is.
- GLORIA Who’s all?
- RICKI The other girls. *[JOCKO nearly collapses at hearing this.]*
- GLORIA *[Incensed.]* What other girls? Are you telling me he’s seeing someone else?
- JOCKO *[Shouting.]* No!
- RICKI *[Quickly.]* No! *[GLORIA thinks there is an echo and looks around as JOCKO quickly hides.]*
- GLORIA He is! He’s going off behind my back.
- RICKI *[Panicking.]* No. Not at all.
- GLORIA *[Crossing to RICKI and grabbing the lapels of his coat as though he were JOCKO.]* Wait a minute! I get my hands on that little twerp. I’ll teach him such a lesson.
- RICKI Gloria! *[An idea hits him.]* Look you’ve been engaged for a number of years, isn’t it about time you set a date. I mean if you think he’s likely to start looking around . maybe you ought to marry him and make sure he stays at home with you.
- GLORIA *[Letting him go.]* You’re right. And that’s just what I’ll do. *[JOCKO looks pleased and RICKI makes his escape off right.]* And when I have married him I’ll make sure he’s with me all the time. No more nights out with the boys. No more coming home late. No more sitting around

watching TV. He'd be doing all the odd jobs and the decorating . all the shopping. *[The look of pleasure has disappeared from JOCKO'S face.]* He'd be with me twenty-four seven. That'd put a stop to all his gallivanting around. *[JOCKO collapses against the crates as the lights black out. GLORIA and JOCKO exit in the black out and then a spot comes on down right.]*

MUSIC . DRUM ROLL

*[RICKI appears to introduce the Circus.]*

RICKI Roll up one and all to see one of the greatest shows on earth. Sophie Sawdust's Spectacular Circus is proud to bring you an array of the finest acts including the fabulous Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

*[HE exits, the lights black out and the scene changes to .....*

SCENE 3 INSIDE THE BIG TOP

*[The circus is about to begin and various acts are seen. These can be at the discretion of the director, but should include JOCKO'S clown act and GLORIA'S acrobatic act. SOPHIE does her comic ballet and then GOLDILOCKS and the THREE BEARS perform.]*

MUSIC FOR THE CIRCUS ACTS

*[At the end of the performance the COMPANY takes its bow to the front. Then they ALL parade turning to face stage right and bow to the wings. From up stage left SWINDLE and FILCH appear holding a sign that says 'EXIT' and points off left. The BEARS make their exit without realising they are being kidnapped. The COMPANY parade round to face front again and GOLDILOCKS realises that the BEARS are not with them.]*

G/LOCKS The Three Bears. Where are the Three Bears?

SOPHIE They were here a minute ago.

GLORIA Jocko, have you seen them?

JOCKO After their bow they went through that exit.

TOMMY What exit?

JOCKO *[HE points to where the BEARS went.]* That one o o

SOPHIE There isn't an exit. *[ALL look upstage left. ZARINA enters from the same place.]*

ZARINA Quick everyone, a terrible thing has happened.

SOPHIE What?

G/LOCKS Have you seen the Three Bears?

ZARINA I'm afraid my dear, they've been kidnapped!

TOMMY What?

GLORIA What do you mean 'kidnapped'?

ZARINA I saw it all from my tent. Gaspar Grey & two men bundled them into a lorry and drove off.

G/LOCKS Oh no!

SOPHIE Why that no good, rotten, conniving, scheming, crooked, low life. When I get my hands on him . *[SHE grabs JOCKO and acts out what she intends to do to GASPAR.]* I'll grab his scrawny little neck and twist so hard he'll have eyes in the back of his head!

GLORIA *[Seeing JOCKO turning blue.]* Sophie. Save some of it for Gaspar!

SOPHIE *[Letting go of JOCKO who crumbles to the floor.]* Oh I'm sorry Jocko; I was getting a little carried away.

JOCKO *[Gasping for breath as GLORIA help him up.]* Another second and it would have been me being carried away!

G/LOCKS But what could my guardian possibly want with the Three Bears?

SOPHIE Oh that's quite obvious. They are our main attraction. Without them we're finished. I'll have to sell up.

