



Mother Goose

by Colin Barrow

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Mother Goose

A pantomime

by

Colin Barrow

PantoScripts Sample

THE SCRIPT

A cast of twelve main parts and four smaller or one-scene characters. Some doubling up may be done if needed and the majority of parts can be played by male or female. The script can be used with or without a chorus. However, if you have no chorus those playing the small character parts and any other members can make up the villagers

This traditional pantomime brings fun and laughter to all with an easy working script. It includes many song suggestions to fit the scenes if you wish to use them. It is easy to stage and perform at virtually any venue. The Queen of Gooseland can be played by male or female but as a Queen. Instead of a main comic or comic duo, the dame, Mother Goose, has seven sons (played by male or female) One of which is the Principle boy the other six make up the comedy characters.

SYNOPSIS

Mother Goose is owing rent to the Baroness and facing eviction. She has seven sons, with the seventh son, Jack (*principle boy*), being special as his father was also a seventh son. Jack and Faith (*principle girl*), team up early in the pantomime but not with the blessing of the Baroness, Faith's mother. The Queen of Gooseland sends Mother Goose a gosling via the Snow Princess to bring them wealth by laying Golden eggs when the gosling becomes adult. When Juliana (*the gosling*) has grown up, she suddenly begins to lay Golden eggs of various sizes. The eggs are only to be used for good deeds and worthy causes and not for vain or immoral purposes. Suddenly Mother Goose can pay her rent and decides to treat everyone to a holiday to Austria. But with this wealth, she soon forgets the rules and decides to visit the fountain of youth and use a golden egg in payment for her vanity. The eggs turn from gold to normal and Juliana goes back to Gooseland. The Snow Princess tells Jack, that the only way to sort out the problem is to go to Gooseland and see the Queen. They all make the journey, and in true pantomime style, the situation is resolved. Which allows Jack and Faith to be married when they all return home via the Golden Goose chariot and live happy ever after at Dire Straights Village.

Approximate running time:- Two hours (*not including the interval*)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Casting:- The casting can be quite flexible to suit your available performers. Although some are best played by male, it would be quite possible for them to be played by a female if your performer availability dictate to do so

Chorus:- This script can be used with or without a chorus. Where there are chorus speaking lines and you have no chorus, these can be delivered by performers or adult/child members.

General staging:- The scenery and lighting can be as simple and easy as you wish, especially if tight budget and logistics have a strong influence with your production. This also applies to costuming and properties, and yet still providing a brilliant pantomime. Of course, if budget and logistics dictate otherwise, the skies are the limit!

Scenes:- The script is written to use three full stage scenes and two front cloth scenes. These are not set in stone and re-name some scenes if you wish to run more cloths. Likewise, if you are running with limitations. The full stage scenes could use the same back drop of a nondescript mottled effect. And dress each scene where needed to suit its title. The front cloth scenes could be done front of curtain or again in front a nondescript mottled effect.

Set dressing:- Dressing for the scenes is entirely up to you and the stage space available. It will also depend on what type of back drops you are using too. Especially for those working with no chorus and have more stage space available.

Misc:- Additional jokes can be slotted in where or if you feel they are required to your choosing.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Song/dance numbers:- The script is written to allow the *maximum time of one minute to one and a half minutes* for each song or dance routine. In each case choosing and ending to give a natural finish. These can be shorter but watch if too many run longer as this could alter the pantomime's whole running time.

Not all character song slots required to be executed. They are there as ideal spots if you wish to use them. This helps those cast who do not feel comfortable to sing to opt out. Additional songs can be added to your own discretion if you feel the need to do so.

You do not need to use all the slots allocated for chorus song/dance numbers, especially if your chorus numbers are very low. Select, the slots most suitable to your chorus.

If you are working without a chorus and not using the song/dance slots allocated. You can add an extra cast member song or two or lengthen the other cast songs allocated slightly to make up the time.

The script does supply some song suggestions, but they do not need to be used. All other song/dance numbers are to your own choice. This allows the cast who are involved to select something that's comfortable for them and perhaps a little more modern. It also prevents the repetition of music from recent past productions you have staged.

Song/dance not with time restrictions:- The opening number, Principle boy and girl duet, the community song and finale song can take their own natural time length as they are important numbers. By keeping to these parameters, the production will run at a good pace; and be fresh and entertaining to your audience.

