



by Vicky Orman

Characters

Puss in Boots (Link Man – Male)

Puss in Boots is a swashbuckling cat who used to belong to the Evil Wizard Malacar who used him to steal things until Puss realised that he was being lied to and used and refused to do it. He was promptly replaced by Purrito and thrown out by Malacar, and Puss vowed to get revenge. Tom saves Puss's life who then vows to help Tom. He is awesome, clever and cool but his weakness is that his cat habits will sometimes completely distract him and let the baddies get one over on him. He also has a love interest in Purrito.

Tom Turnip – Principal Boy (Female)

Tom is the youngest of the Turnip Brothers – technically the other two are his step brothers. Tom is a classic Principal boy, good, honest, hard working – in fact he does all the work while his step brothers lie around. He was widely tipped to inherit the mill until his brothers cheat him out of it. Tom relies on Puss a lot but at the end has to step up and 'hero' himself to help save Princess Katrina. Puss makes him masquerade as the Marquis de Carabas to get the King's attention, but he is uncomfortable with pretending to be something he is not and proves he is a hero on his own terms.

Princess Katrina – Principal Girl (Female)

Princess Katrina actually enjoys being out of the Palace when they are thrown out by the monster. She is proactive and not at all passive and for instance is the one that grabs a sword to fight the Orc which rampages through town. She meets Tom as his commoner self and falls in love but out of the two of them she is far more competent, and she has little patience for her 'traditional' role. She is the one that encourages Tom to believe that he can do more. She is captured by Malacar, but she certainly does not wait around hoping for someone else to rescue her. She and the Dame are pivotal in the battle and she actually has a fair amount of comedic moments which can be unusual for a Principal girl!

Malacar – Villain (Male)

Malacar is a Con-Artist Wizard – well, he stole a magic amulet and potions from a wizard which allow him to do magic and to change shape and run his scams. He has been running scams in lots of kingdoms where he shape-changes into something terrifying like an ogre, causes havoc, and then pretends to be a noble lord monster slayer and collects the subsequent reward from the King. He is running out of potions and decides that this will be his last big score where he will marry the princess to get the kingdom. He uses Purrito to help him, and this time recruits Dick and Harry as well as people don't seem to be bothered by ogres as much any more.

Purrito – Villains Cat (female)

Purrito is a pure-bred fluffy white cat. She has been lied to by Malacar that Puss abandoned her and went off chasing other cats, rejecting her feelings for him. She is

sneaky and sarcastic and her moods are quite changeable, (just like a cat in fact). She spies a lot for Malacar, and does what he says because she thinks he is the only one that really cares for her. In the end, Puss persuades her of the truth and she helps them rather than Malacar.

Dame – Tina Turnip (Male)

Tina Turnip is “Simply the Best.” She is the epitome of the merry widow and the grass does not grow under her feet when she realises that she and Tom are going to be cheated out of their home. She immediately starts looking for a replacement husband and is not picky to start with. No one is safe! Unfortunately as most of the men in the town know her, she doesn’t do very well. She eventually seizes on the King as a prospect for her next husband and tries to entice him with her feminine wiles and through a combination of cake and being able to understand his mixed metaphors, they get together! She gets involved in pretty much everything comedic including synchronised swimming and slapstick.

King Felix – (Older Male)

King Felix is classic panto royalty – worried about his kingdom, his daughter and horrified when they all get chased out of their palace. He does not want his daughter to marry a commoner, but solves that issue by making Tom a real Marquis at the end. He has an obsession at a hero will save them, that’s just the way stories go, despite all evidence that this is a tactic that won’t work. He is alternately terrorised by the Dame and then smitten with her - mainly because she understands his bad habit of mixing metaphors (It really annoys him when people correct him). They do end up together as a more comedic couple at the end. He drives a lot of the plot along and has a larger role than most Panto Kings.

Dick Turnip – Comedy Duo 1 (Male or Female – played as an older principal boy)

Dick is the more idiotic one of the two brothers, but will do what his brother says. The pair of them are generally lazy and horrible to Tom and are at the centre of a lot of the plot as they go back and forward between the two sides. Dick is easier to trick than Harry and comedically inept. Involved in Slapstick.

Harry Turnip – Comedy Duo 1 (Male or Female – played as an older principal boy) Harry is the brighter one of the two – he believes he should be the ‘Heir’, not a ‘spare’ and he tends to make the decisions based on greed, and him wanting to live a life like royalty. He agrees they will help Malacar in return for him tampering with the Will so they get everything. Involved in slapstick

Chorus/ Juniors – Townsfolk, Courtiers, Royal Judge, Random Wizard, Royal Guard, Royal Servants Cobblers to the King, Orc, Kittens, Cats, Skeletons, Dragon Ninjas

Act 1

Prologue – In front of front cloth. Flash Bang FX, PUSS enters as dramatically as possible, in full Boots, hat and sword. Swinging in on a rope is always fun!

PUSS: Hi everyone! You were expecting a sparkly fairy maybe? I'm a little more furry than fairy but in case you didn't buy a programme or look at the posters, or the flyers or your tickets, I am the one, the only, the legendary Puss in Boots!
(encourages a cheer). What a purrfect audience you are! I'm so glad you are here to see my origin story. It involves magic, drama, swashbuckling, terrible odds, horrible peril, a little mew-sic and gratuitous amounts of cat puns. No groaning out there, you knew what you were signing up to when you bought the tickets. I wasn't always the heroic figure you see before you and I was a lot more distractable. When I go into flashback, I'm going to need your help to stay on track because it'll be like it's happening from scratch. When I come on and I say 'Hello Everyone!' I want you to shout back "What's new pussy cat?" then I'll remember the story. Can you do that? Great! Let's try it!

Amazing! Okay, Flash back time **(Visual FX and SFX)** I started off as a little orphan kitten, abandoned and alone...no it's sadder than that **(Awww!)**

(Mini-Puss enters SL moves to centre, and sits trying to look as cute and forlorn as possible in spotlight)

PUSS: Hard to believe I was such a tiny ball of floof. I was rescued by a really horrible villain. I didn't know it then, but he really needs booing and hissing every time he comes on as loud as you can! He's so evil that even *Vecna* ghosts him on Insta. Can you do that? **(yes!)** Oops, here he comes!

MAL: (Enters FSL) What's all this booing and hissing? Ah, shut up the lot of you, I'm not wasting my time insulting you, your faces are enough of an insult to nature all on their own. My name is Malacar, and I'm on a mission to steal, scam and swindle everything out of everyone. Only last week I managed to scam the man who invented margarine out of all his profits - I can't believe he's not bitter, but now I've got a lead on a wizard. Imagine what I could do if I learned his magical secrets!

PUSS: Nothing good I can tell you!

MAL: And you can shut up too, you mangy moggy. I might be a flash back but I can still make your life a cat-astrophe...oh I'm hilarious! Oh yes I am! **(Oh no you're not!)** Ugh, cats! Horrible creatures! Look at this hideous flea ridden creature **(gestures to mini-Puss).** What good is it?

(Mini Puss makes a little mew and tries the cute eyes at him and audience trying to get an ahh from the audience) What's wrong with you lot out there? You can't possibly think he is cute? Hmmm, maybe the Wizard I'm after will too. You mangy bit of fur, there's a man who has taken some of my things. If you help me get it back, I'll give you a nice kipper. What do you think Puss?

(Mini- Puss nods enthusiastically) Excellent...mwahahaha!

PUSS: And there started my inadvertent life of crime. **(As he narrates it is acted out with Chorus member entering as a wizard, petting Mini-Puss and a large bag being stolen before they leave)** Sure enough, along came a very powerful wizard who was not immune to my Cute Attack, and Malacar managed to steal one of his bags which was full of magical potions and a magical amulet!

