

NODA PANTOMIMES PRESENT

Humpty Dumpty

By

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ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE MUSEUM OF CURIOS AND CURIOSITIES

MUSIC INTRODUCTION

[A front scene played on black tabs with a sign hanging above that reads 'Curios and Curiosities'. Dominating the scene is a large glass case containing an egg. Although it is whole the shell has a crack running from top to bottom. It is present day and the Curator (who doubles later as Mystic Myrtle) is showing a group of tourists around.]

- CURATOR And so we come to the last, and perhaps the most curious of all our curios and curiosities. The mysterious egg of Eggshellia.
- WOMAN Eggshellia? Never heard of it.
- CURATOR It was a Kingdom that existed long ago, now lost in the mists of time.
- MAN How did that egg get here?
- CURATOR No one really knows. Some say it has travelled through time in all sorts of disguises. Others say it has lain hidden, waiting to retell its story.
- MAN So why is this egg so special?
- CURATOR The legend says it was put in its place on the wall outside the Royal Palace by an ancient mystic who trapped a wicked curse inside it. While the egg remained intact no harm would come to Eggshellia or its inhabitants.
- WOMAN Well someone must have knocked it off. Look at those cracks!
- CURATOR That is all part of the legend.
- MAN How do we find out about this legend?
- CURATOR It is told that if you look hard enough at the egg, slowly the power of your imagination will reveal the mystery.
- [All the Tourists gather round the case and look at the egg.]*
- WOMAN Come on, Bert. We can't stand staring at an egg. Coronation Street with be on in an hour!
- MAN Just five more minutes. I want to see what happens.
- CURATOR Concentrate on the egg and look deep into its surface.
- [The lights are dim around the Tourists and then a light from inside the egg begins to glow.]*
- Let your imagination take over and see what mysteries lie within its shell.

[The music comes up as Curator moves away from the Tourist to down right. She starts to sing. Note: this is a slow verse of what will become the first company number in the next scene.]

SONG CURATOR

[As the song continues the lights on the egg and the Tourist fade leaving the Curator down stage in a pin spot.]

CURATOR I show the egg to a lot of people. Some learn its secrets, some do not. If you would like to know what happened all those years ago, clear your minds and let your imagination take flight - and you too will learn the magical story of an egg known as Humpty Dumpty.

[The music swells and the lights fade. The scene changes to....]

SCENE 2 OUTSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE OF EGGHELLIA

[The scene is outside the Royal Palace with an entrance up stage right and a wall running across the back to centre stage. On the wall is a large egg. On stage left is Mother Hubbard's Shop. It has a sign over the door that reads – 'Mother Hubbard's Beautilicious Bakery'. Down stage of the shop door is a small table with a white cloth on it. The Royal crest is seen on the table cloth. On the back cloth we can see part of the Palace garden and more of the town. As the lights come up on the scene a Citizen of Eggshellia enters and calls at the door of Mother Hubbard's shop.]

1st CITIZEN Mother Hubbard? Are you there? It's nearly time.

[Another Citizen runs on.]

2nd CITIZEN Mother Hubbard? *[To 1st Citizen.]* Is she ready yet?

1st CITIZEN I've called her but there's no reply.

2nd CITIZEN *[Knocking on the shop door.]* Come on Mother Hubbard, you don't want to be late today of all days.

[Others enter including Polly Flinders. She is carrying a dustpan and brush.]

3rd CITIZEN Polly Flinders, have you seen Mother Hubbard this morning?

POLLY No. I'm just about to start cleaning out the fire grates at the palace. *[She puts her cleaning items down.]*

1st CITIZEN Let's give her one last shout.

ALL Mother Hubbard!

[Tommy Tucker enters from the shop carrying a large tray of various colourful cakes. He is Mother Hubbard's assistant. A handsome young man with a winning smile.]

TOMMY Hello all!

POLLY Tommy Tucker, where's Mother Hubbard.

TOMMY She's just finishing off the last batch of celebration cakes.

POLLY The Royal Party will be here soon and we wanted everything to be ready.

TOMMY Polly Flinders, has Mother Hubbard ever been late for the annual celebrations?

POLLY Well õ .. no.

TOMMY Then what's all the fuss about?

1st CITIZEN Those cakes look delicious. What's in them this year?

TOMMY You know the secret. Just imagine what you would like to be in them and you won't be disappointed. *[He puts the tray on the table and continues the song started by the Curator in the previous scene. The Company join in.]*

COMPANY NUMBER

[The song builds to a vocal climax.]

2nd CITIZEN *[Moving towards the table.]* Can we taste one?

TOMMY Certainly not!

3rd CITIZEN Oh go on. Just one?

4th CITIZEN No one will notice.

TOMMY You know the King has to be the first one to taste.

[The whole Chorus now try to persuade Tommy to let them try a cake. Tommy guards the tray as Mother Hubbard enters from her shop.]

MOTHER H What is all this shouting about? You sound like a rowdy crowd at a . . .
[She names the latest pop sensation.] – concert!

TOMMY This greedy lot were trying to taste your cakes.

MOTHER H Before tonight's party? Are you all mad? What would the King say?

1st CITIZEN Sorry Mother Hubbard.

2nd CITIZEN They all look so mouth-wateringly marvellous!

MOTHER H Well you'd just have to wait. There are a lot more cakes to be brought out, so you can all lend a hand while I welcome our guests.

[All exit into Mother Hubbard's shop. She comes down front to address the audience.]

Hello to you all. Now I suppose you are wondering what rent-a-crowd was making such a fuss about! Well, let me tell you. I'm Mother Hubbard and this - *[She points to her shop.]* - is my very special Beautifulicious Bakery. Here is where I bake bread, cakes and all kinds of delicious delicacies for the people of the town. And I am proud to say we have the Royal Seal of Approval. His name's Sammy and he lives at the zoo! *[She giggles.]* No, I'm only kidding. The King himself has his morning toast, his lunchtime sandwiches and his tea-time tantalising tropical tangerine torte from my establishment. I've been baking and making mouth-watering morsels ever since I met my late husband, Horatio Hubbard. We met while taking part in the great British Bake-off! One glimpse of his large farmhouse white and it was love at first sight! We were blissfully happy and started up this business together. Oh girls he was a wonderful man. And so talented. What he couldn't do with his rolling pin wasn't worth talking about! And then one fateful day he was taken from me. *[She gets a little tearful.]* One minute he was using the giant mixer to make a surprise upside down cake and the next minute . . . you've guessed it . . . he was the surprise! Oh it was a tragic loss. *[More business-like.]* All those ingredients gone to waste! For some time afterwards I couldn't face cooking. My cupboard was bare. Not even a bone for the dog! And then I realised that the only way to keep his memory alive was to do what he loved doing. Supplying the town with all the lovely cakes that he created. And that's what I do. And of course today's batch is even more special than usual because of the celebration of the egg. *[She realises the audience don't know the story.]* Oh but silly me, you don't know about the egg, do you?

[Humpty Dumpty pops up from behind the wall. He is a young man wearing white trousers and a yellow shirt. His hair is white on one side and yellow on the other and his shoes consist of one yellow and one white. No other colour is used in his costume. He emphasises any word or part of a word that sounds like 'egg'.]

HUMPTY Then it's about time you told them!

MOTHER H Oh Humpty, you made me jump. *[Humpty comes out from behind the wall and joins Mother Hubbard down stage.]* This cheeky chappy is Humpty Dumpty. Say hello to our visitors.

HUMPTY *[Waving to the audience.]* Hiya all. You look like an eggcellent bunch of people.

MOTHER H *[To the audience.]* Oh here we go. You'd have to excuse him, but you're in for two and a half hours of ægg jokes!

HUMPTY Don't you mean egg yolks? *[He laughs.]*

- MOTHER H See what I mean? *[To Humpty.]* Well as you're guardian of the egg you better relate the story.
- HUMPTY OK. *[To the audience.]* I suppose you have all seen this egg and are wondering why it's perched on the wall of the palace.
- MOTHER H *[To the audience.]* This could take some time and I have work to do. So pin back your lug-holes and headlamps, bring you up to speed! See you later. *[She waves at the audience and exits into the shop.]*
- HUMPTY Twenty years ago a wicked Sorcerer who lived on the edge of the Kingdom tried to use his powers to usurp our dear King Cole and take the throne. He failed, but as a result of his actions he was banished, never to return. Before he left, the Sorcerer tried to put a curse on the land that the sun would be forever hidden behind dark clouds, and that the Kingdom would always be grey, causing misery and sadness everywhere. Septimus, the Royal Court Magician at the time, quickly used an ancient spell to counter the curse at the very last minute. He gathered up all the darkness and misery that the Sorcerer had brought down and hid it in that giant eggshell. It was placed on the palace wall and as long as it remained intact, Eggshellia would be safe from the curse. Of course room had to be made in the egg so out of its contents I was created! *[Points to his clothing.]* See. Neat isn't it? *[With a hand on the egg.]* I think of this as my dad! Humpty Dumpty senior. *[He turns the egg round and we now see a smiling 'Humpty Dumpty' face.]* And I'm Humpty junior! I'm guardian of the egg and every year we celebrate the day that it happened . which happens to be today. And it also happens to be my birthday! *[Encouraging the audience.]* Well come on then. Say happy birthday, Humpty! *[The audience responds.]* Thank you very much. Have you all brought me cards and presents? *[Reaction.]* No? Well I suppose I can forgive you seeing that we've only just met! Now I know everyone around here and they are a really friendly, happy bunch, so I hope you're the same. Are you? *[Reaction.]* That's good. So every time I see you I'll shout how are you and you shout back . excellent Humpty! Will you do that? *[Reaction.]* Great. Let's give it a trial run! *[He gets the audience to shout a couple of times.]* Splendid.
- [Mystic Myrtle enters. She is the same person we saw in the first scene as the Curator, but now is dressed like a gypsy fortune teller. She always carries a large carpet bag with her.]*
- MYRTLE *[Full of doom and gloom.]* A warning. I have to give a warning.
- HUMPTY Oh dear, this is Myrtle. She's the local mystic. Her uncle was Septimus, the Court Magician, so she knows everything about the egg.
- MYRTLE Warning. I sense a great calamity coming.
- HUMPTY Honestly. She sounds like News at Ten!
- MYRTLE There is trouble approaching.

- HUMPTY Trouble? There can't be any trouble today. It's the anniversary of the egg. We are having the usual celebrations.
- MYRTLE But I have seen it. *[She take a crystal ball out of her bag.]* - in my crystal.
- HUMPTY Are you sure? Have you got it tuned in to the right channel? *[To the audience.]* She's never been the same since it went digital!
- MYRTLE The crystal never lies. I must warn everyone.
- FANFARE
- [A fanfare is heard off.]*
- HUMPTY Well it will have to wait. The King is on his way. You can't spoil his royal entrance!
- [Sergeant Lock and Private Bolt come running on from the palace. They are the two 'King's Men'.]*
- LOCK *[With a voice of importance.]* Everybody make way for his Majesty King Cole and the Princess Melanie.
- BOLT Stand back and don't crowd the royal household.
- HUMPTY *[Seeing only himself and Myrtle.]* We'd try not to!
- LOCK His Majestic effervescence.
- BOLT Her Regal Magnesia.
- LOCK *[Celebrity style introduction.]* The big man himself! Old ò ò .
- BOLT King ò ò ..
- BOTH Cole - and the Princess Melanie.
- [Old King Cole enters waving regally. He is followed by his daughter Princess Melanie.]*
- KING Good day my people.
- HUMPTY)
MYRTLE) *[Feebly.]* Hurrah!
- KING *[Looking around.]* What's going on? Where is everyone? Sergeant Lock, Private Bolt, was I announced properly? As all the King's men I expect you to carry out your duties.
- LOCK We did your Maj.
- BOLT In our best regal voices.

HUMPTY
MELANIE *[Coming forward.]* Good morning, your Majesty, your Royal Highness.
Good morning Humpty.

KING Ah Humpty. How are things with our precious egg?

HUMPTY Everything is *egg*ceptionally fine, your Majesty.

KING Good, good. I'm pleased that someone is doing their duty.

HUMPTY If I may sir, I think everyone is in Mother Hubbard's Bakery to help bring out the celebration cakes.

