



Red

The Story of Little Red Riding Hood and The
Three Little Pigs

by Gillian M Coley & Julie Salmon

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CHARACTERS

Little Red Riding Hood, known as Red

Young Female

Sweet young girl, very fond of her red cloak lovingly made by her grandmother. Skips everywhere.

Cassius, a brainy, pin-striped sort of pig

Male/Female

Pompous, proper and bossy BUT alter-ego Super Pig is brave and good and strong (and a bit chauvinistic).
(Super Pig must speak with an American accent.)

Woody, a talented, theatrical sort of pig

Male/Female

Extrovert, optimistic, self-confident, but not very worldly.

Dotty, a sweet, scatty sort of pig

Male/Female

Enthusiastic, kind and dippy. She's lovely.

Sylvester The Wolf

Male

Cool, sexy, mean dude dressed in black. Fancies himself. Charismatic. Hungry.

Grandmother, Gladioli Bunn

Male

The Dame.

Chuck, The Woodcutter

Male

Manly and clean-cut. But beige.

Harry House, the Estate Agent

Male/Female

Suit & tie guy.

Ruby (Red's Mother and Gladioli's mother-in-law)

Female

Motherly, kind and helpful.

Chantelle (Gladioli's Home Help)

Female

Rather uncouth.

Chorus:

Woodland creatures: rabbits, deer, mice, squirrels etc

Builders: Bob, Bobby, Rob, Robbie, Bert

Stomach contents: various woodland creatures (ie rabbit; mouse etc); must include a deer

SYNOPSIS

Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother, Dame Gladioli Bunn, lives in Rose Cottage, in a clearing in the middle of the Forest. Red kindly takes her home-baked food and drink, which her mother makes, every day, and all is well in their world. Three Little Pigs come into the Forest looking for somewhere to live. Deciding they all have very different ideas of what makes a Home, they decide to build their own houses. Meanwhile, a very hungry wolf, who will eat anything and anyone he can get his teeth into, is out looking for dinner. What will become of Red, the Pigs and all their family and friends? You will have to watch to find out!

ORDER OF SCENES

ACT 1

- Scene 1 In a Forest Clearing, a way off from Grandmother's House
- Scene 2 In Grandmother's House
- Scene 3 In the same Forest Clearing
- Scene 4 In Grandmother's House
- Scene 5 In a Forest Clearing, a little nearer Grandmother's House
- Scene 6 In Grandmother's House
- Scene 7 In a Forest Clearing, quite near Grandmother's House
- Scene 8 On a Forest Path, very near Grandmother's House
- Scene 9 In Grandmother's House

ACT 2

- Scene 1 Inside the Wolf's Stomach
- Scene 2 On a Forest Path near Red's House
- Scene 3 Inside Grandmother's House
- Scene 4 Outside Grandmother's House
- Scene 5 Inside the Wolf's Stomach
- Scene 6 Outside the Wolf's Stomach
- Scene 7 Somewhere in the Forest

PANTO INTRO

Boys and Girls, and Mums and Dads, it's good to have you here.
Get ready to enjoy yourselves, just like you do each year.
Before we start, we must insist, a rule or two for you,
To make the evening much more fun here's what you have to do:
Yes to laughter, Yes to cheers, Yes to boos and groans
But it's No to photographs and No to mobile phones!
Turn them off and then sit back; get ready for the show.
So here is 'Red!' the pantomime. Ready, steady, GO!

ACT 1 – Scene 1: In the Forest (Full stage)

Song – Opening number

Curtain opens on a Forest scene. A chorus of woodland animals and THE THREE LITTLE PIGS are playing and dancing. The Three Pigs (Cassius/Woody/Dotty) have placed all their worldly possessions (in tied kerchiefs on the end of sticks) by the trees. After the dance all animals EXIT SR & SL and the pigs pick up their bundles.

Woody Phew, what a walk!

Dotty How many more miles? My trotters are killing me!

Cassius Not far now.

Woody Let's see the letter from the Estate Agent again.

(Dotty takes the letter and reads it out.)

Dotty "Greenferns Estate Agent. Dear Mr Pygg, Thank you for your recent letter enquiring about homes in the local area. Our representative, Mr Harry House, will be pleased to meet you on Tuesday at 2.30 pm, at Cowslip Clearing in Bluebell Wood, yours, Harry House."

Woody Well, where is Cowslip Clearing?

Cassius Hmm (as he gets the map out. Dotty takes the map from him and gets in a muddle with it) No, the other way round, Dotty. *(Dotty turns her back on the audience.)* Goodness, she's a rasher short of a bacon roll. *(Cassius turns Dotty back to face the audience and notices the audience for the first time, and indicates to the others. Cassius gets all formal.)* It would appear we are not alone!

Dotty No, duh, there are three of us!

Cassius I mean them.

Woody Wow, it's an audience! *(He is star struck.)*

Cassius *(Coughs and smiles.)* Well, I suppose we ought to introduce ourselves! Good evening! I'm Cassius A Pygg, Esquire; and these two are my brother and sister. This is Dotty...

Dotty ...I'm Dorothy Amabel Maisie Peppa Pygg, but Dotty to my friends. And you will be my friends, won't you boys and girls?

Audience Yes

Cassius And this is my brother Edward Woodruff Ashley Pygg...

Woody ...Woody to my fans – you'll be my fans, won't you boys and girls?

Audience Yes

Cassius Now Woody, we've talked about showing off before.

Woody But you know I want to be Famous, you know I want to be a Star!

