



Dick Whittington

by Rob Fearn and Leo Appleton

The story of a man and his cat who smelled a rat

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Welcome to our tenth pantomime.

This is another story that when read is full of those things you want to see in a pantomime. A great hero - the cat that is, a love story and a real villain.

We, as always, have looked at this fable to see how we can make it individual to ourselves, (so to speak) without detracting from a story that has been around for a hundred years or so. We have achieved this (we think), hopefully, by giving it a fresh twist and exciting, but funny dialogue, whilst keeping all the elements in there that panto groups love to see; the behind you moments, the comedy set pieces and of course the song sheet. Again, we have envisaged a production on a smaller stage with simple sets but have every confidence this could be scaled up to be performed on bigger stages with bigger budgets, great effects and lavish scenery. Whilst there is direction and suggestions for song breaks to help with interpretation, we realise that companies and other directors like the freedom to add and take out elements that may or may not suit their company. Feel free. The story lends itself to this and gives ample opportunity for groups to put in the local / topical feel, which is important and let's face it, traditional in these productions.

Whatever you do with it though, as always, our motto is, 'make it fun'.

Best of luck

Rob and Leo

PS: If you do perform one of our pantos and let us know when it's on we'd love to try and come and see it. You can message us via our Facebook site Robleo Productions. L & R.

Others in the series

Cinderella

A Christmas Carol – the panto

Puss in Boots

Snow White

Jack and the Beanstalk

Robin Hood

Rumpelstiltskin

Aladdin

Sleeping Beauty

Characters

Fairy Night Star F Acts as a narrator and foil to King Rat. Must be able to act and sing.

Dick M/F The hero of the show and love interest for Alice. Must be able to act, sing and move.

Tommy M/F or puppet Although the cat, it has many lines, all of which are only understood by the audience. Needs clear diction and good comedy timing and be able to sing and move.

King Rat M/F The villain of the piece. Works with Rodney and Rose Rat as well as being the nemesis of Fairy Night Star. Must be able to act, put a song across and move.

Rodney Rat M/F Is part of King Rats gang. Not a huge part but some funny scenes. Needs to be able to act, sing and move.

Rose Rat F As per Rodney Rat.

Alice Fitzwarren F The love interest of Dick. She is well spoken and nice. She must be able to act, sing and move.

Dame Sarah the cook M/F Although the typical Dame part this could be played by a woman if required. It needs excellent comedy timing and ability to work an audience. Also needs to be able to act, sing and move.

Idle Jack M/F Works closely with Dame Sarah. It is a comedy part and requires excellent timing and be able to act, sing and move.

Alderman Fitzwarren M Alice's father. He is an upright man and although not a comedy part is in many of the comedy situations. Must be able to act, sing and move.

Fairy Liquid F Although set up as a female part could see this played by a male. It is only a small part and could double with chorus. Comedy lines so must have timing and be able to act, move and sing.

Captain Nelson M The captain of the Saucy Sue and mild love interest of Dame Sarah. Only appears in the second act. Needs to be able to act, put a song across and move.

First Mate Half Nelson M/F Small part who works with the captain. Only appears in the second act. Needs to be able to deliver a line, move and sing.

Cockney 1 & 2 M/F They appear in the first half only. Small parts but comedic, so need to be able to deliver a line. Double with the chorus or parts in the second half.

Police Officer M Appears in the first half only. Small part but comedic. Needs good timing and be able to deliver a line. Doubles with the chorus or parts in the second half.

Scenes – ACT 1**Scene 1**

Starts front of tabs and then the curtains open to reveal Dick and Tommy on a country lane.

Scene 2

Full stage London town scene

Scene 3

Alderman Fitzwarren's shop

Scene 4

Still Alderman Fitzwarren's shop – night-time

Scene 5

Still Alderman Fitzwarren's shop - daytime

Scene 6

Front of Tabs – Fairy Night Star

Scene 7

Front of tabs and sign saying Highgate Hill

End Act 1**Act 2****Scene 1**

Front of tabs opening to dockside

Scene 2

Aboard the Saucy Sue

Scene 3

Full stage. This is the 'slosh' scene.

Scene 4

Beach or forest scene with the 'behind you' moment with the fierce animal.

Scene 5

Palace scene. This can be exotic or otherwise.

Scene 6

Front of tabs – Fairy Night Star.

Scene 7

Front of tabs leading to Alderman Fitzwarren's shop for the wedding.

Scene 8

Front of tabs

Scene 9

Full stage, final walkdown and rhymes.

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PantoScripts Sample

Act 1

Scene 1

(Front of tabs. Lights up on Fairy Night Star. She could open with a song here. As the song finishes, if there is one, she waves her wand and there is a tinkle and she begins to speak to the audience).