KING *[Rubbing his hand together and smiling.]* Oooh goody! I have been looking forward to seeing her latest creation. *[To Lock and Bolt.]* Lock, Bolt, call everyone out.

LOCK Yes sire.

BOLT At once.

[They rush to the door of the bakery.]

LOCK Oi. You lot. His royal nibs is here.

BOLT And he wants to get his royal gnashers into the cake!

KING Alright, alright. A little statelier if you don't mind.

[Tommy and Polly enter followed by the Company They all carry plates of brightly coloured cakes. All bow and curtsy.]

TOMMY Your Majesty, your royal Highness.

MELANIE Hello Tommy.

KING Ah, Mister Tucker. As Mother Hubbard's assistant, I hope you have been hard at work preparing for today.

TOMMY Indeed I have Sire.

MELANIE Father, look at all those wonderful cakes.

KING Yes, Mother Hubbard has done us proud again this year. *[Looking round.]* But where is she?

MOTHER H *[Off.]* I'm coming Cuthbert. And I've got just what you're after! *[She enters with a large portion of cake on a plate.]*

KING *[Slightly shocked.]* I beg your pardon?

MOTHER H *[Holding the plate in front of his face.]* Something to tickle the royal taste buds.

KING *[Smiling.]* And splendid as always, I've no doubt.

MOTHER H *[Aside to the King.]* All your favourites are in it. Gin, whiskey, brandy and just a dash of Guinness! You're going to love it, Cuthbert.

KING *[Aside to her.]* I think it ought to be 'your Majesty' when we are in public.

MOTHER H Of course dear. I forgot. After all these years I still can't get my head round you becoming King. We've known each other since we used to romp around the nursery together in our birthday suits! *[She gives him a nudge and a wink.]*

KING *[Flustered and trying to keep some royal decorum. To everyone.]* Now we are all assembled I would like to say a few words.

MYRTLE That's all you'll have time for! Mayhem is mounting!

KING What was that?

HUMPTY Nothing your Majesty. She's rambling again!

KING Oh right. Well as I was going to say. Today we celebrate the wonderful gift of the egg that saved us from a terrible curse. So without further delay let's get started!

MOTHER H *[Holding up a slice of cake.]* Here you are Cuth.. *[He looks and she catches herself.]* Oh your Majesty. Especially for you. A little taster of what you can expect later!

KING *[He gives her a look and then takes the cake.]* That looks mouth-wateringly good! *[He takes a bite.]*

HUMPTY You could say she's eggcelled herself!

[All groan at Humpty's egg joke.]

KING It certainly has royal approval. You are all in for a treat later.

MOTHER H Oh I can't wait for the party. I hope the royal bar is well stocked.

KING Of course.

MOTHER H Champagne and I are so alike. We've been drunk all over the world!

[Everyone laughs.]

- MYRTLE *[With a worried look.]* Yes, enjoy yourselves while you may. Things are going to change very soon.
- HUMPTY Oh Myrtle, don't spoil the celebrations. Go and check your crystal again. I think you must have got the wrong news bulletin.
- MYRTLE Alright, I'll go. But mark my words, the crystal never lies.
- [She exits as the Company gathers round to admire the cakes. Tommy moves down stage and Melanie joins him.]*
- TOMMY How are you today, your highness?
- MELANIE Why so formal Tommy?
- TOMMY Your father is only over there. I don't think he would take too kindly to me paying close attention to his only daughter!
- MELANIE Father is far too preoccupied with Mother Hubbard's cakes to notice anything at the moment.
- TOMMY But Melanie, you know we can only be friends at a distance. I'm just a commoner and not worthy of your attention.
- MELANIE You are a worthy assistant to Mother Hubbard. That is a very important position. Especially preparing the royal meals.
- TOMMY But not important enough to warrant the affections of a princess.
- MELANIE Nonsense. I'm tired of having to follow protocol. I want some fun in my life.
- TOMMY Well as today is a celebration holiday why don't I sing a special song for you at the party tonight. Then, as a thank you you could command me to dance with you.
- MELANIE That sounds a splendid idea. And I'm going to talk to father about who I can and can't see.
- [The King moves down to them.]*
- KING Melanie, my dear, don't you want to see the cakes?
- MELANIE Of course father. I was just asking Tommy what he had in store for us at tonight's party. And he's promised to sing for us.
- KING Really? Mr Tommy Tucker sings for his supper eh? *[He laughs at his joke.]* Sings for his supper! Sings for his! *[Realising no one is laughing.]* Yes, well - I hope you have something tuneful to hum along to. None of this modern. *[He names a current pop star and gets it wrong.]* rubbish!
- TOMMY I think it will be to your Majesty's taste.

KING To his Majesty's taste eh? Just like the food I hope. *[He laughs again.]* Taste . food! Get it? *[The Company gives a weak laugh. The King turns quickly to Melanie.]* Now come along my dear. We have a lot to do today. Mustn't neglect our royal duties.

MELANIE *[With a glance at Tommy then to the King.]* Father, couldn't I stay and help your good people start the celebrations? It would mean a lot to them.

KING Mm. I suppose it would be good to see the Royal family getting stuck in with the populace. Alright, just for a short while.

MELANIE Thank you, father.

KING Goodbye all. Enjoy the day. *[He moves towards the palace. Lock and Bolt run to assume a guard of honour.]*

LOCK Royal party preparing to leave the party.

BOLT The party of the first part is leaving the party.

LOCK Not that he's a party pooper.

BOLT Just that the party has another party to go to ..

KING Yes alright. I think they've got the message! *[He exits into the palace. Tommy, Polly and Mother Hubbard cross to Humpty.]*

POLLY Humpty, what was Myrtle saying?

HUMPTY Oh you know Myrtle. Always spreading doom and gloom around!

MOTHER H That woman is more depressing than . *[Name of a politician.]*

POLLY We shouldn't dismiss everything she says. Once or twice she has been right.

TOMMY *[To Mother Hubbard.]* Remember when you lost your special cookbook? Myrtle had a vision of where it was.

HUMPTY Where was it?

MOTHER H Under my bedside table.

POLLY And remember she told you where you left your favourite rolling pin.

HUMPTY Where was it?

MOTHER H Under my bed!

MELANIE And she told father where he had left his royal seal of office.

HUMPTY Where was it?

MOTHER H Under my duv.. *[She starts to say duvet, but stops herself.]* ð never you mind!

TOMMY But nothing should stop us celebrating the wonder of the fabulous egg.

HUMPTY Tommy's right. Come on everyone. It's my birthday today. *[Pointing to the egg.]* And that of my dear old dad!

COMPANY NUMBER

[At the end of the number all exit in celebration mood. Mother Hubbard into her shop. Tommy and Melanie off right. Polly, Lock and Bolt into the palace and Humpty behind the wall. The lights dim slightly and a carriage bearing Madam Miniver arrives up stage. It is pulled by her servant, Snivel.]

MADAM MINIVER'S ENTRANCE

[Snivel runs to the side of the carriage to help her out. He is a grovelling, weakling of a man with a constant cold. He sneezes, sniffs, rubs the back of his hand across his nose and then holds his hand out to help her down. She glares at him. He wipes the back of his hand on his opposite sleeve and hold out his hand again. She holds the tip of it and steps out.]

MINIVER Snivel, you snivelling wretch. When are you going to do something about that cold of yours?

SNIVEL *[Who speaks with a slight nasal accent.]* Sorry Madam Miniver. I've tried everything. Nasal spray, aspirin, Paracetamol, Rennie's ..

MINIVER Alright. I don't need a list of supplies from Boots!

SNIVEL No Madam. *[He sniffs.]*

MINIVER Just get it seen to before I have your nose cut off!

SNIVEL Yes Madam. *[He sneezes.]*

MINIVER Now, the reason for my visit to this . *[She looks around with distain.]* . quaint little Kingdom. Twenty years ago my dear brother was banished from here. Before he left, he attempted to put a curse on everyone, but was thwarted at the last moment.

SNIVEL But why was he banished?

MINIVER *[Casually.]* Oh a minor thing. He just wanted to overthrow the King and take the throne for himself. Nothing to get so upset about!

SNIVEL I bet the King didn't like the thought of being overthrown!

MINIVER That's because he's a weak-minded little fool. Not a great King which is what my dear departed bother would have been. So now I have come to right the wrong perpetrated on him. *[Mock tears.]*

SNIVEL There, there Madam. Don't upset yourself. *[Pulling out a dirty looking handkerchief.]* Would you like my hanky? *[Miniver glares at him. He puts the hanky away.]* Perhaps not!

KING *[Off.]* Melanie.

MINIVER That's the King coming. Take my carriage away and wait for me to summon you.

SNIVEL Yes Madam. *[He pushes the carriage off stage as the King enters from the palace.]*

KING Melanie. *[Looks at Miniver.]* Oh, you're not Melanie.

MINIVER No, I'm not.

KING Don't think I've had the pleasure.

MINIVER I am Madam Miniver.

KING Pleased to meet you. I'm King Cole. I guess the clobber gives it away! *[He giggles.]* Been here long?

MINIVER *[With a bow.]* Your majesty. I have just arrived in your . lovely little town.

KING Really? On a . *[Says the name of a local coach firm.]* . day trip, are you?

MINIVER I have my own carriage and servant. Where I come from my family dynasty goes back hundreds of years.

KING Oh. And where is that?

MINIVER *[Not giving anything away.]* A long way away.

KING Further than . *[Names a town close by.]*

MINIVER I am on a grand tour and decided to pay you a visit.

KING Well you've arrived just in time for our annual celebrations.

MINIVER Celebrations? In aid of what?

KING *[Indicating the egg.]* Our egg!

MINIVER *[Looking at him in amazement.]* You celebrate an egg?

KING It's no ordinary egg. It saved the Kingdom from a terrible fate twenty years ago. We were all going to be cursed by an evil Sorcerer, but the plot, I am happy to say, was foiled. Lucky for all of us.

[Mother Hubbard is heard singing off.]

MOTHER H %should be so lucky. lucky, lucky, lucky.+*[Or some similar pop song. She enters.]*

MINIVER *[Looking directly at Mother Hubbard.]* I thought you said the curse was foiled!

MOTHER H Oh look boys and girls, it's . *[Name of a female politician.]*

KING This is Madam Miniver. She's just visiting. *[To Miniver.]* This is Mother Hubbard, our resident purveyor of fine baking. She prepares the most mouth-watering meals for me.

MOTHER H How do? So are you here to celebrate old Humpty Dumpty?

MINIVER Humpty Dumpty?

KING The name of our egg. The Sorcerer's curse was to drain all the sunlight and happiness from our Kingdom, but luckily it was trapped inside the egg.

MINIVER Fascinating. So if the egg were to fall and breakō ..

MOTHER H Oh that would be a catastrophēō *[She has trouble saying 'catastrophe'.]* .. catastropherō cateroffō . That would be terrible!

KING It must never happen. *[Proudly.]* We have a special guard for the egg. Humpty Dumpty junior.

HUMPTY *[Popping up from behind the wall.]* Somebody call? *[He crosses down stage and calls to the audience.]* How are you? *[Reaction.]* Well done. You're remembered.

KING Humpty knows the story better than anyone.

HUMPTY Yes. Want to hear it? It's an eggciting tale.

MINIVER *[Bored.]* Not really.

OTHERS What?

MINIVER *[With false charm.]* I mean I'm not really receptive to hearing such an important part of your history as I am weary from my journey. I feel I should rest a while.

KING Of course.

MINIVER Is there such a thing as a seven star hotel in the vicinity?

MOTHER H There's the . *[Name of local hotel.]* . they take anyone!

KING Oh you must stay at the palace as my guest.

MINIVER I couldn't impose on your Majesty.

MOTHER H Oh go on . impose. He's got an indoor toilet!

MINIVER Well if you insist. I would be most grateful.

KING And we're having a celebration party this evening to which you are invited.

MINIVER I will tell my servant to unload my things.

KING Make yourself at home.

MINIVER *[Under her breath.]* Don't worry, I intend to! *[She crosses down left and calls.]* Snivel. Come here you wretch. *[The others chat quietly as Snivel enters and meets Miniver down left.]*

SNIVEL You called, Madam? *[He sniffs and wipes his nose on his sleeve.]*

MINIVER Have all my things taken into the palace. I've been invited to stay. The first part of my plan has worked even more smoothly than I had hoped.