DISCLAIMER:- The performing licence of this script does NOT include permissions, licences or royalties of ANY music/songs used with the staging of this script.

For **ALL** music and song selected to stage this script, any royalties, licenses or permission has to be obtained by **YOU** the group, club or company according to the music performing rights laws. **These include ALL parody suggestion given with-in the script.**

*(The majority of premises are registered and you **must** contact to make sure the music/song selections used comply with the licence held by the premises. Do this prior or at the start of rehearsal to avoid complications near or on the production dates.)*

CHARACTERS

MOTHER GOOSEDame

BARONESS

GILBERT....a pompous would be Mayor

WILLIE.....a son of Mother Goose

YO-YO.....a son of Mother Goose

PERCY.....a son of Mother Goose

PUMPER....a son of Mother Goose

NICKLE.....a son of Mother Goose

BERTIE.....a son of Mother Goose

JACK.....Principal boy and the seventh son of Mother Goose

FAITH.....Principal girl

JULIANA....The Goose (adult)

Smaller or one scene only characters

JULIANA..... as a gosling

SNOW PRINCESS

HEIDI..... an Austrian girl

QUEEN OF GOOSELAND

Chorus (*if you have one*) **And/or adult/child members wishing to participate**

CHARACTER GUIDELINES

The type of costumes and the amount of costume changes are entirely down to your own discretion. There are routines or situations that will require some costume embellishments to fit the situation as mentioned in the script

MOTHER GOOSE: Dame, can be male or female. Quite a poor person at the start of the pantomime but could show better wealth after the scene of the Golden egg laying. She will require to be youthful image for one scene - a glamorous wig, shoes, dress and a large bibbed apron (*with a model in a bikini upon it*). You might find it easier to attach the apron to the dress for better effect. Also requires a Garter.

BARONESS: Best played by a female. Not really a villain but a stropky individual that mellows in act two. A hat and maybe large handbag would help her image. Also requires a garter

GILBERT: Best played by a male. Quite a pompous person that thinks he should be Mayor but never elected as one. Costumed as well-dressed gentleman

JACK: Principal boy. Seventh son of dame. Dressed and acted as one would be.

FAITH: Principal girl. Daughter of the Baroness. Dressed and acted as one would be.

WILLIE: A comic and can be played by male or female. A son of the dame. Costumed individually in his own right. He will require a granny wig, straw hat, dress, bloomers, *'for one man went to mow'*

YO-YO: A comic and can be played by male or female. A son of the dame. Costumed individually in his own right. In the main where possible the actor should bob up and down like a Yo Yo, although there might be odd times when this would not be possible or appear correct as decided by the director. Rather than jumping which could be done at times, by bending the knees would give a less distracting effect and easier to manage.

PERCY: A comic and can be played by male or female. A son of the dame. Costumed individually in his own right. To enhance his character the wearing of costume thick lens glasses would be needed. He will need a milk maid type costume and wig for *'one man went to mow'*. He supposed to have poor eyesight so in the main never speaks to the character he should be speaking to, much of which is written in the script but there is room for more to be added. Also, he can enter walking backward, with arms out stretched, etc, whatever the director feels best and comfortable with the actor.

PUMPER: A comic and can be played by male or female. A son of the dame. Costumed to match that of Nickle (*as twins although the script does not suggest they are twins*)

NICKLE: A comic and can be played by male or female. A son of the dame. Costumed to match that of Pumper (*as twins although the script does not suggest they are twins*)

BERTIE: A comic and can be played by male or female. A son of the dame. The costuming could be enhanced by padding out to make the character more rotund. It is mentioned he's a bit of an 'Allsorts' so that might also be used in the costuming but not essential.

SNOW PRINCESS: Best played by a female but could be fun as a male. Costume if possible with a cross between a Princess and an Fairy.

JULIANA: (GOSLING) The young gosling and can be played by male or female. The costuming should show delicate, soft and a bit of an 'aaaww' factor to make a good contrast from the adult Juliana. A little padding will be required to fit the script in act one scene three. If you are short of cast members it would be possible for the same actor to play Juliana as an adult but with the adult costume

JULIANA: (*ADULT*) The goose and can be male or female. The costume should resemble that of a adult goose. A scarf will also be required for the Gooseland scene

HEIDI: Best played by a female, but could work with a male. She's Austrian and so the costuming should reflect this.

