



# Mother Goose

by Peter Denyer

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NODA Presents

# MOTHER GOOSE

by

Peter Denyer

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PantoScripts Sample

**PAGE INDEX**

4	Publisher Information / Conditions of License
5	A Note from the Writer / Other Titles Available
6	Previous Productions / About the Writer
7	Cast List
8	List of Scenes
9-55	The Acting Script
56-57	Music Suggestions and Notes
58-59	Character Descriptions
59-61	Costume Descriptions
62-64	Scenery and Props Suggestions
65	Sound Effects & Lighting

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## A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

"Mother Goose" is an unusual pantomime as it the only one where the leading character is the Dame. Even more unusually, for a "heroine", Mother Goose is shown to be a less than perfect person, tempted by The Demon of Discontent, she sacrifices her best friend, Priscilla the Goose, in search of beauty. Of course she does see the error of her ways, repents her decision and is forgiven when she realises that true beauty lies within. In some versions of the story Mother Goose has two sons but I decided to only have the character of Billy, who has a mainly comic role but plays a heroic part in the defeat of The Demon of Discontent. The plot is dramatically strong and, unlike some other subjects, continues right through to the end. I always try to see my pantomimes through the eyes of a seven year old who is seeing a stage show for the first time - a child who doesn't know that Priscilla will eventually be rescued - so "telling the story" is the most important thing.

Before I sat down to write this version, the script had been used in several different professional productions, and while the basic construction has always remained the same, different scenery, songs, and the various talents of each cast has made each show unique. You will need to add various local references, and there are sure to be new topical references to add to the comedy scenes. Allow the characters who talk directly to the audience to "customise" the exchanges so that the actor can express his or her personality.

Above all else - enjoy it! The good feeling that happens with a happy company really does come over the footlights - if the audience can see you're having fun, so will they.

Good Luck.

PETER DENYER

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ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP

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CINDERELLA

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT

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SINBAD THE SAILOR

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

THE SNOW QUEEN

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

## PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

This script, like all Peter Denyer Pantomimes, was originally produced by Kevin Wood with a professional cast. Over the years the structure and dialogue were adapted to suit the requirements of the many star actors who appeared in the show. In 1997, at the invitation of NODA, the scripts were subjected to a cleansing process returning them to something like their original form, removing the quirks demanded by particular actors, and adding stage directions and technical tips, thereby making them more suitable for licensing. During the 1998/99 Season there were over sixty productions by amateur societies. Following their comments and suggestions, the scripts were revised again in 1999, in 2000, and once more in 2005/6 - this is the version you have here.

We thought you would be interested to know a little about the background to the piece, and the various actors who have played the roles. So we've trawled through the archives and come up with this potted history. This version of MOTHER GOOSE was first produced at The Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage in 1991. Since then it has been seen at The Theatre Royal Brighton: The Wyvern Theatre Swindon: The Grand Theatre Wolverhampton and The Orchard Theatre Dartford.

Over that time, amongst the many fine actors that have appeared, were the following notable performers;

Mother Goose	John Inman, Roy Barraclough, Gorden Kaye, Paul Laidlaw and Eric Potts
The Demon	Alfred Marks, Shane Connor and Knight Mantell
Billy	Jonathon Wilkes, Mark Curry, Melanie Stace and Adam Woodyatt
Squire	Donald Hewlett and Tommy Mundon
Jill	Gaby Roslin, Lucy Benjamin, Jo-Anne Sale and Pollyann Turner.

## ABOUT THE WRITER

PETER DENYER has been writing for the theatre for more than thirty-five years, he has also directed hundreds of plays, musicals, and pantomimes, and in 1986 became the Artistic Director of Kevin Wood Pantomimes. Peter's pantomimes have been hailed as the best in the field, and his scripts cover the full canon of titles. Each Christmas there are countless presentations, making Peter one of the "most produced writers" in the country. But in spite of his success as a writer, it was as an actor that Peter became best known to the general public, with over two hundred television appearances to his credit. He is probably best remembered as the delightfully dopey Dennis in Please Sir! and The Fenn Street Gang, Michael in Agony, Malcolm in Thicker Than Water and Ralph in Dear John. What is not so well known, is that Peter's love and life long connection with the stage began as an amateur with the Erith Playhouse back in the mid-sixties. In producing these scripts for your use, he feels he has gone some way to completing the circle.