MAL: Mwahaah! Look at this! Potions of all types! And this! Looks like you wear this to power the potions, not that this might be plot critical or anything. Oh I am going to be rich beyond my wildest dreams and I have some pretty wild dreams. Maybe I'll keep this furball around after all. **(Pets Mini-Puss who goes and sits next to him)**

PUSS: Malacar grew greedier and greedier, and as I got older I started to grow suspicious when he said people had stolen his things and I was just getting them back. **(Takes off hat, boots and sword)** We're going into full flashback now and I won't remember anything, so I'm definitely going to need your help. Will you help me? There's a good audience! Here we go! **(VFX and SFX as PUSS Moves over to SL and mini puss exits)**

MAL: (clearly lying) Today Puss, we are going to steal...uh, retrieve a very valuable diamond necklace from this house. I totally miss it so much, and it **definitely** used to be my mother's. Mumsy, dear old mumsy, the only thing I had to remember her by **(fake sob into hanky)**

PUSS: (Emphatic shake of head) Meow! **(folds arms)**

MAL: How dare you! Me who rescued you as a kitten. I've had enough of this. If you don't obey me, no food for you!

PUSS: (Shrugs and quickly darts off stage, comes back with a fake fish in his mouth)

MAL: Why you... that's it! Just as well I ordered your replacement from the Cat-a-logue. A purebred who will know how to behave and have none of this attitude! Say hello to Purrito!

(PURR enters SL – fluffy white slinky Persian, diamond collar and PUSS drops his fish as his mouth drops open. He tries to clean himself up to approach her, clearly smitten. She seems intrigued and a little flirty and they seem to hit it off)

MAL: And now, to make sure she knows what I want, I have done my research and I have an animal communication potion **(Shows a bottle)**. At least I think that's what it is. It's either that or a deadly poison. Hmmm. Ha, I know, I'm brilliant.. I'll try it out on Puss first. He's a lowly two bit stray, no one will care or even notice if something happens to him and I'm going to get rid of him anyway, Mwahaha! No point booing and hissing me, I don't give a monkey's what you lot think!

Amulet of Magical light

Power up this potion bright!

(amulet glows then potion lights up)

Aha! There we go...I think! Here Puss, Puss, Puss! **(dangles feather on a stick at him to lure him over. Puss looks up and cautiously comes over, drawn by cat**

toy, and MAL throws potion at him with magical SFX. He immediately reacts dramatically, and comedically collapses.)

MAL: Guess this needs a little work before I try it on her! Good riddance to bad rubbish. Come on Purrito, time to leave town. I have a new scam I want to try...mwahaha!

(Both Exit SL)

PUSS: (Getting up) Purrito? Stinky magic man? Where are you? **(clutches throat)** I can talk!. Oh well. Can all of you hear me? **(Yes!)** Hello Everyone! **(What's new pussycat?)** Amazing, I think I need to save Purrito from Malacar, and everyone else from his power hungry ways. Big ask. But we know cats always land on their feet right? I'd better follow them and find out what Malacar's up to. Which way did they go? That way? That's the way to the Kingdom of Catalonia, the richest kingdom around. I hope the citizens are ready for trouble! See you there! **(exits running after them)**

Act 1 Scene one

(Full stage. The market square. The Mill is visible along with CHORUS townsfolk. Place on stage where a washing line can be hooked up for later screen projection)

Song 1 – Mr Blue Sky

TOWNS 1: Did you hear the royal judge finally found the miller's will?

ALL: Really?

TOWNS 2: Yes! The reading is going to be today!

TOWNS 3: Which of his sons do you think Old man Turnip left it all too? Tom, Dick or Harry?

TOWNS 4: Tom is the only one who does any work at all!
(Everyone agrees)

TOWNS 5: Yeah Dick and Harry are so lazy they won't even pick their own noses

TOWNS 6: They say they have epi-pens because they are allergic to work!

TOWNS 7: Maybe he left all his worldly goods to his widow Tina Turnip?

(Everyone looks at this towns folk and falls about laughing)

TOWNS 8: No way! He used to say he hoped his marriage certificate came with an expiry date. I bet she'll get nothing!

TOWNS 9: And he was so tight-fisted he had varicose veins in his knuckles!

TOWNS 10: But Tom will see her right, he's a lovely lad.

TOWNS 11: He'd never turn his mum out! Despite her being... you know...

TOWNS 12: More terrifying than a T-rex in a tea shop?

TOWNS 13: Pretty much yeah.

TOWNS 14 : You do know she will be on the look-out for a new husband now?
(Horrified reaction)

TOWNS 15: I wonder if my passport is in date?

(A coooooee! From the back of auditorium and TINA enters with TOM. She flirts her way down the auditorium giving out sweets that TOM is carrying, and cards to men that catch her eye with Tina Turnip, Simply the Best, Single and ready to Mingle)

TINA: Whew! that's the deliveries done. I always make a few extra sweeties when I'm on the market, I mean going to market. I make them for all types. Do you know what a Karen's favourite sweet is? Entitle-mints. And I always do a batch of cop-cakes for the police to keep them sweet. Yes, I even had Chewbacca in buying some of my biscuits the other day - turns out he's a chocolate chip Wookie. So I better get on and do some more! **(Looks around)** The flour's not here! Tom, your lazy step brothers haven't brought the flour to Market!

TOM: I'll get it mum, don't worry. Looks like we need extra stock **(gestures to audience as he heads out to get flour SR).**

TINA: Ooooooo! I've never seen such a fine looking audience! You sir, are particularly fine...I love the look where all your hair has slid off your head to your chin. If it's good enough for Michael Eavis... I'll find you at the interval. My name is Tina Turnip, recently a widow you know **(Awww)** No it's sadder than that! **(Awww!)** I tell a lie, it wasn't really that sad. He was a terrible husband. I should know, I've been married 16 times. Yes, Four richer, four poorer, four better , four worse.... and he was definitely one of the worse. Treated Tom like the unpaid help but Tom is so forgiving he sorted him out a wonderful send off. Yes, there were so many different flours...

TOWNS 1: Oh Lillies, roses, that sort of thing?

TINA: No, self-raising, wholemeal, spelt, rye... it's what he would have wanted as a miller. Anyway, I'm not too sad he's gone, he only wanted me for my superior assets!

TOWNS 2: Your what?!

TINA: My ability to bake counterfeit Mr Kipling goods. Mind you, If I say so myself they are exceedingly good fakes. Anyway, it's really good news that the will reading is today. We're down to the last of our savings! I'm hoping Tom gets the mill or I'm going to have to find myself a rich husband.

TOWNS 3: Surely the Miller will have left him everything, he wasn't that mean.

TINA: He was and...

ALL: Don't call me Shirley!

TOM enters pulling a sack-filled cart from MSR and DICK & HARRY lounging around on it.

TOM: Here we go mum, all the flour from yesterday and..

TINA: ..two lazy blighters!

HARRY: I don't know why you shout at us for being lazy...

DICK: ..Yeah, it's not like we've done anything!

TOM: You can say that again

TINA: Dick and Harry, this flour doesn't mill itself. You can't just stream it off Spotify, you know. You need to do some work!

HARRY: Oh no, not today. I have a terrible vision problem. I just can't see myself doing anything at all!

TINA: That lazy eye of yours has spread to the rest of your body.

HARRY: Don't need to work - We're going to be rich when the Will is read. Our lives will be easy!

TINA: You've got it easy now! Your lives are like one long gap year with a month of bank holidays in the middle!

DICK: I'll be so rich my pants will fall down from all the GOLD in my pockets!

ALL: Ewwwww!

TOM: That's a good argument for staying poor right there!

HARRY: We don't have to listen to you, you're not our mother.

DICK: Yeah! When we get all the stuff, you are out O..U...T..... gone.

TINA: He's not the brightest bulb on the Christmas tree is he? And his brother's not much better.

HARRY: How very dare you! I am the eldest heir!

TINA: More like a 'spare' if you ask me.

TOM: Mum, you know Harry fancies himself royalty.

DICK: Oh yeah, he sits on the throne every morning for hours!

TINA: And don't we all know it. So what about Tom huh? He's the one who has been working hard for years!

DICK: I suppose we might let him sleep in the haybarn. With the rats.

TOM: I wouldn't do that to you. We're meant to be brothers, a family.

HARRY: Brothers for the next fifteen minutes and then you become...the help.
(both laugh. The pair of them drop slugs on TOM) Run along and finish those deliveries or are you feeling... sluggish brother?

TOM: (gets them off with a resigned air as if this is a common occurrence) I suppose I ought to for the customers' sake, and you need to get ready for the will reading mum.

TINA: True enough, let's go!
(Both exit SR with a couple of sacks)

HARRY: You know Dick, I've been thinking...

DICK: (Horrified) When did you start doing that?