QUEEN OF GOOSELAND: The script allows this to be played by male or female as a Queen. Although regal, the pomp and circumstance has been taken away and been replaced as a more relaxed, modern and fun royal.

CHORUS (*if you have one*) **And participating adults/children:** Costumed to fit the scenes they are participating in

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene one.....DIRE STRAIGHTS VILLAGE (full stage)

Scene two.....SOMEWHERE (front cloth)

Scene three.....DIRE STRAIGHTS VILLAGE (full stage)

Scene four.....SOMEWHERE (front cloth)

Scene five.....DIRE STRAIGHTS VILLAGE (full stage)

ACT TWO

Scene one.....AUSTRIA (full stage)

Scene two.....THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL (front cloth)

Scene three.....GOOSELAND (full stage)

Scene four.....SOMEWHERE (front cloth)

Scene five.....DIRE STRAIGHTS VILLAGE (full stage)

MOTHER GOOSE

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

DIRE STRAIGHTS VILLAGE (full stage)

The scene opens with cast and/or chorus to sing/dance opening number. If the cast is used, they exit after the number. All chorus remain on stage and Gilbert.

Opening number:-

If only the chorus is used for the opening number, Gilbert enters after the number.

Gilbert: *(very pompous)* Make way girls for the most important man you'll most likely to see today.

1st: There's no one important at Dire Straights Village

Gilbert: But I'm the Mayor. Well, that is to say, if we had an election I'd be voted as Mayor of the Village.

2nd: If we had an election there would be a better candidate to vote for than you, Gilbert.

3rd: But no one is stupid enough to want to be Mayor

4th: So, we put up with you as a near enough Mayor.

Gilbert: *(parades pompously)* I regard myself as 'it' you know?

All: If you're 'it', you should hear what they call, 'it' down the pub!

Gilbert: *(keenly)* What do they call, 'it'?

All: Something that requires a poop scoop!

Gilbert: *(deflated)* That's not very nice I must say. *(To audience)* Is it boys and girls? *(Posing in various positions)* Just look at me? I'm smart! I'm debonair! I'm hot stuff! And just irresistible to women!

All: Since when?

Gilbert: Since I looked in the mirror and saw my reflection.

1st: Actually, Gilbert, you're just the man we want.

Gilbert: *(preening)* I can understand that.

2nd: We're not wanting you personally.

3rd: We want the Village Hall

Gilbert: For what?

4th: It's Mother Goose's birthday and we want to give her a party.

Gilbert: Why?

1st: She's always helping others.

2nd: She's gives everything away.

3rd: That's why she's so poor.

4th: She even gave away the geese that gave her the name of Mother Goose.

All: And it's about time we did something for her.

Gilbert: I'll give the matter some consideration.

All: (*advancing toward him*) If you don't, we'll chuck you in the duck pond!

Gilbert: You wouldn't do that?

All: Oh, yes we would!

Gilbert: Oh, no you wouldn't!

Audience participation in favour with the chorus.

Gilbert: (*stops the participation*) I give in. You can have the Village Hall.

Mother: (*off*) Is that you Gilbert?

Gilbert: (*calls back*) No. It's an echo of myself from yesterday. (*Exits off quickly*)

Mother: (*enters*) Hello everyone.

All: Hello, Mother Goose.

Mother: I thought I heard the voice of Gilbert?

All: He had to go.

Mother: Go where?

All: Trying his luck with the Baroness.

Mother: Trying what with the Baroness?

All: Doing what comes naturally!

Song:- *Suggestion - (a parody) **Doing what comes naturally** (by Irvine Berlin) - words at the end of the script-*

Mother: I'm disappointed with Gilbert. I thought he might have remembered.

All: Remembered what?

Mother: It's my birthday.

All: Happy birthday, Mother Goose!

Mother: Oh, thank you. I'm one of the luckiest women alive and I count my blessings. There's only one thing that I'm unhappy about and that is I've had that many birthdays, they've become monotonous.

1st: I love birthdays, Mother Goose.

Mother: So did I when I was young. But two years ago, I was not young anymore!

2nd: We'll give you a good rave up tonight.

Mother: How kind you all are. But why should you celebrate my birthday?

3rd: Who has the kindest heart in all the world?

All: Mother Goose.

4th: Who would give her last toilet roll when there was none left in the shops?

All: Mother Goose.

1st: Who would give her last crust of bread after she scraped the mould off?