**CAST LIST****Principal Roles**

Mother Goose -  
The Demon of Discontent -  
Fairy Goosedown -  
Billy Goose -  
Squire Goodheart -  
Jill Goodheart -  
Priscilla the Goose -  
King Gander -

**Chorus Roles**

The Puppet Man -  
A Ghost -  
Villagers -  
Servants -  
Ghouls -  
Goose-guards -  
Geese-girls -  
Goslings -



## LIST OF SCENES

### ACT ONE

#### PROLOGUE:

- SCENE 1: The Village of Little Hassle
- SCENE 2: A Lane Near the Village
- SCENE 3: Mother Goose's Cottage
- SCENE 4: A Lane Near the Village
- SCENE 5: The Gardens of Goose Hall
- SCENE 6: Mother Goose's Boudoir
- SCENE 7: On the Way to The Magic Pool
- SCENE 8: The Magic Pool

### ACT TWO

- SCENE 9: The Village Fete
- SCENE 10: The Forest of Desolation
- SCENE 11: The Wicked Wood
- SCENE 12: On The Way to Gooseland
- SCENE 13: King Gander's Palace
- SCENE 14: A Lane Near the Village
- SCENE 15: The Wedding at Goose Hall

## ACT ONE - PROLOGUE

**MUSIC CUE 1: OVERTURE (INSTRUMENTAL)**

**MUSIC CUE 1a: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)**

**Flash: The DEMON OF DISCONTENT enters DL.**

DEMON: From Hell I come!! Through flame and fire!  
And with me...all the Fates conspire!

**FX 1: THUNDER.**

DEMON: [To The AUDIENCE] Oh dear...I've made some little ones cry...  
I just can't help it...I'm that kind of guy!!  
I dare you to look upon my face...[Leers]  
Errgh!...How I loathe the human race!!  
I hate your happiness, your simple pleasures!  
Pride! Envy! Greed! - These are my treasures!  
You can jeer and whistle...boo me all day!  
The Powers of Darkness will always hold sway!!

**MUSIC CUE 1b: FAIRY ENTRACNE (INSTRUMENTAL)**

**Flash: FAIRY GOOSEDOWN enters DR.**

FAIRY: Don't worry, children!! The Good Fairy's here -  
My name is Goosedown! Well, give me a cheer...!!

DEMON: You dare disturb me in my lair?!

FAIRY: I wasn't speaking to you - so there! [Thumbs her nose]  
Though that monster makes a lot of noise,  
Don't let him frighten you, girls and boys!  
My "Gooseland" magic is strong, you see...  
I'm warning you, Demon...don't mess with me!!

**FAIRY GOOSEDOWN waves her wand: Flash at The DEMON of DISCONTENT's feet: FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits DR.**

DEMON: Curse you, Goosedown!! Hell's teeth - I hate her!  
Her powers in Gooseland may well be greater!  
But in "The Land of Discontent"...I reign supreme!!  
Don't mock me, morons! I have a dream  
To hurt Mother Goose! - (She's always so good...!  
If I met her, I'd smash her! - I really would!!)  
She lives...in the village of Little Hassle...where  
They think they've no problems...Mother Goose, beware!  
For on you - my Evil and Spite, I'll vent!  
Because I'm...The Demon of Discontent!!!

**MUSIC CUE 1c: DEMON'S EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)**

**Blackout: The DEMON of DISCONTENT exits DL. Cloth/Tabs in.  
Lights up revealing...**

## SCENE ONE

### THE VILLAGE OF LITTLE HASSLE

**MUSIC CUE 2: OPENING NUMBER – JILL, CHORUS AND CHILDREN**

**At the end of the song The SQUIRE enters.**

SQUIRE: Morning all!!

VILLAGERS: Morning, Squire Goodheart!!

SQUIRE: What a beautiful day it is today!...

VILLAGERS: You're right there/Yes sir/Indeed it is!

SQUIRE: As you all know, the First of May is always a day for fun and frolics...

VILLAGERS: So it is!/ Hooray!/ Always has been, Squire!