Dotty You already are a star to me, Woody!

Woody But I want to be a Celebrity Star. I want to go on Britain's Got Talent.

Dotty Oh yes! What's Britain's Got Talent?

Cassius It's a television programme where people with no talent perform in front of judges who have no judgement, watched by thousands of people who've got nothing better to do on a Saturday night.

Woody And I love it!

Dotty So do I! What would you do, Woody?

Woody Well, I was thinking I could do this... *(Starts a soft shoe shuffle.)*

ENTER SL Little Red Riding Hood – she has a theme tune, something irritatingly jolly from Peter and the Wolf – she is skipping home from Grandmother's house with basket.

Red Hello, what are you doing? That's clever!

Woody Thank you! Told you, Cassius.

Dotty Hello, I'm Dotty, who are you?

Red I'm Little Red Riding Hood.

Cassius What a very pretty name.

Woody Is that your stage name?

Red What?

Woody Why do they call you Little Red Riding Hood then?

Red Because of my cape. My Grandmother made it for me – isn't it beautiful? I wear it everywhere I go, so now everyone calls me Little Red Riding Hood. But my friends call me Red. You can call me Red if you like.

Dotty Your Grandmother made it! Wow, it's lovely!

Red Yes, and I've just been to see her. I take her food and drink most days because she's very old.

Dotty She couldn't make me one, could she?

Red No, because she's very old.

Dotty OK! (*Still cheerful*)

Red Well, I'd better be going back home to my Mother. She doesn't like it when I'm late. She says there are Dangerous Animals here in the forest. She says I have to stay on the path and go straight home. Nice to meet you!

Cassius Do you know the forest well?

Red Oh yes, I've lived here all my life.

Cassius Well, I wonder, could you please tell us the way to Cowslip Clearing?

Red Oh, it's this way. I can show you the path if you like.

Pigs Thank you very much/most kind/thanks. (*They pick up their sticks*)

Red Follow me.

Red and the 3 Pigs EXIT

Music as at opening of scene. The chorus of woodland animals return to reprise their dance.

ENTER Wolf SR, stands behind them chewing on a drumstick, saunters to SL corner, eyeing them up for his next snack. They spot him and EXIT SL hurriedly, screaming in fear (MUSIC cuts here). He casts the bone onto the stage and steps forward onto the Apron and the curtains close behind him, as

Wolf My, that was tasty – I always like a hot cross bunny mid-morning – swiftly followed by anything large and tasty, and looking at you lot, it must be dinner time. But we should introduce ourselves first – I like to know who I'm eating. I'm Sylvester Wolfe, Sly to my friends, so you can call me Sylvester <*laughs*>. You all look too 'nice' to be my friends. And I'm not nice. I'm nasty. I'm a lean, mean, biting machine. I'm tall, dark and handsome – and I'm hungry. I can't help it if I'm always hungry – it's hereditary. Dead meat is sooo boring, so I want my snacks to be fresh and lively. And I just noticed a tasty trio of charcuterie – that's pig meat to you. I wonder where they were off to. Do you know? Will you tell me? No? Well, I can find out without your help. I fancy a little crackling... here Piggy, Piggy, Piggy.

EXIT Wolf

ACT 1 – Scene 2: In Grandmother’s House (bedroom) (Apron)

The scene opens on Grandmother in bed (see set notes for details). NB If scene cannot open with Grandmother in bed, she can sidle across to centre stage in full lights.

**This scene can also be used for Birthdays and Hellos.*

G’mother Oh, I’m bored. If only they’d invent daytime TV. I’ve done the Sudoku. I’ve done the crossword. I’ve done the polite word! Oh, don’t laugh then. Oh! How rude of me... You don’t know who I am, do you? I’m Gladioli Bunn, grandmother to that sweet girl Little Red Riding Hood. (*) Do you know why they call her Little Red Riding Hood? Because she’s little! No, it’s because I made her that red cape. Actually I made it for me but now it’s too small. My Home Help, Chantelle, put it in the hot wash and it was never the same again. Don’t tell Red, she thinks I made it specially. I call Chantelle my Home Help, but in fact she’s more of a Home Hindrance. She should be here now, looking after me, because I’m Very Old, but she’s off doing her St John’s Ambulance at Sandy Park – the Exeter Chiefs are playing at home today. Thank goodness I’ve got my daughter-in-law Ruby to call on. That’s Red’s mum. She makes the most wonderful cakes and her sloe gin is to die for! Ooh, that’s made me thirsty. I wonder if she’s in. Excuse me while I call her. (*Searches for telephone in the bed; turns right round so we can see her nighty tucked into her voluminous knickers; finds telephone. Can’t see, so puts her glasses on*)...Because I’m very old.

Sound FX: telephone ringing.

Lights up on second stage area: Ruby is dressed in apron & floury hat, holding a wooden spoon and telephone.

Ruby Hello?

G’mother Hello dear, it’s me.

Ruby Hello Glad, how are you today?

G’mother Well, I’m feeling a little under the weather...

Ruby Oh dear.

G’mother ...and a little frail...

Ruby Oh, I’m sorry.

G’mother ...and a little peckish...

Ruby Oh, Glad, not again!

G’mother And I think I could do with one of your fruit cordials to pick me up.

Ruby Which one? The blackberry, rosehip or elderflower?

G’mother Blackberry sounds nice... or your sloe gin?

Ruby Blackberry it is. And I’ve just taken a fruit malt out of the oven. Would you like a slice or two of that?

G’mother Two slices please!