Fairy NS Hello boys and girls, I'm Fairy Night Star. Do you think I look lovely? My sister fairy.....you'll meet her later; said I look like an ice cream. But I love this dress, it makes me feel so happy. Are you happy? *(Audience should respond)*. Good. I can't stay too long as I have lots of work to do. I must help a young man and his cat who are down on their luck. They worked for an old farmer to rid his land of a big rat, King Rat they called him. But, the farmer turned out to be a mean old man and refused to pay the gallant pair and King Rat is now their avowed enemy. However, this is not the end of their story, in fact, it's just the beginning of the tale, of Dick Whittington and his cat!

(Fairy Night Star waves her wand and the curtains open to reveal tabs and general country lane scene. As she exits she drops a piece of paper. Dick and his cat Tommy are sitting down looking very downhearted. Dick could sing a song here. Tommy the cat can speak but only the audience can understand him).

Dick Well Tommy, we've no money, no food and nowhere to go.

Tommy *(To audience)*. I tried to tell him not to take the job with the farmer, but would he have it? No!

Dick I'm beginning to think we shouldn't have taken that job with the farmer.

Tommy *(To audience)*. I told him he wasn't going to pay us.

Dick I wish someone had told me he wasn't going to pay me.

(Tommy gives him a look).

Tommy *(To audience)*. The trouble is, he doesn't understand cat.

Dick Will you stop all that noise I'm trying to think.

Tommy *(To audience)*. See, he just thinks I'm meowing? *(He spots a piece of paper)*. Hello, what's this? Ten best places to live. I think my master needs to see this. *(Tommy then, very cat like, bats the piece of paper to Dick)*.

Dick *(To audience)*. Oh look, he is still a very playful cat even though he's not eaten for a couple of days.

Tommy *(To audience)*. If he doesn't read this soon, I'm going to eat him!

(Dick throws the piece of paper as a ball).

Tommy *(To audience)*. Cats don't do fetch. But I can walk over nonchalantly and just bring it back, but this is definitely not fetch.

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(Tommy throws the paper ball back to Dick).

Dick Good cat. *(He opens the paper and sees the list).* Hello, what's this? Ten best places to live. Tommy, look what I've found. Good job I read this bit of paper.

(Tommy looks to audience).

Now let me see, Katmandu, no don't want to live there. Isle of Dogs?

Tommy *(To audience).* No chance.

Dick No, I don't think you'd fancy that.

Tommy How about somewhere with fish?

Dick *(To Tommy).* I know, what about somewhere with fish?

Tommy Fleetwood, Whitby, anywhere like that would do.

Dick I suppose we could go to Fleetwood, then again there's Whitby. *(He looks again at the list).* What else is on the list? *(As if going down it).* Nope, *(sarcastically)* oh really, never, no chance. *(Hopeful).* Now, this has possibilities, London town. It says here that the streets are paved with gold. That would be useful.

Tommy Miracle more like. Come on, it's got to be Whitby.

Dick I think you're right; it will be a great place to go and who knows I might make my fame and fortune there. London it is!

(Perhaps a song here).

(As the song finishes Dick picks up his stick and little bag and with Tommy the cat they exit. The tabs close and the lighting changes and Fairy Night Star enters).

Fairy NS Thank goodness for Tommy. I was wondering when Dick was going to read that piece of paper I left him. *(She looks off).* There he goes on his way to London town to make his fortune. All should be well now.

(King Rat enters, the lighting changes again).

KR Do you think so? Not if I get my way.

Fairy NS *(To audience).* Oh, look who it is, King Rat. *(To KR).* I was wondering when you'd turn up.

KR Wonder no more. I don't like Whittington and I hate that cat. *(Pause).* I can still feel his teeth on my bottom.

Fairy NS *(Shocked).* What Dick's?

KR Yes, er no, the cat.

Fairy NS Ahh. *(Thinks).* Yes, you can move quite quickly for an old rat.

KR Less of the old.

Fairy NS Well, Dick and Tommy are on their way to London to make their fortune and there is nothing you can do about it.

KR You think not? You know what they say?

Fairy NS What?

KR You are never more than six feet from a rat.

Fairy NS Good job I am more than six feet from you then isn't it.

(Either puppet rats or made up 'hench' rats peer round the curtain behind the fairy).

KR From me maybe, but not from them.

(Audience may shout 'behind you' etc.)

Fairy NS Is there something behind me? I don't like it when there is something behind me. They're not rats are they?

(Audience should respond).

Fairy NS Should I look. *(Audience should shout).* Here I go then. Count with me. One, two, three. *(She turns and looks, sees them and runs off).* Aaaagh!

(Fairy Night Star exits leaving King Rat on stage and the rats peering through the curtains).

KR So, our heroes are off to London town to make their fortune are they? I'll have to see about that. I won't be happy until that Dick Whittington and his cat are completely ruined and disgraced. *(To the rats on stage).* Come my pretty rats it seems we're off to London. Ha ha ha haaaa.

(End scene, blackout).