All: Mother Goose.

2nd: And who can't pay the Baroness her rent?

All: (*points to MG*) Mother Goose.

Mother: I have a cash flow problem. It's stopped flowing!

3rd: But you're a good sort, Mother Goose.

Mother: It's been said I'm a woman that offers more than what Amazon can provide. When it comes to a woman in full working order, you won't find her on-line because here I am! As you see, I don't diet which means there is more for men to explore and because there is more of me than there should be, I get more pleasure than those of a smaller size. And of course, my house is the first when you get here and lends itself to speak to meeting people before they run into folk they are going to meet after they leave my place which is so much nearer than the houses down the road because they are farther away -- or words to that effect!

All laugh

Mother: And where would we be if we didn't support each other and do a good turn occasionally?

All: And tonight, we shall give you a party.

Mother: What a nice lot of folks you are. And just to show you how grateful I am. Let's go to my place and have a nice cup of tea. I got one tea bag left so I'll break it open, divide it out, so we can all have a decent cup of tea each!

All exit. Faith enters

Faith: Looks like Mother Goose has everyone in her kitchen again. *(Looking about)* It's such a wonderful day and just the sort of day Jack would be out and about.

Jack enters with a homemade fishing rod and an empty shoulder bag. At his waist a draw string purse is attached containing some money

Jack: Actually, I've been up since dawn and now I see you framed in the rays of the morning sun. What a vision you are and like a goddess of beauty.

Faith: Oh, stop it, Jack, you're making me blush.

Jack: But I really mean it, Faith.

Faith: You are quite the limit sometimes, but I do love you. However, you will have to change.

Jack: I don't see why?

Faith: You know what my mother says about you? She says you are a lazy good for nothing.

Jack: The Baroness, might think that I'm a lazy good for nothing, but I am a very special person. I am the seventh son of a seventh son.

Faith: You're a what?

Jack: I am the seventh son of Mother Goose, and my father was the seventh son of his family. Which makes me a very special person and one day my pockets will be filled with gold and the Baroness will think I am the bee's knees.

Faith: And in the meantime, I love you whether you are the bees knees or just a bees elbow.

Jack: I'm glad to hear it.

Song:- *A duet choose a suitable number of love*

Percy enters wearing thick lens glasses with arms stretched out in front

Percy: Am I here yet?

J & F: Yes!

Percy: *(lift his glasses up to his forehead)* Oh, so I am. *(Places glasses back again)* What ho, bruvver. It's time to stop all this dilly dallying and get on with the plans.

Jack: I'd quite forgotten all about it, Percy. Is Mothers surprise ready?

Percy: All sorted. Just need your share of the money to pay for it.

Jack: That's easy. *(Offering a small amount of money from a draw string purse and replacing the rest back)* I've sold my fish and here's the money.

Percy: *(taking the few bits of money)* Wow. My word, I've never seen such a lot of money.

Jack: It's your glasses, Percy, they magnetise it ten times greater!

Percy: I'll get a pair for the girlfriend; she could do with a pair. She's always wanting more than I got!

Faith: Now you have the money, we must go quickly and collect. If my Mother becomes suspicious, she won't let me attend the party.

They all exit with Percy last trying to find his way. As Percy exits, Mother enters from the other stage side

Mother: *(calls after them)* Oi, wait a minute. I want a word! *(To audience)* Course, I don't know what word I want as I've not decided as yet. *(Sighs)* It's such a hard life bringing up seven sons by myself. I'm a widow, you know? My husband was a bus driver and one day when his bus was full, he offered his seat to a blind person. He was kind like that, but the blind man wasn't grateful. He ran over my husband and claimed, "he didn't see him!" But you know what they say, "it's an ill wind that knows where to go when you're not wearing underpants!" Right, I'd better find these sons of mine! *(Shouts)* Anyone that can't tell the difference between salt and sugar, fall in!

Yo-yo, Pumper, Nickle, Bertie and Willie enter marching/running at speed lifting knees high. As they enter, they can mark time time speaking, "hup two three four, hup two three four." (The brothers do this throughout the pantomime when entering as a group. In act two, a few entrances they enter exhausted, and replicate that in the routine) They can circle the stage if wished and when the front one stops the others behind crash into him and fall over, then all stand in line. (This crashing and falling about may not work on some scenes, so omit this action after the quick marching entrance)

Mother: Are you all here?