Ruby All right. Red should be home soon. I’ll ask her to come round and bring it to you.

G’mother Oh, you are kind. She is good. I’ve only just seen her. That was a delicious pie you sent.

Ruby It was a new recipe.

G’mother I wolfed it down!

Ruby Glad to hear it, Glad.

G’mother Goodbye dear.

Ruby Goodbye. (*They hang up. Ruby EXITS*)

G’mother That’s tea sorted! Now I think it’s time for a nap.

Lights dim, EXIT in blackout.

ACT 1 – Scene 3: In the Forest (Full stage)

ENTER Red SL with basket for Grandmother, skipping to her theme tune, smiling and waving as she goes. EXIT SR.

ENTER SL Three Little Pigs, to introduction for the SONG 'Three Little Pigs from School'.

SONG – Three Little Pigs

Woody Hello boys and girls!

Audience Hello Woody!

Woody Hey, we could use that song for the audition!

Dotty What audition?

Woody Britain's Got Talent!

Cassius Oh no, you're not still on about that are you? Look if you want to strut your stuff, that's fine, but you're on your own.

Dotty Oh yes, you are so talented. I just love watching you!

Cassius What time is it?

Dotty Tea time?

Woody Two-thirty, why?

Cassius We're meeting Harry House at two-thirty.

Woody What is the best time to go to the dentist? When it's 'tooth-hurty' – geddit? Boom boom!

Cassius Thank you, Woody.

ENTER through Auditorium Harry House, holding a clipboard.

Harry *(to himself)* And just around the corner is an unexpected clearing, full of natural light and great potential for development. The views sweep right down to the river on one side and... to Three Little Pigs on the other! Good afternoon, I'm Harry House, very pleased to meet you.

Cassius Good afternoon, I'm Cassius, this is Dotty and Woody. *(They all shake hands.)*

Harry I've had a look at your requirements, and there are plenty of lovely modern, traditional homes in the locality, which I'm sure will suit your needs. We have on our books a sixteenth century long-house in Longdown; a seventeenth century terrace in Tipton; a wobbly barn in Wiggaton. Prices start at a very reasonable five thousand guineas.

[use local alliterative place names]

Pigs What?!

Cassius Why so expensive?

Harry Well, we are in the commuter belt for Honiton.

Cassius They are a little out of our price range.

Harry Well, we have an eighteenth century mansion in Musbury; a nineteenth century cottage in Crediton; a studio apartment in Sidmouth. They range in price from two thousand guineas.

Dotty We haven't got enough money in our piggy banks for that!

Woody What does he think we are, guinea piggies?

Harry Well, you won't get much for less around here. It's a very well sought after area – good infrastructure, easy access to local schools and shops – near the coast and the moor.

Woody What *moor* do you want! Boom boom!

Cassius gets the pigs into a huddle. Harry checks his mobile phone for messages.

Dotty What can we do?
Woody We can't afford those prices.
Cassius I wonder... (*they unhuddle.*) Excuse me Mr House, what are the options for self-build?
Harry Self-build? Excellent idea! We have several suitable plots in the forest, just like this one.
Dotty I like it here! Can we build here?
Harry What do you have in mind?
Dotty Oh! Oh! I want something pretty! And light! And natural! Ooh, ooh! And can it be yellow?
Woody When I think of houses, I think of full houses! I would like a sprung wooden floor for dancing and large red curtains – and a stage!
Cassius No, no, no, we need to build for the future – a good solid investment – for our piglets, and our piglets piglets. Double glazing, cavity walls, loft insulation, solar panels...

They all realise they want different things, and look at each other.

Harry Well, it seems to me you've all got great ideas, but all very different. I think you should each build your own houses... on three different plots!
Pigs Oh yes!
Dotty Then we can all visit each other!
Cassius Right, I'll sort things out with Harry.
Woody And we need to decide what to build...
Harry Just sign here please. (*Busies himself with his clipboard.*)

Pigs EXIT excitedly SR. ENTER Wolf SL.

Wolf (*To audience*) Well, well, well, I know it's rude to eavesdrop, but I can't help it – it's these Big Ears. (*To Harry*) Good afternoon, I couldn't help but hear you're an Estate Agent! How fortunate! It just so happens that I'm looking for a tasty little pad, not too far from town. Something new. Something snappy, to suit my personality.
Harry Well, we have quite a lot on our books...
Wolf I'm interested in building my own – but I haven't a clue how to go about it.
Harry How funny! I have three new clients doing just that!
Wolf Really? Perhaps I could meet them – have a chat – see how it's done...

They EXIT together USL. Forest cloth in for half-stage.

ENTER DSL builders and Dotty. Dotty has a blueprint of the house plans; builders carry straw, bucket, tools, twine etc.

Dotty Great, put that there, that there, thank you (etc)

ENTER SL Ruby with tray of mugs and cake.

Ruby Tea's up!

All down tools and stop for tea and cake.

Dotty But you haven't started yet!

Bob Them's the rules, Missus.

Bert Tea break – union rules.

Rob We've had to come a long way.

Robbie I'm parched.

Bob Missus always makes the best tea.

Bert Just how I like it.

Robbie What's the cake?

Ruby Chocolate.

All My favourite.

All drink and eat etc then replace mugs on Ruby's tray before she EXITS SL.

All Thank you/goodbye/etc

Dotty Right, ready? Now, let's get building.

Bob Ah.

Rob Oh.

Robbie Er.

Bert (*Sucks teeth*) We've got a bit of a problem.