SQUIRE: ...and it is also - Rent Day!! **[Produces rent-book]**

**The VILLAGERS and CHILDREN exit, muttering darkly...**

SQUIRE: So..if you'd like to step up here and pay off your...Wait...wait! I haven't finished...you all owe me money!

JILL: Now look what you've done, Father...you've upset them!

SQUIRE: What do you mean, I've upset them? I was only asking them to settle their debts!

JILL: Exactly! Hassling them for their rent money!

SQUIRE: They'll have to pay up soon...I can't afford it! I'm the only landlord I know who's losing money!

JILL: Don't worry, Father - I'm sure my boyfriend can sort something out...

SQUIRE: Your boyfriend?

JILL: Yes...**[Goes weak at the knees]**...Billy!

SQUIRE: Do you mean that idiot, Billy Goose?!...His Mother owes more than the rest of the village put together!!

JILL: He may be poor, but he isn't an idiot! Billy is much more sensible than you think...

**FX 2: A POWERFUL MOTORBIKE.**

**Enter BILLY riding a tricycle/scooter/skateboard?**

BILLY: Hi, Jill!...

JILL: Hi, Billy! [They embrace]

BILLY: [To The AUDIENCE] Hi, Kids!...Hi, Jill!

JILL: Hi, Billy! [They embrace]

BILLY: [To The AUDIENCE] Hi, Kids!

SQUIRE: I hate to interrupt this happy scene...!

BILLY: Oh, Hi, Squire!

SQUIRE: Hi, Billy!...He's got me doing it now! Listen, young man - I want your mother!

BILLY: She will be pleased!

SQUIRE: I mean...I want her to pay the rent!

BILLY: Well, as it happens, Squire - Mum's taken her geese to market to sell them; when she gets back, she'll be able to pay off all our debts.

JILL: She's not going to sell Priscilla?!

BILLY: Of course not! Mum would never sell Priscilla! But all the other geese have gone.

SQUIRE: My dear boy! I can't tell you how happy this news makes me!...When will she be back?

BILLY: Any minute now; look, why don't you go home? As soon as Mum gets back I'll send her along to see you.

SQUIRE: What a good idea...come along, Jill!

BILLY: Oh don't take Jill with you - I've got something I want to show her...

SQUIRE: Which is precisely why she's coming home with me!!

JILL: That's not fair, Father!

SQUIRE: When Mother Goose has brought the rent money - then you can come back and see Billy...

JILL: Oh, alright!...See you later, Billy...**[Blows kisses]**

BILLY: See you, Jill...**[Blows kisses]**

**The SQUIRE and JILL exit.**

BILLY: Isn't she great?...My Jill makes Britney Spears look like Vanessa Feltz!! Still, at least you lot haven't gone home...Hi, Kids!!...Hey, would you like to see my surprise?...Would you?...Right!...This may come as a shock to you - but I've gone green...I've bought a plant...

**From behind a wing flat BILLY produces the pot containing "The Magic Plant". [See PROPS LIST].**

BILLY: Mind you it's not just any old plant - this is a magic plant. They told me if I watered it - it would grow...shall we try it?...Shall we?...Right! Glug! Glug! Glug!...

**BILLY takes a watering-can and waters The Magic Plant which "grows".**

BILLY: See, I told you!...Shall we try it again?...Ready? **[Pours water on the plant]** Glug! Glug! Glug!...You'll have to be louder than that! Glug! Glug! Glug!...**[The Plant grows]**...Ooh! Look - there's a pod on it...a pod, full of sweets!...Does anyone out there like sweets...? I said, "Is there anyone out there who likes sweets...?"

**BILLY throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.**

BILLY: I'm a bit worried about leaving my Magic Plant here...if anyone tries to touch it, will you warn me...? Will you shout, "Billy!!"...Let's have a practise ...right, I'm a stranger...I'm going over to the plant...**[The AUDIENCE shout "Billy!"]**...Great! You were really good!...Don't forget, if anyone goes near it...

**As BILLY moves away from the plant, The VILLAGERS enter: two of them move towards the Magic Plant. The AUDIENCE shout "Billy!"**

BILLY: Hey! What are you up to?

1st VILLAGER: We were just looking at this plant...what is it, Billy?

BILLY: It's my magic plant - shall I show you how it works?

1st VILLAGER: Yes, please.

**BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.**

BILLY: It's brilliant, isn't it?

2nd VILLAGER: Amazing! Has your Mum seen it yet?

BILLY: Not yet, she's been at the market all morning.

**MUSIC CUE 2a: DAME'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)**  
**PRISCILLA is heard, quacking furiously: Enter MOTHER GOOSE in a cart pulled by PRISCILLA. The VILLAGERS cheer, as they help her down, MOTHER GOOSE greets them.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Hello, my dears!...Are you well?...Lovely day, isn't it?!...[Etc]

BILLY: Hi, Mum!...How did it go?

MOTHER GOOSE: Ooh! It was ever so busy at the market, Billy...all those big, butch farmers!! I was squashed on one side...and squeezed on the other side ...I'm going again tomorrow!

BILLY: Did you manage to sell the geese?

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh yes, dear...all gone!

**PRISCILLA quacks.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Apart from Priscilla, of course! I couldn't sell my little, feathered friend, could I?

**PRISCILLA rubs herself against MOTHER GOOSE.**

BILLY: So now we'll be able to pay off all our debts...?

MOTHER GOOSE: We-ell...

BILLY: Then perhaps the Squire will let me marry Jill...

MOTHER GOOSE: I wouldn't bank on it, dear - now, why don't you take Priscilla home for me...? She's had a very busy day...

BILLY: O.K., Mum! Bye, kids!...

**BILLY and PRISCILLA exit.**

MOTHER GOOSE: [To The VILLAGERS] Why don't you go and help him? I baked a big batch of buns this morning - there's one for each of you!

**The VILLAGERS cheer and exit.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Bye!! You must forgive me for not speaking to you earlier...all that crowd! Now, as the clever ones among you will have guessed, my name is Mother Goose! But as we've never been introduced, you'll have to tell me what your names are...Pardon?...I didn't quite catch that...Right, that's Darren and Karen and Sharon and Harry and Barry and Larry...I think I can remember all those – just don't change seats! Well - Hello

everybody!! Now, I live here, in the village of Little Hassle with my son Billy - you've met him, haven't you?...That's it - the one you're always shouting at!...Well - he is in love with Jill!...You haven't met Jill yet, have you?...What?...You have met her? Oh, no you haven't!... **[Repeats as necessary]**...I'm wasting my time, I really am...I bet you didn't know that Jill's the Squire's daughter?... Alright, clever clogs!...What you don't know is that the Squire will never let Jill marry my Billy...**[MOTHER GOOSE encourages The AUDIENCE to reply "Aah"]**...cos we're ever so poor...**[Aah]**...we're poorer than that!...**[Aah]**...You see I'm a single parent family...**[Aah]**...I haven't seen my husband for twenty three years...**[Aah]**...I was getting the dinner ready one day, I sent him out for a cauliflower...and he never came back...**[Aah]**...It was terrible!...I had to open a tin of peas! Oh, he was very unreliable, my Frederick - but I'll never forget him...

**Enter The SQUIRE, carrying the rent-book.**

SQUIRE: Ah, Mother Goose! I'd heard you were back....

MOTHER GOOSE: Hello, Squire! I was hoping to see you - I've been to market today...

SQUIRE: ...And you've sold your geese?

MOTHER GOOSE: Indeed I have!

SQUIRE: ...And you're going to pay your rent?!

MOTHER GOOSE: Indeed I am! You can have everything I've got!...

**MOTHER GOOSE takes her purse out of her bloomers.**

SQUIRE: I think I'll settle for the rent!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Excuse me! I was only rummaging for my reticule!

SQUIRE: How many geese did you sell?

**MOTHER GOOSE encourages The AUDIENCE to join in the calculations.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Well...how many arms have you got?

SQUIRE: Er...two?

MOTHER GOOSE: Right...add your arms to your legs...

SQUIRE: Er...er...two and two...are four?

MOTHER GOOSE: There's no fooling you! Right...times your fingers...

SQUIRE: Er...er...four times ten is...er...forty?

MOTHER GOOSE: No!...I didn't say thumbs, did I?

SQUIRE: What?..

MOTHER GOOSE: You've only got eight fingers...and eight fours are...exactly!

SQUIRE: Yes...of course...thirty-two...