HARRY: Yesterday...anyway..

DICK: (melodramatic) But WHY? Why would you DO that?!

(As they have this discussion PURRITO sneaks on and is scouting around, her head popping out from strange places.)

HARRY: Fact is Dick, miserable though our Dad was, he did seem to appreciate Tom a teeny weeny bit more than us.

DICK: Well you did call him Farter instead of Father. That probably put the wind up him.

HARRY: There was a reason the townsfolk called him Windy Miller. We might actually have to think about getting.... jobs.

DICK: We don't have a good track record with jobs. Remember when you got fired your first day at the bank?

HARRY: Not my fault! A woman asked me to check her balance, so I pushed her over!

DICK: And it turns out I'm a bad electrician. People were really shocked when they found out.... Reaally shocked. Ooo! I know! I could turn to crime and become Dick Turnip, the mysterious Highwayman!

HARRY: Name needs a little work. I always fancied being an archaeologist

DICK: Nooo, no your life will always be in ruins if you do that!

HARRY: When you've done nothing in your life the thing to do is to write an autobiography.

DICK: Yeah, about all the things you "oughta" have done with your life. Instead of lazing around moaning about the servants

HARRY: Everything I touch just seems to fail and I just mess up spectacularly. What job am I suited for anyway?

ALL: Prime Minister!

HARRY: Ahhh, if only we weren't a monarchy!

DICK: Well, I'm not smart like you Harry

HARRY: You are pretty thick Dick

DICK: And yet the ladies still love me! Look, help me get the cart out of the way, and we can see about sneaking into Tina's kitchen and getting some of the cakes before the Will gets read.

HARRY: Okay. You lead on.

(DICK strains to get the cart off while HARRY pretends to help in a comedic failure of any strength. PURRITO comes forward and goes to the FSL)

PURR: Pssst! Malacar, the coast is clear

MAL: (Villain SFX Enter FSL) Ah here we are and oh look, if anything the riff raff have got worse! I'm actually jealous of people who haven't met you yet. You can stop that booing and hissing anytime. No sign of Puss then?

PURR: Why would there be? He abandoned me...uh, us!

MAL: Of course he did Purrito, Puss was just a selfish, self-centred, food obsessed unpredictable hairball!

PUUR: (sighs) The perfect cat in other words. **(mood change)** I shall never forgive him! Never! **(hisses and claws at the air)**

MAL: Yes, yes, enough of this lovey dovey cat-astrophe. What are our prospects here in Catalonia?

PURR: King Felix is very rich, and has a beautiful daughter, Princess Katrina who lives in a very fancy palace over that way.

MAL: Excellent. I don't have many magical potions left, I need a good place to perform my final and biggest scam! Lord Malacar the Monster Slayer is going to rush in and save everyone from the ferocious monster about to attack their city for the last time. Any good flunkies out there?

PURR: There are two brothers who seem greedy enough to do anything you want. **(gestures at DICK and HARRY who are still struggling with the truck).** Word is they think they are going to inherit the mill but it's more likely to be their brother.

MAL: They do look the type. What ho my good fellows! I...

DICK: What hoe? I've got a spade instead of a hoe?

MAL:..Are they really this stupid? I'll just see... Ah, my good fellows I've got your IQ tests back

HARRY: You have?

MAL: Yes, they're negative

DICK: Oh thank goodness.

MAL: They are that stupid. Good news for me. I am looking for some reliable local help and people rather miraculously directed me to you.

HARRY: Really? I'm pretty surprised. And he's ugly astonished!

DICK: People generally think we're as much use as a chocolate teapot

MAL: It's a perfect opportunity for you to get your own back on them

HARRY:eh seems like effort...

MAL: ..And it pays well **(holds up money pouch and jingles it)**

(Cha-ching SFX, both brothers' attention instantly captured. Chorus start to filter on even as a lawyer/judge chorus comes on with a satchel with a scroll in it.)

HARRY: Wait, wait in just a couple of minutes we'll both be rich anyway!

MAL: Not what I've heard! So terrible isn't it when people prefer one member of a family over another. I could help you with that...

DICK: Did you hear that Harry - he could help us? What a nice man...

MAL: Listen to your brother..

HARRY: Well yes, he might look like an idiot and talk like an idiot, but don't let that fool you....he's an idiot. How are you going to do this impossible task?

MAL: Oh well I know a little magic. For instance, Purrito, go and fetch the scroll in that man's bag without him knowing.

PURR: On it Boss. **(pickpockets the Judge)**

DICK: Wait, did that cat just talk?

PURR: No.

DICK : Oh that's okay then.

HARRY: Use your head Dick, cats don't talk

DICK: Are you sure? I saw this thing on ye olde Tik-Tok and the cat was saying hello!

PURR: **(Very obviously saying it)** Meow Purr, Meow.

MAL: **(Examines scroll)** One second. Let me just... scroll ...down **(mimes scrolling action, if possible)** Ah, here we are. Oh dear... it does look like the Mill was going to your younger brother after all.

HARRY: Let me look at that! **(Both read)** How very dare he!

DICK: What do we do Harry?!

MAL: Very simple, a little creative writing. **(They put their heads together for a bit and scribble with a quill and MAL rolls it up)** Take this back Purrito, the royal judge will never know it was gone. **(Purrito does this)** See what we can do when we work together? With my smarts...

PURR: My skills...

HARRY: And my business sense

DICK: And ...I'm also here.

MAL: We can do anything!

HARRY: So what is it you want us to do for you?

MAL: Something very simple. In a while, I want you to rush into town and tell everyone you've just seen a vicious ogre rampaging up the High Street towards the Market Place.

DICK: Aww, but we like ogres now, they're funny. And Scottish. Haha those EARS!

PURR: (to MAL)Told you everyone likes ogres now

HARRY: There's one in the next town who has a donkey

DICK: With three legs

MAL: Three legs?

HARRY: Yeah, it's a wonkey donkey.

DICK: Oh, And only one eye.

MAL: I dread to think...go on.

DICK: It's a winkey wonkey donkey!

MAL: Fine, ogres are not terrifying anymore **(rustles in his bag for potions, looking at them)**. Potion of Enchanted Forest, Potion of Sleepiness, Potion of Justin Bieber.. yuck **(Pulls out a significantly larger more splendid one)**

HARRY: What's that one, it looks fancy?

MAL: No touching! That is the potion of Last Resort, we won't be using that. Aha! Potion of Orc. That'll do. So, I want you to rush into town and tell everyone a terrifying Orc is on the rampage up the High Street towards the Market Place and make it good. I want the King desperate enough to offer a huge reward.

HARRY: After the Will reading. It's any moment!

MAL: Fine. There are things I need to prepare. Come on Purrito. **(Exits SL)**

PURR: **(Hesitates before exiting as if she has heard or sensed someone)** Just for a moment I thought ... no...**(leaves)**

PUSS enters FSR

PUSS: Hello Everyone! **(What's new Pussy cat?)** What's new is that I think I might have caught up with Malacar and Purrito. Finally! They've left a trail of bamboozled towns behind them, stripped of their cash. Have you seen Purrito and Malacar? You have? I can't see them here. I'll just have a little rest and do some cat stuff like walking on walls, pushing at cat flaps, doing my business on peoples lawns. I might go and see if I can get someone to let me in a door, and then immediately go out again, and then want to come in again. Ahhh, classic! That game never gets old, especially when you play it at 3 in the morning! You let me know if they come back. **(he wanders off to do cat stuff at the back of the stage)**

Enter TINA & TOM – She is dressed with a black hat and veil on, big spotty hanky leaning into the widow trope for the judge. They stand SR and HARRY and DICK stand SL opposite them.

TINA: This is it Tom, where we find out if we are homeless or not. Oh I should have made myself beautiful for the judge, but the closest I get to a spa day is when the steam from the dishwasher smacks me in the face!

TOM: Everything is going to be okay mum, I promise.

(The Royal JUDGE moves into position and there is a fanfare and everyone gathers around. They will read all this in a dead serious formal tone, especially to childish bits.)

JUDGE: Hear ye! Hear ye! This is the formal reading of the Last Will and testament of Theodore Tiberius Turnip, Miller of this Parish. Before I begin, is there anyone who would like to say anything about the deceased?