Yo-Yo: Yo- Yo.

Pumper: Pumper.

Nickle: Nickle.

Bertie: Bertie.

Willie: Willie.

Mother: That's only five of you. What's the other two up to?

Boys: They won't be long.

Mother: Right then. Stand at ease.

Yo -Yo still bobbing up and down

Mother: Yo - Yo, you're always on the move. Can't you stop for a moment?

Yo -Yo: Not yet. I took my medicine earlier but forgot to shake the bottle!

Willie: You know he's always up and down like a loo seat at a kid's party.

Bertie: Up and down like a kangaroo looking over the garden hedge!

Mother: I've got news. I've been informed that there is a party arranged for my birthday tonight.

Boys: We know. And we've got a present for you.

Jack and Percy enter with a large birthday cake on a trolley. It is covered with working battery tea lights. All Boys sing 'Happy Birthday'

Mother: How lovely, it's just what I've always wanted. And all those candles. Do you know I bought a candle that was supposed to smell like fresh baked bread! But when I lit it, it smelt more like burnt toast! *(Fans herself)* Is it me, or is it getting warm?

Bertie: It's because of all the candles they cost more than cake!

Mother: Just because you're bit of an, 'allsorts,' Bertie, there's no need for cheek! Anyway, birthday cake always gives me heart burn.

Pumper: That's because you try eating it with the candle still burning!

Mother: I hadn't thought of that!

Nickle: Go on, Mum. Blow them all out.

Mother: I haven't enough puff for all of them. You will have to help me?

Willie: Right then, gather round, one, two, three, blow

They all blow at the candles and stand back, pleased. Percy faces the wrong way to blow

Nickle: Look, Mum. They must be happy candles as they have delighted!

Mother: Humph!*(To audience)* You will all have to help me. Will you do that? *(Any business)* Right then. Look at the person sat next to you and pucker up and wink at them to show you love them. Right now, face me, take a deep breath and after I count three, blow as hard as you can through your puckered lips! Got that? Right - one, two, three.

All blow. Percy blows at the pros arch

Mother: If I'd know you had that much wind, I would have brought my kite.

Boys: But they are still alright, Mother!

Mother: Take it home and I'll hover the pan over them to fry eggs for us all. *Pumper and Nickle exit with the cake and re-enters afterwards*

Percy: *(facing the pros arch)* The hens do the cackle, Mum, but the eggs don't come out!

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- Mother:** *(shouts)* Oi, I'm over here!
- Percy:** Oh! *(Turns and crosses the stage and faces the pros arch)* The hens do the cackle, Mum, but the eggs don't come out!
- Mother:** *(goes up to Percy and turns him to face her)* That's because when the hens cackle, you have their bums facing the wind and the wind blows the eggs back up! Some of them hens have laid the same egg six times! *(To Willie)* It's times like these I need a cuddle. Mumsie would like to grasp her little Willie!
- Willie:** I still got the bruises from the last time you squeezed to life out of me. *(Extracting a letter hidden on his person)*
- Mother:** All I want is a hug. *(Going toward Willie)*
- Willie:** *(waves the letter)* If you come a step closer, I won't give you this.
- Mother:** What is it?
- Willie:** It's a letter delivered by the postman. There were also some circulars, but I read those round the edges and used them for Frisbees.
- Mother:** I wonder who it's from?
- Yo- Yo:** *(grabs the letter)* let's have a butchers.
- Pumper:** *(grabs the letter)* I'll have a look.
- Nickle:** *(grabs the letter)* No. I'll have a look.
- Bertie:** *(grabs the letter)* Give it here. I can read.
- Percy:** *(facing away trying to grab the letter from thin air)* Will you stop hiding it and give it to me?
- All:** We'll give it to you in a minute!
- Jack:** *(grabs the letter)* I'm the seventh son and I'll read it.
- Mother:** *(grabs the letter)* And it's addressed to me. I'll read it. *(Looks at the letter)* Oh dear. I can only read handwriting. I need glasses to read computer printed documents.
- Bertie:** You already have three pairs of glasses.
- All:** One for reading, one for distance and the third to help find the other two!

Mother: *(passes the letter back to Jack)* Here read it to me.

Jack: Dear Mother Goose. There is a large object addressed to you cluttering up my Post Office. It's pooped on the floor several times, which upset Lady Shallot when the poop stuck to her big toe through her sandal. So please can you collect as soon as possible. Postman Pat.