MOTHER GOOSE: Plus your knees...plus your toes...divided by your ears...minus your chin...and minus your nose?...Well?

SQUIRE: Er...er...don't tell me...er...five and three quarters!

MOTHER GOOSE: Five and three...! You'll never pass your GCSE, will you! **[To The AUDIENCE]** The answer is...?...Exactly...twenty!

SQUIRE: You sold twenty geese!!? That's wonderful - how much did you make?

MOTHER GOOSE: Fifteen pence.

SQUIRE: Fifteen pence!!! Is that all!?

MOTHER GOOSE: Well I had to make sure they went to a good home, didn't I?...And I sold them to ever such a nice lady; she promised to look after them, care for them, never mention the word "Paxo"...

SQUIRE: Fifteen pence!

MOTHER GOOSE: And it's all yours!!! **[Gives him money]**

SQUIRE: Thankyou...**[Writes in the rent-book]**...Actually - this brings your rent up to date...

MOTHER GOOSE: Really?

SQUIRE: Well up to a date...you don't owe me a penny...

MOTHER GOOSE: Wonderful!

SQUIRE: ...Before September the third...1939!!

MOTHER GOOSE: The day war broke out!...Oh well, every little helps! Now, why don't you come back to my cottage - and I'll make you a nice cup of tea.

SQUIRE: I'm afraid I've got more rent-money to collect - fifteen pee doesn't go very far these days, you know! But I will escort you home, Mother Goose.

MOTHER GOOSE: That's very kind of you, Squirey...**[To The AUDIENCE]**...See you all later, dears.



SQUIRE: You can't be too careful, you know...there's some very strange people around...

**The SQUIRE and MOTHER GOOSE exit.**

**MUSIC CUE 2b: DEMON'S ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)**

**Flash: Enter The DEMON of DISCONTENT. As he speaks...Cloth/Tabs in.**

DEMON: I hope he wasn't speaking of me...  
'Cos I'm so lovely!...Don't you agree?  
He's too soft, that Squire: he'll never get his rent  
...He needs help - from the Demon of Discontent!!  
I want him to give Mother Goose hell!  
So I'll need to put him under my spell...  
First I'll adopt a cunning disguise...

**The DEMON is handed a hat from the wings: he puts it on...**

DEMON: Then I'll use my powers to hypnotise...

**Lights up revealing...**

## **SCENE TWO**

### **A LANE NEAR THE VILLAGE**

**Enter The SQUIRE, engrossed in his rent-book.**

DEMON: Aha!!

SQUIRE: Ah!!...You did give me a shock!

DEMON: I'm so sorry...allow me to introduce myself - I'm from L.A...

SQUIRE: Really? You don't sound American...

DEMON: You misunderstand me...I am talking of L.A. - the Landlords Association; we hear you've been having trouble collecting your rent from a woman called...Mother Goose?

SQUIRE: It's true she has got a lot behind.

DEMON: You can say that again! Then what you have got to do is toughen up, Squire! Go round there and demand the rent from her - and if the old bag won't pay up...then throw her out!

SQUIRE: Oh I couldn't do that...she's been a friend of mine for years..

DEMON: **[Aside]** Why is everyone in this village so flaming good!?

SQUIRE: She'll pay me when she can, I'm sure of it...**[Starts to exit]**

DEMON: No, Sir - wait; I'm sure I can persuade you to change your mind...

SQUIRE: I'm sorry, but I really don't think -

DEMON: I want you to look into my eyes...deep into my eyes...deeper...deeper...  
Hahaha!

**The DEMON puts The SQUIRE into a trance, he "freezes".**

DEMON No matter how hard the Squire might try  
He just can't resist my Evil Eye!  
I can prove this man is now my slave...  
For like a dog, he'll start to behave!!

**The DEMON gestures: The SQUIRE drops to his knees and barks.**

DEMON: I told you my hypnotic powers would astound...

**The SQUIRE growls and "bites" The DEMON's leg.**

DEMON: Get down! Get down!! Now - stop being a hound!...

**The SQUIRE stands up.**

DEMON: And listen to me, Squire...you're being sent  
To Mother Goose - to collect her rent...

SQUIRE: ...I collect her rent...

DEMON: And if she fails to pay her receipts -  
You'll have her thrown out on the streets?