RICKI We'd all be out of a job.

GLORIA Nowhere to live.

TOMMY You know why he's done this, don't you?

ALL No.

G/LOCKS I do. *[ALL look at her.]* It's to make me go back and marry him. If I do that he'll return the Bears and the circus can stay open.

TOMMY But you can't go back.

G/LOCKS Tommy I must. It's the only way.

SOPHIE *[Getting worked up again.]* Why that no good, rotten, conniving, scheming, crooked . *[SHE goes to grab JOCKO again. HE screams and drops to the floor covering his head with his hands.]*

TOMMY He can't have taken them to his home. That would be too simple.

GLORIA But where?

ZARINA I think I can help you there. *[To GOLDILOCKS]* Where did you live when your father was alive?

G/LOCKS Deadwater Manor. I remember playing there when I was a small child. After father died, I went to live with Gaspar. He was supposed to look after the Manor, but he didn't bother and it fell into disrepair. It hasn't been used for years.

TOMMY Where is it?

G/LOCKS On the other side of the woods.

ZARINA I believe that's where he will have taken the Bears.

TOMMY Then what are we waiting for?

SOPHIE Shouldn't you wait until morning. Those woods are not very safe at night.

TOMMY There isn't a moment to lose. Ricki, you and the rest of the troupe wait here in case Gaspar comes back.

RICKI OK Tommy.

TOMMY Jocko and me will take a look at this Deadwater Manor.

GLORIA I'm coming too.

SOPHIE And me.

TOMMY No Sophie, it might be dangerous.

SOPHIE Huh, you don't think I'm frightened by the likes of Gaspar Grey do you. Our whole livelihood depends on getting the Bears back . whatever the cost. *[ALL agree.]*

NUMBER . COMPANY

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

.....

SCENE 4 THE WOODS NEAR DEADWATER MANOR

*[Front cloth depicting a wooded area. It is night. GASPAR is pacing around, waiting for SWINDLE and FILCH.]*

GASPAR *Where are those two idiots? They should be here by now. If anything has gone wrong with my plan to kidnap the bears I'll – [HE makes some karate gestures.] . then I'll – [HE makes some punching and knee in the stomach gestures . moving towards stage left.] – then I'll – [He makes some throttling gestures as SWINDLE and FILCH enter stage right. THEY look at him in amazement.]*

SWINDLE Are you all right Boss? *[GASPAR jumps and turns to them, his hands still outstretched.]*

- GASPAR Ha! Oh . yes. I . løy got - -
- FILCH Dirty finger nails?
- GASPAR No .
- SWINDLE The shakes? *[Mimes drinking.]*
- GASPAR No!
- FILCH A touch or arthritis?
- GASPAR Of course not you fool. *[Dropping hands.]* Did you do it? Did you kidnap the Bears?
- SWINDLE Of course.
- GASPAR No problems.
- FILCH It all went like clockwork.
- GASPAR And where are they now?
- SWINDLE Weøy got øm locked up in the back of the van, just like you said.
- GASPAR Splendid. Now Sophie Sawdust, letø see how your circus does without itsø star attraction.
- FILCH But what are we going to do with the bears?
- GASPAR Take them to Deadwater Manor first and then Iø see about selling them to a zoo miles away from here. Might as well get something for them.
- SWINDLE And what about Goldilocks?
- GASPAR Sheø come back or else Iø call in the loan. When løy married her and got my hands on her . *[HE chuckles evilly.]* . inheritance, then I think there will be an unfortunate accident. *[HE laughs again. SWINDLE joins in and then FILCH. GASPAR and SWINDLE stop laughing but FILCH continues. SWINDLE hits him to shut him up.]*
- FILCH *[In pain.]* Owww!
- GASPAR Oh I do enjoy it when thereø dirty work to do.
- TRIO . GASPAR, SWINDLE AND FILCH  
*(See notes at front of script.)*
- [The number ends with a big finish and THEY exit left. The lights fade to a spot down right as ZARINA enters.]*
- ZARINA Oh that Gaspar Grey. If he does anything to harm Goldilocks heø have me to contend with. I promised her dear father that I would watch over her and I intend to keep that promise. *[SHE looks off.]* Ah, here comes the rescue party. Iøm going to hurry on ahead and see if I can

contact some old friends who may be able to help. *[SHE crosses left and exits as JOCKO enters right.]*