TOWNS 1: (Raises hand steps forward) Bargain

TINA: (emotionally) Thank you, that means a great deal

TOWNS 2: (Raises hand and steps forward) Abacus

TINA: Thank you...It's the little things that count.

TOWNS 3: (Raises hand and steps forward) Plethora

TINA: Thank you...that means a lot! **(sobs and blows nose in hanky with SFX)**

JUDGE: I shall now read the Will. I Theodore Tiberius Turnip, also known as Windy Miller to the idiots of this two bit town, being of sound mind do hereby leave my world goods to the following.

To my awesome sons Harry and Dick, I leave the Mill, all the lovely money and the House because they are amazing, and awesome, and stuff.

To my son Tom, I leave the contents of the last mouldy sack on the cart because he sucks and is a pee-pee poo-poo head. **(DICK AND HARRY are sniggering at this, clearly responsible.)**

To Tina Turnip, my wife - I never knew what happiness was until I got married - and then it was too late. We were happily married for a month but unfortunately stayed together for 16 years of awful wedded life. I give you a sum that represents the amount of enjoyment you gave me. Nothing.

Let this Will now be enacted

(Hands TOM the will Judge solemnly leaves and Tina sobs)

TINA: Noooooooooooo! We're doomed, all doomed!

TOM: Wait a minute, is this ink still wet?

(DICK & HARRY burst out laughing)

HARRY: It's okay brother, you can still stay and do the work... for free. We'll let you sleep in the barn as well. And one wrong move, and you'll be out! **(Exit shoving TOM over)**

PUSS: Poor kid. They are a right pair of bullies and normally I'd step in but I'm so close to finding Malacar and Purrito. I don't have time for other people's problems right now, I have enough of my own **(PURRITO is sneaking across the stage behind him and he stops as if sensing her) Purrito? (Chases off after her. TOM and TINA come forward, TOM comforting her)**

TOM: It's going to be okay mum! I'll talk to the king about the Will, see if there is another copy

TINA: They tampered with it, I know! Well, there is only one thing for it. Operation Find a Husband is a go! **(warning siren goes off and TINA takes off outer funeral layer to reveal she is dressed to kill.)**

TOM: Well that was a long mourning period.

TINA: Line up boys, Tina Turnip is back on the market – and I don't just mean on Wednesdays and Saturdays. I've had my wrinkles steamed and my pimples ironed in and I'm single and ready to mingle. Snap me up while you can!

SONG 2: Simply the Best

Tina and chorus - She is trying to convince everyone that she is Simply the Best

(All horrified)

TINA: Who's first?

(Lots of avoidant reaction from CHORUS Men). Eeeny meeny miney moe, it's your turn to have a go! (Chases chorus man around the stage and off!)

TOWNS 4: What are you going to do Tom? It's really unfair, your brothers got everything.

TOM: I'm not sure. For now, we've got somewhere to sleep at least. I'm going to appeal to the King to see if there is another copy of the Will

TOWNS 5: I don't think he talks to commoners

TOM: I can but try and get an audience with him. In the meantime, I guess I've got another load of flour to do.

TOWNS 6: We'll help you. You've always helped us. **(Everyone agrees – Cart is brought on in front of the mill and they help load it up as MAL comes on in front with PURRITO, who comes in and sits so he seems to trip over her and ruins his dramatic entrance**

MAL: Ah booing and hissing just what I expected from idiots like you, no... I do you a misservice calling you idiots is an insult to all the stupid people out there... **(Trips)** Arrrrgh! Blasted cat! Why do you always sit RIGHT where I'm treading?

PURR: I'm a cat. It's what we do. Along with following people into the bathroom.

MAL: Which is very off-putting. What's the problem?

PURR: I am absolutely sure I saw Puss at the Market earlier!

MAL: (clearly lying)Nooooo it can't possibly be him.

PURR: It was! All that lovely ginger, the curve of his...tail...**(dreamy)**

MAL: Remember he betrayed you.

PURR: I hate him! **(hiss)**

MAL: I'll look around and make sure. Go and see if those two idiots we've hired are ready to act their socks off.

PURR: Them? I think you'd prefer it if they kept their socks on. I can smell them from here and the cheese levels make me want to go to Cheddarrrrgh!. They can't act their way out of a paper bag.

MAL: Oh you saw the audition notes too? **(She leaves)** Dang and blast it!! I need to get rid of that mangy Puss right now. He'll ruin everything! What to do, what to do... Ahah! **(pull out potion of Sleepiness)** The potion of Sleepiness..Oh I'm brilliant! Oh yes I am! **(Oh no you're not)**. Shut up you lot!

Amulet of Magical light

Power this Sleepy potion bright!

I'll just put it on the giant drawing pins, I have for pinning up my Posters of my self with inspirational quotes... and now to lure Puss in. And not a word from you lot!

Here Puss, Puss.... Psspspspspsppsspspspsps... **(Backs off to FSL and collects a Cat toy on a long pole)**. Hmm... Well this never fails. **(Opens a bag of cat treats – Instantly PUSS enters FSR)**

PUSS: Hello Everyone! **(What's new Pussy cat)** I could have sworn that I heard the sound of manna from heaven being opened. I'll just go over here and check. **(hopefully they will react and try and tell him it's a trap, but either way he stops short of the pins)** What was that? Is there something wrong? Are you sure? I'll be sure to stay here then and .. **(MAL is twitching the feathers on a string and he is almost against his will forced to behave like a cat)** not go...any..where ...**(batting at them)** near where these...FEATHERS! MY FEATHERS! **(Pounces, chases after them into to Pins, and then makes a big show of stepping on one and hopping around)** Meeeeeee-Ow! Ow, My paw...ooohhh I feel very sleepy all of a sudden. I'll just have a nap. **(staggers over and collapses half on the cart, still sitting.)**

MAL: Mwahahahaha! Stupid cat! And now to make sure he doesn't bother me again... **(He puts sack over PUSS and pushes him onto the cart.)**
DICK and HARRY come on with PURR.

MAL: Ah there you are, well done on finding them Purrito **(He is getting out the Orc potion)**

DICK: Yeah, she told us to follow her.

HARRY: Are you sure she can't talk?

MAL: Well it is a fact that cats meowing is a language they've made up to humans!

PURR: Me-ohgoodgrief!msurroundedbyidiots-ow

DICK & HARRY: Ahhhhh.

HARRY: We're all ready. We're going to ring the in case of Monster alarm bell.

MAL: How useful. What happens when you do that?

DICK: The King's Guard comes running from the Palace. Sometimes the King as well!

MAL: (clearly plotting) Well, well, how convenient...

HARRY: What do we do when they turn up and there is no monster?

MAL: Oh but there will be a monster. I will be the monster

DICK: Aw, there is no need to be so hard on yourself.

MAL: No, I mean I'm going to change into a monster using this magic potion!

*Amulet of Magical light
Power this Orcish potion bright!*

HARRY: Cooooool. Can I be the monster? Can I?

DICK: I want to be the monster!

HARRY: You can't be a monster Dick! You're not scary enough

DICK: I could be! I could be a monster with one eye and be all Rwarrrr!

MAL: (losing patience a bit) I am going to be the Orc because I have the magical amulet and without it the potions are useless. Remember to mention the hero Lord Malacar the monster slayer!

HARRY: Can I be him?

MAL: (annoyed now) No!! I'm going to be him as well!

DICK: Did you just want your name in the programme a lot?

MAL: Look, just get on with it . I am going to go change **(He glugs the potion and goes behind the sheet on the washing line and we see the shadow of him change into the Orc with SFX and VFX)**

HARRY: Oh, I get it now. Ready?

DICK: No, wait I've forgotten my lines!

HARRY: Won't be the first time this week. Here we go.
(Through this section DICK and HARRY display appalling fake acting at different extremes. HARRY is full blown melodrama, and DICK is very wooden and stiff. Harry rings the bell)

HARRY: Woe! Woe and twice woe! Death approaches us with...nasty pointy little teeth! Doooooom, we're dooooooooooomed!

DICK: Why are you talking like that Harry?

HARRY: It's called acting darling, you should try it sometime. Danger! Danger in our streets **(Chorus folk enter looking ready around, as does TINA from by the mill)**

DICK: Oh no. I am overcome. The horror. The humanity, oh the humanity. Won't somebody think of the children? An Ogre..uh Orc is coming.