SQUIRE: I will have her thrown out on the streets...

DEMON: Just go to her cottage, knock on her door  
Find Mother Goose - and give her what for!!  
Show her no mercy!...Don't let her plead!  
I've no time for losers - if you don't succeed  
You'll find I'm not always this charming and kind  
-  
I can turn quite vicious!...

**The DEMON tweaks The SQUIRE's ear.**

DEMON: .....Just bear that in mind!

**The DEMON exits: The SQUIRE staggers.**

SQUIRE: Ooh...Ooh, dear...I feel a bit dizzy...

**Enter JILL.**

JILL: Are you alright, Father?

SQUIRE: Of course I'm alright! But what are you doing here!

JILL: I was looking for you, Father...you said you'd be back in a minute, and that was hours -

SQUIRE: Don't lie to me! You were on your way to see that Billy boy, weren't you...?

JILL: No, I wasn't! I was look -

SQUIRE: Well, your Billy Goose had better look out! Unless his mother pays the rent - they'll both be out on the streets!

JILL: Out on the streets...? What's the matter with you?

SQUIRE: What do you mean!?!

JILL: Throwing people out? That's not like you.

SQUIRE: Exactly! I've been far too soft in the past! Well, from now on...it's no more Mister Nice Guy!

**The SQUIRE exits.**

JILL: What's happened to Father...? I hope he's alright. Oh, what a peculiar plant?

**JILL moves towards The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE calls "Billy!." Enter BILLY. The CHORUS follow during the following dialogue.**

BILLY: Hi, Kids!...Hi, Jill!

JILL: Hi, Billy!

**JILL purses her lips: BILLY kisses her perfunctorily and goes to his plant...**

JILL: Was that it?!

BILLY: Sorry - I've got to water my plant...you just watch...Glug! Glug! Glug!

**BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.**

JILL: That's brilliant! But listen, Billy - I think you'd better go home; my Father's just said that if your Mum won't pay the rent...he's going to throw her out!

BILLY: I'd like to see him try! She's twice as tough as he is!!

JILL: I know - but he's in a really strange mood...

BILLY: Don't worry so much, Jill! They'll sort it out somehow, and then we can get married. You know you're the only girl for me.

**MUSIC CUE 3: SONG FOR BILLY, JILL AND CHORUS**  
**At the end of the song: Blackout. Cloth/Tabs out: Lights up revealing...**

### SCENE THREE

#### MOTHER GOOSE'S COTTAGE

**A table and two chairs are SL. PRISCILLA's nest is DR. MOTHER GOOSE is heard calling "Priscilla!"...when she enters her dress is tucked up in her bloomers, she is wearing fisherman's waders, a sou'wester - and clutching a bundle of pondweed.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla! Oh, you're back again! How nice! I'm sorry I was out when you called, I've been getting Priscilla's tea...it's her favourite - pondweed! **[Puts pondweed in PRISCILLA's bowl]** I expect you'd guessed that anyway, I mean you wouldn't wear these things for pleasure, would you?...Well some people might, but I'm a respectable woman! **[Takes waders off]** I suppose I do look a bit of a sight...there's no need to agree with me! When you're as poor as I am it's not easy to look good! If only I had some designer clothes; you know, something by Calvin Klein...or Armani...or Millets - I could look lovely, couldn't I...I thought you were my friends!...I mean, I know I'm not pretty...but I'm not ugly, am I?...Exactly!...Not pretty, not ugly...just pretty ugly! Still, looks aren't everything, are they? There are other things in life...I mean, I've got this lovely cottage - mind you, it belongs to the Squire really...and I've got my son, Billy... though he wants to leave home and marry Jill...and I've got my health...**[Coughs lengthily]**...well, I did have!...I haven't got much, have I...?

**Enter PRISCILLA.**

MOTHER GOOSE: No money...no real home...no real friends -

**PRISCILLA rubs up against MOTHER GOOSE.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Priscilla!! My dear! How could I ever forget you! The bestest friend in all the world!!! Where have you been?

**PRISCILLA walks round, flapping her wings.**

MOTHER GOOSE: She's a funny goose - loves "swanning" around!

**PRISCILLA "quacks".**

MOTHER GOOSE: Sorry! Now you come and sit on your nest; make yourself comfy... that's it...I've got your tea...