SNIVEL In the palace? Ooh it will be good to sleep in a proper bed for a change.

MINIVER I will be staying in the palace. You will sleep where you usually sleep . under the carriage!

SNIVEL *[Disappointed.]* Yes Madam.

MINIVER Now get my things unpacked. Immediately.

SNIVEL Yes Madam. *[He exits. She turns back to the others.]*

MINIVER All taken care of.

KING Splendid. *[Offering his arm.]* Then let me show you to your room.

MINIVER *[Taking his arm.]* Delighted, your Majesty. I hope we are going to become very good friends.

KING *[Slightly smitten.]* I'm sure we will. *[They start to leave.]*

MINIVER *[Over her shoulder to Mother Hubbard.]* Oh Mrs Cupboard, perhaps you could bring a little egg something on a tray to my room. *[She and the King exit into the palace.]*

MOTHER H *[Furious at being ignored by the King.]* Who does she think she is?

HUMPTY Soon got her feet under the King's table!

MOTHER H There's something fishy about her. Better keep a watch out.

HUMPTY I think you are right. Be eggstra vigilant.

[Lock and Bolt come running on from the palace.]

LOCK Where is everyone?

BOLT His Majesty King Cole wants to hear everyone celebrating.

LOCK We need the populace present!

HUMPTY Well that's easy. Mother Hubbard?

[Mother Hubbard puts two fingers in her mouth and gives an ear-piercing whistle. The Company come running on to reprise part of the celebration song.]

REPRISE . COMPANY NUMBER

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

SCENE 3 THE PALACE GARDENS

[A front cloth with trees, flowers and the palace in the background. Myrtle is down right. She is wailing about an impending disaster.]

MYRTLE Why will no one listen to me? There is danger all around and I don't know how to stop it. The celebrations are all everyone is thinking about but they will end in disaster. My crystal has foretold it and it is never wrong. I must find a way to warn everyone. I'll go to the party at the palace and try to see the King. Someone must listen. Oh woe, woe, a terrible thing is coming. *[She starts to exit right.]* Woe, woe.

[She has gone. Madam Miniver enters left followed by Snivel.]

MINIVER In the short time since my arrival I have found out just what I need to do to avenge my brother.

SNIVEL What is that Madam?

MINIVER That egg must be destroyed.

SNIVEL But how are you going to do that? Isn't it guarded by that fella in the white and yellow outfit?

MINIVER He won't be a problem. With a wave of my hand I will send it crashing down off that wall. *[She gives an evil laugh.]*

SNIVEL Won't it create an awful mess?

- MINIVER It will create a catastrophe. And then I will take the King's crown and declare myself the ruler of this Kingdom. I will banish him and all his followers the way he banished my brother. Oh my revenge will be sweet.
- SNIVEL And then will I be able to have a proper place to sleep?
- MINIVER I might find you somewhere in the servants quarters . if you do everything I ask.
- SNIVEL Oh I will Madam. *[Trying to please her.]* You know I live to serve you. *[He sneezes and wipes his nose on his sleeve.]*
- MINIVER And if you get rid of that awful cold.
- SNIVEL I try to, Madam. But I get one chill after another sleeping under your carriage. *[He sneezes again.]*
- MINIVER Oh stop whinging! *[Looking off.]* Someone is coming. Let's get away and plot the King's downfall.
- [She laughs and they both exit left as Humpty enters right.]*
- HUMPTY *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Hopefully the audience shout back, "eggcellent Humpty".]* That's good. You remembered! It's all go here. Everyone is having a great time and looking forward to the party at the palace tonight. The only problem is I don't have anyone to go with. *[Sympathy from audience.]* I spend all my time guarding the egg that I never seem to have time to go out and meet anyone. *[More reaction from audience.]* There is someone I have got a bit of a soft spot for. Shall I tell you who it is? *[Audience shouts out.]* OK, I will. It's Princess Melanie. Oh I know she's way above my station, but I do think she's pretty. And you never know, she might just be free tonight.
- [Mother Hubbard enters.]*
- MOTHER H Hello Humpty. Are you chatting with our new friends?
- HUMPTY Yes. I was just saying I've yet to ask someone to tonight's party.
- MOTHER H *[Primping slightly.]* Well as it happens I may just be available.
- HUMPTY No offence but I was looking for someone nearer my own age!
- MOTHER H I'd have you know I'm just approaching thirty five!
- HUMPTY Yes, but from which direction? *[He laughs and then sees an icy stare from Mother Hubbard.]* Anyway I thought you had your sights set on someone with a little more eggsalted.
- MOTHER H I can't think who you mean.
- HUMPTY Oh come on. Everyone knows you've got a soft spot for his Maj!
- MOTHER H I just make sure his favourite meals are ready for him.

HUMPTY And everyone knows the way to a man's heart is through his stomach!

MOTHER H It is true we get on very well. We've known each other for such a long time.

HUMPTY If I were you I wouldn't let the grass grow under your feet. I think a certain visitor may have designs on our good King.

MOTHER H That Miniver woman?

HUMPTY Yes. He did seem quite smitten with her.

MOTHER H If she thinks she can muscle in on my territory, she'll have a battle on her hands! *[She puts her fists up in a boxing pose. Humpty feels her arm muscle.]*

HUMPTY Well I know who I'd put money on!

MOTHER H So who were you thinking of asking to the party?

HUMPTY If you promise not to laugh I'll tell you.

MOTHER H Cross my heart. *[She does.]*

HUMPTY It's Princess Melanie. *[Mother Hubbard screams with laughter.]* You promised!

MOTHER H Oh I'm sorry Humpty. *[She sucks in her cheeks to stop herself laughing.]*

HUMPTY I know it's a long shot. But if I don't ask o o o o ..

MOTHER H Well now's your chance. Here she comes.

HUMPTY Oh . er – *[He starts to panic. Melanie enters]*

MELANIE Hello you two. How are you enjoying the day?

MOTHER H *[Crossing between Melanie and Humpty.]* Very much, thank you, your highness. How about you?

MELANIE I'm so looking forward to tonight.

MOTHER H And is there someone special you have in mind to escort you?

MELANIE *[Feigning innocence.]* I hadn't given it much thought.

MOTHER H *[With a glance at Humpty.]* Really? *[Aside to Melanie.]* There's someone not a million miles away who I'm sure would be delighted to escort you.

MELANIE *[Not getting it!]* Oh Mother Hubbard. It would look a bit odd . you and me together at the party!

MOTHER H *[With a knowing look at the audience.]* Not in this day and age dear! I don't mean me. *[Aside to Humpty.]* Go on . ask her. *[She pushes Humpty to the side of Melanie.]*

HUMPTY *[Still panicking.]* Er . umõ ..

MELANIE Humpty.

HUMPTY *[Hearing his name.]* Yes, that's me!

MELANIE I bet you have dozens of girls hoping you'd ask them out tonight.

HUMPTY Um, yesõ .dozens. *[He looks at Mother Hubbard for help.]*

MELANIE And I'd bet there is one special one you have your eye on.

HUMPTY *[Melting as he gazes at Melanie.]* Oh yes.

MELANIE Well I think she will be a very lucky girl.

MOTHER H *[Prodding Humpty.]* She will be if he hurries up and asks her.

HUMPTY *[Aside to Mother Hubbard.]* Alright! I will. *[To Melanie.]* Your highness. Princess Melanieõ õ we have known each other for a very long time now.

MELANIE Yes we have, Humpty. And I know we'd always be good friends.

HUMPTY Yes, eggceptionally good friends.

MELANIE *[Not able to stop her excitement.]* So I just have to let you into a secret.

MOTHER H A secret? I love secrets!

MELANIE There is someone who I am very close to who I hope will be with me tonight.

HUMPTY *[Excited.]* There is.

MELANIE And I know he wants to be with me.

HUMPTY I do!

MELANIE It's Tommy Tucker.

HUMPTY *[Not hearing.]* Of course I'd goõ . *[Realising.]* Tommy Tucker?

MELANIE Yes. He's so handsome.

HUMPTY Handsomeõ .

MELANIE Charming.

HUMPTY *[His bottom lip starts to tremble.]* Charmingõ ..

MELANIE And you know he's got a lovely singing voice. He's going to sing a special song for me tonight.

MOTHER H That's nice dear. *[Humpty looks at her and tears well up in his eyes.]* There, there. *[She clasps him to her bosom.]*

MELANIE Humpty, are you alright?

MOTHER H He's a little emotional. These romantic stories get to him. *[A big wail from Humpty.]* He's delighted for you! *[She moves Humpty toward the exit.]* You go and get yourself ready for those dozens of girls lining up for you. *[She rolls her eyes at the audience. Humpty sadly exits and the audience will no doubt have tremendous sympathy.]*

MELANIE I hope he's alright.

MOTHER H He'll be fine. And so will you be my dear. Look who's coming. *[Tommy enters.]* Fancy seeing you here.

TOMMY *[Expecting to find Melanie alone.]* Oh, I'd .

MELANIE Don't worry. Mother Hubbard knows.

TOMMY She does?

MOTHER H Yes. And may I say you make a lovely couple.

MELANIE Thank you Mother Hubbard. I only hope father thinks the same.

MOTHER H You leave him to me. I'll have a word in his shell-like! *[She moves to the exits and speaks to the audience.]* I should work for match-makers dot com! *[She exits.]*

DUET . TOMMY AND MELANIE

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

SCENE 4 THE PALACE THRONE ROOM

[A half set with a throne up centre. As the scene opens Polly Flinders is just finishing the cleaning. She carries a brush and pan used for cleaning the fires. The King enters giving instructions to Lock and Bolt who follow him.]

KING Now men, I want this evening's celebration to go without a hitch.

LOCK Yes sire.

KING Everything must be just right.

BOLT Yes sire.

KING Nothing must be left out.

LOCK No sire.

KING This party must be the centre of today's celebrations. Got that?

BOLT Right, left and centre!

KING Polly Flinders, haven't you finished cleaning?

POLLY *[Bobbing a curtsey.]* Yes, your Majesty. All done.

KING *[Looking closely at her.]* You have cinders all over your cheeks.

POLLY *[With a quick glance at her rear.]* Have I? *[Then realises he means her face.]* From cleaning out the royal grate, sire.

KING Oh yes. Polly Flinders sat among the cinders. *[He laughs.]* I say, that's rather good. I wonder if it could catch on! *[He laughs but no one else does.]* Yes, well... You better get yourself cleaned up.

POLLY Yes, your Majesty. *[She quickly exits.]*

KING Now you are sure everything is ready.

LOCK & BOLT Yes, sire.

KING I want to impress our very special guest. Madam Miniver.
[Miniver enters left.]

MINIVER Did someone call me?

KING Ah there you are, my dear lady. I am just checking on the final preparations for the party.

MINIVER *[Playing up to the King.]* I am so looking forward to it. I bet you are a real party animal.

KING *[Coyly.]* Well...er...I've been known to shake it about a bit. *[He does a rather awkward dance movement, but quickly stops when he sees Lock and Bolt watching.]* Oh, er thank you, you two. Get ready to announce everyone. They will be arriving very soon.

LOCK Yes your majesty.

BOLT Right away, sire.

MINIVER *[To Lock and Bolt as they start to exit.]* Oh and tell my servant, Snivel, I want to see him. He'll be lurking somewhere outside.
[Lock and Bolt hover, not knowing if they should do as she says.]

KING You heard the lady. Chop, chop.

LOCK & BOLT Yes sire. *[They quickly exit.]*

MINIVER I hope I didn't impose.

KING Not at all my dear. Just treat the place as though it were yours.

MINIVER Oh I think I could manage that.

KING Feel right at home.

MINIVER I could get very use to this!

KING You must stay as long as you like.

MINIVER *[Close to him.]* Oh I think you are going to see a lot more of me.

KING *[With a big grin.]* I can't wait. *[He realises what he has said.]* I mean . . . I can't wait to show you around my kingdom. That is if you would like to be shown around me . . . I mean my kingdom.

MINIVER Nothing would give me greater pleasure. *[Aside.]* I want to see what I'd be getting my hands on.