SONG

Dotty Everyone ready? Let's get building.

Then builders set to and build the house. Lots of mayhem. When complete all stand around with arms folded and admire their work. (See stage notes for house-building.)

ENTER SL Red with basket for Grandmother, skipping to her theme tune.

Red Wow, that looks fantastic! Whose house is that?

Dotty Mine! It's my new house; would you like a look inside?

Red I can't, I'm taking this cake and blackberry cordial to Grandmother. I'll try and come back on my way home.

Dotty OK! See you later!

EXIT Red (SR)

Dotty Thank you so much for all your help. I'll recommend you – my brothers are both building their own houses.

Bob We'll put the bill in the post.

Rob Thanks again for the tea.

Robbie It's been a pleasure doing business with you.

Bert Here's our card.

Dotty Thank you! Goodbye! *EXIT SL Builders (with their props). Dotty goes proudly into her new home (EXIT SL and re-enters 'inside' house).*

Welcome to your new home Dotty!

ENTER through Auditorium Wolf, with his arm around Harry House's shoulder.

Wolf So Harry – you say you have a large house. Is that for a large family? Do you have lots of... children? And do your children have lots of... pets? I'd love to eat them, er, I mean, meet them...

Harry *(Harry breaks away)* Well, here we are – this is one of the new builds I was telling you about.

Wolf Very fine!

Harry *(Looks at his mobile phone.)* Oh, I must dash. I'm sure Dotty will be pleased to see you, just give her a knock.

EXIT Harry SL, hurriedly.

Wolf Not as pleased as I'll be to see her... *(Gets out a checked napkin and tucks it into his collar; produces jar of apple sauce.)* Oh Dotty, are you there?

Dotty *(Through window.)* Hello? Who's that?

Wolf It's me – Sylvester Wolfe.

Dotty Do I know you?

Wolf Not yet, but we're going to be very close. You're going to know me inside and out.

Dotty What do you mean?

Wolf Sorry, I can't hear you, my dear. Why don't you step outside – I want to talk to you.

Dotty What about?

Wolf About your lovely new house, I'd like one just like it.

Dotty Oh, no, I can't – my brothers told me not to talk to strangers.

Wolf But I'm not a stranger!

Dotty Oh, what shall I do boys and girls?

Audience *<they will presumably advise her to stay put!>*

Wolf Bah! Little pig, little pig, oh let me come in.

Dotty No no, by the hair of my chinny, chin chin, I'll not let you in.

Wolf Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!

SOUND FX of blowing etc; house falls down; Dotty screams and runs off SR.

Wolf Curses!

Wolf EXITS crossly, stage SR. Forest cloth out.

Stage hands remove remains of house – can be seen to be doing this with a broom!

ACT 1 – Scene 4: In Grandmother’s House (bedroom) (Full stage with dressing table)

The scene opens on Grandmother in bed. Chantelle is nearby, filing her nails. Chuck is chopping wood ‘outside’ in a manly fashion. He stops to mop his brow and drink a bottle of coke. Grandmother is eyeing him through the window.

G’mother Ooh, Chantelle, come over here a minute. (*Chantelle crosses to the bed, and they both watch Chuck, moving their heads up and down as he swings the axe.*) Well, I never thought I would fancy a man wearing beige.

Chantelle What he lacks in style he certainly makes up for in physique.

G’mother Ooh, I’ve come over all hot and flustered.

Chantelle That’s your age.

G’mother You cheeky madam. Anyway, I know him and I saw him first, so stop drooling; you’ll make a mess on the carpet. He’s far too old for you.

Chantelle He’s far too young for you!

G’mother Men like maturity, experience and a fully rounded personality.

Chantelle Well, you’re definitely rounded.

(Grandmother fortunately does not catch this remark as she has managed to catch Chuck’s eye and is waving flirtatiously at him. Chantelle doesn’t notice because she is making herself look beautiful. Chuck waves at Grandmother in a friendly way, she waves back flirtatiously.)

G’mother Ooh, d’you know, I’m feeling that much better. I think I could try getting up. (*Chantelle helps her out of bed*) I don’t suppose you’d be a dear and get my slippers? Oh, and I could do with my dressing gown. Do you know where my best teeth are?

Chantelle Hang on, I’ve only got one pair of hands. Oh, that’s one of my nails gone!

G’mother Chantelle, would you fetch me my youth-activating anti-aging triple-moisturising extra-firming day cream? I have to look my best. And it does what it says on the tin – or is that wood preservative? Oh well, same difference.

(Grandmother hobbles about, moves to the window and starts ogling Chuck again. He turns to look at her; she beckons, he mimes ‘what me?’ and puts his axe down.)

G’mother Oh Chantelle, could you pop into town and get me my, er, bunion cream? I’m in agony! Here’s a shilling, keep the change. (*She makes sure Chantelle doesn’t get to the window.*)

Chantelle But, but...

G’mother You’re too kind. Bye!

Chantelle EXITS SL huffily. BLACKOUT. Chuck EXITS SR. Forest cloth in.

ACT 1 – Scene 5: In the Forest, not so near Red’s House (Half stage)

ENTER SL Builders and Woody. Woody has a blueprint of his house plans; builders carry wood, hammer, bucket of nails, saw etc

Woody Great, put that there, that there, thank you (etc)

ENTER SL Ruby with tray of mugs and cake.

Ruby Tea’s up!

All down tools and stop for tea and cake.

Woody But you haven’t started yet!

Bob Them’s the rules.

Bert Tea break – union rules.