HARRY : It will tear up the streets! Destroy the village!!

DICK: Not the village! All my stuff's there!

HARRY: It's worse than letting out time at Kudos!

DICK: I am terrified. Ahhh. Ahhh.

TINA: A monster is coming! ARGGGGGH! **(Home alone arrgh)**

(Chorus panic and the bell is rung again by TINA. A royal fanfare rings out and KING Felix PRINCESS KATRINA enter with the Royal Guard – a group of four)

KING: Calm down all of you, this is a royal command! Who rang that bell?

KATRINA: I think it was them father! **(she points)**

KING: Aha, I think you've hit the nail right on the nose Katrina!

KAT: Father, I don't think that's quite the saying. Isn't it hit the nail on the head, or You're right on the nose.

KING: I know what I mean! Anyway, Katrina, I told you to stay at the palace! It's too dangerous out here for a Princess.

KAT: Father if people are in danger I'm not going to sit back and do nothing! I've had fencing lessons..

KING: I'm not sure how putting up wooden panels will help sweetpea.

KAT: Sword fighting lessons father.

KING: Ah yes, well you won't be using that any time soon! Now what is going on?

TINA: There's a...uh... something beginning with an O coming to attack us your madge!

KAT: Oh an Ogre? Ogres are very misunderstood as I understand it.

HARRY: No, it's an Orc! They are so much worse!

DICK: OMG! Hashtag Orcs!!

(PURRITO leans out from behind a chorus member)

PURR: I've heard they are a hundred times stronger! **(disappears)**

TINA: A hundred times stronger!

KING: Nonsense!

PURR: (From another point) Orcs can tear down walls like tissue paper!

KING: It's all rubbish, there is clearly no monster here!

(There is a massive roar and the ORC stomps out from behind the sheet sending the chorus fleeing. DICK jumps into HARRY's arms in horror. TINA attempts to swoon into the KING'S arms. He keeps moving away and she falls over)

ORC: This kingdom is mine and you are helpless to stop it! Rawr! **(he makes short work of the royal Guard, throwing them around until they are in a groaning pile)** For the Horde!

KAT: (has found a sword) En garde you horrible beast!

ORC: Oh I like a feisty Princess.**(Grabs the sword and twists it into a knot)** Victory! Run along girlie, you might break a nail.

KAT: Why you...(KING Holds her back)

ORC: I think as you've left it empty, I'll go take over your Palace. This is my city now and there is no one strong enough, brave enough or clever enough to take it back! Mwahahahahah! **(stomps off towards the palace)**

KING: Great googly-moogleys! My palace! What will we do now?

KAT: Well we could stay here at the Mill. It looks big enough for the royal court – Start setting up. **(Royal guard fetch a throne etc)**

HARRY: Wait a minute that's our home!

KING: Well we could stand here and talk until the cows turn blue but it basically boils down to Royal prerogative! I'm King, you're not. **(sits on the throne)**

HARRY: Ugh, I hate royal families!

KAT: It's only until we get rid of the Orc.

TINA: But.. but your madge, what about me? I was going to appeal to you

KING: Not in the slightest you don't. Okay well I suppose my chefs won't know how to cook in your kitchen so you could do that.

TINA: You won't regret it! My baps are legendary. Here's my CV **(hands it over)**

KING: **(Takes it and reads)** You've put 'pizza' as your gender?

TINA: That's because everyone wants a piece of me!

KAT: We still need to get rid of the Orc though. We can all band together!

KING: No, no we just need to wait for a hero to turn up! He'll sort it out.

HARRY elbows DICK

DICK: Oh..er...I have heard tell of a great hero heading this way. A hero who definitely did not cause this problem in the first place! Hark! Do I hear him now? **(pause)**...I said HARK! Do I hear him now?

(A very fancy fanfare and CHORUS come back on even as MALACAR enters dressed more like a lord or knight)

SONG 3 –The Best Around

HARRY: Some people wear superman pyjamas – Superman wears Malacar the monster slayer pyjamas!

DICK: Yeah, when the bogeyman goes to sleep it checks under the bed for Malacar the Monster slayer!

HARRY: Malacar has a grizzly bear carpet in his room – it's not dead it's just too afraid to move!

DICK: Yeah, Malacar doesn't flush the toilet because he just scares the poop out of it!

TINA: Oooo do you think he's single? Phwoar, look at those muscles!

MAL: I am Lord Malacar the Monster Slayer. I hear you have an Orc problem I can help you with. Oh yes I can! **(Oh no you can't)**

KAT: That is really convenient isn't it?

MAL: And who is this? The beautiful Princess Katrina?

KAT: You've heard of me?

MAL: Your beauty... and wealth are unparalleled. Some call me Malacar the Monsterslayer, some call me hero, and some just call me when they want a good time **(to KAT)**

KAT: I think I've just thrown up a bit in my mouth.

TINA: Ooo oh pick me pick me!

MAL: You? **(recoils)** Ugh...you look like your face caught fire and someone tried to put it out with a fork. And you're so old, when you were a kid rainbows were in black and white, and they've cancelled your blood type.

TINA: Well! I'll have you know all the best things mature with age!

MAL: I'm not saying you're old, but if you were milk I'd sniff you. No, Perhaps I have been too hasty...

TINA: Yes? **(hopeful)**

MAL: Why don't you go and slip into something more comfortable...

TINA: **(Very excited now)** Yes, yes yes!?

MAL: ..Like a coma.

TINA: **(Hopes dashed)** Well!

KING: You seem a fine hero. Can you truly rid us of this hideous monster?

MAL: For the ...traditional reward, of course. Half the kingdom and...the Princess's hand in marriage

KAT: No way! You have got to be joking Father you can't possibly agree to that

KING: You've got a point. Five thousand gold pieces – times are hard.

MAL: Five thousand and your daughter's hand in marriage

KAT: Father! I don't love him!

TINA: What's love got to do ..

KING: Got to do..

TINA: Got to do with it. What's love but a second hand emotion?

KAT: Well, I'm never going to agree to it! I'm going to go and have a look around the mill and hope you come to your senses. **(Exits MSR)**

KING: Sorry, marriage is off the card table then. But I'm sure the gold will be enough. I can tell you are a fine fellow **(to TINA)** I can read him like the back of my book!

MAL: Perhaps we can get to know each other at the feast you will throw tonight to wish me luck for attacking the vile beast?

KING: A feast? Well it's just as well I hired a cook.

MAL: I will return tonight to prepare myself for the ultimate battle by stuffing myself silly and quaffing too much ale. Can't go wrong with a good quaff. Farewell until then. **(to audience)** What a cheapskate, only 500 gold and no marriage? We'll see about that! **(Gets potion out and shows to audience. Exits SL)**

KING: Ta ta! Well time for us to go and see which bed is the comfiest.

TINA: Oh I can help with that your kingliness. I know the comfiness rating of a LOT of beds.

(They exit along with chorus as TOM enters with cart hastily trying to speak to KING.)

TOM: Your majesty, if I could just speak to you a moment about...

KING: Go away, I try not to talk to commoners! Guards!

(Two Royal Guards push Tom back, as everyone else exits, then leave themselves)

TOM continues dragging the cart which clearly has PUSS' feet sticking out and unloads a few of the sacks.

TOM: I know my step-brothers did something. What am I going to do? Mum and I don't have a proper home anymore. If I were a hero I would put them to rights with some fancy sword moves... **(Picks up a stick and mock fights the air. KATRINA comes in and watches a moment)**

KAT: You're holding it wrong.
(TOM is horribly embarrassed)

TOM: Oh sorry, that was...embarrassing. I've been told I have the agility of a turtle on a trampoline.

KAT: (Laughs a little) It wasn't that bad at all, and whoever said that sounds mean.

TOM: Just my step brothers...oh, I'm Tom, Tom Turnip.

KAT: I'm Pr...er, I'm Kat, plain old Kat. I'm a...maid. That's right, a plain old maid.

TOM: Not plain or old from where I'm standing. **(Both a bit love-struck)**. What brings you to the mill?

KAT: Oh there's an Orc that has thrown everyone out of the palace, so the whole royal court is staying at the mill until they can find a hero to defeat the monster. One called Malacar has turned up but he looks really smarmy and not heroic at all to me.