Scene 2

(Full lights up on a general London town scene. There should be two chorus members on stage and this is also an opportunity for a song. Dick looks around the stage amazed at what he sees).

Dick Here we are in London, Tommy. Look at the buildings and the people, have you ever seen so many people? *(Two members of the chorus are on stage looking bemused).*

Tommy *(To audience).* He's easily impressed!

Dick *(Looking off).* Look at that Tommy, that building has two floors, one on top of the other, have you ever seen such a thing? How is that even possible?

Tommy *(To audience).* Its basic engineering.

Dick Right Tommy, I want you to keep your eyes peeled. We are looking for streets paved with gold. You'd think there would be a sign or something?

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Tommy (To audience). He seriously thinks that he will find streets paved with gold. (To Dick). It's just a saying which simply suggests that this is a land of opportunity, whilst also being ironic, as the streets are actually covered in horse....

Dick Shhhhhush Tommy, what a lot of noise you're making. I need to find someone to give us directions. There's a likely fellow. (Speaks to Chorus). Excuse me my good man?

Cockney 1 What do you want?

Dick Could you tell me the way to the streets that are paved with gold?

Cockney 1 You're having a laugh mate, get out of here. (Pushes Dick aside and either exits or carries on selling his / her wares).

Dick Well, he was a little bit rude. Let's try someone else, what about this fine upstanding lady. (Another chorus member). Excuse me madam. Could you direct us to the gold paved streets?

Cockney 2 Oh yeah, like I'd be stood here selling me hot nuts if there were streets paved with gold. You're taking the Michael you are.

Tommy (To audience). He's sure to realise now.

Dick (Downcast). Alright Tommy, it is very clear to me, (pause) (then optimistically), that the gold paved streets are a secret and only certain people are allowed to know about them, I mean think about it, if everyone knew, then the gold would be gone in no time.

Tommy (To audience). Oh dear, you've got to admit he's a trier.

(A police officer enters).

Dick There's a police officer, I will let him know that I am worthy of such information and he will surely point us in the right direction. (In a conspiratorial manner). Excuse me officer, but, I know about...

(The police officer interrupts Dick before he can finish).

Officer About what?

Dick About the secret.

Officer Oh yes and what secret is that then?

Dick Of course, I understand, you have to keep it all hush hush (he looks around), mums the word and all that. About the (coughs), the gold.

Officer Oh you know about some gold do you?

Dick Yes, now if you could just point me in the right direction. Of course, I will be sure to keep it secret and I will certainly make it worth your while.

Officer Let me get this right. You know about some gold and you are offering to make it worth my while to help you to get it.

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Dick Yes that sums it up nicely officer.

Officer That, young man, is bribing an officer of the law (*Blows his whistle, Dick runs off with Tommy following*). Quick catch that man and that, that cat.

(A comical chase ensues with Dick and Tommy eventually running off the stage, everyone exits and Dick and Tommy re-enter).

Dick That was close. I am beginning to think, Tommy my old chum, that the streets of London are not in actual fact, paved with gold.

Tommy (*To audience*). And finally, the penny drops. And as luck would have it. (*Sees a penny on the floor and bats towards Dick*).

Dick What's this? I've found a penny, Tommy, I have found a penny! Well, at least we shall eat tonight.

Tommy Thank goodness, a fish supper at last.

Dick It is a little dirty though (*wipes it on Tommy's fur*).

Tommy Really?

Dick Nevertheless it is legal tender. One, not so shiny new penny.

(Alice enters looking a little perturbed as Dick and Tommy look at the penny).

Alice (*To herself*). Oh dear, what shall I do? (*To audience*). I have lost my purse and now I don't have any money to get home and the streets of London are not safe after dark. Have you seen my purse? I only need a penny for the fare.

(Dick sees Alice and her distress).

Dick That beautiful young lady seems to be distressed Tommy. Should we offer to help her?

Tommy (*To audience*) Having listened to what she needs and taking into account what he has in his hands, whilst also giving due consideration to my rumbling empty tummy, I should say, no way! But he is a kind-hearted man, and I know he would feel bad if he didn't help, so, (*resignedly to Dick*) go ahead, give away my fish supper. Meow!

Dick Excuse me young lady, are you alright? Can I be of assistance?

Alice Why kind sir, I am in a terrible predicament. I have lost my purse, probably stolen and I have no way to get home. You wouldn't happen to have a penny I could borrow would you?

(Dick takes the penny from his pocket, wipes it again on his jacket and offers it to Alice).

Dick Actually, I do have a penny.

Tommy (*To audience*). Yes, a penny, in the singular, one penny, which I found.

Dick You see, even my cat is happy for you to have it.

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Alice Oh sir you are so kind. *(She hugs him and he gives the audience a pleased look)*. I promise to return it to you. Here is my card with the name and address of my father's shop. Bring the card with you tomorrow afternoon and I promise I will give you your penny back. Thank you again. *(Hugs him again and this time she looks at the audience with a smile)*.