Rob We’ve just built a whole house!

Robbie I’m gasping.

Bob Red’s Mum always makes the best tea.

Bert Just how I like it.

Robbie What’s the cake?

Ruby Lemon Drizzle.

All My favourite.

All drink and eat etc then replace mugs on Ruby’s tray before she EXITS SL.

All Thank you/goodbye/etc

Bert Bob, what’s next?

SONG

Woody Right, ready? Now, let’s get building.

Then the builders set to and build the wooden house. Lots of mayhem. When complete all stand around with arms folded and admire their work. (See stage notes for house-building.)

Bob Right lads, who’s for a swift half at the Lamb and Flag?

EXIT SR Builders(with props) to murmurs of agreement.

ENTER SL Red with basket for Grandmother, skipping to her theme tune.

Red Goodness! What a lovely house. Whose is it?
Woody Mine, all mine! I'm so excited! But the red velvet curtains aren't up yet.
Red That sounds very glamorous!
Woody They're for my stage, Dahling! You must come back for my opening night!
Red OK! I look forward to that.

EXIT Red (SR). ENTER SL Harry House.

Harry Good day Woody. Fine house! Is the sprung floor to your liking?
Woody Oh yes! The varnish isn't dry yet, but I can't wait to dance on it. Here, I'll show you my routine – I could do with a professional agent's opinion.
Harry But I'm not that kind of Agent!
Woody Whatever! Watch this!

Woody performs a dance routine to Harry's consternation. ENTER SR Dotty. She runs on, in front of them, and straight into the house without stopping. They watch her go. ENTER SR Wolf at speed, he runs in front of them, screeches to a halt, then saunters back to them. They watch him.

Wolf OK Dotty, you win! My turn to be 'it'. Oh, hello Mr House.
Harry Ah, Mr Wolf, this is Woody.
Wolf How do you do *(he offers his hand to shake)*.
Woody Pleased to meet you – I won't shake trotters, I'm filthy, after all the building!
Harry Woody has just built his own house – isn't it splendid?
Wolf Wonderful; I must look inside.
Dotty <Squeal> Woody! *(in stage whisper)*.
Woody What is it Dotty?
Dotty Could you just come inside a min? I, er, I can't find the kettle!

Woody looks perplexed, but goes inside the house. Dotty is seen through the window warning Woody of the danger.

Wolf Curses!
Harry *(Looks at his mobile phone.)* Oh, I must dash. I'm sure Woody will be pleased to show you around in a moment.

EXIT SL Harry. Wolf knocks menacingly on the door whilst he gets out his checked napkin and tucks it into his collar once more and produces the jar of apple sauce.

Woody Who's that?
Wolf It's me – Sylvester Wolfe. Won't you let me in?
Woody No, go away!
Wolf I just want to have a quick look inside your lovely new home.
Woody It's not ready yet! Everything is still in boxes! We can't entertain you – we haven't got anything for you to eat!
Wolf Oh, I think you have!
Woody Oh, what shall I do boys and girls?

Audience <Hopefully they will advise him not to let the wolf in>

Wolf Bah! Little pig, little pig, oh let me come in.

Woody No no, by the hair of my chinny, chin chin, I'll not let you in.

Wolf Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!

SOUND FX of blowing etc; house falls down; Dotty screams; Woody screams and they both run off stage right.

Wolf Curses! And I'm so hungry, I could eat a whole hog OR TWO!

SONG

Wolf EXITS crossly, stage left.

Curtain

PantoScripts Perusal

ACT 1 – Scene 6: In Grandmother’s House (Apron)

The scene opens on Grandmother and Chuck.

Chuck Thanks for the cuppa, Glad.

G’mother My pleasure! (Oh, be still my beating heart!)

Chuck Now, if there’s anything I can ever do for you... I know how hard it can be, living on your own...

G’mother All alone!

Chuck Just let me know.

G’mother Well, actually... I do have a little list.

Grandmother produces said list. SONG from the Mikado.

G’mother As some day it may happen that a workman must be found,
I’ve got a little list – I’ve got a little list
Of crucial little bits and bobs both here and in the grounds
Which never must be missed – which never must be missed.
There’s the crustulated downpipe that could do with being flushed,
And the irritating cockroaches that really must be crushed,
Then the over-flowing guttering that needs a mucking out,
And the scaly, scabby tiling that is much in need of grout,
And a thorough boiling of my smalls, I really must insist,
This never must be missed – this never must be missed.

Chuck She’s got ‘em on the list – she’s got ‘em on the list;
Which never must be missed – they never must be missed.

G’mother There’s the blockage in the Hoover, and the blockage in the loo,
They really do exist – I’ve got them on the list;
And the loose tread on the bottom step that really needs a screw,
This job cannot be missed – this job cannot be missed;
Then the rattling of the shutters when the wind gets up too high,
And the clattering of the windows when an aeroplane goes by,
And the wobbly, wonky shelving causing all the mugs to fall,
And the broken bits of china that are stacked up by the wall,
And the decomposing rodents that are too gross to be missed;
I’ve got them on the list – I’ve got them on the list.

Chuck She’s got ‘em on her list – she’s got ‘em on her list;
And she doesn’t want them missed – she does not want them missed.

G'mother And the dry and crumbling mortar that is falling from the wall,
Where I nearly sprained my wrist – I've got that on the list;
And the non-fermenting compost that is no use at all;
This really can't be missed – no it really can't be missed;
Then the whatsit from the thingy-bob that's fallen in the sink,
And the doobrie with the you-know-what that's driving me to drink,
And the catch that isn't catching, and the do that doesn't do,
And the task of emptying the po I'd rather leave to you;
But it really doesn't matter which you do first on the list,
Just as long as they aren't missed – just as long as they aren't missed.