TOM: Not many heroes around here. I can't even stop my bullying step-brothers from dropping slugs down my shirt!

KAT: That's because you are trying to do it alone. That's what bullies do, make you feel you're alone, but you never are. You just need to get everyone together and if you lead by example and show people how to stand up to them, you won't be alone and things can change.

TOM: There is something about the way you explain it that makes me think I can.

KAT: Let me show you how to hold your sword properly.

(Their hands touch and there is a tinkling SFX and they look into each other eyes)

SONG 4 - Just Give me a Reason - Pink

As they mock swordfight, they duet and TOM gets better.

KAT: You're a natural Tom!

TOM: Thank you Kat. This is strange but I really like you even though I've just met you. I think I might...love you.

KAT: I really like you too! **(both look like they are getting closer together)**
(Offstage KING)

KING: Katrina? Where are you? Oh it's like looking for a needle in a hayride

KAT: (Calls back) Haystack father! Oh, I better go! But... I'll meet you in a little while and you can show me around?

TOM: Great, that'll give me time to finish moving these sacks.

(KAT Exits SR)

TOM: What a difference a few moments make. I was all doom and gloom and now I feel like I'm walking on air! I'd better do this quickly.
(He starts taking the last few sacks off and then we hear...)

PUSS: (Fighting to get out) Help! Hellllppp! Cruelty to animals, call the cats protection league.

TOM: What's that? It's coming from the last mouldy sack on the cart. Wait a minute, according to the will, that one was mine. Might as well look at what my inheritance is.
(Helps PUSS out)

PUSS: Hi everyone! **(What's new pussy cat?)** You, young sir, you have saved my life! You have literally let the cat out of the bag!

TOM: (Stares at him then goes to the audience) Just checking but do you hear that cat talking? **(Yes)** Alrighty then.

PUSS: By my code of honour I must repay my debt! I shall stick close by your side

TOM: So I have a cat now. A talking cat?

PUSS: The intelligence is practically pouring off of you! My name is Puss and I will make your fortune.

TOM: And I'm Tom, and good luck with that. I have no home, no money and there's an Orc that has invaded the kingdom so the entire Royal court has taken over the Mill.

PUSS: An Orc hey? That sounds like the sort of scheme a certain someone I know would set up. Never fear, if you give me the last of your savings, I promise you I will make your fortune

TOM: Is this some kind of scam?

PUSS: No, no, I swear, and you know cats are reliable, trustworthy and not at all self-centred.

TINA: (Offstage then Enters SR) Tom! Tom, where are you? Ah there you are!

TOM: I'm here mum. Meet my new cat, Puss.

TINA: Oh I love cats! aww who's a cute liddle kitten. Who wants a scratch behind the ear eh? Tickle under the chin?

PUSS: Unhand me woman! I'm a magical talking cat with dignity and...I'm...a deadly..furry assassin oh right there, right there **(purrs)**

TINA: (Stops goes to the audience) Just checking but do you hear that cat talking? **(Yes)** Alrighty then. Perfectly normal

PUSS: Did I tell you to stop? **(butts her with his head)** Continue! I am thinking of a plan to make Tom's fortune.

TINA: Good luck with that. I came to tell Tom I have a job as a cook for the King! Once he's tasted my Fruity cobbler he won't be able to resist me!

PUSS: Hmm, you know Tom, if there is an Orc in town, there will be a big reward for sorting that out.

TOM: I'm not sure I can tackle an orc on my own! I only learned to swordfight a few minutes ago.

PUSS: A few minutes in panto are equivalent to 9 years in real life. Like cat years. That must make you an expert by now.

TINA: You learned to sword fight? From who?

TOM: (Dreamily) A wonderful girl called Kat

PUSS: I approve. Obviously.

TOM: She's so clever, and kind, beautiful and brave...I might be poor, and not very confident, and out of her league and... and... **(has forgotten what comes next)**

PUSS: Not very good at remembering lists?

TOM: Not very good at remembering lists, Yes! Thank you!, but I really want to see her again.

PUSS: Ah, you're in love. I'll add that to my list! But first of all, I need something to put on my feet.

TOM: Why?

PUSS: Because Malacar the villain behind the Orc has already got me with his giant drawing pins of doom. I need footwear!

TOM: I have one gold piece left. **(PUSS snatches)**

TINA: Oi Cobblers to the King!

TOM: Well that's a bit rude and mildly treasonous mum.

TINA: No I mean, actual cobblers **(CHORUS Enter with a variety of foot wear).** You will be outfitting this Magical talking cat.

(Chorus look at each other – make she's clearly lost the plot expression)

TOWNS 7:: Crazier than a box of frogs

TOWNS 8: Tina Turnip has lost it. It was always going to happen.

TOWNS 9: Talking cats, whatever next?

PUSS: Oh I don't know, a chorus with a working braincell? Who's got it today?

(CHORUS stop, look, and go to the audience)

CHORUS: Just checking but do you hear that cat talking? **(Yes)** Alrighty then. **(offer shoes)**

TINA: Let's see... Moggy in moccasins??

PUSS: hmm comfy but not the dangerous heroic image I was after

TOM: Siamese in Stilettos?

PUSS: Let's leave that for the weekends

TINA: Feline in Flip flops?

PUSS: That is a travesty!

TOM: Tabby in Trainers?

PUSS: That just sounds very wrong .My paws would be crushed!

TINA: Ooo! Oo! Cat in Crocs!

PUSS: What do you take me for? Why would you do that to me?

TINA: But they are so comfortable

PUSS: I do have standards! Hold on a moment I have an idea...**(Chorus crowd around and Puss puts on the Hat, boots and sword and then is revealed in heroic tableau spotlight)**

PUSS: Henceforth I shall be known as Puss in Boots!

(Everyone cheers, all thigh slap)

TINA: **(Pops head around heroic tableau)** Other pharmacies are available.

TOM: You look very splendid Puss

PUSS: Of course, and it gives me an idea of how to reinvent your image.

TOM: Well, I need to go and meet Kat and show her around

EVERYONE: OoooOOOooo!

TOM: It's not like that.

PUSS: But you'd like it to be like that?

TOM: No, well yes, well maybe. But I ought to try and talk to the king again about getting the mill back.

PUSS: Love is the most important thing. You just leave everything to us.

TOM: Are you sure?

PUSS: Oh yes. I'm a cat, we're always sure.
(TOM exits SR and the Cobblers exit too)

PUSS: (To Tina) Right then, I'm off to catch a couple of partridges

TINA: How are you going to do that?

PUSS: I'm going to lie in field and make a noise like a pear tree

TINA: What are you going to do with them?

PUSS: I'm going to present them to the king as a present from the illustrious hero, the Marquis de Carabas

TINA: Ooo he sounds dishy! When can I meet him?

PUSS: He's just left

TINA: Tom? He's not a Marquis or any other type of oversized tent!

PUSS: He will be by the time I've finished with him. The King will only speak to nobles so we will make him a noble. Besides, it won't hurt his chances with his new love.

TINA: Sounds like a plan. What do I do?

PUSS: Cook everything to perfection. Back in a moment! **(Exits)**

(Fanfare as the Royal Court come in, led by the King. They don't look very impressed with the mill.)

KING: Yes, yes I know it's not as posh as you are used to and a hard nut to swallow but until a hero sorts out this Orc, you'll have to make do.

COURTIER 1: Did you mean a hard nut to crack your majesty?

KING: I know what I mean! Now why are you all looking like a wet Monday morning?

COURTIER 2: Your majesty, we regret to inform you that your royal court is a bit peckish

(All agree)

KING: There's a feast later, can't you wait? **(Much shaking of head)** Oh fine. Cook!

TINA: Yes your Madge, I'm here and ready to tickle your fancy

KING: Was that an attempt at innuendo?

TINA: No, I can't stand innuendo. Whenever I see it written down in a script anywhere, I just immediately whip it out.

KING: Not in front of the audience please. Prepare us some nibbles.

TINA: Small problem your Kingliness, what am I to make it from?

KING: Well uh..anyone got any food? **(everyone shakes their heads)**. No food? This is a DISASTER! I'm going to have to declare a merge of estacency!

PUSS enters with partridges

PUSS: Hello Everyone! **(What's new pussy cat?)** No need to take such dire step noble King Felix. I have just what you need!