**PRISCILLA settles on the nest and starts to eat her pondweed.**

MOTHER GOOSE: You like that, don't you?

**PRISCILLA "quacks" in agreement.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Ah!...Bless her! [Sees The Magic Plant] Good Heavens!...What's that?...It's the wrong year for beanstalks...

**MOTHER GOOSE approaches The Magic Plant: The AUDIENCE calls "Billy!". Enter BILLY.**

BILLY: Thanks, kids! Were you messing with my plant, Mum?

MOTHER GOOSE: I was just wondering what it was, dear...

BILLY: It's my magic plant - I'll show you. Glug! Glug! Glug!

**BILLY waters The Magic Plant and throws sweets to The AUDIENCE.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Isn't that clever? Where did you get it?

BILLY: I bought it with the egg-money...

MOTHER GOOSE: You were supposed to get the shopping with that! We'll have nothing to eat - the larder's empty!

**PRISCILLA "quacks".**

MOTHER GOOSE: What is it, dear?

**PRISCILLA waves a piece of pondweed.**

MOTHER GOOSE: That's kind of you, Priscilla - but I'm not very partial to pondweed! Never mind, Billy and I can have a nice cup of tea...

BILLY: O.K., Mum...[Starts to exit]

MOTHER GOOSE: Where are you going?

BILLY: I'll be back in time for the tea!

MOTHER GOOSE: You can stay and help: you never do anything round the house - I don't expect you know how to make a pot of tea!

BILLY: Course I do!

MOTHER GOOSE: Well you can start, by laying the table....

BILLY: Oh no, I think Priscilla should do that...

MOTHER GOOSE: What do you mean...?

BILLY: Well...she's good at laying eggs - she could try laying a table!

**PRISCILLA "quacks".**

MOTHER GOOSE: Ignore him, dear...Don't be silly, Billy - here is the tablecloth - go and put it on while I get the stove going.

BILLY: O.K., Mum...**[Puts the tablecloth round his shoulders, and poses]** ...I don't think it suits me...

MOTHER GOOSE: What? Put it on the table! You daft 'apporth! Now, get the teapot; to make a good pot of tea you need to warm the pot.

BILLY: What?

MOTHER GOOSE: Warm the pot!

BILLY: **[Whispers to the teapot]** Be...careful...the...water's...very...hot!

MOTHER GOOSE: What are you doing now?

BILLY: You said "warm the pot"!

MOTHER GOOSE: Warm it! Not warn it! Bring it over here...

**BILLY takes the teapot to MOTHER GOOSE who pours water into it from the kettle.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Now, get the tea...

BILLY: Where is it?

MOTHER GOOSE: In the tin, on the dresser...

BILLY: This one?

MOTHER GOOSE: What does it say on the label?

BILLY: "Tea"...

MOTHER GOOSE: No - that's got sugar in...you want the one marked "Rice"...

BILLY: And she calls me silly! How many teabags, Mum?

MOTHER GOOSE: One for you, one for me, and one for the pot.

BILLY: Right!...**[Throws the first teabag at MOTHER GOOSE, the second over his shoulder, and the third into the teapot]**...One for you, one for me, and one for the pot...it's good this!...One for you, one for me, and one for the pot!...One for you, one for me, and one for the pot...

MOTHER GOOSE: Stop messing about!...Now, sweep those teabags up!...I'll rinse them through later...

## **FX 2: KETTLE WHISTLING**

MOTHER GOOSE: ...I think the kettle's boiled - now pour the water into the pot.

BILLY: O.K., Mum...**[Moves towards the kettle]**

MOTHER GOOSE: No, no, no! Take the pot to the kettle not the kettle to the pot!

BILLY: Oh - the pot to the kettle not the kettle to the pot!

MOTHER GOOSE: Yes, the pot to the kettle not the kettle to the pot!

**As BILLY and MOTHER GOOSE repeat this it develops into an "Irish Jig" until...**

MOTHER GOOSE: Stop it, Billy! You'll make me as daft as you are! Just fill the teapot and bring it over here; I'm exhaustipated! I need a nice, quiet, sit-down -

**MOTHER GOOSE sits down, the door bursts open: Enter the SQUIRE.**

SQUIRE: **[As a Melodrama Villain]** Ah-ha!!