Mother: I wonder what it is?

All: *(except Mother and Willie)* We'll fetch it. *(They all exit)*

Mother: So, Willie. Have you learnt the days of the week yet?

Willie: I have, Mum. They are - This day, That day, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today and Nextday

Mother: What about tomorrow?

Willie: Only if it's a leap year!

Baroness enters

B'ness: Ah, there you are!

M & W: Oh, no we're not!

B'ness: Oh, yes you are!

M & W: *(encouraging audience)* Oh, no we're not!

They do audience participation.

B'ness: *(stops the participation)* I haven't time for all this nonsense. *(Goes up to Willie and begins to smooth him over)* I say, he's all grown up!

Mother: You leave my little Willie alone. *(Pulls Willie away)* Or you'll raise his suspicions!

B'ness: Just hold your tongue.

Mother and Willie holds their tongues and begin to recite the Rhyme, 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.'

B'ness: *(stopping them)* What are you doing?

M & W: Holding our tongues.

B'ness: *(firmly)* Well, don't. Now, Mother Goose, I want my rent?

- Mother:** And what you want, you won't get!
- B'ness:** (*stern*) How dare you speak to me like that. And another thing, you keep that son Jack away from my daughter. She's a delicate bloom.
- Willie:** Hers not that delicate according to our Jack. Jack says, she can be thorny like you!
- B'ness:** (*taken aback*) Well, really! You're all as bad as each other. (*Firmly*) And I still want my rent or out you go!
- Mother:** You can't shove me out without fair notice Madam Baroness frothy pants!
- B'ness:** (*harsh*) My pants are not frothy and I give you three months' notice to quit.
- Willie:** (*to audience*) She's right you know; frothy pants makes you smile. People with a face like hers means their knicker elastic is gripping extra tight.
- B'ness:** (*stern*) My knicker elastic is not gripping. (A little softer) Well, it might be pinching a little, (*harsher*) but it's certainly not gripping!
- Mother:** I tell you what, Madam Baroness, I'll give you an invitation to my birthday party tonight and let's talk about it tomorrow.
- Willie:** Or another day!
- B'ness:** (*mellow*) I do love a good party. (*Snottily*) But attending yours would be beneath my position.
- Mother:** You only got your position because your third husband happen to be the Baron. Otherwise you'd be still selling plasters, laxatives and anti-snotty nose potions in Boots!
- B'ness:** (*aghast*) Mother Goose, you know too much! (*Firmly*) I'll come to your party - but I shall still want rent or you quit in three months (*Exits quickly but regally and trips over nothing as she does so*)
- Willie:** Don't worry, Mum. She never said which three months!

All the boys (except Jack) enter with chorus.

Pumper: Hey, Mum, I have something to tell you.

Nickle: Let me tell her.

Bertie: No. I'll tell her.

Yo- Yo: Please. Please. Please. Let me. Let me.

Percy: (*addressing the curtain or similar*) Mother, we know what's been franking the Post Office floor with poop!

Jack enters with Juliana (gosling)

Jack: Look. Mum. It's a gosling and she's called, Juliana.

Mother: Oh my. What a beautiful bird you are!

The Snow Princess enter from stage right

Snow: Mother Goose, I am the Snow Princess and I have been sent to you by the Queen of Gooseland with a message.

Mother: Oh, my dear soul.

Snow: The Queen has heard news of your good heart and kindness and feels that you should be rewarded.

Mother: I'm all overcome.

Snow: And because your youngest son, Jack, is the seventh son of a seventh son. The Queen of Gooseland sends you this gosling.

Mother: Seven has always been my lucky number.

Snow: And, Jack, guard this Gosling well as when she grows into a Goose, she will make you rich beyond your wildest dreams.

Jack: Thank you, Snow Princess.

Snow: Now take heed. Your riches from the Goose must be used for your own good and to the kind benefit of others. Do not use the riches for greed, vanity or wrong doings as this will be your downfall. Mother Goose, Jack, do you promise this will be so?

M & J: We promise.

Snow: Then it's with great pleasure the Queen and myself bring you a world of happiness.