KING *[Not fully hearing her.]* What's that?

MINIVER *[Vamping right up to him.]* I mean there's nothing like a hands on tour. *[She now has one hand on his chest and the other to his face. She knocks his crown onto an angle. Mother Hubbard and Tommy enter.]*

MOTHER H Oh, excuse us.

TOMMY Forgive us, your majesty.

[King and Miniver move quickly apart.]

KING *[Flustered.]* That's alright. Madam Miniver and I were just . . . just

MOTHER H *[Sharply.]* Yes we saw you just . . . just.

MINIVER I was just helping him adjust his crown jewels!

KING *[Aghast.]* My crown! Adjusting my crown. *[He straightens his crown.]*

MOTHER H *[Aside to Tommy.]* Goodness knows what else she was adjusting!

KING Must look my best for the party.

TOMMY That's what we came to tell you. Everyone is arriving.

KING Oh splendid.

MINIVER *[Put out.]* Yes, their timing is impeccable! *[She crosses down left as Snivel enters left. Mother Hubbard, Tommy and the King remain*

centre.] Snivel, I want you to be ready later this evening with my special case of potions, powders and spells.

- SNIVEL Oh yes Madam. Are you going to do some party tricks?
- MINIVER Party tricks? Certainly not. I am going to use one of my dear brother's spells to bring this Kingdom to its knees.
- SNIVEL *[Groveling and sniffing.]* Oh it sounds exciting Madam. Is there anything I can do?
- MINIVER Meet me in the palace garden once the party has started. We will discuss further plans there.
- SNIVEL Yes Madam. *[He sneezes.]*
- MINIVER And bring a handkerchief.
- [The rest of the Company enter in high spirits. The King stands in front of his throne to welcome them. Melanie enters and stands on one side of him. Mother Hubbard is on the other.]*
- HUMPTY *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[They respond.]* Fab!
- KING Everyone, we are gathered here today
- MOTHER H to join this man and this woman
- KING To join this man .No, no. That's not what I meant.
- MOTHER H *[With a smile.]* Well it was worth a try!
- KING We are all gathered on this special occasion. Twenty years ago today our fair Kingdom was saved from the wicked curse that the evil Sorcerer tried to put on us.
- MINIVER *[Aside to Snivel.]* Something I intend to reverse very soon.
- KING Forever watched over by faithful Humpty Dumpty, the miracle that is the egg
- HUMPTY *[Proudly to people next to him.]* That's my dad!
- KING .has ensured that we have been able to live in peace and prosperity and without the fear of being plunged into darkness and despair. *[All murmur in agreement.]*
- MINIVER *[Aside.]* It will only be a matter of time!
- KING So once again let us celebrate our good fortune. Let the party begin. *[All cheer.]* Mother Hubbard, where are your fabulous cakes?
- MOTHER H Coming right up. *[She calls off stage.]* Polly, you can bring it in now.

[Polly wheels in a portable table. On it is a cake in the shape of the egg. It is covered by a cloth. Also on the table are an assortment of cakes and buns and a number of teacups and a tea pot. One of the cups is a trick one with a hole in the bottom so tea will drain straight through into a container under the table.]

- KING *[Looking at the assortment of cakes.]* Oh, what lovely buns!
- MOTHER H *[Thinking he means something quite different.]* Thank you very much. And as a special surprise - *[She whips the cloth off the 'egg' cake.]* Voila! *[All applaud. Mother Hubbard turns to Miniver.]* That's French for how about that, then?
- MINIVER *[Rolling her eyes.]* Really?
- MOTHER H Polly, did you put the kettle on?
- POLLY Of course.
- MOTHER H Then pour some tea for our guests
- [Polly pours tea out for Miniver and some others, leaving the trick cup.]*
- KING Mother Hubbard, you have excelled yourself. *[To Miniver.]* Don't you think so Madam Miniver?
- MINIVER Very er.. nice! Although I'm more of a cordon bleu person myself.
- MOTHER H *[Loud aside to Humpty.]* Cordon Bleu? She's mutton dressed as lamb if ever I saw it.
- MINIVER *[Venomously]* I heard that, you second rate pastry cook.
- MOTHER H *[Seeing red.]* Second rate? I'd have you know I've got letters after my name.
- MINIVER Yes. O A P for a start!
- MOTHER H *[Fuming.]* I can see what your game is missus. I wasn't born yesterday, you know.
- MINIVER I think we're all agreed on that!
- MOTHER H Why you'd... *[To the King.]* Are you going to stand there and let her insult me like that?
- KING Where would you like me to stand?
- MOTHER H Cuthbert!
- KING *[Trying to placate Mother Hubbard.]* Now, now. Let's not spoil the evening. How about a nice cup of tea to go with the cake?

MOTHER H *[Still peeved.] Very well. [She takes the tea pot from Polly and starts to pour into the trick cup. She continues to pour during the next dialogue.]*

KING Your contribution to the success of our annual celebration is second to none.

MOTHER H I do my best.

MINIVER But is it good enough.

[Mother Hubbard is about to say something, but the King continues his flattery. All except the King now become fascinated as Mother Hubbard continues pouring the tea into the trick cup.]

KING I lay a pound to a penny there isn't anyone else in the Kingdom who can produce such gastronomic delights.

MOTHER H *[Melting.]* Oh, go on with you.

KING Those tasty treats to tingle the taste buds.

MOTHER H You have such a way with words!

KING A quintessential collection of caramel creams. A mellifluous mountain of mouth-watering meringues.

MOTHER H Cuthbert, you are such a poet.

KING I know I can always expect a mouthful from you!

MOTHER H *[With a quizzical look she finishes pouring and puts down the tea-pot.]* What?

KING And this year you have surpassed yourself.

MOTHER H *[Preening.]* Oh I can't take all the credit. Tommy, as always, has been a great help.

KING And I understand from my daughter that Mister Tucker is going to entertain us with some vocal dexterity.

MOTHER H No, he's going to sing!

TOMMY With your Majesty's permission.

KING By all means.

SONG . TOMMY AND COMPANY

[During the number Melanie eases down stage and at a suitable moment Tommy speaks.]

MELANIE Mr Tucker, I believe you owe me a dance. *[She moves to him.]*

TOMMY It would be an honour. You Highness. *[They start to dance.]*

KING *[Moving towards Melanie.]* Here. I say, that's not protocol.

MOTHER H Oh Cuthbert.

KING But it's not the done thing.

MOTHER H Well the done thing's done! Now come on, whirl me around and show me what you've made of!

[She grabs him and they start dancing. The Company join in including Humpty and Polly. When all are involved in the number we see Madam Miniver and Snivel make a surreptitious exit left. The number rises to a climax and the lights fade out. The scene changes to.....]

SCENE 5 THE PALACE GARDENS

[The front cloth again. Madam Miniver and Snivel enter down left.]

MINIVER While all those foolish people are busy enjoying themselves, we can make final plans for the downfall of the King and his Kingdom. Let them party for the time being. Soon they will all be my servants. *[She gives an evil laugh.]*

SNIVEL Does that mean I could become head servant?

MINIVER I may put you in charge of some of them. As long as you make sure they all suffer for what they did to my brother.

SNIVEL *[Not really meaning it.]* I'd try and make them suffer, Madam. *[He has a sneezing fit.]*

MINIVER *[Moving slightly away from him.]* From pneumonia I shouldn't wonder. Apparently as the party ends they all come out of the palace to pay homage to that weird egg! That is when I shall unleash all the magic my dear brother taught me and bring the addled thing crashing to the ground. *[She laughs again.]* His curse will be released from the broken shell and the entire Kingdom will fall. I shall claim the crown from the defeated King and take my place on the throne.

SNIVEL It's a great plan, Madam.

MINIVER The best. Devised by my brother, the greatest Sorcerer. Now go and bring me my special box of powders. I will need to mix the potion that will create a mighty cyclone to dislodge that egg.

SNIVEL Yes Madam. I do go at once, Madam. *[He turns to exit and begins the start of another sneeze.]*

MINIVER And don't sneeze! *[There is an almighty sneeze off stage.]* ..all over the powder.

SNIVEL *[Off stage.]* No Madam. *[There is the sound of a loud blowing of a nose.]*

MINIVER Wretched man. But I need him at the moment to help carry out my plan.

[Just before she finishes the last sentence, Humpty enters right.]

HUMPTY *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Audience responds. He smiles at them and then speaks to Miniver.]* What plan is that?

MINIVER What are you doing, listening to peoples conversations?

HUMPTY What conversation? Who were you talking to?

MINIVER *[Rattled.]* I . . . er . . . was talking to myself! It's the only way to get an intelligent answer!

HUMPTY *[Suspicious.]* Really. Some people might think it eggcentric!

MINIVER I was just planning a wonderful surprise for your King as he has been so kind to me on this special day.

HUMPTY Oh yes? What sort of surprise?

MINIVER That's for me to know and you to find out. But believe me it's a big one. *[She throws back her head and laughs getting a reaction from the audience as she exits left.]*

HUMPTY *[To the audience.]* I don't trust her, you know.

[Polly Flinders enters right.]

POLLY Who don't you trust, Humpty?

HUMPTY That Miniver woman. There's something fishy about her, the old trout!

POLLY *[Realising what he has said and laughing.]* Ha . . fishy . . trout!

HUMPTY Alright. Don't eggagerate the pun!

POLLY Oh Humpty, you are funny.

HUMPTY You really think so?

POLLY Yes. I like a man with a sense of humour.

HUMPTY Well you're pretty funny yourself!

POLLY Glad you think so. *[She gives him a hearty slap on the back.]*

HUMPTY *[Reeling slightly.]* And eggceptionally strong, too!!

DUET - POLLY AND HUMPTY

[At the end of the number she drags him off as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 6 OUTSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE OF EGGHELLIA

[It is evening as the scene opens. Snivel puts his head round the edge of the scenery down left to see if anyone is about. He then enters dragging a large box. Lock and Bolt march on stage from the Palace.]

LOCK What have we here?

BOLT It's a man with a box, Sarg.

LOCK *[Snapping at him.]* I can see it's a man with a box. *[To Snivel.]* What are you doing dragging that thing in front of the royal palace?

SNIVEL It's for Madam Miniver. It contains her powders.

BOLT Well I know she's knocking on a bit, but I wouldn't think she needs all that to make her face up with!

SNIVEL Oh these are not for her face. They're magic. *[Realising what he has said he claps his hand over his mouth and tries to creep off.]*

LOCK Just a minute. *[Snivel stops.]* Magic? What kind of magic?

BOLT Oooh, can she pull a rabbit out of a hat, or saw a woman in half? *[To Lock.]* I saw that on . *[Name of a TV programme.]*

SNIVEL *[Trying to get away.]* Oh no, nothing like that. Anyway better be off. *[He starts pushing the box as Miniver enters left.]*

MINIVER What is going on?

SNIVEL Er, nothing Madam.

MINIVER What are those two idiots doing here?

SNIVEL They wanted to see some magic tricks!

MINIVER Magic tricks?

LOCK Yes, we like a spot of conjuring.

- BOLT A bit of prestidigitation!
- MINIVER Who do you think I am? *[Name of a well-known magician.]*
- BOLT Are you?? *[Lock hits him.]*
- MINIVER *[Getting an idea.]* Conjuring tricks, eh? Well I could show you one, but you will have to help me.
- LOCK Oh yes.
- BOLT *[Posing.]* We could be your glamorous assistants! *[Lock hits him again.]*
- MINIVER Just stand over there, perfectly still.
- LOCK Right.
- [They both stand either side of the palace steps. Miniver opens the box and takes out a phial containing a powder. She crosses to them and starts to chant.]*
- MINIVER A magic trick you wish to see,
I have one here by chance.
With prestidigitation you will
Both be in a trance!
- [She throws some powder over both of them and they become transfixed. A musical 'sting' accompanies this.]*
There, that will keep them from asking too many awkward questions.
Now quickly, I have to make up a potion that will cause a great cyclone to descend on this place and dislodge that egg from its perch!
Hold this bowl. *[She takes a wooden bowl from the box and gives it to Snivel.]*
- SNIVEL Yes Madam.
- [Miniver now puts various powders into the bowl as she speaks.]*
- MINIVER My brother taught me well. He always said I should find a way to avenge him. Well brother, now is the time. In your memory I will finally bring about the downfall of this King and claim the crown for myself.
[She has finished putting the powders in the bowl and now takes a wooden spoon to mix them together while saying another spell.]