Dick It is no problem at all. *(They both linger in saying their goodbyes)* See you tomorrow.

Alice Yes, tomorrow.

Dick Yes, definitely tomorrow.

Alice Without a doubt, tomorrow.

Tommy *(To Dick)*. Please, just say goodbye and stop mooning at each other will you?

Alice How lovely. Even your cat is saying goodbye.

Dick Bye.

Alice Bye.

Dick Tomorrow it is.

Alice Yes, tomorrow.

(Alice exits. Dick remembers something).

Dick Oh wait, do you know where the gold paved streets are. She's gone.

Tommy *(Sarcastically)*. Oh and I am sure she knew as well.

Dick *(Looks at the card)*. Her name is Alice, Alice Fitzwarren. *(Dreamily)*. Lovely Alice.

Tommy Oi, lover boy snap out of it! We need somewhere to stay.

Dick Come on Tom let's find somewhere to rest our heads for the night. Tomorrow we shall see Alice, have our penny back and eat like kings.

Tommy Alright. Meow!

Scene 3

(Lights up on Alderman Fitzwarren's shop. On stage is Dame Sarah, the cook and Idle Jack. It is Dame Sarah's birthday and she is hoping to get a birthday surprise from Jack, a cake. She starts talking to the audience while Jack is being very idle either sleeping or reading a paper and just lazing about).

Dame S *(To audience)*. Hello boys and girls. I'm Dame Sarah the cook and do you know what day it is today? *(Encourages the audience to respond. Probably get*

things like the actual day, Monday Tuesday etc.) You're getting warmer. What if I was to say I am another year older?

Jack (*Looking up from what he is not doing*). I'd say you were ancient.

Dame S It's a good job I'm not speaking to you then isn't it? (*Back to audience*). Yes, boys and girls you've guessed it, it's my birthday. (*Stage whisper*). And I am hoping that someone has got me a birthday cake, not looking at anyone in particular. (*Looks at Jack pointedly*).

Jack Why are you looking at me like that?

Dame S Have you got something for me?

Jack No.

Dame S You do know what day it is today don't you?

Jack I do. Do you? How many fingers am I holding up? (*Holds up fingers*). You've not been at the cooking sherry have you?

Dame S No of course not. That's just for medicinal purposes and today is my birth'... Hang on if you don't know, I'm not reminding you.

Jack Of course I know what day it is today.

Dame S Oh good. (*Looks excited*).

Jack It's Thursday. (*Or whatever day the panto is on*).

Dame S Yeeesssss that's right. But what else is happening?

Jack Let me see, Thursday (*or whatever day*), and we're in Alderman Fitzwarren's shop. I don't know. I'm still going with 'its Thursday' (*or whatever day*) I think.

Dame S (*Exasperated*). It's my birthday!

Jack I know, and you'll cry if you want to.

Dame S Let's put it this way if you've forgotten I won't be happy.

Jack I know it's your birthday I was just teasing you.

Dame S Well, in that case have you got anything for me?

Jack That part is still no. (*To audience*). I have actually. It's a big birthday surprise cake and she's going to get it later (*looks to audience*).

(*Alice enters. Jack quite likes her*).

Alice Hello Dame Sarah, Jack. How are you this fine afternoon?

Dame S We're fine. How are you? You look very er, sunny.

Alice (*Dreamily*). I think I've finally met someone I could fall in love with.

Jack Really? You've known me for ages and just realised?

Alice Oh Jack, you are so funny. You always make me laugh.

Jack Do I? (*To audience*). I could make a cat laugh.

Alice Then you will have your chance later on. I am expecting a young man to call on me and as luck would have it, he has a cat.

Jack Would you believe it? And how do you know this man and his cat?

Alice He was my hero last night. My purse was stolen and I had no money to get home and he gave me a penny.

Jack What's his name?

Alice I didn't get it. But I'm sure it will be something grand to go with his nature.

Dame S He sounds lovely Alice. But aren't we getting away from something? Today is my birthday. Have you bought me a lovely present Alice?

Alice I was going to yesterday but that was before my purse went missing.

Dame S Oh. (*Sad*).

Jack (*To audience*). I'm going to have to put her out of her misery. No, on second thoughts I'll get her cake.

(Jack exits to get the cake. It is a big joke cake).

Dame S (*Shouts off*). Jack where are you going? Don't be long we have work to do. Don't let me catch you sleeping in the broom cupboard again. He is the laziest little rascal I have ever come across. He is unthoughtful, unhelpful, ungrateful...

(Jack enters with what obviously is Dame Sarah's birthday cake).

...most kind, gracious, helpful, thoughtful boy in the world. Is that for me? Can I have it?

Jack In a minute. (*Looks to audience*). Right boys and girls, it's Dame Sarah's birthday. Can we all sing happy birthday to her?

(Audience should respond).

