



Pantoscripts Perusal

# Mother Goose

by Ellie King

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## **CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** – fairy queen. Quite prim and proper, takes no nonsense from the Demon King.

**DEMON KING** – Young, think Keannu Reaves in Bob and Ted's excellent adventure. But can be quite scary when needed.

**SIMPLE SIMON** – the Idle Jack character. Trying to make a living selling pies, he's goofy but kind.

**MARY MARY** – Simple Simon's love interest. Comedic role.

**MASTER TWEEDLE** – a snotty-nosed and callow youth.

**DR. DEE** – Tweedle's father. Small time crook-type; think Fagin from Oliver.

**SQUIRE AVARICIOUS GRABHAM** – the resident bad-guy in an otherwise idyllic village.

**GEOGIE PORGIE** – the Squire's son. A wet and drippy kind of youth.

**LITTLE JACK HORNER** – principal boy. Brave and heroic, but a bit shy.

**LITTLE BO PEEP** – principal girl. Cute but feisty.

**MOTHER GOOSE** – Dame. she is the village vet Loud, cheeky but warm hearted until her head is turned when she's offered the opportunity to become beautiful.

**PRISCILLA** – HUGE goose. One person skin role.

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** – the Squire's landlord. A huntin', shootin' fishin' type

**CHARLES LAMB** – a prop on wheels, this is solely a V.O. role, can be doubled

**A MONSTER**, can be doubled

**VILLAGERS.**

ACT I

MUSIC - OVERTURE

*As the OVERTURE reaches its conclusion and the CURTAIN WARMERS fade to black THE MAIN DRAPE goes out to reveal:*

**PROLOGUE - frontcloth**

SFX - fairy BELLS

*Enter QUEEN OF THE BIRDS (she is prim, proper and somewhat like a librarian - or a secretary bird!!)*

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** *(HOLDS AND ENCOURAGES APPLAUSE - speaks to aud.)*  
I thank you all for that lovely greeting,  
Are you wondering why I've called this meeting?  
Well the demon king is awfully quiet - As you know, by now he'd be causing a  
riot But today is such a special day And I'm hoping that he'll stay *far* away So  
can you help me? I'm counting on you  
If you see him make sure that you boo!!

SPFX FLASHPOT or similar

*Enter DEMON KING, possibly on a skateboard or scooter*

**DEMON KING** Doods!! - *(air guitar)* I'm the Demon King and ....whoa - check it out -  
*(indicates her)* my total arch-enemy - the Queen of the Birds!! *(to QUEEN  
OF THE BIRDS)* Hey - feather face - s'up??!

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** *(to aud)* Oh, speak of the dev....demon, just look who's here  
I won't let him spoil anything, never fear.

**DEMON** *(has been sniffing the air)* Fee fi fo fum, I smell some doughnuts and a bun.  
It's a- *(sniffs)* - a *(sniffs)* - a birthday party? Singing, gifts - *happiness?*  
Most heinous! *(shudders)* I gotta stop this before it gets like totally out of  
hand. Next thing - there'll be peace in the Middle East! No-can-do Queeny  
babe - party's off.

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** Oh, no - I don't think so - it's not up to you -  
You have no power over what I do.

**DEMON** Maybe, but I just gotta mess with your pet humans!! Hey - a demon's gotta do what a demon's gotta do - it's a job security issue. Later... (*goes to exit then stops*) Oh but wait - will there be cake?

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** You know there will, of all different kinds, Chocolate, strawberry, lemon and lime

**DEMON** With sprinkles on top? Can't get enough of those scrunchy little, yummy little.....most outstandingly cake-a-licious bodaciousness! You got me right here - (*stomach*) I'll go get my paper hat..... Party on!(*goes to exit again*)

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** Stop right there demon king - and don't get excited Evil beings like you are not invited.