Chuck You may put 'em on the list – you may put 'em on the list;
And they'll none of 'em be missed – they'll none of 'em be missed.

Both EXIT

PantoScripts Perusal

ACT 1 – Scene 7: In the Forest, near Grandmother’s House (Full Stage)

ENTER SL Builders and Cassius. Cassius has a blueprint of his house plans; builders carry bricks on a hod, cement, bucket, trowel etc

Cassius Great, put that there, that there, thank you (etc)

ENTER SL Ruby with tray of mugs and cake.

Ruby Tea’s up!

All down tools and stop for tea and cake.

Cassius But you haven’t started yet!

Bob Them’s the rules.

Bert Tea break – union rules.

Rob We’ve just built two houses!

Robbie My mouth feels like the bottom of a budgie cage.

Bob Ruby always makes the best tea.

Bert Just how I like it.

Robbie What’s the cake?

Ruby Battenburg.

All My favourite (*said through a mouthful of cake*).

All drink and eat etc then replace mugs on Ruby’s tray before she EXITS SL.

All Thank you/goodbye/etc

Cassius Right, ready? Now, let’s get building!

MUSIC: Music for the Slapstick scene.

As the scene starts, Grandmother and Chuck ENTER and join the builders to help.

Builders build first few rows of bricks, only for them to be knocked down by Cassius who had his head in the blueprint. They rebuild, only for it to be knocked down by Chuck – he nearly saves the day, but they all fall. They rebuild, only for Grandmother to knock them all down.

Pause while Builders gather their tempers.

Builders build first few rows of bricks again. Cassius nearly knocks them down, but something one of the builders does moves him out of the way just in the nick of time. Builders add another layer; Chuck nearly knocks them down, but builders make sure he doesn’t. They build another layer, and Grandmother very, very nearly falls on them and knocks them, but Chuck intervenes and she lands on him instead.

MUSIC stops. Chuck is injured. He’s hurt his finger.

Chuck Ow, ow, ow!

G'mother Oh Chuck, I'm sorry! Let me have a... ooo I can't abide the sight of blood.

Chuck It's only a little drop, well, gloop... ah.

G'mother You are so brave, Chuck. I feel rather faint.

Chuck I think I need some first aid.

G'mother Ooo, I couldn't. I know, we'll call in the St John's Ambulance Brigade. CHANTELLE! BLOOD! BRING YOUR KIT!

ENTER Chantelle with first aid kit.

Chantelle Yes Glad? Blood? Where? Ooh, helloo Chucky! Poor you. Let me have a little look.

Chuck It's not too bad really.

Chantelle You're very brave.

Chuck Well, you know.

Chantelle I think you might need a bandage on that.

Chuck OK, whatever you say.

G'mother Eh?

Chantelle Come with me...

G'mother But...

Chantelle ... and I'll put on a little bandage, and apply a little TLC.

G'mother No!

They EXIT SL, entwined.

G'mother Oh Chuck?! I'm still feeling faint. I'm going home to lie down. (Oh bother.)

EXIT SR Grandmother

MUSIC restarts.

Builders continue to build. It would be great if there could be a dimming of the stage lighting while the dialogue above goes on, then comes up on the house, complete. If not possible, then at this point the completed brick house needs to be whipped out, and put in position (in front of the newly laid bricks). SFX Reversing horn.

When complete all stand around with arms folded and admire their work. (See stage notes for house-building. Needs a working door.)

Cassius Perfect!

ENTER Red with basket for Grandmother, skipping from stage left to stage right, to her theme tune. (Cassius looks proudly and pompously at his new house while the following goes on.)

Red Wow! That's amazing! Who built that?

All We did! We did!

Bob It's one of ours!

Robbie It's from our 'Sticklebrick' range.

Rob Here's our card!

Sound FX – telephone rings. Arm appears from the wings/house with a phone.

Bert Hello? Yes. What, the Channel 4? What, the Grand Designs? We're on our way!!

EXIT SR Builders

Red Oh, Cassius, you're going to be so happy here!

Cassius Thank you. If a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing well. It should see me out my three score years and ten. Would you like a look around now, or come back for the house warming soiree?

Red I'll see it later if I may, I have to get this basket to Grandmother's house. Bye!

EXIT SR Red

Cassius stands, admiring his house. He looks round to check he is on his own; 'cuts' an imaginary ribbon across the door, and runs into the house with glee.

ENTER SL Wolf

Wolf Hello boys and girls. I feel a little better now, thank you for asking. I popped up to the pre-school for a snack. Aha! Another Pig Sty – er, house. Goody goody.

Little Pig, little pig, oh let me come in.

(Silence)

Hello? Little Pig, little pig, let me come in!

(Silence)

Are you in there? Little Pig, little pig, let me come in!

"No no, by the hair of my chinny, chin chin, I'll not let you in." *(Said in a stage whisper)*

Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house in!

Wolf blows. SOUND FX of blowing etc; but the house does not fall down. He tries again, and again, but no good and he collapses, puffed out.

Cassius *(Pops his head out of the window)* Bit windy today *(and pops back in)*.

EXIT SR Wolf, crawling and panting.

ENTER Dotty and Woody at speed, straight to the front door of the house. Dotty tries to open the door the wrong way, Woody shoves her out of the way, opens the door and they rush in, closing the door quickly behind them.