Jack Here we go then,

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Dame Sarah, happy birthday to you.

Dame S Can I have the cake now?

Jack (*To audience*). Shall I give it her?

(Audience should respond).

Jack Alright then, here goes. Dame Sarah shut your eyes and I'll give you your cake.

Dame S (To audience). I do love cake, especially when you get it all round your mouth. Yum!

(She is stood there with her eyes shut and Jack just hands her the cake).

Jack (To audience). You were expecting it to go in her mush weren't you? That would have been plain mean.

Dame S Thank you Jack and thank you boys and girls for your lovely singing. It was beautiful. I'll just go and put it in the scullery for after my tea.

(Dame Sarah starts to exit, perhaps waving to the children and not looking where she is going, when, Dick and Tommy enter. There is a comedy collision between the two, with Dame Sarah looking one way and Dick looking at Alice and of course the cake ends up in Dame Sarah's face).

Dame S You, you....

Dick *(He introduces himself, holding his hand out).* Dick.

(Dame Sarah looks to audience).

Dick Dick Whittington. I'm so sorry. I didn't see you. *(Sees the cake).* Er, happy birthday?

Dame S Aaaagh! My lovely birthday cake is ruined. Boo hoo, boo hoo!

(Dame Sarah exits sobbing taking off the ruined cake).

Tommy *(To audience).* He sure knows how to make an entrance.

Jack *(To Alice).* So, this is your boy then?

Alice Dick Whittington what a lovely name. And see Jack, he has a cat.

Dick Yes, his name is Tommy. *(Dick says this, but all the while is looking at Alice).*

(Dick and Alice move closer and start looking at each other in the eyes as if in love).

Jack *(To audience).* I can't stand this I'm off. Does your cat want some food?

Tommy Yes he does!

Dick *(Never taking his eyes off Alice).* Yes, he does thank you...

(Opportunity here for a song between the two. Jack and Tommy exit. As the song ends Alderman Fitzwarren enters with Jack, Tommy and Dame Sarah. Tommy has a mock fish and looks like he is enjoying it).

AF So, is this the gallant young man you were telling me about?

Alice It is. *(She introduces them).* This is Dick Whittington, my father Alderman Fitzwarren.

Dick Sir, it is my pleasure to make your acquaintance.

AF And mine, yours. I see your cat has already made himself at home. Now, I understand you to be an honest man.

Alice He is. He lent me a penny father.

AF He lent you a bike?

Alice No silly, he lent me a penny so I could get home.

AF Ahh, gallant as well as honest.

Jack (*To audience*). Give me strength.

AF Have you any work, young Dick mi lad?

Dick No, sir. I have come to London to seek my fame and fortune and to find those streets that are paved with gold.

Jack (*To audience*). Seriously! That'll be gallant, honest and gullible then.

AF Paved with gold eh? I'd like to say they are, but sadly Dick they're not. I'll tell you what London is full of at the moment?

Dick What is that sir? Birthday cake?

Dame S Too soon!

Dick Sorry, erm, I don't know then. What is London full of at the moment?

AF Rats! And lots of them. Some of them are big ugly brutes.

(*Tommy perks up at the mention*).

No doubt your little cat here will come in quite handy if any turn up?

Dick He would. We had a run in with a very big rat at our last job and I think Tommy would like to get his own back.

AF Well that's good, because I want to offer you a job. Will you guard my takings in the shop? I need someone like you who is honest and brave...

Jack What about me?

AF ...and not idle.

Jack Got me there.

Dick I will certainly sir. It would be my honour.

Jack Of course it would.

AF (*Takes out a big bag of cash from behind the counter and places it in the safe*). Right, that's all my takings in there. Now it's up to you to keep it safe.

Dick I will sir, you can trust me and of course my cat.

AF Then let's shut up shop early. I will see you all in the morning. Sleep well.

(Alderman Fitzwarren exits).

Jack *(Peeved)*. Yes, you lot, sleep well.

Dame S Come along Jack. Leave the two love birds alone.

(Dame Sarah and Jack exit).

Alice There you are Dick, I already feel you are on your way to making your fame and fortune. Whatever could go wrong? Good night.

(As she exits she blows him a kiss and Dick catches it).

Dick I know, I can feel it too. Time for bed.

Tommy *(To audience)*. All I can feel is a furball coming up!

(Dick turns out the lamp and the lights go down. But before he settles to sleep on a blanket in front of the safe he might sing a song. If not lights fade to blackout).

(End scene).

Scene 4

(Still in the Alderman's store. It is dimly lit as it is night-time. There is the sound of footsteps).

Dick *(Wakes up with start)*. What's that noise? Did you hear that Tommy? *(He is asleep. Dick prods him)*. Remember we are on guard duty, so no cat napping. We must be focussed, coiled, ready to spring into action at a moment's notice. Absolutely no distractions. *(Alice enters with a basket and she also has an apron on with a bottle of milk and a saucer in the pocket for later. Dick jumps up but sees it is only Alice with a basket and he is immediately distracted)*. Oh look, it's only Alice.