- JOCKO Hey up. *[Audience responds and HE gives thumbs up.]* Great stuff. *[GOLDILOCKS, TOMMY, and GLORIA follow him on.]*
- TOMMY Is this the way?
- G/LOCKS I think so. It's been many years since I was at the Manor.
- JOCKO We need a plan. Gaspar won't let us just walk in and rescue the Bears.
- GLORIA The element of surprise is on our side. He won't know that we know where the bears are.
- TOMMY That's assuming they're where we think they are!
- G/LOCKS Zarina thinks that's where he's taken them.
- JOCKO Well if anyone should know, she should.
- GLORIA I hope you're right. Without the Bears the circus won't be able to continue. Sophie will be forced to pay off the loan unless .
- TOMMY Unless?
- G/LOCKS Unless I go back and marry him. *[SOPHIE enters. SHE is wearing a combination of female battle dress and Girl Guide outfit with various camping items hanging from a utility belt.]*
- SOPHIE Over my dead body. That money-grasping creature has ruled our lives for far too long.
- OTHERS Hear, hear.
- SOPHIE I don't care what it takes, or how we'll do it but I'm not going to let him get the better of me.
- GLORIA Well said, Sophie.
- SOPHIE But before I go any further I need a little pick-me-up. *[SHE reaches into one of the pockets on her outfit and pulls out a flask of tea.]*
- JOCKO Oh Sophie, you think of everything.
- TOMMY Don't you think we should move on?
- SOPHIE In a minute dear. I want to be completely fortified when I come face to face with Grizzly Gaspar!
- GLORIA Not to mention those idiot sidekicks of his.
- G/LOCKS *[Pointing off left.]* I'm sure the Manor is over that hill.

TOMMY        Come on, let's go and have a look.

SOPHIE        That's right dear, you go and do a recci.

GLORIA        Then we can organise a stakeout.

JOCKO         Ohh, like a Bar-B-Q?

GLORIA        Not that sort of steak!

TOMMY        Catch up with us when you are ready. *[HE and GOLDILOCKS exit left.]*

SOPHIE        Now the children have gone we can get down to business. *[SHE puts the flask away and pulls out a bottle of gin.]*

JOCKO         Sophie, where did you get that from?

SOPHIE        I made it. My mothers recipe. Wonderful stuff - 150% proof!

JOCKO         Proof against what?

GLORIA        *[Ignoring him.]* Oh Sophie I'm not very good with gin.

SOPHIE        How about whiskey? *[SHE pulls out a bottle.]*

GLORIA        Now you're talking! *[SHE takes the bottle.]*

JOCKO         I don't think we should be enjoying ourselves like this when there's so much to be done.

SOPHIE        Oh a little tot won't hurt you.

JOCKO         Well, so long as it is a little one.

SOPHIE        Here you are. *[SHE pulls out a miniature bottle and hands it to JOCKO.]*

JOCKO         *[Looking at it with disdain.]* Thanks a lot! *[THEY all drink.]*

SOPHIE        Ohhh, that's better. Do you know I feel refreshed in parts of my body I didn't know I'd got! *[Takes another drink.]*

JOCKO         Here, steady on.

GLORIA        Is it true what they say . whiskey makes you frisky?

JOCKO         Gloria!

SOPHIE        Ohh do you want a brandy? I've heard it makes you õ õ õ

JOCKO         *[Shocked.]* Sophie!!

GLORIA        Don't be such a fuddy-duddy. Drink up.