MUSIC UNDERSCORE

From ancient times and darkest days,
This spell has grown in power.
So now its might I'll summon here
Upon the appointed hour.
Revenge for what was brought about
Some twenty years ago,

Will now take place with great effect
As I, my curse, bestow.

[She finishes stirring the potion.] These powders, mixed together, will now be taken by the wind and cause the atmospheric elements to ignite. *[She takes the bowl and holds it high. There is a lighting effect of various colours and the sound of wind.]* There, it has started. *[Distant thunder and lightning.]*

- SNIVEL Oooh Madam. There's going to be a storm.
- MINIVER Yes. A storm greater than anyone has ever witnessed before.
- SNIVEL *[Wailing.]* But I'll get wet! And my cold õ õ õ ..
- MINIVER Oh stop snivelling . Snivel. When this storm has dislodged that wretched egg the Kingdom will fall and I can take my rightful place as ruler. *[The sound of thunder rumbling nearer.]* Listen. It grows nearer.
- [Myrtle enters down right looking around her.]*
- MYRTLE What is happening?
- MINIVER My revenge for the misery this Kingdom caused my brother.
- MYRTLE *[Astounded.]* You are the sister of the Sorcerer?
- MINIVER I am.
- MYRTLE I knew something wasn't right. The King must be informed. *[To Lock and Bolt.]* Quick, go and tell him.
- MINIVER They are under my power . as you will be. *[She raises her hand to cast a spell.]*
- MYRTLE *[Pulling out her crystal ball.]* No. My crystal will protect me!
- MINIVER *[Sneering.]* So, I have a rival do I? What pathetic little tricks can you do with that?
- MYRTLE *[Shaken.]* I . I . I can ward off any of your curses.
- MINIVER Really. Then see if you can ward off this.
- [She thrusts her hand towards the sky and a great clap of thunder is heard. Mother Hubbard, Humpty and Polly some running out of the palace.]*
- HUMPTY *[To audience.]* How are you? *[Audience responds.]* Well you better get your umbrellas out.
- POLLY Is it going to rain?
- MOTHER H And I left the washing out. All my smalls will be drenched!

HUMPTY Yes, they do shrink down from eggstra large!

MOTHER H Cheek! I do have you know I am a slim size 30! *[A crack of thunder.]*
 Alright 40 then!!

[The King, Tommy and Melanie enter from the palace.]

KING What is going on?

TOMMY Is there going to be a storm?

MELANIE Not on today of all days, surely.

MYRTLE It's her. She's doing it!

KING *[Crossing to Miniver.]* Have you got a tummy upset my dear? Would you like some Gaviscon?

MINIVER It will be more than tummy upset that you will all be suffering with when I have finished here.

MOTHER H What is she talking about?

MYRTLE She's the Sorcerer's sister.

TOMMY What?

KING The one who tried to steal my crown?

MINIVER The one you banished twenty years ago. I have come to avenge him. Prepare for all the elements to bring about a storm and dislodge that egg. Then my brother's prophesy will be unleashed on you all.

KING Somebody stop her.

MINIVER Too late. The storm is upon us.

[The rest of the Company enter as a crack of thunder is heard. Lock and Bolt come out of their trance.]

LOCK *[Staggering about.]* Oooh, what's going on?

BOLT I've got such a headache!

SNIVEL *[Pointing to them.]* Madam, those soldiers.

MINIVER They are harmless now. I have no need of them. *[The storm grows in intensity and everyone is in fear.]* Now you will all see what happens when you defy the great Miniver family.

MUSIC . EGG FALLING

[The lights dim and the egg begins to shake. Finally it falls. The lights black out and the wind slowly subsides. When the lights return the egg

is on the ground, broken in half. People are in a state of shock and look dishevelled.]

KING *[To Lock and Bolt.]* Men. Quick. Put the egg back together.

[Lock and Bolt try to move the two parts of the egg.]

MOTHER H Has anyone got some super glue?

HUMPTY Or some cellotape!

LOCK It's no good, your Majesty.

BOLT We can't move it!

MINIVER Of course not. It is under my power now.

[The King collapses into the arms of Mother Hubbard and his crown falls to the floor. Miniver crosses and picks it up.]

Finally, the crown is in my possession.

HUMPTY *[Kneeling by the broken egg shell.]* Daddy!

[Miniver roars with laughter.]

NUMBER MINIVER AND COMPANY*

[Towards the end of the number all are made to bow to Miniver. She slowly holds the crown above her head as the curtain falls.]

In the original production a number entitled *My Word Is Law* was specially written for this sequence. The lyric is reproduced at the back of the script and the music is available from NODA. Please note the song is fully copyright and can only be used with permission and only in this script.

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 THE PALACE THRONE ROOM

OPENING OF ACT TWO

[As the scene opens Miniver is sitting on the throne. The crown is on her lap. Snivel is by her and Lock and Bolt are standing guard either side of the throne.]

MINIVER Snivel, bring in my subjects.

SNIVEL Yes Madam. *[She glares at him.]* I mean ~~y~~our majesty

MINIVER *[Smiling.]* It has such a ring to it!

[Snivel calls to the Company.]

SNIVEL Her majesty will see you now.

[They all enter in a depressed state. Humpty calls to the audience.]

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HUMPTY How are you? *[Audience responds.]* I wish it was an ~~eggcellent~~ occasion.

MINIVER *[Sharply.]* Be quiet in my presence. *[She turns on the fake charm.]* Ah, my subjects. I thought you would like to witness the crowning of your new queen. *[She raises the crown above her head.]*

TOMMY *[Advancing on her.]* Oh no you don't. That is our King's crown.

MINIVER I wouldn't do anything foolish. You have seen what powers I possess.

MELANIE Don't Tommy.

MINIVER Sensible girl. *[She slowly lowers the crown onto her head.]* By all the powers invested in me, I crown myself and pronounce me queen and ruler of this Kingdom.

MOTHER H She sounds like *[Name of female personality/politician.]*

MINIVER For that remark, you decrepit looking old fossil .

MOTHER H Who's she calling old?

MINIVER - you will get on your hands and knees and scrub the floors till they shine like top of the Shard!

MOTHER H Scrub? I've never been a scrubber!

HUMPTY That's not what I heard!

MINIVER I said down on your knees. All of you!

[Everyone starts to kneel down.]

MOTHER H This will play havoc with my coccyx!

KING *[Knee walking towards Miniver.]* My dear, don't you think this is going a bit far?

MINIVER What are you talking about?

KING *[Stands.]* Well, we have only just met and for you to presume to be Queen .

MINIVER I am Queen. And if your tiny mind thought there could be anything between us, there's even less in it than I imagined.

KING But ..

[Miniver stands and moves to him, shouting in his face.]

MINIVER Now get to work. *[The King drops to his knees.]* All of you. I am off to see what state the royal apartment is in. Snivel, follow me.

[She sweeps out left followed by Snivel. All start to stand.]

MELANIE Father, what are we going to do?

KING I think we had better do what she says, my dear.

NUMBER COMPANY

[All clean the Throne Room during the number. At the end Myrtle is heard wailing off stage. The Chorus creep off leaving the main principals]

TOMMY Oh dear, it's Myrtle.

MOTHER H We've enough gloom and doom without her spreading more.

[Myrtle enters right.]

MYRTLE Everyone . everyone listen to me.

HUMPTY Yes we know, Myrtle. Woe, woe and more woe.

MYRTLE *[To the King.]* A great calamity, your Majesty.

KING I know. *[Holding up his hand.]* Look, what are those on my hands?

MOTHER H Blisters dear! Welcome to the real world!

MYRTLE Will no one listen?

POLLY What is it Myrtle?

MYRTLE I have news. The eggõ ..

HUMPTY Yes we know. It fell off the wall.

MOTHER H It was even on the six o'clock news!

KING *[To Lock and Bolt.]* Men, are you sure you can't put it back together again?

LOCK We tried, your Majesty. Cellotapeõ .

BOLT Superglue. Nothing worked. And that woman made us *her* guards.

MELANIE Well the curse has been released. Just like the prophesy said.

HUMPTY All the sunlight seems to have disappeared and just look at the misery on everyone's face. It's eggcruciating to see.

MYRTLE But I have news.

TOMMY What news?

MYRTLE *[Very mysteriously.]* I've found it! I've found it!

MOTHER H Well whatever 'it' is, keep it to yourself. We've got enough troubles of our own.

MYRTLE *[Rolling her head and turning around in a distressed state.]* Oh why will no one listen to me?

HUMPTY Myrtle, calm down. Now what is it you've found?

MYRTLE The book!

KING The book?

POLLY What book?

MOTHER H It's not my library book is it? I lost it and it was due back last week.

HUMPTY What was it called?

MOTHER H Three easy stages to look thirty again!

HUMPTY A work of fiction, was it?

[Everyone laughs. Myrtle wails again.]

TOMMY Alright Myrtle, tell us about this book you've found.

MYRTLE After the disaster of the egg, I crept away and went to Septimus's old rooms at the other end of the palace.

MELANIE Septimus? Our old Court Magician. What did you go there for?

MYRTLE To look for his ancient book of spells. You remember he saved us by using a spell to trap the Sorcerer's curse. *[All mutter 'yes'.]* Well I wondered if there was another spell to reverse the curse if ever it was released.
[Everyone starts to get excited.]

KING And is there?

MYRTLE I'm not sure?

[Everyone sighs dejectedly.]

MOTHER H Where is the book? We have to see if there is a spell.

MYRTLE I wouldn't bring it here in case you know who's got her hands on it.

KING Very sensible, Myrtle.

MYRTLE *[Nose in the air.]* I'm always sensible!

HUMPTY So what are we going to do now? We have to try and stop mad Miniver.

TOMMY Why don't we all meet up at the edge of the kingdom well away from here and look through the book of spells?

MELANIE What a good idea, Tommy. Don't you think so father?

KING Yes. Splendid idea.

MOTHER H But how are we going to get away from old Miniver?

KING I could try and divert her attention. Offer her some advice on ruling the Kingdom. See if I can appeal to her better nature.

MOTHER H That should keep you busy for a week!

HUMPTY Try and win her over you mean?

KING Yes. I do have a bit of a way with the fairer sex you know!

LOCK They don't call him Fool Cuthbert for nothing.

KING Who does?

BOLT *[Laughing and counting on his fingers.] Jane, Amy, Susan, Mary, Kate .. [He gets a look from the King and with a weak wave of his fingers, stops laughing.]*

MYRTLE If you do manage to charm her, perhaps you could use this on her. *[She delves into her bag and pulls out a bottle.]*

POLLY What is it?

MYRTLE A special scent

MOTHER H Oh, is it that new one Moon over the gasworks? I'm dying to try it!

MYRTLE No! It smells like a bouquet of flowers but induces a deep sleep for a few hours. *[She gives the bottle to the King.]*

HUMPTY That would give us time to get away.

MELANIE Father, are you sure you want to do this?

KING I have to my dear. *[Stoically.]* It's for the good of the Kingdom. Besides, I'm feeling very lost without my crown.

MINIVER *[Off.]* I hope all the work has been completed.

HUMPTY Here she comes.

TOMMY Quick everyone. Let's get out.

[All exit except the King and Mother Hubbard.]