Tommy Hey, what happened to being focussed, coiled, ready to spring into action? *(Dick rushes to Alice and takes her hands in his)*. *(To audience)*. Look at him, he's smitten. Someone could walk in right now, take all the money and he would still be staring longingly into her eyes.

Dick Alice, what a surprise and how nice to see you, again.

Alice I couldn't have my brave boys sitting here all night without something to keep their energy levels up could I? So, I brought you a few things.

Dick How lovely of you. Did you hear that Tommy, Alice has brought us some goodies for our night shift?

Tommy *(Praying)*. Fish and milk, fish and milk, please let it be fish and milk.

Alice It's nothing to get too excited about. Just some random things I found lying about in the kitchen.

Tommy I dolphinately want fish and milk.

(Alice hands the basket to Dick).

Dick Let's have a look shall we? Some Love Hearts, nice. One Rolo, *(looks at Alice)* lovely. Some cherry lips, a box of milk tray and some squeezey chocolate sauce. Absolutely perfect. Thank you so much Alice.

Tommy Yes, thank you *(pause)* for nothing.

Dick *(Dick gazes longingly into Alice's eyes, they can sing a song together and then Dick pulls himself back together).* As much as it pains me to part, I am afraid I cannot spend all night chatting. We're on guard duty and we take our work very seriously, don't we Tommy?

Tommy One of us does.

Alice I understand. *(Alice starts stroking Tommy on the head).* There now puss that's what you wanted wasn't it? You look after my brave little Dickie Wickie and make sure that no one takes all of daddy's lovely money wunney.

Tommy *(Rolling on his back).* I know it's patronising and demeaning, but I love it.

Alice I must be on my way now and leave you two to your work. *(Turns to leave and then turns back).* Oh look, I forgot to give you a drink. A bottle of milk and a saucer for Tommy.

(She takes the milk and a saucer out of her apron pocket).

Tommy My prayers have been answered.

Dick Will we see you in the morning?

Alice I will be sure to come and see you in the morning, perhaps quite early.

Dick Not too early, we might think you are a robber and bop you on the head.

Alice Oh, how funny!

Dick Yes just imagine it, us, thinking you are a robber.

Tommy Alright this has gone on long enough, it's not even funny. *(Mocking)* oh imagine that, getting bopped on the head. I honestly feel sick.

(Alice and Dick do a lingering goodbye).

Dick Night then.

Alice Night.

Dick Sleep tight

Alice Don't let the bed bugs bite.

Dick Nightie nightie, sleepy tightie.

Tommy Oh please.

(Dick and Tommy move to the corner of the stage and sit down. Dick takes some cards and draughts off a shelf, leaving the food and drink on a table at the other side of the stage. The lights drop and King Rat enters unseen by Dick and Tommy).

Dick Right Tommy. Before we have our supper we could do with playing some games, help us stay awake. So, I've found a deck of cards and a draughts set.

Tommy Great! Easy if you have opposable thumbs. *(To audience)*. Shame I've only got *(long exaggerated pause)* big paws. *(Laughs at his own joke)*. Big paws, I went quiet and then I said big paws. You lot can't understand cat at all, can you? *(Audience should respond if encouraged – 'oh yes we can')* Oh no you can't etc. etc.....

(Dick starts setting up the draughts).

Dick Alright, alright, I know you want to play, just stop your meowing and let's get on with it.

(They begin playing with Tommy batting the pieces around the board. The lighting switches from Dick and Tommy to King Rat who has entered).

King Rat So, we meet again. My enemy and his poor excuse for a cat are guarding the alderman's money. I see an opportunity here to get my own back on them. *(He picks up the milk)*. Just a few drops of my secret potion in here and after they drink it, they will sleep like kittens, leaving me the opportunity to set them up nicely! Ha ha ha haaa!

(King Rat administers the potion and exits. The lights switch back to Dick and Tommy who are still playing draughts).

Dick I'm not sure that you quite understand the rules old pal.

Tommy Are you kidding? I was just about to huff you.

Dick I'll tell you what, why don't we have something to eat and drink and then we can carry on.

Tommy Oh yes, milk, milk, milk. Can we have the milk?

Dick I bet you'd like some milk wouldn't you Tommy. Here goes, this should keep us going.

(Dick goes to the table and pours the milk into a glass and a saucer. As they drink it they become sleepy and fall into a deep sleep).

(King Rat enters with Rodney and Rose Rat plus maybe a couple of other rat minions).

King Rat Ha ha haaaa. Come my whiskery minions. Get the money.

Rodney Rat Are we taking the money back to our secret lair boss?

King Rat No!

Rose Rat What are we going to do with it then?

King Rat Stuff it into Dick's pockets.