- JOCKO Oh all right. *[HE takes another drink and his legs give way.]*
- SOPHIE You know I've heard lots of stories about these woods.
- JOCKO *[Standing up. Suspiciously.]* Oh yes. Who have you been talking to?
- SOPHIE Weird things have been seen lurking behind trees.
- JOCKO Like . *[He names a personality or pop singer known to be outrageous.]*
- SOPHIE No, I mean wild animals.
- GLORIA Oh don't Sophie. You're frightening me.
- JOCKO Oh don't worry, I'm sure our friends out there will keep watch for us, won't you? *[Audience responds.]*
- GLORIA *[To JOCKO.]* Are you sure?
- SOPHIE Oh yes. They had plenty of practice at it last year!!
- JOCKO And I suppose we ought to sing a little song!
- GLORIA To keep our spirits up?
- SOPHIE *[Holding up the bottle.]* I've got all the spirits I need!

SONG . SOPHIE, JOCKO AND GLORIA

*[During the first time through a GORILLA crosses behind them and off. Audience reacts and THEY all ad lib looking for it. THEY sing a second time and the GORILLA comes back. GLORIA is chased off. THEY ad lib and then sing a third time. The GORILLA chases JOCKO off.]*

- SOPHIE Oh dear. Now where have those two gone? Oh well I might just have another little drink while I'm waiting for them. *[SHE drinks and the GORILLA comes back and stands next to her. THEY do a mirror sequence. After a time SHE speaks to the audience.]* I really must do something about these ageing lines! *[SHE takes a drink. The GORILLA takes the bottle from her and drinks. After a moment HE staggers a little and then passes out.]* I told you mother's recipe was a good one! *[SHE calls off.]* Come on you two, time to be going. *[JOCKO and GLORIA enter and run to her. ALL THREE sing the last part of the song and do a vaudeville exit. The GORILLA sits up holding his head and then collapses again as the lights black out and the scene changes to .....]*

SCENE 5 DEADWATER MANOR

*[A run down old Manor House with entrances right and left. Outside door is up left and another door up right. Across the back wall half way up are four portraits. These are members of GOLDBLOCKS' ancestors.]*

*EDMUND, a Country Squire; ERMENGARDE, his wife; RUFUS, the black sheep of the family and GRANDMOTHER, a formidable looking woman. The portraits should be painted on gauze so when lit from behind the CHARACTER can be seen. Below them in the centre of the wall is a picture of a beautiful woman – very like GOLDILOCKS. Her portrait should show a locket the same as the one GOLDILOCKS wears. This portrait is not one that will light up but is a secret hiding place. To open the scene it is covered by a curtain that gives the impression of being a window. Above it is an old clock that shows 11.30. During the scene it will move on to midnight. On the left wall is an array of old hunting weapons including two swords. ZARINA enters down right with her crystal ball.]*

### MUSIC

*[Music underscores ZARINA'S chant and the Portraits coming to life.]*

- ZARINA Deadwater Manor has been neglected for years and is a spooky place. Perhaps I can call on my spirits to liven the place up a bit and disrupt Gaspar's plans. *[SHE holds up her crystal ball.]* Is there anybody there? Good spirits now in the afterlife I need your assistance. If anyone can hear me let your presence be known. Ancestors of Goldilocks assist me in my quest to ward off the evil that surrounds this building. Help me to right the wrongs perpetrated against innocent people. *[The first portrait lights up. It is EDMUND.]*
- EDMUND *[Yawning.]* Who's there?
- ZARINA It is I, Zarina.
- EDMUND Zarina. How good to see you.
- ZARINA How are you Edmund?
- EDMUND Oh not too bad. Got a touch of lumbago. Must be sitting here in this draft for the last one hundred and fifty years! *[HE calls to another portrait.]* Hey, Ermengarde . wake up old girl. Zarina's paying us a call. *[Another portrait lights up. It is ERMENGARDE, EDMUND'S wife.]*
- E/GARDE *[SHE is very vague.]* Zarina? Do I know a Zarina?
- EDMUND Cos you do. Little Zarina who used to visit us from time to time.
- E/GARDE Oh . yes. I think I remember. How do you do, my dear?
- EDMUND *[Calling to another portrait.]* Rufus. Rufus can you hear me?  
*[Another portrait lights up. RUFUS, the black sheep of the family.]*
- RUFUS Is that you Edmund?
- EDMUND Who else? Look who's here.
- RUFUS *[Looking down at ZARINA. Ever the rake!]* Zarina! Haven't seen you in a hundred years. I say, you're looking lovelier than ever.