- MOTHER H Oh you are brave Cuthbert.
- KING It's a far, far better thing I do than
- MOTHER H Yes, alright dear. Don't lose your head! *[She exits as Miniver enters left.]*
- MINIVER What is going on here? Where has everyone gone?
- KING Oh, my dear lady. *[She glares at him.]* I mean your majesty They've just gone for a tea break.
- MINIVER Tea break?
- KING Yes. Look we finished all the cleaning.
- MINIVER *[Running her finger across the arm of the throne.]* Mmmm. It's just about acceptable. I suppose a five minute break would be all right. But no more. I want the whole palace cleaned from top to bottom.
- KING Whatever your majesty commands. Talking of commands, I was wondering if you might want a few tips on ruling the Kingdom.
- MINIVER From you?
- KING I was only offering a little help.
- MINIVER Why would you want to help me? I am your enemy.
- KING *[Trying to humour her.]* But we did seem to be - you know - getting on before.
- MINIVER *[Looking him over.]* Well you're not bad I suppose. And you do have that regal bearing. Maybe you could be of use to me.
- KING Oh I do hope so. I was developing a bit of a soft spot for you. *[He pulls a face that only the audience sees.]* And I was hoping you might accept this small token of my affections. *[He shows her the bottle.]*
- MINIVER What is it?
- KING A very special perfume that I have made for my very special guests. It's called Moon over the gasworks I mean Moon over the Meadow
- MINIVER I am partial to a delicate fragrance.
- KING And I hope in time you might grow partial to *moi!*

DUET KING AND MINIVER

[During the number he gives her the bottle. She dabs some perfume on her face. After a while she starts to yawn and eventually falls

asleep on the throne. The King takes back the bottle and creeps off as we hear a loud snore from Miniver. The lights black out and the scene changes to....]

SCENE 2 THE EDGE OF THE KINGDOM

[A front cloth depicting a desolate landscape devoid of life, light or colour. Tommy and Melanie are on stage waiting for the others.]

- MELANIE Oh Tommy, do you think we will ever get the Kingdom back to what it was?
- TOMMY Who knows? Myrtle is our last hope. If she can find something in Septimus's book that will help us then it's worth a try.
- MELANIE I wish the others would hurry up.
- TOMMY Mother Hubbard insisted on getting some provisions for whatever journey we have to make.
- MELANIE I do hope father is alright. If that Miniver woman guesses what he is up to, who knows what she might do. I'm so very worried.
- TOMMY Don't be. I'm sure the King knows what he is doing.
- MELANIE But is he still the King? And will he ever be the King again?
- TOMMY He will. I'm sure of it. We have to find a way to defeat Madam Miniver.
- [Humpty and Polly enter.]*
- HUMPTY *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Audience responds.]*
- MELANIE Is Mother Hubbard with you?
- POLLY Yes. She's packed enough food to feed an army!
- [Mother Hubbard enters dressed for battle and carrying her bag.]*
- MOTHER H Hello dears. Is everyone here?
- TOMMY We're just waiting for Myrtle and the King's men.
- MELANIE And the King!
- MOTHER H I hope Cuthbert is alright. I felt dreadful leaving him in the clutches of Cruella DeVil!
- MELANIE You have a soft spot for father, don't you?
- MOTHER H Yes I do, dear. We go back a long way.

HUMPTY They were neighbours of Henry the eighth!

MOTHER H Don't be cheeky.

POLLY Here's Myrtle.

[Myrtle enters followed by Lock and Bolt carrying a very large book.]

MYRTLE Here we are at last.

LOCK Thank goodness.

BOLT This thing weighs a ton!

TOMMY Did you find anything we can use?

MYRTLE Give me a chance. I couldn't stop at the palace to look through the book. *[To Lock and Bolt.]* Now hold it up so I can read it. *[They hold the book up between them as Myrtle starts turning over the pages.]* It all looks very fuzzy. Oh wait a minute, I need my glasses.

POLLY Where are they?

MYRTLE In here somewhere. *[She starts searching through her bag.]*

MOTHER H Oh do hurry.

MYRTLE I'm sure they're here somewhere. I used them last to do a crystal reading.

HUMPTY Perhaps you should ask the crystal to find them!

MYRTLE Don't be cheeky young man! *[She pulls out all sorts of items and eventually finds her glasses.]* Ah here we are. *[She puts them on and starts reading.]* Septimus marked a special incantation in the event of anything happening to the egg. It's here somewhere. *[She mutters through some spells, turning pages.]* How to turn a prince into a frog! Recipe for youthening pills.

MOTHER H Oh let me make a note of that.

HUMPTY We don't have the time.

MOTHER H *[Tapping under her chin.]* Neither do I!

MYRTLE Ah here it is. *[All peer at the book.]* When a curse, which has been captured by a container . in our case the egg . is released, the only way to draw it back is to make up the following potion. Into a bowl put a cup full of cinders from a fire.

POLLY That's easy, we have plenty of those.

MYRTLE Add a table spoon full of salt.

TOMMY No problem.

MYRTLE A handful of goose feathers.

MELANIE The pillows on my bed are stuffed with them.

MYRTLE Ten strands of horse hair.

LOCK We can get those.

BOLT From the King's stables.

MYRTLE And the seeds of a Carrinocus Plant.

MOTHER H No probõ *[She realises she's never heard of it.]* The seeds of a what?

MYRTLE A Carrinocus Plant.

HUMPTY What's one of those when it's at home?

MYRTLE Just a moment. *[She scans some more pages.]* Here we are. The Carrinocus is a bright golden flowering plant. Its seeds have magical properties to fight all kinds of evil.

THE OTHERS Ooooh!

MYRTLE It is especially effective at containing a curse.

THE OTHERS *[Louder.]* Oooh!!

TOMMY That's just what we want. But I've never heard of it.

MELANIE Nor me. Where is it found?

MYRTLE It is only found in the swamps of Agradore.

POLLY Where's that?

MOTHER H Isn't it at the back of . *[Name of a local town or area.]*
[The King is heard off stage.]

KING Yoo hoo. *[He enters a little out of breath and carrying the scent bottle.]*

MELANIE Father. Are you alright?

KING Yes my dear. I'm a little out of practice at running a marathon!

TOMMY Did you manage escape from Miniver?

KING Yes. When I left her she was sleeping like a baby.

MOTHER H Mmm, a baby tyrannosaurus!

HUMPTY *[Taking the bottle.]* This stuff seems eggceptionally lethal.

KING Just make sure you don't smell it! Have you found anything from Septimus's book?

MYRTLE Yes. There is a spell to reverse the curse but to complete it we need the seeds from the Carrinocus Plant.

MELANIE And that's only found in the swamps of Agradore - wherever that is.

KING I have heard of Agradore. It is at least three Kingdoms away.

HUMPTY That will take weeks to get there and back.

MOTHER H *[Pointing to the audience.]* And all these people have got buses to catch at ten o'clock!

TOMMY We better start walking. I'll lead the way.

[They all start to walk left.]

MYRTLE Wait a minute. *[They all stop, bumping into each other.]* There is another way.

KING How?

MYRTLE *[Turning to the back of the book.]* By using the Tunnel of Light

POLLY What's that?

MYRTLE It's a magical form of transport that can get you anywhere at the speed of light.

TOMMY That's wonderful. We can be there and back in no time.

MYRTLE But its portal is only open for a short time. You must be ready to leave when you hear a warning sound or it will close and leave whoever misses it stranded.

TOMMY How can we access this tunnel of light.

MYRTLE According to Septimus's book, it can be accessed by reciting a spell whilst holding up - *[She puts a hand inside her bag.]* a crystal ball. *[She brings it out and holds it high.]*

HUMPTY Myrtle, you are a genius!

KING Can you do it now? There's no time to lose.

MYRTLE Of course. And all the time you doubted my powers.

HUMPTY But never again. After this you'll have folks queuing up to have their fortunes told.

MYRTLE I don't tell fortunes! I communicate with the spirits!

MOTHER H Well mines a vodka and lime!

HUMPTY Communicate now and get us tickets for the tunnel!

[Myrtle holds up the crystal and recites from the book. The stage lights dim and as she speaks a light begins to appear in the centre of the stage. It grows to create a tunnel effect.]

MUSIC . THE TUNNEL OF LIGHT

MYRTLE From every moon and every star
That shines through dead of night.
Combine your strengths and here create
A single tunnel of light.
Transport these bold intrepid folk
Cross every sea and shore,
From this remote and barren spot
To the swamps of Agradore.

The tunnel will lead you to the swamp. Follow the edge of it until you see the flower.

TOMMY Right everyone. This way.

[Lock and Bolt have grown a little scared at the prospect of going with the others.]

LOCK Erō your Majesty. Private Bolt and I thought it might be best if we stand guard here.

BOLT For the duration.

LOCK In case a certain person was to find out what was going on and try to erō ..

BOLT ò erō scupper our plans.

LOCK If you get our drift.

KING Yes. Good idea. You stay here with Myrtle and monitor the situation.
BOLT Very good, your Majesty. *[They both heave a sigh of relief.]*

KING Lead on Mister Tucker.

MYRTLE Remember you only have a short time.

HUMPTY Thank you Myrtle, you're a lifesaver!

[All except Lock, Bolt and Myrtle enter the tunnel.]

MOTHER H *[Last one in with the King.]* Isn't this exciting Cuthbert? Just like the tunnel of love at Blackpool!

[They have gone and the light fades.]

LOCK Do you think they will be alright?

BOLT Will they make it?

MYRTLE *[Mysteriously.]* Who knows? Wait a minute. Did I tell them about the Boggart?

LOCK The who?

BOLT The what?

MYRTLE The Boggart. An awful half human who lives by the swamp and guards the Carrinocus Plant.

LOCK Er.. no. I don't think you mentioned that.

MYRTLE Oh dear! And there's also the Swamp Creature.

LOCK You didn't mention that either!

BOLT What will it do to them?

MYRTLE No idea. No one has ever come back to tell.

LOCK We've got to warn them.

BOLT But how? They've gone down the tunnel.

LOCK *[To Myrtle.]* Can't you call them on your ball?

BOLT Do another of your scary rhymes?

MYRTLE Impossible. We must leave everything in the hands of fate.

NUMBER MYRTLE, LOCK AND BOLT

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

SCENE 3 THE SWAMPS OF AGRADORE

[The scene consists of a lot of weird looking trees and plants. None of them seem very colourful. Stage right is what looks like a mud hut almost hidden from view. Up stage of it is a rough cage made out of sticks and covered with a blanket of leaves. Inside the cage, but at the moment hidden from view, is the Golden Bird of Marakanda. On a mound of earth towards the back of the stage is the Carrinocus Plant. It is tall with a few long leaves. The head of the plant will eventually bloom as a bright golden flower. Cutting the stage in half is what looks like a riverbank running from down stage right to upstage left. This is

the side of the swamp. Down stage right is a make-shift plank of wood that acts as a bridge across. There is a strange noise and a shaft of light appears down left. Tommy, Melanie, the King, Polly and Humpty arrive in the tunnel.]

- HUMPTY *[To the audience.]* How are you? *[Reaction.]* Wow, that was wicked. Alton Towers has definitely got to get one of those as next season's main attraction!
- KING Oh I don't know. It was all too much for me. I was so nervous I felt like a turkey on Christmas Eve!
- TOMMY Where is Mother Hubbard?
- MELANIE She was with you, father.
- POLLY I'm sure I saw her as we were landing.
- KING Don't say we've lost her.
- MOTHER H *[Off stage.]* Yoo hoo.
- TOMMY Here she is.
- [Mother Hubbard enters in a new outfit that resembles a mismatched safari suit with addition bits hanging from it.]*
- MOTHER H Wasn't that exciting?
- POLLY Where did you get the new frock?
- MOTHER H Didn't you notice? We zoomed through . *[Name of clothes shop.]* . and they were sorting out the New Year sales, so I grabbed this. I think it rather suits me, don't you?
- HUMPTY Yes, if you're going big game hunting!
- MOTHER H Well you never know what's in store for us here. *[She looks around.]* So this is Agradore. It reminds me of a dreary weekend in . *[Name of nearby town.]*
- TOMMY We don't have a lot of time so we must try and find that Carrinocus Plant.
- MELANIE Well hopefully that Tunnel of Light has put us down in the right area.
- KING It's very eerie here. You don't think there are any awful creatures lurking about do you?
- POLLY *[Nervous.]* What sort of creatures.
- KING Well - the sort that like human beings for dinner.
- MELANIE Oh don't say that. You're scaring me.

[All of them, except Mother Hubbard, start to tremble.]

MOTHER H *[Holding her hand up.]* Just a moment. *[She comes down to address the audience.]* Now I think you might have guessed what is coming next. We've tried to avoid it, but there have been numerous sacks of mail delivered, campaigns on the internet and twitter has gone into overdrive all asking to keep this scene in. So here we go! If by any chance you happen to see something nasty creeping up on us you will shout out, won't you? *[Audience reaction.]* Thank you very much.

HUMPTY Wait a minute. Aren't you forgetting something?