MOTHER GOOSE: **[Jumps up]** Ooh!...Squire you did give me a turn...

SQUIRE: You should be so lucky! Now, where's me rent, woman?

MOTHER GOOSE: But I gave you every penny I had -

SQUIRE: And it wasn't enough!! So, pay up in full - or get out of here!!  
Ahahaha!!

MOTHER GOOSE: What's got into the Squire - he's gone all macho?

BILLY: Jill did warn me he was in a funny mood...

MOTHER GOOSE: He's not making me laugh.

SQUIRE: I warn you, woman - if I don't get my money, you'll find yourself living in a cardboard box!

MOTHER GOOSE: But this is my home!...I know I owe a little rent - but you can't throw me out! Please, please - be merciful! I'm an old woman, a poor old woman; I've nothing in this world - nothing! Except for my goose, Billy...and my son, Priscilla!

BILLY: Pardon...?

MOTHER GOOSE: For pity's sake, don't throw me out...**[Kneels]**...I'll find the money somehow, I swear!...The quality of mercy is not sprained!...Oh sir, I beg you...I beseech you...I implore you - spare me!!! **[Collapses sobbing]**

BILLY: **[To The AUDIENCE]** I think Mum's after an Oscar...!

SQUIRE: It's no good playing for sympathy, you stupid woman! You've got ten seconds to come up with the cash - or out you go!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, Billy...whatever shall we do?

**MUSIC CUE 3a: FAIRY ENTRANCE (INSTRUMENTAL)**  
**Flash: Enter FAIRY GOOSEDOWN. She is only visible to PRISCILLA. MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and The SQUIRE are "frozen" in a dramatic tableau.**

FAIRY: Priscilla! From Gooseland - a message for you!

**PRISCILLA "quacks".**

FAIRY: Because Mother Goose is so good and true  
 We give you the power to make her rich -  
 Your eggs will be golden! A talent which  
 Sets you apart from all other geese!  
 (You see...we Fairies have our uses!)

**MUSIC CUE 3b: FAIRY EXIT (INSTRUMENTAL)**  
**FAIRY GOOSEDOWN exits: PRISCILLA is agitated: MOTHER GOOSE, BILLY and The SQUIRE "de-frost".**

MOTHER GOOSE: Now....what was I saying...?

BILLY: I don't know...what happened?

**PRISCILLA "quacks" wildly.**

MOTHER GOOSE: Goodness me! I think Priscilla's going to lay an egg...that's odd - it's not her usual time...

SQUIRE: I'm waiting for my money!



MOTHER GOOSE: Well you'll have to wait a bit longer - I've got to supervise the delivery  
...come on, Priscilla; gently does it...that's the way...good girl!

**PRISCILLA lays 1st golden egg.**

MOTHER GOOSE: You clever old thing!...Gracious! I think this is the biggest egg you've ever laid!

BILLY: Hang on, Mum...forget the size - that's no ordinary egg...it looks like it's made of gold!

SQUIRE: Gold! Let me see! **[Takes the egg]**

MOTHER GOOSE: Why would Priscilla lay a golden egg?

SQUIRE: He's right! This egg is solid gold!

**PRISCILLA "quacks".**

MOTHER GOOSE: Another egg!?!

BILLY: Another golden one?

**PRISCILLA nods.**

BILLY: Go for it, girl!...that's it...nearly there...

MOTHER GOOSE: Don't strain yourself - will you, dear?

**PRISCILLA lays 2nd golden egg.**

BILLY: She's done it again!! Good old Priscilla!!

SQUIRE: Look at the size of that!!

MOTHER GOOSE: Oh, well done, Priscilla! Now I'll be able to pay the rent!!

SQUIRE: Indeed you will! These eggs must be worth a fortune!

MOTHER GOOSE: You've never done this before, Priscilla...what's happened to you?

**PRISCILLA "quacks".**

SQUIRE: I think she's going to lay another!

MOTHER GOOSE: You mustn't overdo it, dear! **[Calls offstage]** Gas and Air! Gas and Air!

BILLY: Ssh, Mum - if she wants to lay...let her! Come on, Prissy...you can do it!...Brace yourself...

**PRISCILLA lays 3rd golden egg.**