Song:- *Choose an upbeat, lively number to close the scene*

Black-out

ACT ONE
SCENE TWO
SOMEWHERE (front cloth)

Baroness enters

B'ness: My one and only failure, is that silly old Mother Goose. I should have got rid of her years ago. On through life she goes, merrily losing a fighting battle against poverty and good looks. The little money her husband left; she felt the need to give it to help others. How that brings a lump to my throat, 'the need to help others.' She is kind, unselfish and will make friends with anyone who is anyone. And what makes it worse, my silly daughter seems to have the hots for her youngest son, Jack. Never mind, she won't be able to pay their rent and I have given her notice to quit. The time is coming to throw her out and with any luck my daughter will no longer have feelings for this seventh son of a seventh son! Its times like these I need a man to help me do the dirty work!

Gilbert enters

B'ness: And here's one I ordered on-line for the job. Now, Gilbert, Mother Goose is getting right up my pipe with not paying rent. I will need your help to throw her out!

Gilbert: We can't throw her out today, it's her birthday.

B'ness: I know that. I mean in three months' time when her notice has expired.

Gilbert: You have to be careful; she now has a gosling and you might get aggro for causing distress to an animal.

B'ness: What gosling is this?

Gilbert: The one given to her by the Queen of Gooseland.

B'ness: I will take charge of the thing to prevent any aggro. Then when it grows up to a goose, it will be very nice with roast spuds and a Brussel sprout on Christmas day.

Gilbert: So, Baroness, I hear you've been invited, so would you like me to take you to Mother Goose's party?

B'ness: It would be nice to go with a gentleman. *(Looks at Gilbert)* I say, Gilbert, have you ever thought of marrying yourself?

Gilbert: I've never fancied myself!

B'ness: But you preen at your reflection in the mirror.

Gilbert: Only to reflect on what I'm looking at!

B'ness: The last time I looked in a mirror I couldn't work out if it was me, or a stranger! *(Making up to him)* But you're not a stranger! Maybe we should do a bit of speed dating?

Gilbert: Last time I did speed dating, it couldn't end quick enough!

B'ness: *(seductively)* Then perhaps we should have a go at slow dating?

Gilbert: *(warily)* W-what's slow dating?

B'ness: I'm not desperate and you won't get anywhere fast.

Gilbert: I don't mind having a go at that.

Song:- *A duet of your choice. A comedy number would work very well.*

They both exit one side as, Jack and Faith enter from the other stage side

Faith: I'm worried, Jack.

Jack: About what?

Faith: Mother will never consent to us getting married in your poor status.

Jack: *(standing strong)* What do you mean poor? - I have a fine body!

Faith: I'm not on about your physical looks. I'm talking about you being as poor as a church mouse with no cheese!

Jack: But, Faith, I am rich - that is to say I will be. Mother and I have been given a special gosling from the Queen of Gooseland. And one day this gosling will grow into a fine Goose and will bring us riches that's never been known before.

Faith: Have you had a bang on the head or been dreaming again?

Jack: It's true. The gosling was delivered personally by the Snow Princess. We've called her, Juliana.

Faith: Juliana!

Jack: *(looks off)* And here she is

Juliana as the gosling enters. She waves to the audience

Jack: You see, and one day when she's all grown up, I will be rich.

Faith: I've heard of these get rich quick schemes before and most leave you with less than you started with.

Jack: But, Faith, I have nothing anyway. So, what have I to lose?

Faith: *(with a touch of sadness)* Me, that's what you have to lose.

Jack: Oh, Faith, don't be sad. Let's do something to cheer you up before we go to mother's party?

Faith: Like what?

*Music starts for - **One man went to Mow.** As they sing, the music will have to vamp from time to time as characters enters, etc. The characters form a line along the stage. Keep a good speed as it's works better than pausing out and labouring the routine too much but still giving time to do the actions. Juliana can swing and sway all through the routine as can other characters between singing. The costuming only needs to be 'suggestion' and not full to work with the song*

Jack: Something like this. *(Starts to sing)*

**One man went to mow, went to mow a meadow
One man and his goose, went to mow a meadow!** *(Patting Juliana every time the word goose is sung)*

Bertie enters with patches on him, a tail and a dog hat, every time he sings 'dog-spot' he cocks his leg against the pros arch and runs back to the line up

Bertie: **Two men went to mow, went to mow a meadow**

Both: **Two men with a goose, dog - spot,
went to mow a meadow**

Faith collects a large bottle labelled fizzy drink 'pop' from stage side. Every time 'bottle of pop' is sung she shakes the bottle