MOTHER H What?

KING We should sing a little song, to keep our spirits up!

POLLY Why?

KING Because it says so in the script!

SONG - MOTHER HUBBARD, HUMPTY, KING, MELANIE AND POLLY

[The 'He's behind you' sequence. A Swamp Monster appears and scares first Tommy and Melanie followed by Polly, King and Humpty ending with Mother Hubbard and a creature left on stage.]

MOTHER H Well now. Have you had enough of this? *[The Swamp Monster nods.]* OK here we go. Big finish. *[She sings the song one more time with the Swamp Monster and at the end pulls a face. The Swamp Monster screams and runs off. Mother Hubbard calls to others off stage.]* Alright you lot. Break over.

[The others re-enter drinking cups of tea etc.]

HUMPTY Back to the plot!

TOMMY We must find that flower.

MELANIE *[Pointing to the flower.]* Tommy, look.

[A light slowly glows around the flower as it starts to turn and reveal a beautiful golden head.]

POLLY That must be it.

MELANIE The Carrinocus Plant.

KING Let's get the seeds and get out of here.

[They all start to cross towards the flower when the Boggart suddenly appears out of the hut.]

BOGGART *[Shouting at them.]* What are you doing in my swamp?
 [They all back away from him.]

HUMPTY It looks like . *[Name of TV personality / politician.]*

POLLY Smells like him too!

MELANIE What is that odious odour?

MOTHER H Well it isn't Chanel number five, I can tell you.

KING More like compost heap number twenty-five!

BOGGART I'm the Boggart of the swamp and you are trespassing.

TOMMY Sir, we mean no harm. We are on an urgent mission.

KING Yes, we have very little time to save my Kingdom.

BOGGART I don't care about your Kingdom. I don't care about anyone. All I know is you shouldn't be here. Now clear off and leave me in peace.

MELANIE Please listen to us. This is very important.

BOGGART *[Looking her over.]* Mmm, you're a pretty young thing, aren't you?

TOMMY If we could just have a moment. Then we will be gone and leave you alone.

BOGGART Well make it quick. I'm a very busy person and can't waste time with strange people.

MOTHER H *[Aside.]* Strange people? Has he looked in the mirror lately?

KING All we want are some seeds from that Carrinocus Plant.

BOGGART *[Shouting.]* What? Take seeds from my beautiful plant?

POLLY Just a few.

MELANIE We need them desperately.

BOGGART And what would you give me in return for such a favour?

KING What do you mean?
 BOGGART I could trade you some seeds for something . or someone! *[To Melanie.]* What about you my dear? What have you got to offer me?

TOMMY Melanie, no.

BOGGART What's that?

MOTHER H *[Primping.]* I have something you might like.

BOGGART *[Looking her over.]* You must be joking! *[He turns to go away.]*

MOTHER H Strawberry sponge cake .

BOGGART *[Stopping.]* What?

MOTHER H Double chocolate cheesecake .

BOGGART Cakes? Sweet, mouth-watering cakes? You have some?

MOTHER H Right here in my bag. Freshly baked this morning.

BOGGART *[Reeling with pleasure.]* Oh it's been so long since I had anything sweet and tasty to eat. All I get here is bindweed soup and skunk cabbage casserole.

MOTHER H Well I have a bag full of goodies.

TOMMY You can have them all in return for a few of the seeds.

HUMPTY All? What about our supper.

POLLY Be quite, or you'll be his supper!

KING So what do you say?

BOGGART Alright. But only that pretty thing can bring them over.

MOTHER H Very well. *[She starts for the plank and speak back to the others, dramatically.]* Don't worry about me. I may be gone for some time!!

BOGGART Not you, you old trout. *[Pointing to Melanie.]* That pretty thing.

MOTHER H How very rude.

TOMMY Melanie, I'm not letting you go alone.

MELANIE Don't worry. I'll be fine. *[She takes the bag from Mother Hubbard.]*

BOGGART Come on, come on. I haven't got all day.

[Melanie crosses over to the Boggart. He grabs the bag and hungrily starts taking out the cakes. Melanie crosses to the plant and starts to gather the seeds. The Boggart throws the bag down as he starts to eat. Melanie picks up the bag and puts the seeds in. The others encourage her. She turns to go but the Boggart stops her.]

 Not so fast. You must want those seeds pretty badly. I know they contain magical properties. I think I need extra payment. *[He grabs her.]* You!

TOMMY No! Take your hands off her.

KING Let go of my daughter.

- BOGGART You can join my other prize possession. *[He drags Melanie towards the cage and pulls off the blanket of leaves. It reveals the Golden Bird of Marakanda.]* Pretty isn't it. The Golden Bird of Marakanda. I captured her from an old wizard who was losing his power! Poor old man. *[He looks into the swamp.]* He's resting down there now! *[He laughs.]*
- TOMMY Leave her alone. *[He starts towards the plank.]*
- BOGGART Stay where you are or she will join him!
- MELANIE Tommy, take this. *[She throws the bag across to him. The Boggart puts her into the cage with the bird. There is a strange sound and the tunnel of light begins to glow.]*
- POLLY The tunnel is opening. We'll have to go.
- KING We can't leave Melanie.
- MOTHER H But we'll be trapped here. And I'll never find out what happened to . *[She mentions a dramatic story line in of the TV soaps.]*
- TOMMY *[Giving the bag to Mother Hubbard.]* All of you go through the tunnel. Leave him to me.
- HUMPTY I'm coming with you.
- [There is consternation as Tommy and Humpty start to cross to the plank.]*
- KING Melanie!
- POLLY Come on. We must leave.
- [By now Tommy and Humpty have crossed the plank and are fighting with the Boggart. Humpty manages to get to the cage and open it.]*
- HUMPTY Quick, Princess. Run for the tunnel.
- [Melanie runs past them and across to the others.]*
- BOGGART So you two want to become my prisoners? Very well. *[He starts to force them back towards the cage. The light has grown stronger and the sound is getting louder. The others start to move into the light. Humpty manages to dodge by the Boggart. He takes out the scent bottle and holds it up.]*
- HUMPTY I know what will stop you! *[He shakes the rest of the contents of the bottle over the Boggart.]* Eggsperience that!
- BOGGART *[Starting to yawn and stagger about.]* Mmm, what a lovely smell. *[He yawns again and lets go of Tommy.]*

TOMMY Sleep it off down there. *[He pushes the Boggart into the swamp.]*
 Come on Humpty. *[They start down the plank but the others have gone and the tunnel of light fades. Tommy and Humpty arrive down stage left.]* Oh no! Now what do we do?

HUMPTY We better start walking!!

[Suddenly a soft voice is heard. It is the Golden Bird of Marakanda.]

BIRD I think I can help.

TOMMY Who said that?

BIRD I did.

[They both turn to look at her.]

HUMPTY The bird spoke to us! Wow, it took me two years to get my budgie to say hello!

BIRD I am the Golden Bird of Marakanda and I possess special powers. For freeing me I am more than happy to help you get home.

HUMPTY Can you magic us there?

BIRD No, but I can provide some comfortable transport.

TOMMY How?

BIRD Climb on my back and I'll fly you there.

HUMPTY Oh my! *[They both cross back to the cage.]*

BIRD I have been a prisoner here for many years. It will be good to get back to my own home.

TOMMY I can't tell you how grateful we are.

BIRD It is I who am grateful. Climb on my back and hold tight.

HUMPTY Come on Tommy. We're going home first class!

[The music comes in as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 4 SOMEWHERE

[The black tabs are in and Miniver is down stage left.]

MINIVER I can't believe I was foolish enough to allow that old idiot of a King to dupe me with a sleeping draught. Now I can't find anyone to do all the menial tasks in the palace. If they are off somewhere plotting they will find it is to no avail. My powers are greater than any of their puny efforts. But just to be on the safe side I should check. *[She calls.]* Snivel, you wretch, bring me my special box of powders.

[Snivel enters down left with her box of powders.]

SNIVEL Here it is madam. *[She glares at him.]* I mean your majesty. Not use to the change of name. *[He wipes his nose with his sleeve.]*

MINIVER Well you better get used to it. You'll be saying it for many years to come.

SNIVEL Yes Ma.. I mean your majesty.

MINIVER *[Opening the box and taking out a hand mirror.]* This mirror has been handed down through the crowned heads of many kingdoms. It is said it was originally owned by a queen who used to ask it to tell her how beautiful she was. *[She is looking at herself in the mirror.]* How vain she must have been. *[She is primping and preening as she looks.]* Mirror, mirror o . *[She stops herself.]* No. There's no time for that now. I need to find out what is happening. *[She chants.]*
Mirror I command you to show to me
Those who challenge my authority.

[The light swirls as Miniver sees images in the mirror.]

What's this? The King and his followers have travelled through a tunnel of light! Mirror, show me where to. *[She looks closely.]* The swamps of Agradore!

SNIVEL Where's that?

MINIVER Miles away. But why go there? They are plotting something. I know. Well if they return they will have me waiting for them. Nothing they do can stop me as I enact revenge on them for my brother!

REPRISE MINIVER

[There is a short reprise of the number that ended act one. As it finishes the lights fade out down stage left. Miniver and Snivel exit as the tabs open and we see Tommy and Humpty riding on the back of the Golden Bird of Marakanda.]

HUMPTY *[Waving at the audience.]* How are you? *[Reaction.]* Isn't this the most excellent way to travel?

TOMMY This wonderful bird is a life saver. We should be home in no time the speed we are going.

HUMPTY I must email Richard Branson about this when we get back!

TOMMY I hope the others are alright. I was worried that awful Boggart was going to keep us locked up.

HUMPTY He didn't stand a chance against us!! We're a great team! *[They give each other a high five as the music comes in for their duet.]*

DUET TOMMY AND HUMPTY

[During the number, if it is possible, the bird swoops around. At the end of the song the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE KINGDOM

[A front cloth as before. Myrtle, Lock and Bolt are anxiously waiting stage right.]

LOCK Oh I can't bare all this waiting around. I keep thinking that Miniver woman will discover us any minute.

BOLT She could turn us into all sorts of horrible things.

LOCK And look at this place. All the sunlight gone. Everyone's miserable.

BOLT No one smiles anymore.

LOCK Or laughs at my jokes anymore.

BOLT No one's ever laughed at your jokes!

MYRTLE Come along, we mustn't be downhearted. We must try to be positive.

LOCK Yes, you're right.

BOLT We have to think that soon things will be back to normal.

LOCK The summer sun will shine again and all the flowers will bloom.

BOLT The birds will be singing in the trees and the hedgehogs will be in the fields playing leapfrog.

LOCK How do hedgehogs play leapfrog?

BOLT Very carefully!

MYRTLE Look, the tunnel of light is returning.

LOCK I hope they are alright.

BOLT Do you think they have got the seeds?

MYRTLE Wed soon know. *[The light grows in intensity on stage left. King and Melanie enter.]* At last. I was beginning to worry you wouldn't make it.

KING Some of us didn't. *[Polly and Mother Hubbard enter left. She has another frock on.]* Don't tell me! You dropped in at . *[Name of store.]*. on the way back.

MOTHER H Why waste the opportunity?

MYRTLE But where is Tommy and Humpty?

KING We had a bit of a run in with a creature called a Boggart.

MYRTLE Yes, I'm afraid I forgot to mention him.

POLLY He nearly took Princess Melanie prisoner.

MOTHER H They went to rescue her and missed the light tunnel.

MELANIE Oh I hope they are alright. I'd never forgive myself if anything happened to them. *[She gets tearful.]*

KING *[Comforting her.]* There, there my dear. I'm sure they'll find a way to get back.

MOTHER H On foot? They'd have beards down to their knees by the time they arrive.

POLLY *[To Myrtle.]* Can't you open the tunnel again?

MYRTLE I would have to know exactly where they are or else it would be useless.

MELANIE Oh father .

KING There must be something we can do.

MYRTLE Should we get the other things need for this spell? At least if we can stop Miniver from ruling the Kingdom, we could then send out search parties.

KING Good idea. We have to get back to the wall and the egg. Sergeant Lock.

LOCK Right troops. Best foot forward and throw out your chests.

MOTHER H Do you know how long it took me to get it on?

LOCK Forward march.