Rodney Rat Excuse me boss, I mean, I am not the smartest of rats.

King Rat Well done Rodney, you got something right.

Rodney Rat Thanks boss. *(To audience)*. Did you hear that? I got something right! *(All the rats cheer)*. So, why are we giving all this lovely lolly to our arch enemy?

(As the following line is said, the audience see Jack peering onto stage and listening in).

King Rat Because, my rodent friend, in the morning the search for the money will begin and when they discover it is in Dick's pocket, they will accuse him of stealing it, meaning he will lose his job, his home and his beloved Alice. Ha ha haaaa!

(As King Rat speaks they put the money into Dick's jacket pockets. Jack exits).

Rose Rat Alright boss. All the money is in his pocket. Is that it?

King Rat Not quite. I always say that it isn't over until the rat lady sings, Rose, would you mind?

(Rose Rat sings a song then all the rats exit leaving King Rat on stage. Dick and Tommy are still asleep).

King Rat Now rats what I call music. Ha ha haaaa!

(Blackout, end scene).

Scene 5

(Lights up. It is morning in Alderman Fitzwarren's shop. Dick and Tommy are waking up).

Dick *(Yawns)*. Morning Tommy. Did you sleep well?

Tommy Yes thank you. *(To audience)*. Well, he did ask.

Dick *(To Tommy)*. I don't know why I speak to you, daft isn't it. *(Noises off)*. Hello, it sounds like other people are getting up. Maybe we'll get some breakfast and then hopefully when the alderman sees that all his money is still there he will give me a full-time post.

(Dame Sarah enters. She is in her nighty and curlers).

Dame S *(Shouts off)*. He's still here. You win.

(As Jack enters Dame Sarah hands him a coin).

Jack Yes, I thought he would be, though I don't think it's the thought of the job that's kept him here.

(Dick is looking over Jack's shoulder).

Dick Is Alice awake?

Jack *(To Dame Sarah)*. See! *(To Dick)*. She'll be down in a minute I expect. *(Knowingly)*. Are all the takings still in the safe?

Dick Of course! What do you take me for?

Jack A thief.

Dame S *(To Jack)*. That's not very nice is it. What has Dick done to deserve that?

Jack Well apart from nicking my girlfriend and covering you in cake. Nothing I suppose.

Dame S Your girlfriend? Are you still dreaming? Though I see your point about the cake. But in this land of equal opportunity and freedom of speech he is innocent until proven guilty.

(Jack looks at the safe then at the audience).

Jack Nah, I think he's as guilty as sin.

Dame S That's a bit harsh. You barely know the lad.

Jack Double or quits the money's gone.

Dame S Alright you're on.

(They both shake on it).

Jack Right then, I'm starving.

Dick So am I.

Jack *(To Dick)*. Nobody's feeding you until we know the money's in the safe.

Dick Oh!

(Alderman Fitzwarren and Alice enter).

AF Ah Dick mi lad. Hope you and your cat slept well last night.

Dick Actually, surprisingly welllllll *(realises what he is saying)*.... actually, we were awake all night.

Alice Were you. I popped down during the night to see...*(Alderman Fitzwarren gives her look)* ...if you wanted another drink but both you and Tommy were flat out on your backs snoring like babies.

AF Well, I hope you weren't sleeping too soundly.

Dick No sir. I was a coiled spring and Tommy here would have alerted me if anyone had come near.

Tommy Not last night. I was out for the count.

Dick *(Patting him on the head)*. See what I mean, always alert.

AF *(To all on stage)*. Well then, shall we open the safe?

Jack *(His hand is out to Dame S)*. Yes, we shall!

Alice Oooh yes father. *(To Dick)* and when he sees the money still there, father is going to offer you a permanent job.

Dick Hear that Tommy? A permanent job.

(Alderman Fitzwarren stands up. His face looks cross).

AF The money has gone!

Alice What!

Dick How?

Jack *(Mock shock)*. What a surprise!

Tommy *(To audience)*. There goes my fish.

Jack Grab him before he makes a run for it. *(Goes to grab Dick)*.

AF Stop! *(They all stop)*. We invited him into our house as our guest and we trusted him. So now we treat everyone the same way. We will all be searched. Alice you will search me then I you.

(They do a cursory check of pockets, bags etc.)

AF Alice, Dame Sarah, if you please.

(Dame S is a little ticklish).

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Dame S (*Laughingly*). Steady Alice, you're tickling. (*She pats down round her legs and bottom*). Oi you won't find anything there!

Alice Nothing.

AF Now you Jack. (*He is searched. All the while he looks at Dick*). Nothing. That just leaves you Dick.

(*Dick of course is certain he hasn't the money and freely lets the alderman search him but doesn't search his coat*).

AF There is no money on him. (*Relieved*). It wasn't Dick.

Jack Alderman Fitzwarren, have you checked his coat?