ENTER SR Wolf, with a pair of bellows (or hairdryer), is about to use them when ENTER SL Harry House, so he pretends they are something else (ie an accordion or a tooth pick or a back scratcher).

Harry Oh, good afternoon – ah, how fortuitous, this is the third of the self-builds I was telling you about.

Wolf Really?

Harry Oh yes. Well, I think this is the best.

Wolf I always like to save the best 'til last. Does it have a back door? *(He disappears behind the house.)*
Woody *(Looking out of the window)* Oh! Mr House! Great! I've thought of a new routine! Would you like to see it?
Dotty It's very good!

The Wolf reappears, unseen by the pigs, licking his lips and rubbing his hands, and chuckling to himself.

Harry Er, no thanks I er... *(looks at his watch)*
Wolf Wait! It's always good to encourage new talent Mr H. Let the young cutlet have a go!
Harry Well, if you think so, but he thinks I'm a theatrical agent, not an estate agent.
Wolf Tell you what, I've had a bit of experience in the theatre – sorting out the prime cuts from the ham actors. I'll see him, but just for fun, I will tell him that I'm Simon Cowell! What do you think?
Harry Oh, very good. Anything, so long as he doesn't bother me.
Wolf *(Disguising his voice)* Mr Woody! I hear you have an act you want to put on. I'm scouting for Britain's Got Talent. Would you like to audition for me?
Woody YES!
Dotty <Squeal!>

Woody and Dotty rush outside... and screech to a halt when they see it's the Wolf! He is putting on his napkin and taking out the sauce jar again.

Woody NO!
Dotty <Squeal!>

Cassius looks out of the window in alarm. Chase scene. But the Wolf hardly moves as the pigs run into the auditorium, like headless chickens. They end up back in front of the Wolf. The Wolf eats them.

Black out. Flash of light as Dotty squeals. Black out. Sound FX: 'Gulp' 'Swallow'.

Lights up. Dotty is gone. Black out. Flash of light as Woody squeals. Black out. Sound FX: 'Gulp' 'Swallow'.

Lights up. Woody is gone. Harry is shocked. Black out. Flash of light as Harry squeals. Black out. Sound FX: 'Gulp' 'Swallow'.

Lights up. Harry is gone.

Wolf Delicious! *(He laughs, burps, and waddles off)*
Cassius rushes from his house.

Cassius Oh my goodness! Oh, what shall I do? Woody! Dotty! *(Pause)* This is a job for Super Pig!

MUSIC: Superman. Cassius rips open his shirt to reveal the 'P' of Super Pig. A cloak is thrown at him, which he puts on. Underpants are thrown at him, he holds them up to himself and decides they won't fit and puts them on his head instead, with his ears sticking out of the leg-holes. Rubber chicken is thrown at him. He isn't sure why, but EXITS through Auditorium with it held aloft in a heroic manner as the tabs close behind him.

ACT 1 – Scene 8: On a Forest Path (Apron)

ENTER Wolf

Wolf What a delicious dinner that was. Two sausage rolls and a meat feast! Mind you, I've got indigestion now. Must have been that Estate Agent. Best cure is more food! You'll do (*picks someone in the audience and walks out to them*).

ENTER through Auditorium onto the stage, Red with basket for Grandmother, skipping to her theme tune. The Wolf spots her, and returns to the stage.

Wolf (*To audience*) Ah, pudding! (*To Red*) Good afternoon, Little Girl. Where are you off to on such a fine day?

Red I'm off to see my grandmother.

Wolf Does she live far away?

Red Oh no, just in the next clearing. She lives in Rose Cottage, all by herself. I take her food every day because she's Very Old.

Wolf Oh, can't she cook for herself? I hope she's not undernourished.

Red Oh no, my Mum sends her cakes and pies every day. And she always has a stack of chocolate buttons nearby!

Wolf Oh, good!

Red Well, I must go. (*She moves to go but he stops her*)

Wolf Wouldn't it be nice to take her a bunch of flowers? There are some lovely ones I've seen further into the woods, just off the path.

Red Oh no, I'm not allowed to stray off the path.

Wolf Oh, it would make her so happy! And it's perfectly safe, isn't it, boys and girls?

Aud No!

Wolf Oh, yes it is!

Aud Oh, no it isn't. (Etc)

Red Oh, well, yes I suppose it would. It will be OK, I'm old enough now. She'd love it, I'll do it.

She EXITS through Auditorium picking flowers along the way.

Wolf Hello Grandma, here I come!

EXIT Wolf, through Auditorium

ACT 1 – Scene 9: In Grandmother’s House (bedroom) (Full stage)

The scene opens on Grandmother in bed. She is poorly after her swoon, hair in rollers, smelling salts in hand.

G’mother I still can’t believe Chantelle could betray me like that. She knows Chuck is THE ONE for me. If only I hadn’t fainted. But he’ll come back to me. He wants my witty conversation and mature charm. He’ll soon get fed up with Chantelle. Bless her – the lights are on but nobody’s home. She told me the other day that when she dies, she’s going to leave her brain to science – I suppose every little helps. Ooh, I’m still a bit woozy – where are my smelling salts? *(She looks for them* and finds them in her hand. She sniffs them, loudly.)* These are useless! Maybe you’re supposed to drink them? *(Gulps)* Wow! They’re strong! *(She give a big yawn.)* Time for a power nap. *(She puts cucumber on her eyes in an exaggerated fashion, so she can’t see, and starts to snore.)* Lights dim.