*[The fourth portrait lights up. It is GRANDMOTHER.]*

G/MOTHER Rufus. Behave yourself!

RUFUS Sorry Grandmama.

G/MOTHER Zarina, why have you disturbed our slumbers?

ZARINA I'm sorry to trouble all of you, but I need your help.

EDMUND In what way?

ZARINA The latest member of the family . Goldilocks . is in terrible trouble.

E/GARDE Trouble? Oh dear.

ZARINA Gaspar Grey is trying to steal her inheritance.

G/MOTHER Gaspar Grey? Must be a descendant of Granville Grey.

ZARINA He is.

G/MOTHER A shady family if ever there was. Always up to no good.

RUFUS I say, is this Goldilocks pretty.

G/MOTHER Rufus!

RUFUS Sorry.

ZARINA Gaspar and his cohorts have kidnapped some friends of Goldilocks and hidden them here.

EDMUND Who are these friends?

ZARINA Three Bears.

E/GARDE Bears? Oh dear are they terribly ferocious?

ZARINA Not at all. They are very gentle and very talented. Part of Sophie Sawdust's Circus.

G/MOTHER No wonder Gaspar wanted to get his hands on them.

ZARINA Goldilocks and some circus folk are on their way here to rescue them, but I'm afraid that Gaspar and his men will do something terrible to them.

RUFUS The dirty rotters.

EDMUND Don't you worry Zarina, we'll keep a watch out.

E/GARDE Oh it won't be violent will it? I shouldn't like that.

EDMUND No. We'll just put the frighteners on them. Soon send 'em packing.

RUFUS It'd be just like the old days at school. Remember stinker Solomon?

G/MOTHER Rufus!

RUFUS Sorry!

ZARINA Thank you so much. I knew I could count on you. *[SHE hears a noise off.]*  
I think I hear Gaspar's men coming now.

EDMUND Don't you worry, my dear. Just leave everything to us. *[The lights behind the portraits fade and they become pictures again.]*

ZARINA I must make myself scarce . but I won't be too far away. *[SHE exits down right as the door up stage right opens and SWINDLE and FILCH enter. They are pulling a rope to which the THREE BEARS are tied.]*

SWINDLE Come on, that's enough exercise for one day.

FILCH You're telling me. All this walking is not good for my legs.

SWINDLE I'm fed up with being their keeper.

FILCH Let's hope the Boss has managed to sell them to a zoo. *[The BEARS glance at each other.]*

SWINDLE Shh. Not so loud. We don't want them to know what we're doing.

FILCH Don't be daft. They can't understand what we say. *[EDMUND'S portrait lights up.]*

EDMUND Oh yes they can! *[The portrait fades.]*

SWINDLE What do you mean?

FILCH What do you mean, %what do you mean+?

SWINDLE You said %Oh yes they can+.

FILCH No I didn't.

SWINDLE You did. I heard you.

FILCH No I didn't. *[RUFUS' portrait lights up.]*

RUFUS No he didn't.

FILCH See.

SWINDLE Who said that? *[GRANDMOTHER lights up.]*

G/MOTHER *[In a booming voice.]* He did. *[Both portraits fade.]*

FILCH Your voice has changed.

SWINDLE I didn't say anything.

FILCH Well if you didn't and I didn't who did? *[BOTH look at the BEARS, then at each other, then shake their heads.]*

BOTH Nar!!!! *[GASPAR enters right.]*

GASPAR What's going on? Get those Bears out of sight. Anyone could come along.

SWINDLE Sorry Boss, we've just been out for a walk.

GASPAR A walk? You're supposed to keep them hidden, not take them for a moonlight stroll. Lock them up in there. *[HE points to the door up left.]*

FILCH Right Boss. *[SWINDLE and FILCH takes the BEARS off up left. SWINDLE locks and pockets the key.]*

GASPAR Now all we have to do is wait for Goldilocks to come crawling back because the Circus had to close. *[ERMENGARDE lights up.]*

E/GARDE *[Yawning.]* I don't think she will.

GASPAR *[To FILCH.]* Of course she will . and stop using that silly voice.