[Some marching music comes in and they all exit right except Melanie.]

MELANIE Oh Tommy. I can't believe I'll never see you again.

[She sings a short reprise of their Act One duet.]

REPRISE . MELANIE

[At the end of the song she exits right tearfully. The lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 6 OUTSIDE THE ROYAL PALACE OF EGGSHELLIA

[The scene is as before with the egg shell still lying there in two pieces. The King is pacing back and forth in front of the egg. Myrtle is down right searching through the book.]

KING Oh dear, oh dear.

MYRTLE Calm down your Majesty.

KING How can I be calm? That Miniver woman could appear at any minute and scupper our plans. *[There is the sound of flapping wings and a rushing of wind.]* Oh no. She's coming. We're all doomed!

MYRTLE *[Pointing to off stage left.]* Look at that. What a strange looking creature.

KING It's that golden bird we saw in Agradore. The Golden Bird of Marakanda.

MYRTLE I have heard of that. A beautiful creature. And look who she has brought us!

[Humpty comes running on and calls to the audience.]

HUMPTY How are you? *[They respond. Tommy enters calling back off stage.]*

TOMMY Thank you. Safe journey back to your home.

HUMPTY Goodbye. *[They both wave as the flapping of wings is heard disappearing into the distance.]*

KING Tommy, Humpty. You're safe.

HUMPTY Yes. And eggsecutive first class travel back!

TOMMY Where is everyone?

KING Getting everything we need for the trick.

MYRTLE *[Angrily snapping the book shut.]* It is not a trick! Now look. You've made me lose my place.

- HUMPTY *[Speaking to the eggshell.]* Don't worry daddy, we'll soon have you back together again.
- KING Are you sure this is going to work?
- MYRTLE Patience your Majesty. I am a professional you know. My predictions, prophecies and prognostications are widely known!
- HUMPTY Can you give me six winning numbers for Saturday's lotto?
- MYRTLE Don't be flippant young man. The mystical powers are much greater than anyone realises.
- KING Well I hope they work in this case or we are all doomed to a life of misery and despair.
- HUMPTY You sound like the leader of the opposition. *[Use a name if well-known enough! Melanie runs out of the palace with a handful of goose feathers.]*
- MELANIE Here are the goose feathers. *[She sees Tommy.]* Tommy! *[She runs to him and they embrace.]* You're safe!
- HUMPTY *[Waiting for a hug.]* Me too!
- [Polly enters with a cup of cinders.]*
- POLLY Here is the cup of cinders. *[Seeing Tommy.]* Tommy! You're safe!
- HUMPTY Me too!
- [Lock enters from the shop stage left. He carries a tablespoon of salt.]*
- LOCK A tablespoon of salt. *[Sees Humpty.]* Humpty, you're safe. *[He goes to hug Humpty who holds out his hand.]*
- HUMPTY Alright mate! *[They shake hands.]*
- KING Now all we need isõ ..
- [There is a loud sound of a horse neighing. Bolt shoots on from stage right having been kicked by a horse. He lies flat on the floor with a clenched fist raised containing strands of horse hair.]*
- BOLT õ õ õ .ten strands of horse hair . from a very angry horse!
- [Mother Hubbard enters from the shop carrying a bowl.]*
- MOTHER H And here's a bowl and those precious seeds. *[Sees Tommy and Humpty.]* Boys! You're safe! Come on . group hug everyone!
- MYRTLE No time. Put everything in the bowl and place it by the broken egg. *[They all gather round Mother Hubbard and put the items in the bowl.]*

She places it near the eggshell.] Now all stand back while I recite the verse. [Everyone gathers stage left as Myrtle moves to the eggshell and starts to read. Underscoring starts.]

MUSIC . INCANTATION

Components of this special draught
Combine and then restore
Humpty Dumpty to its former state
And the kingdom in harmony once more.

[The music builds and a lighting effect takes place. If possible we see the eggshells start to move. The lights black out as the music becomes louder and when the lights return the egg is back on the wall and sunlight floods the scene.]

- KING It worked!
- [All cheer. The Chorus enter excitedly. Humpty runs up to the wall.]*
- HUMPTY Daddy!
- KING *[Addressing everyone.]* My people we have reversed the curse and restored the egg to its rightful place. *[More cheers.]* Albeit with a couple of cracks!
- MELANIE Now we need to get your crown back.
- [Suddenly at the door of the palace Miniver appears wearing the crown.]*
- MINIVER That will never happen!
- KING Miniver.
- MINIVER What is the meaning of this treachery?
- KING There is no treachery on our part. Your attempt to persecute my loyal subjects has failed. You will return the crown and be banished from this Kingdom.
- MINIVER Like you banished my brother. Never! You underestimate my powers which have grown over the years. *[She thrusts her hand in the air and thunder roars out. All scream and scatter as she moves centre.]* I was prepared to let you live and work as my slaves, but for this you will now all perish. *[She calls.]* Snivel, bring me the powder.
- [Snivel enters left with a bowl and pestle.]*
- SNIVEL Here it is your majesty.
- MINIVER I anticipated you would try something like this so I prepared a powder so powerful that you will all be exterminated.

MOTHER H Is she in league with the Daleks?

HUMPTY And I do the eggjokes!

MINIVER Silence! *[Another burst of thunder makes everyone cower.]* One speck of this will turn each of you to dust. *[To Snivel.]* Hold it steady. *[She takes the pestle and grinds the powder.]* Now say goodbye to your precious Kingdom. *[As she has been grinding, Snivel looks as though he is about to sneeze. She turns to face him and sees what is about to happen.]* Snivel . no!!

[Snivel lets out the biggest sneeze and the powder goes all over Miniver. She screams in agony. The thunder crashes and the lights go wild before blacking out. When they return Miniver is nowhere to be seen. The crown is on the floor.]

SNIVEL Whoops!

TOMMY *[Moving to where Miniver was standing.]* Look everyone. She gone!

[All cheer.]

MELANIE Has she? Has she really gone?

MOTHER H Blown away by her own wicked concoction.

KING *[To Snivel.]* My boy, you are a hero!

SNIVEL *[Astounded.]* I am?

HUMPTY You are indeed. An eggceptional one!

POLLY Unless you intend using any of what's left of that powder.

SNIVEL No! I hated that woman. She took my home and my possessions and forced me to work for her.

KING Well for what you have done I will give you a job in the palace with your own quarters.

SNIVEL You mean indoors. No more sleeping under the coach?

KING Certainly.

[Snivel runs to the King and hugs him.]

SNIVEL Oh thank you!

KING *[Slowly freeing himself.]* Yesõ wellõ not at all.

[Tommy has picked up the crown.]

TOMMY You Majesty. I believe this belongs to you.

KING *[Taking the crown and pitting it on.]* Thank you mister Tucker. And for your part in all of this there will be a handsome reward. Yours too, Humpty.

TOMMY Sire, there is only one reward for me. *[He holds his hand out to Melanie who crosses to him.]*

HUMPTY Oh yes. And what do I get?

POLLY *[Seductively.]* Hello Humpty. And how's my big, handsome hero of the hour?

[Humpty smiles at the audience as Polly takes his hand.]

HUMPTY Eggcuse us!! *[He and Polly embrace.]*

MOTHER H Well Cuthbert. That leaves just you and me!

KING *[Embarrassed.]* Er, yes. Wellō .lqn starving. What's on the menu tonight?

MOTHER H Scrambled egg . *[Seductively.]* – and me!

[All laugh. Music comes in for a reprise.]

REPRISE . COMPANY

[At the end of the number light the fade out and the scene changes to...]

SCENE 7 THE PALACE GARDEN

[The lights come up and Humpty is on stage.]

HUMPTY How are you? *[Audience reaction.]* What an eggstordinary adventure. Sorry, had to get one more in! This story will go down in history! The egg is back together and never again will we have to put up with an eggecrable, eggcruciating eggistence under that eggsplosive woman!

[Mother Hubbard enters.]

MOTHER H And that's about all we can take of the egg jokes!

HUMPTY OK. But lqn glad you are here because lqn really eggcitedō .

MOTHER H Humpty!

HUMPTY Sorry!

MOTHER H What are you eggcitō *[To audience.]* He's got me at it now! *[To Humpty.]* What are you excited about?

- HUMPTY Well as the celebrations were cut short with all that went on, the King has decided to give everyone a week of celebrations to make up for it.
- MOTHER H Does that mean I have to bake a lot more cakes??
- HUMPTY There will be a lot more to do than just eat cakes. And guess what . I've got a brand new song for the occasion.
- MOTHER H *[To the audience.]* Nothing changes, does it!! *[To Humpty.]* And I suppose you want me and all our friends out there to join you in singing it.
- HUMPTY What a great idea!

SONG SHEET

[Note; there is a song specially written for this scene. Please see the end of the script.]

[At the end the lights fade out and the scene changes to.....

SCENE 8 THE PALACE BALLROOM

[A beautiful scene. Up centre is a staircase at the top of which is the egg Humpty Dumpty. The Chorus and Children are on and take a bow. They then move to dress the stage as the other Principals take their call in the following order.]

Boggart
Lock and Bolt
Snivel
Myrtle
Polly
Madam Miniver
King Cole
Humpty
Mother Hubbard

- KING Will everyone please welcome Sir Thomas Tucker and his bride, Princess Melanie.
- [Tommy and Melanie enter and take their bow.]*
- LOCK King's men are back on duty now,
- BOLT On us you can rely!
- BOGGART I'm back with just swamp food to eat,
Instead of lemon pie.

MINIVER My powers have all been blown away,
Each magic spell a dud.

SNIVEL Now happily I sleep indoors,
My cold has gone . *[He goes to sneeze, but doesn't.]* – for good!

POLLY And from now on this simple tale
Of a Sorcerer's curse reversed,

MYRTLE Will be told to young and old alike
But you heard it here first.

KING The Kingdom's safe, the crown restored
To where it ought to be.

MOTHER H Now I can bake a three-tier cake
That's just for him and me!

MELANIE And so it's time to say goodbye

TOMMY Farewell to one and all.

HUMPTY While I get back to making sure
The egg stays on the wall!

FINAL CHORUS

[All wave goodbye as the curtain falls.]

MY WORD IS LAW . *Music and Lyrics by Stephen Duckham*

- MINIVER: If I say do this.
 If I say do that.
[To Mother Hubbard.] If I tell you to throw away that stupid hat.
[To All.] Then you will do just what I say,
 From today it's me that you obey.
 From this moment on
 Show complete respect.
 When I pass in my coach make sure you genuflect.
 I want your loyalty, what's more
 Remember that my word is law.
 My word is law and don't you forget it.
 If you cross me then you'll regret it.
 The status quo just got changed
 And your lives rearranged.
 Nothing is the same as before.
 That's because .
[Spoken.] You peasants .
 My word is law.
- ALL: What an awful witch!
 What a tigercat.
- MOTHER H: Don't you think my hat's fabulous . *[King opens his mouth.]* . don't answer that!
- MELANIE: Who would have thought she'd act this way?
- KING: I'm the King; it's me she should obey!
- TOMMY: We must get some help.
- KING & MEN: Well don't look at us!
- MOTHER H: Cuthbert, show you're a man and be rebellious!
- MINIVER: There'd be no doing as you please,
 I want to see you on your knees.

 My word is law and don't you forget it.
- ALL: If we cross her then we'd regret it.

MINIVER: The throne is mine so beware,
 Challenge me if you dare.
 I have powers you can't ignore.
 That's because .
[Spoken in rhythm.]
 You small, puny, weak, feeble, insignificant nobodies!
 My word is .

ALL: Her word is .

MINIVER/ALL: My/Her word is .

MINIVER: Law! *[A rising note.]*

ALL: Her word is law!

MY WORD IS LAW . REPRISE - *Music and Lyrics by Stephen Duckham*

My word is law they have to obey me.
 It is doom for those who betray me.
 My patience soon will wear thin,
 My reign of terror begin.
 I'll make them beg and plead and implore.
(Spoke) For mercy.
 Ha ha.
 My word is law!

SONG SHEET . *Music and Lyrics by Stephen Duckham*

Take an egg and a wall
 And a curse and a fall
 And a desperate race against time.
 In a book find a spell
 That makes everything well
 Now the wedding bells can chime.

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