KING: (Leans to TINA) Just checking but do you hear that cat talking? **(Yes)** Alrighty then. Proceed.

PUSS: I, Puss in Boots...

Everyone: Hurrah!

PUSS: ..Bring you a brace of Partridges as a small token from my master the Marquis de Carabas **(hands partridges to Tina who gives him a thumbs up and rushes off)**

KING: I have never heard of him. Who is this noble?

PUSS: He is very modest. He does not like to talk of his heroic deeds as some do.

KING: A hero then? Marvellous.

PUSS leaves

TOWNS 10: (Enters with great alarm) Orc! Orc! Run for your wives.

KING: I don't have a wife.

TOWNS 10: Well run anyway or you never will have one!

The ORC enters and chases some of the court across the stage as a way of showing the passage of time

KING: (Re-entering with court, looking a little dishevelled, being helped on by PUSS who puts him on his throne) I think we lost it - thank goodness Puss in Boots was there to lead it away. Fine, add another 1,000 gold pieces to the reward!

TINA returns with a platter of sandwiches

TINA: Whatever happened to you, you look like something the cat dragged in.

PUSS: Literally **(leaves giving a conspiratorial thumbs up to the audience and Tina)**

TINA: Nevermind these will sort you out - roast Partridge sandwiches.

(Chorus descends like a starving mob on Tina)

TINA: Oh oh! I've been frisked for my hors d'oeuvres!

KING: But I didn't get one!

TINA: Don't pout Kingy

KING: But I'm hungry! On blimey, here it is again.

ORC chases more chorus across front of stage again. The King gets pretty cross about it

KING: Oh will no one rid me of this troublesome Orc! Surely it's not rocket surgery!

ALL: Brain surgery your majesty!

KING: I know what I mean! Okay, okay...the reward is now Half the Kingdom and my daughter's hand in marriage! (**Fanfare again and PUSS returns with a turkey**)

PUSS: Your royal majesty, my master sends you another token of his esteem. Not just any turkey but a finest Christmas bronze turkey.

TINA: How did you catch that?

PUSS: I lay in a field and made a noise like M&S Christmas advert

KING: I must say I am favourably disposed to your master Puss in Boots. I wish to invite him to the hero's feast tonight. Would you take me to him?

PUSS: Oh, uh.. I believe he has just stopped down by the river. I'll run ahead and let him know you are coming.

KING: Of course

PUSS: (Aside to TINA) : Delay him while I find Tom and I'll meet you at the river.

TINA: Right!... why are we doing this?

PUSS: To catch a Princess and make Tom's fortune

TINA: And how are you going to catch a princess?

PUSS: I'm going to lie in a field and make a noise like a skiing holiday. Bring them to the river in a few minutes (**exits SR**)

TINA: Oh your majestyyyyyy! Before we go, I thought you should know I am instantly attracted to men with power.

KING: Well I have just paid my electric bill.

TINA: Your wealth knows no bounds. SO how about it? Do you fancy a bit of canoodling?

KING: (In disbelief) When did you last enjoy some canoodling?

TINA: oooo...1945

KING: That long ago?

TINA: Well it's only quarter past 8 now! (**adjust time - Leans in to smooch and the King ducks away**)

KING: We really should go! (**Backing towards an exit**)

TINA: Just one little canoodle?

KING: No. I mustn't miss my chance to meet this hero, he could be just who we need.

TINA: Oh very well. I'll just run ahead and let them know you're on your way!

**Scene 2- Midstage forest cloth.
River stretched across as a large piece of fabric**

TOM & KAT walking hand in hand having obviously spent some time together.

KAT: Being down by the river is lovely Tom

TOM: It's one of my favourite places. I just wanted to share it with you before you have to go back to work.

KAT: Work...oh yes, haha all that maid-ing right. Got to get ready for the royal feast. Are you coming?

TOM: I don't think King Felix wants commoners there. I tried to talk to him earlier but he wouldn't listen.

KAT: I know that feeling. Um, I mean I'd better get going. Maybe I could ask him to make an exception. I'll see you later ! (**Exits SL**)

PUSS: (Enters FSR) Hello Everyone! (What's new Pussy Cat?) Just the start of my Plan to win Tom his fortune and to get my revenge on Malacar!. Ah Tom!... look at the state of you. You need to have a wash quickly, I managed to get you an audience with the king!

TOM: You did? (**PUSS Places a screen, pushes TOM behind it.**)

PUSS: Pass me your clothes, I'll get them washed.

TOM: (Sticks head out – Passes out items, you see bits of him like arms and legs) Just as long as it's not how you wash things. I don't think cat spit will help much.

PUSS: I guarantee these will come back better than new (**Takes pile of clothes**)

TOM: (Out of sight) It looks a bit cold (**PUSS reaches back as if giving him a shove and we hear a Ahhhhhhhhh! And big splash and then TOM swims into sight**) It's FREEZING in here! I'm getting out!

PUSS: No, no...just...a bit longer (**he is bundling up the clothes and then chucks them offstage.**)

TINA: (**Runs on with a item of clothing on her head**) Who threw this underwear at me? What's going on?

PUSS: Tina, I need you to make sure Tom stays in the water until the king gets here. Distract him.

TINA: I know just the thing. This is where the Catalonia Synchronised swimmers practice anyway. (**She whistles and the Synchronised swimmers swim on, and Tom seems to get pushed back. DAME takes off her skirt and top revealing bathing attire underneath**) Excuse me, can't miss practice! I lost two stone swimming you know

PUSS: Your husband clearly didn't tie them around your feet tight enough

(**TINA goes off stage and we see her mock dive in and an absolutely ginormous splash as the routine starts. In it Tom keeps trying to get out, but is blocked by the swimmers and is pushed off stage so he can change.**)

PUSS: It's true what they say, worse things really do happen at sea. (**Fanfare SPX – KING, MALACAR, PURRITO enter. Meaningful looks between villains and PUSS as if they want to have an argument but can't because the King is there**)

MAL: Keep a lid on it you lot I'm trying to impress the King. If ugly were a crime you'd get a life sentence...well look at that, you already have! Mwahahaa!

KING: Well, I never thought to see a whale so far inland. Wonders will never cease

TINA: Oi! Cheek of it.

TOM: (**off stage**) Oh no! Puss! My clothes, my clothes have gone!

PUSS: Oh no! Your Majesty! Just the person! My master, the Marquis de Carabas was set upon by a huge band of thieves just as he was bathing. He fought like a tiger but the dishonourable foes stole all his clothes so he could not chase after them! I don't suppose you have some clothes on you?

KING: I'm not in the habit of carrying spare clothes around.

PUSS: Oh I'm sure Lord Malacar is the type to have extra special clothes handy at all times in case he needs to impress someone.

MAL: Who is this?

PUSS: I am Puss in Boots!

MAL: Puss in Boots?! What's next a pig in a wig, a fox in Culottes, a llama in pyjamas?

KING: You do sound like you know a lot about fashion Lord Malacar

PUSS: He's very Haute Cat-ture don't you know

MAL: I hope the reaction to that cat joke has given you ..paws for thought...Oh shut up you lot, I'm hilarious. If idiocy was an artform, you lot would be masterpieces. Anyway, I'm not sure that..hahah...my clothes would fit...ha, ha...

KING: So you do have some.

PUSS: Tales are told of Lord Malacar's generosity. Why, he'd probably just GIVE them to a fellow nobleman outright....wouldn't you? **(They stare each other)**

KING: My word that would be impressively generous. No wonder you have all those awards for bravery and chivalry. You will do that won't you?

MAL: (Caught between a rock and a hardplace) Of course your majesty. Purrito, bring my second... **(correcting himself)** my best attire.

PURRITO comes over and hisses a bit at PUSS as she hands over the clothing pile, and PUSS passes it behind the screen to TOM who emerges looking every inch the noble man.

TOM: Thank you my lord Malacar. I have never worn something so...

PUSS:...generously given. The Marquis is overwhelmed by your kindness.

KING: It is a pleasure to meet you, and for all your generous gestures my lord de Carabas **(TOM is clearly confused)**

TOM: What generous gestures?

PUSS: ..he means, such trifles could scarcely be regarded as generous **(To TOM.)** Just play along!