FILCH But ð . *[HIS mouth hangs open. EDMUND lights up.]*

EDMUND How dare you speak to my wife like that!

GASPAR What? *[HE looks at SWINDLE then FILCH.]*

EDMUND Apologise at once.

GASPAR *[Bewildered.]* I'm sorry. *[Realising what he has said.]* Just a minute . *[GRANDMOTHER lights up.]*

G/MOTHER Such rudeness!

GASPAR Who said that? *[RUFUS lights up.]*

RUFUS The man's a bounder!

GASPAR Keep quiet you two.

SWINDLE/  
FILCH We didn't say anything.

GASPAR Then who did? *[HE looks around as the portraits fade.]* Who else is here?

SWINDLE No one.

GASPAR Well somebody said something. Search the place. *[HE pulls one of the swords off the wall down left.]*

FILCH Yes Boss. *[SWINDLE and FILCH exit up right, bumping into each other as they go.]*

GASPAR There can't possibly be anyone else here. *[All four portraits light up and give an eerie laugh that echoes around the theatre. GASPAR runs off down left. The portraits fade. After a second the door up right opens and JOCKO puts his head in.]*

JOCKO *[Whispering.]* Hey up. *[The audience responds and HE gives the thumbs up.]* Great stuff. *[HE enters followed by TOMMY.]*

TOMMY Anyone about?

JOCKO No. Where are the others?

TOMMY Outside waiting for the all clear. *[JOCKO opens the door and calls loudly.]*

JOCKO All clear!

TOMMY Shh!

JOCKO *[Whispering.]* All clear. *[GOLDILOCKS, GLORIA and SOPHIE enter.]*

SOPHIE *[Looking at the portraits.]* Cor! Look at those. I wonder who they are?

G/LOCKS They're my ancestors.

GLORIA They look very old and crusty. *[GRANDMOTHER lights up.]*

G/MOTHER Don't be rude young lady. *[ALL jump and run down right. EDMUND lights up.]*

EDMUND Is that little Goldilocks?

G/LOCKS Yes. Who are you?

EDMUND Edmund.

G/LOCKS *[To the OTHERS. Very surprised and delighted.]* It's great, great, great Uncle Edmund.

SOPHIE Great! *[The other portraits light up.]*

EDMUND This is Aunt Ermengarde, Grandmother and Rufus.

RUFUS *[Seductively.]* Hello!

G/MOTHER *[Sternly.]* Rufus.

RUFUS Sorry.

G/LOCKS But how did this happen?  
EDMUND Your good friend Zarina asked for our help.

GLORIA Zarina?

G/MOTHER Yes.

EDMUND We scared off those shady characters who have been here plotting away.

TOMMY You haven't by any chance seen Three Bears, have you.

E/GARDE *[Yawning.]* Of course.

TOMMY/  
G/LOCKS etc. You have?

RUFUS Those rotters have shut them in that room. *[TOMMY runs to the door up left but can't open it.]*

TOMMY It's locked and there's no key.

SOPHIE Can't we break it down?

JOCKO *[Joining TOMMY.]* It's solid oak.

G/LOCKS *[SHE crosses to TOMMY.]* Where is the key?

RUFUS One of those bumbling idiots has it.

TOMMY We'll have to find them.

EDMUND Hide yourselves and take them by surprise.

SOPHIE Good idea. *[SHE crosses down right.]* Over here gang.

G/LOCKS *[Calling through the door.]* Don't be afraid Bears. We're here and we'll get you out.

E/GARDE Hurry. I think they are coming back. *[ALL exit down right. SWINDLE and FILCH enter up right.]*

SWINDLE There's no one around.

FILCH We must have been hearing things.

EDMUND Hearing things .

FILCH *[Looking at him.]* That's what I said.

SWINDLE *[Looking at him.]* I know.

RUFUS I know.

FILCH Your lips didn't move.

SWINDLE That's because I didn't say anything.

FILCH Then who did? *[THEY look around then back at each other.]*

E/GARDE The ghosts of Deadwater Manor. *[SWINDLE and FILCH grab each other, trembling.]*

SWINDLE Ghosts? What do you want from us?