AF Oh yes! (*Jack retrieves Dick's coat and hands it to the alderman who searches the coat*). What have we here? (*He takes out the bag of money*).

Alice (*Tearfully*). How could you?

Dick I don't know?

Jack There he admits it.

Dick No, I don't know. I was fast asleep all night.

Tommy I was dreaming of fish all night so don't look at me.

Jack Sleeping on the job eh? You're only making it worse for yourself. Dame Sarah, you've lost the bet. Cough it up.

Alice Betting on Dick's honesty Jack. How could you? (*Thinks*). Though I'm not sure who has the moral high ground here.

AF There is only one explanation for this. You stole the money with the intention of making off with it later today. Dick, you have let me down, you've let Alice down but most of all you let...

Jack (*Interrupting*). Me down.

AF I was going to say yourself. I won't report you to the authorities, but you must leave London town and Alice and never look back. We never want to see you again.

Dick Alice, it's not true. I didn't take the money. I would never.....

Alice I do believe you Dick. Don't worry I'll try and work it out. Farewell my love.

(*She blows him a kiss as he picks up his pack and coat and the others gradually turn their backs on him as he exits*).

(*The lights go to blackout as the curtains come in and then come up on King Rat who has entered*).

King Rat Nasty business. All this stealing, but it's a means to an end, primarily Whittington's and that dratted cat. Turfed out, back onto the streets of London town, never to see his beloved Alice again, oh dear, how sad, never mind. He won't last

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more than a week and he will have to clear off back home taking that furball with him, leaving this wonderful sewery place all to myself and of course a few hundred thousand of my faithful followers. Well, that should be that then. Thank you for coming and we'll see you all next year. Tarraaaa

(King Rat exits, blackout, end scene).

Scene 6

(Lights come up front of tabs. Fairy Night Star enters).

Fairy NS Goodness me what a kerfuffle, a hubbub and a to do. Poor Dick and Tommy have been sent away from London forever and that means that he will never see Alice again. *(Encourages the audience)*. Ahhhhhh. I wonder what they will do now? Where will they go? Perhaps I can help them somehow?

(King Rat wanders onto the stage talking with Rodney. Fairy NS watches them).

King Rat Right listen to me carefully this time. Supposing I have two cockroaches.

Rodney Rat Can I have one?

King Rat No, I haven't actually got any cockroaches, I said supposing, you know, pretend.

Rodney Rat Alright I am pretending you have two cockroaches.

King Rat Then I eat one of them.

Rodney Rat Yes.

King Rat How many cockroaches have I got left?

Rodney Rat None!

King Rat No Rodney, I have one.

Rodney Rat No you don't, you said you were just pretending, so you have none.

King Rat Alright for arguments sake, how many pretend cockroaches do I have left then?

Rodney Rat As many as you like, you're pretending.

King Rat I'm not sure who is supposed to be the stupid one here?

Rodney Rat *(To audience)* I'm pretty clear.

King Rat What do you mean by that?

(Fairy Night Star interrupts them).

Fairy NS And what are you two reprobates doing here?

King Rat Just having a little walk around my neighbourhood. Basking in the joy of defeating that cat and his half-witted owner. I hear, he is now a disgraced criminal

and has been ordered to leave London town forever. Who would have thought it? Dick, a common thief. At least the crime rates will go down now he has left.

Fairy NS And no doubt the number of rats will go up. You know none of it is true and it is all down to your skulduggerous behaviour.

King Rat Thank you very much. I can take credit for having a small paw in the proceedings.

Rodney Rat I think you mean hand.

King Rat We are rats Rodney, we don't have hands.

Rodney Rat Google it!

Fairy NS I think you will find he is right.

(King Rat looks agog at Rodney).

Rodney Rat *(To King Rat)*. What? I just know these things.

Fairy NS It looks like your evil plan has worked and yes, they have been sent away from London forever.

King Rat And no fairy magic in the world is going to change that. I wander what you will do now, wand, er, get it!

Fairy NS Very funny. Two can play at that game because I'm getting the same old feline.

King Rat Stop it!

Fairy NS A feline that I may have to come up with a cat-astrophic plan.

King Rat Alright. Alright that's enough, I'm coming out in hives.

Fairy NS What's wrong King Rat, are you afraid of cats?

Rodney Rat He's pet-rified of them.

Fairy NS Thank you Rodney that's Paw-some.

King Rat *(To Rodney)*. Hey, whose side are you on? *(To Fairy)* Listen here fairy do gooder. It is too late. He has left for good and he daren't come back. You can wave your wand, sprinkle your fairy dust and stand there, all sweet and innocent until the cows come home, But Dick is never coming back to London.

Fairy NS You may be right. But just for fun, let's pretend that I have two heroes and they both get sent away, how many heroes do I have left.

King Rat None, that's right isn't Rodney? Because you are pretending.

Fairy NS Wrong!

Rodney Rat Uh oh! I think she's up to something again.