KING: I look forward to talking with both of you heroes at the feast. We should get going before the Loch Ness monster there decides it wants a snack! **(Exits SL with TOM and PUSS Following)**

TINA: (Pops up from the river) Oi! I heard that! Bloomin cheek. I better get back to my cooking. We don't need any more soggy bottoms right now!

SCENE 3

Back to the main square now done up with lights and decoration for a party. CHORUS are being served by servants (JUNIORS). Banner up Good luck our Heroes!

KING, KATRINA are there talking. MALACAR, DICK & HARRY and PURRITO enter FSR.

MAL: Shut it you lot, I should report you all for being oxygen thieves! First that accursed Puss in Boots cons me out of my best outfit and now it looks like there is a rival to my scam. The Marquis de Carabas. How to get rid of him...

DICK: Well that's easy innit?

MAL: Go on, shock me by saying something intelligent

HARRY: Yeah, that's our pee-pee poo-poo head brother all fancied up.

PURR: The king will never allow a commoner to save the day, not if they are meant to marry the princess.

MAL: Marvellous, I'll expose him as a liar and then our plan is back on track.

DICK: Uh, what plan?

MAL: The one where I pretend to be a Monster slayer and then bravely go off to the castle alone, make a lot of banging and crashing noises and then heroically return having banished the beast.

BOTH: Ooooooh that plan.

MAL: We'll sort Tom out the first chance we get **(Interrupted by Tina coming on, serving food)** Waiter, I'd like a bottle of wine

TINA: What year sir?

MAL: Well I'd like it right now. You can't get good help nowadays.

TINA: (offended) The king might like you and think you are a hero, but personally I've got sore misgivings!

MAL: Then you probably ought to put some cream on them! **(Walks away from her over to KAT)** Princess Katrina, what an honour to be in the presence of your beauty. To think that when I defeat the Orc, the next time I see you will be walking down the aisle at our wedding

KAT: Only if I arrive on a flying pig.

(KAT walks over to the KING who comes forward with a couple of chorus ladies)

KING: I know you were not smitten with Lord Malacar Katrina...

KAT: Does a one legged duck swim in a circle? Father, marriage isn't a way to pay off a hero!

KING: Of course it is! Maybe the Marquis de Carabas will be more to your taste

KAT: I'm sure he won't be. I expect he is boring, bald and greasier than a portion of chips from Tuckers.

KING: Oh no, he is young, strong and manly despite the fishnets. He fought like a tiger against a load of bandits who stole all his clothes!

LADY 1: He fought like a tiger?

LADY 2: There were bandits?

KAT: He had no clothes on?
(They look at her)

KAT: What?

KING : Glad to see you have your priorities straight. Just promise me you'll give the heroes a chance. If one of them survives the Orc.

KAT: Father I've told you, it's impossible to beat the Orc alone.

KING: Not for heroes. For them, defeating a monster is as easy as falling off a piece of cake

(KAT face palms)

PUSS : (Enters with TOM and TINA) Hello everyone! **(What's new pussy cat. He is holding a plate full. He turns to TOM)** I'm starving! Feed me!

TOM: Puss, you are literally holding a plate full of food.

PUSS: Still hungry. I want different food.

TOM: You are such a cat sometimes. What food?

PUSS: ...some Mice Crispies?

TINA: Well I could make some of the chocolate fridge cake

PUSS: And put in the crispies

TINA: Ooo, It all starts innocently, mixing chocolate and Rice Krispies, but before you know it you're adding raisins, biscuits and marshmallows – it's a rocky road.

PUSS: (To waiter) Fetch me a milk, shaken not stirred.

TOM: Mum, this is important. Why is everyone calling me the Marquis de Carabas?

TINA: We might have told them that was who you were?

TOM: What? Why?

PUSS: Because it got you here to see the King. And the Princess eh? Think of it as mediaeval social influencing.

TOM: I don't know the Princess. Besides, I really like Kat, and she's a maid. I just want to talk to the King about the mill.

TINA: Well there might be a teeny bit of a problem there.

TOM: What teeny problem?

KING at the throne with KAT beside him – loud fanfare

KING: Lords and Ladies of Catalonia, thank you for attending the send off for our Heroes! Two brave heroes have come to step up to the table and lay their cards on the plate to save us all. The esteemed Lord Malacar the Monster Slayer (**MALACAR steps forward to polite applause and sweeps a dramatic bow**) and the young up and coming Marquis de Carabas!

(Tom is pushed forward by TINA - Ideally all villains on SL, and good guys SR with King and chorus in centre so they can look side to side like a tennis match with the accusations)

TINA: Here he is your Kingyosity!

TOM: (Bows) Thank you for seeing me, your majesty. I just wanted to have a conversation about...

HARRY: Wait a moment your majesty! That man is a fraud! He is no Marquis!

DICK: He's just our rubbish step-brother Tom! Tom Turnip, the commonest commoner that ever commoned, on it's good to be common day!

KAT: (recognises him) Tom?

TOM: Kat? You're a princess? You told me you were a maid... I... really have no idea what is going on here!

MAL: It's clear what is going on here. This man is no hero, he is a con-artist!

ALL: Gasp!

KING: Is this true? You are not the Marquis de Carabas?

TOM: I never said I was a nobleman.. I just wanted to talk to you, your majesty

KING: Everyone knows Kings don't speak to commoners and we certainly can't have them trying to chat up princesses - Guards, throw this imposter out!

MAL, and DICK and HARRY laugh evilly

ALL: Mwhahaha!

KAT: Wait! Father, give him a chance. I...too concealed my identity. I pretended to be a maid and fooled Tom into talking to me. You can't throw him out without throwing me out too.

TINA: And it was Puss and I that said he was the Marquis de Carabas. Tom was innocent.

KAT: See father? Give him a chance to show that being a hero is something anyone can be!

KING: Great googly mooglies! Are there any further revelations? I can't cope!

PUSS: Well since we are about it, Monster Hunter Malacar is a fraud as well!

(Eastenders Dun dun da SFX)

CHORUS: Gasp!

MAL: Quiet you mangy feline furball!

TINA: How dare you say such horrible insulting things about my lovely Puss.....

MAL: It's surely not the first time! This is all lies your majesty, don't listen to them. I am a hero, the real deal! Oh yes I am!

ALL: Oh no you're not!

PUSS: Believe me I know his tricks. He pretends to be the Orc, waits for the reward to stack up and then comes in as a Monster Slayer and pretends to get rid of the beast.

MAL: You surely cannot believe a magical cat over me your Majesty? He's a servant of a proven liar.

TOM: It's the truth, your Majesty!

MAL: Oh shut up, you'll never be half the man your mother is!

ALL: Oooooo.

PUSS: (Mimes answering a phone) Ring Ring, the theatre called, they want their drama back!

KING: Welllllll....

KAT: Malacar turned up REALLY quickly after the first attack. I believe Tom!

KING: Good point! Guards, seize him!

(Guards move forward and the villains back up)

MAL: Then you give me no choice! Grab the Princess!

DICK and HARRY try to grab KAT, who turns out to be surprisingly good at martial arts, but meantime, MAL takes out the Orc Potion and steps off DSL as he drinks. SFX - The ORC steps back on and tosses away the guards and PUSS and then TOM as he tries to defend KAT but the ORC grabs KAT.

MAL: Puny humans! You could have done this the easy way, but nooo! The Palace is mine, the Kingdom and the Princess. It's ALL mine. And if you get any ideas about

coming after me..

Amulet of Magical light

Create a forest of enchanted night!

(He seems to throw another potion around and a forest or tangles grow between them and the castle and they exit SL and a lot of reaction from chorus)

PUSS: Quiet!

KING: We're doomed! None of us can defeat that wizard! Katrina's right, he's too strong. I would give my whole kingdom to have my daughter back!

TINA: What are we going to do?

TOM: Look, on our own we can do nothing. Kat... I mean Princess Katrina told me that's how bullies win, they make you feel alone. If we all work together, we can beat someone who is bigger than any one of us alone. **(to all)** This wizard has taken your homes, your town and everything...I know we can take it back and rescue Kat from Malacar!

PUSS: Who will follow Tom to save us all? Will you help us find some heroes?
(Yes!) (To audience) Will you help us find some heroes?! **(YES!)**

SONG 5 - I need a hero

Tab in - End Act 1