**can use bottomless bed routine here, with stagehand feeding a number of unfeasible and unusual items into the bed for Gladioli to find.*

MUSIC: ‘I’m too sexy for my shirt’

ENTER Wolf, through Auditorium – sexily, singing and dancing. By the end of the song he is on the stage, outside Grandmother’s House. He stops.

Wolf *(He burps loudly.)* Ok, not so sexy – that estate agent will keep repeating on me.
Now, time for the main course!

The Wolf knocks on the outside door of Grandmother’s House. Grandmother doesn’t move – she knows it’s Red.

G’mother Come in, Red!

SFX: Door creaks open, and closes. Wolf slips through, menacingly. He says nothing. Lights up.

G’mother Have you brought me my cordial?

Wolf *(In a squeaky voice)* Yes Grandmother!

G’mother Are you ok? You sound strange.

Wolf Yes – just got a frog in my throat.

SFX: Frog’s ‘ribbit’. The Wolf coughs, puts his hand to his mouth and ‘coughs up’ a frog, which he throws into the orchestra pit.

G’mother And have you my cake?

Wolf *(Still in a squeaky voice)* Yes Grandmother!

G’mother Are you sure you’re OK?

Wolf Just feeling a little hoarse.

SFX: Horse neighing. Wolf looks at his stomach and pats it.

Wolf Shhh! *(To the horse in his stomach.)*

The Wolf creeps right up to Grandmother, arms held high.

G'mother Well, hurry up dear. I'm soooo hungry!

Wolf Me too! Mwa, ha, ha, ha!

The Wolf EATS Grandmother! Blackout. Flash of light as Grandmother squeals. Black out. SFX: 'Gulp.' 'Swallow.' Silence.

G'mother *(Off stage, in an echoey voice)* Hello? It's dark in here.

CURTAIN

Short reprise of MUSIC: 'I'm too sexy for my shirt' as House lights come up

INTERVAL

PantoScripts Perusal

ACT 2 – Scene 1: Inside the Wolf's stomach (Full stage)

Gloopy music. The scene opens on a darkly lit stage with red lighting. There are odd shapes about: strange things that the wolf has eaten, some draped in gloop. Ideally, at the back of the stage there is a huge epiglottis-shaped arch, strung with fronds of gloop. In the darkness, there is a mirror, a telephone, something which might be knitting, a crate of lemonade and a blow-up guitar (and anything else which is needed in any of the later activities). Dotty and Woody and Harry are off stage with any other Woodland Animals (chorus) including a Deer.

(Off stage is an Aladdin's lamp.)

G'mother *(FROM OFF)* Hello? It's dark in here... I don't like it. I'm scared of the dark. Isn't that silly boys and girls? You're not afraid of the dark, are you? Do you know where I am boys and girls? I'll give you a clue - it's a bit smelly. *(Sniffs)*. Oh no! Now what?

(SHE ENTERS DOWN THE SLIDE!) Ooohh-ooooo-ooo-weeeeeee-eeeeee-ooowww!

Phewy! It stinks in here. Not surprising really as I'm INSIDE THE WOLF'S TUMMY! Yes! He ATE me! And I hate him (hate him, get it? Oh, never mind). *(Music ends)*

Oh, I'm going to be so lonely in here, all by myself. Do you think I'm going to be here for ever? *(Harry House, Dotty and Woody and Woodland Animals ENTER SL in the gloom which makes Grandmother jump; she doesn't yet recognise them)*. Oh I don't think I am alone! I don't like it! Let me find my matches and make light of the situation.

(She strikes a match and lights up the individual people (inc Woodland Chorus) in turn. Grandmother reacts appropriately as each actor lights their own face with a torch for the moment they are in match-light. She is perplexed to see them all. Finally she lights up the mirror and scares herself and screams and her match goes out.)

Oh quick, strike a light! *(Lights another match.)* If only there was a lamp. *(One is passed on from the wings.)* Hang on, what's this? *(She rubs the Aladdin's lamp - nothing happens.)* Oh well, it was worth a try! *(She lights it with a match, and the stage lights come up.)* Oh, that's better! *(She looks around and sees what all the apparitions were, in the same order including the mirror, and realises how they got there; she finally sees Harry, Woody and Dotty and the Woodland Animals)* Oh my goodness, that wolf is a greedy pig.

Woody Excuse me?

G'mother Oh, sorry - just a turn of phrase. Hello! Have you been here long?

Dotty No, we haven't been here very long. Hello - I'm Dotty and this is my brother Woody.

Woody How d'you do?

G'mother Nice to meet you. I'm Gladioli Bunn. I suppose the wolf ate you too?

Dotty Yes, but it was very quick, we didn't feel a thing!

G'mother And who is this fine gentleman?

Harry Harry House, Estate Agent, at your service. Also eaten.

G'mother *(to the Deer)* Hello dear!

G'mother That awful wolf tricked me - I thought it was my grand-daughter, Red, coming to visit, and it wasn't her at all!

Woody Oh, Red! Oh, we know her.

Dotty Yes, she's our friend. Oh, if you're her grandmother, you made her cape! I love it.

I don't suppose you could make me one?

G'mother No dear, because I'm Very Old. Oh, I need to sit down. I wish I had a handy bench.

(Bench arrives on stage and she sits)

And I wish I had my knitting.

(She looks off stage in a hopeful sort of way. A bag is lobbed on. She places it on the floor between her feet and plunges her hand in. She draws out something she thinks might be knitting)

Eaugh!