EDMUND You must do as we say or we'll haunt you forever.

FILCH Oh no. Please don't do that. I'm frightened.

G/MOTHER Then do as you are told young man.

SWINDLE Yes, yes. Anything.

EDMUND Stand perfectly still

FILCH *[Repeating.]* Stand perfectly still.

RUFUS Close your eyes.

SWINDLE *[Repeating.]* Close our eyes. *[THEY do.]*

E/GARDE Now start to sing the Teddy Bears Picnic.

FILCH But I can't sing!

G/MOTHER *[Booming.]* Sing! *[SWINDLE and FILCH start to sing in a quavering voice as TOMMY and JOCKO enter with a length of rope. THEY circle SWINDLE and FILCH and on the last line of the song pull the rope tight to bind them. SWINDLE and FILCH shout.]*

SWINDLE Oh no, we sang the song like you wanted.

FILCH Don't do anything nasty to us.

TOMMY There's no describing what I'd like to do to you!

SWINDLE *[Opening his eyes.]* You!

FILCH *[Opening his eyes.]* What's happened?

JOCKO We've kidnapped you like you kidnapped the Bears.

TOMMY Get the key, Jocko. *[JOCKO feels in SWINDLE'S pocket.]*

SWINDLE *[Giggling.]* Ohh stop it. I like it!

JOCKO *[Pulling the key from SWINDLE'S pocket.]* Here it is. *[HE hands it to TOMMY while still keeping hold of the rope.]*

TOMMY Now to release the Bears. *[HE crosses to the door up left and unlocks it.]*

FILCH Mr Grey will be very angry. *[The BEARS come out of the room as GLORIA, SOPHIE and GOLDBLOCKS enter down right.]*

G/LOCKS *[Running to the BEARS.]* We've found you. Thank goodness you're all right.

SOPHIE Now let's get out of here.

SWINDLE Good idea. *[HE stamps on JOCKO'S foot.]*

JOCKO Owww! *[HE releases the rope and SWINDLE and FILCH break free.]*

TOMMY Stop them. They're getting away.

#### CHASE MUSIC

*[There now follows a 'Keystone Cops' style chase as SWINDLE and FILCH attempt to get away. People bump into each other and grab hold of the wrong person. During the chase MOTHER BEAR eases over towards the door up right. SWINDLE and FILCH see their chance to escape and make a run for it, but MOTHER BEAR has her handbag and hits them on the head, knocking them out. The OTHERS cheer.]*

SOPHIE We've done it!

G/LOCKS *[To the ANCESTORS.]* And thank you so much for all your help.

EDMUND Not at all, my dear.

E/GARDE Anytime.

RUFUS Always ready to help a damsel in distress.

G/MOTHER Rufus!

RUFUS Sorry.

SOPHIE Come on, it's time we were getting back to the circus. *[ALL start to head for the door up right as GASPAR enters. HE carries a sword.]*

GASPAR What's this? Going so soon? I don't think so.

SOPHIE Gaspar Grey, put that down. You'll hurt yourself.

GASPAR Shut up, you wizened old windbag! *[SOPHIE gasps.]* Now get back in there . . . all of you. *[HE starts to force the all towards the room up left.]*

EDMUND Tommy. Behind you. *[The portraits fade.]*

GASPAR Who said that? *[TOMMY has turned round and seen the other sword hanging on the wall. HE grabs it and challenges GASPAR.]*

TOMMY Not so fast.

GASPAR Don't be a fool boy.

## FIGHT MUSIC

*[THEY fight. GASPAR disarms TOMMY and forces him to the ground.]*  
 Thought you could get the better of me did you? *[MOTHER BEAR comes up behind him and hits him on the head with her handbag. GASPAR crumbles to the ground and JOCKO grabs his sword. ALL cheer.]*