Faith: **Three men went to mow, went to mow a meadow**

All: **Three men with a goose. dog - spot, a bottle of pop, went to mow a meadow**

Willie enters in a dress, wig, straw hat, Wellington boots and lift his dress with dancing foot steps to show outrageous knickers. Every time 'Old mother Riley' is sung he shows his knickers with fancy foot work

Willie: **Four men went to mow, went to mow a meadow**

All: **Four men with a goose, dog - spot, bottle of pop, Old
Granny Harpic, went to mow a meadow**

Pumper enters with cow horns, a tail, a padded out yellow rubber glove hanging down in front between legs. Every time 'had a cow' is sung thrusting hips to and fro to swing the padded glove with arms raised with hand palm at shoulder height

Pumper: **Five men went to mow, went to mow a meadow**

All: **Five men with a goose, dog - spot, bottle of pop, Old
Granny Harpic, had a cow, went to mow a meadow**

Nickle enters as a milk maid with a bucket a short stool. Every time, 'wanted to milk it' is sung. Pumper bends over, Nickle places the bucket under Pumper and sits on the stool facing the Pumper

Nickle: *Six men went to mow, went to mow a meadow*
All: *Six men with a goose, dog - spot, bottle of pop, Old Granny Harpic, had a cow, wanted to milk it, went to mow a meadow*

Percy enters as a yokel with arms out stretched finding his way. Every time, 'didn't know how' is sung he pumps the cow's tail

Percy: *Seven men went to mow, went to mow a meadow*
All: *Seven men with a goose, dog - spot, bottle of pop, Old Granny Harpic, had a cow, wanted to milk it, didn't know how, went to mow a meadow*

Yo-Yo enters in protective clothing with a shovel. When 'good for the rhubarb' is sung he mimes scooping off stage (under the cow's tail) into the bucket

Yo - Yo: *Eight men went to mow, went to mow a meadow*
All: *Eight men with a goose, dog - spot, bottle of pop, Old Granny Harpic, had a cow, wanted to milk it, didn't know how, good for the rhubarb, went to mow a meadow*

All: *We all went to mow, went to mow a meadow
Eight men with a goose, dog - spot, bottle of pop, Old Granny Harpic, had a cow, wanted to milk it, didn't know how, good for the rhubarb, went to mow a meadow!*

All bow

Black-out

ACT ONE
SCENE THREE
DIRE STRAIGHTS VILLAGE (full stage)

The scene can open with a song/dance number by chorus if wished. After the number, they remain on stage

Mother enters holding her head

Mother: Oh, dear. What a party that was last night. I might be a year older, but this body of mine hasn't grown to appreciate drink as I mature or remain as agile as I once was.

Juliana enters (gosling) she needs a little padding to show fattening up

Mother: Hello, Juliana. *(Points at Juliana's stomach)* My you're starting to put on a bit of weight. Mind you, I've never known a goose eat so much. Feeding you will mean I shall have no chance of saving up for the rent, and in three months I'll be homeless. *(Realising)* Hang on a minute. That Snow Princess said you'd make me a fortune. *(Holds her hand out)* Give me the money honey?

Juliana shakes her head

Mother: What a mean goosey gosling you are.

Juliana shakes her head

Mother: And another thing. You're taking too much room in my bed. You need your own bed.

Juliana nods

Mother: *(thinks)* You can have the dog's bed.

Juliana shakes her head

Mother: *(thinks again)* What about that broken mobility scooter with the enclosed canopy?

Juliana shakes her head

Mother: And it wouldn't be fair for any of the boys to give up their beds, would it?

Juliana shakes her head

Mother: And you wouldn't like me to sleep in the broken mobility scooter and you have my bed, would you?

Juliana nods her head with great enthusiasm

Mother: *(moves away holding head low)* And I thought you were my friend.

Juliana snuggles up to Mother Goose

Mother: *(pats Juliana's head)* You're such a nice bird and I'm such a soft woman. Okay, you can have my bed and I will sleep on the floor!

Juliana jumps about with joy

Mother: If only you'd grow up and get around to laying some eggs for me to sell.

Juliana nods her head

Song:- Suggestion - parody of '**Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken lay a little egg for me**' (Fred Holt/ Thomas McGhee/ Irving King 1926)
- Words at the end of the script -

Pumper, Nickle, Willie, Yo -Yo, Bertie and Percy enter