- TOMMY *[Standing.]* Jocko help me tie these up.
- JOCKO *[ALL tie GASPAR, SWINDLE and FILCH together.]*  
 With pleasure.
- GLORIA Now can we all go home? *[ZARINA enters down right.]*
- ZARINA *[As an old woman.]* Just one more thing before you go.
- SOPHIE Oh Zarina, you do pop up in the most unexpected places.
- ZARINA Goldilocks, I promised your dear father that I would watch over you until you became of age and received your inheritance. *[SHE pulls off her disguise.]* And now my job is complete.
- SOPHIE *[Pointing to ZARINA.]* Ohh look, it's . *[Name of personality.]*
- GASPAR But Goldilocks hasn't come of age yet.
- GLORIA *[Pointing to the clock that shows midnight.]* I think you'll find she has.
- SOPHIE Happy birthday dear.
- G/LOCKS Thank you.
- GASPAR Curses!
- ZARINA *[Pointing to the curtain.]* Open that curtain. *[GOLDILOCKS crosses up to the curtain and opens it.]*
- G/LOCKS Who is that?
- ZARINA Your dear mother. Now that locket around your neck.
- G/LOCKS The one my father gave me.
- ZARINA Yes. Press it against the one in the portrait. *[GOLDILOCKS does so and with a creaking sound the portrait swings open to reveal a secret hiding place full of money and papers.]* There is your inheritance and the deeds to this Manor and all the lands that surround it.
- GASPAR *[Furious.]* It was here all the time.
- SOPHIE You're rich. You're rich.
- G/LOCKS Oh thank you, thank you. I'm so happy.

GASPAR/  
SWINDLE/  
FILCH

She's happy!

SOPHIE Now we must get back to the Circus and tell all our friends the good news.

REPRISE

*[ALL cheer and sing a reprise of one of the up-tempo numbers. The PORTRAITS light up and join in with comic hand movements as do GASPAR, SWINDLE and FILCH although restricted by the rope. At the end of the number the lights fade to black out and the scene changes to .....]*

### SCENE 6 BEHIND THE BIG TOP

*[As the lights come up JOCKO comes bounding on.]*

JOCKO Hey up. *[Audience responds and HE gives the thumbs up.]* Great stuff. Well everything's ended happily. The Bears are back with us. Goldilocks has got her inheritance and Tommy's got Goldilocks! They are going to get married and guess what . it's going to be a double wedding. Gloria and me are going to tie the knot as well! *[Reaction from the audience and HE ad libs with them.]* Goldilocks has said the Circus can have a permanent home in the grounds of the Manor . rent-free! So everything's great. All that's left to do is for me to wish you a goodnight, a safe journey home and hope to see you all again soon. Goodnight. *[HE waves and starts to exit as SOPHIE, wearing another outrageous gown enters.]*

SOPHIE What do you think you are doing.

JOCKO Saying goodnight to all our friends.

SOPHIE But we've still got something to do.

JOCKO What's that?

SOPHIE *[To the audience.]* Why don't you tell him?

*[THEY ad lib into the –*

### SONG SHEET

*(See notes at front of script.)*

*[At the end of the sequence THEY exit as the lights fade and the scene changes to .....]*

### SCENE 7 INSIDE THE BIG TOP

*[The Big Top is decorated for a wedding.]*

FINALE

*[The CHORUS march on in Circus style and take their bow. The rest of the COMPANY enter in the following order.]*

RICKI  
 ZARINA  
 SWINDLE & FILCH  
 THE THREE BEARS  
 GASPAR  
 GLORIA  
 JOCKO  
 SOPHIE  
 TOMMY & GOLDBLOCKS

RICKI            We've told a tale of circus folk  
                     With thrills and spills and fun.

ZARINA           No other life is quite the same  
                     As this exciting one.

SWINDLE        As all his schemes have come to naught

FILCH            We'll live a life of leisure.

GASPAR          Even though it has to be  
                     At Her Majesty's pleasure!

JOCKO            The circus ring has always been  
                     The centre of my life,

GLORIA          But now he needs another ring  
                     To give his future wife.

SOPHIE          Gaspar's tricks and wicked ways  
                     Were giving me grey hairs.

TOMMY          But they're all gone thanks to Goldilocks

G/BLOCKS        And my friends the fabulous Three Bears.

FINAL CHORUS . FULL COMPANY

[ALL sing a final chorus and wave goodbye to the audience as the curtain falls.]

End of Act Two