**DEMON** What??? Not invited? ME??? (*beat*) NO CAKE?!??? Oh dude - that is most bogus. You think I'm evil now? Well you're gonna learn just how totally evil I can be! Enjoy your party - because it's the last time anyone will ever be happy ever in Fairyland ever again! Ever!! (*air guitar*) Ah ha ha ha

exits

**QUEEN OF THE BIRDS** Oh what a performance, he really is silly Threatening people like me willy-nilly: For bad manners and foolishness I have no use, Now, let's go and visit with dear Mother Goose.

exits

## **SCENE 1 – THE VILLAGE OF JOLLYTON**

*AT RISE we discover the MARKET SQUARE of JOLLYTON. To one side is the large, gated entrance to GRABHAM HALL, home of SQUIRE Grabham and his son, GEORGIE PORGIE. We also see the neat entrance to MOTHER GOOSE'S COTTAGE & VETERINARY PRACTICE. It is market day and there are some brightly coloured MARKET STALLS in the Square. The TOWNSPEOPLE are discovered shopping and having a great time as they perform:*

MUSIC – OPENING CHORUS – SIMPLE SIMON, MARY MARY & TOWNSPEOPLE f

*Following the Opening Chorus, the TOWNSPEOPLE go about their business. All of a sudden the cry goes up:*

**TOWNSPEOPLE** Stop thief! Stop him! Hey! (ad lib)

*MASTER TWEEDLE, a snotty-nosed, scruffy and callow youth has been caught stealing a PIE from SIMPLE SIMON'S stall and is chased around the Square until he is caught by the black puddings. Ouch. During this, DR. DEE – MASTER TWEEDLE'S FATHER – has entered unseen by the mob. He is a con-artist type: trying to appear smooth, but actually comes off as being greasy and extremely unsavoury.*

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Leggo-a-me. Leggo-a-me. I'll tell my dad. Ow – gerroff!!!

**DR.DEE** What seems to be the trouble here?

**SIMPLE SIMON** (pointing at Master Tweedle) He stole my pie.

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Wha' d'ya mean????

**TOWNSPERSON #1** Get the Squire.

**TOWNSPEOPLE** (ad lib) Yeah – get the Squire. String him up! Disemboweling's too good for the likes of him. (etc. etc.)

*Enter SQUIRE AVARICIOUS GRABHAM, by name and by nature. A thoroughly unpleasant individual with a short temper and shorter morals. Always on the look out for the main chance, he is the resident bad-guy in an otherwise idyllic village. A few steps behind him comes GEORGIE PORGIE, a wet and drippy kind of youth: weak and vacillating, he is, despite this, his father's pride and joy. He, however, struggles vainly for a little independence.*

**SQUIRE Grabham** What is all the noise out here? You're interrupting little Georgie's nap? Look at him – he's got bags under his eyes.

**SIMPLE SIMON** Bags? They're more like suitcases!

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Daddeeeeeeee!!!

**TOWNSPEOPLE** (ad. lib laughter)

**SQUIRE Grabham** Stop that - STOP THAT!!! I'll teach you to be rude to little Georgie.

**MARY MARY** Oh you don't have to teach us - we already know how!

**ALL** LAUGHTER

**SQUIRE Grabham** Rabble! Now what is it you want?

*TOWNSPEOPLE point to Master Tweedle and deliver ad lib accusations.*

**DR.DEE** *(he holds up his hands for silence and then clears his throat)* It seems my dear, sweet, innocent little son here *(TWEEDLE sniffs & runs finger under nose then down leg)* accidentally stumbled against a stall at which time this pie *(he holds it up)* - purely by coincidence - leaped into his inside pocket, causing these fine, upstanding citizens to jump to completely the wrong conclusion. *(laughs - no-one joins in except TWEEDLE)* Ah-hum. Right So here's your pie *(he hands it to the SQUIRE and grabs TWEEDLE)* and - goodbye.

*They try to leave but the TOWNSPEOPLE prevent them, complaining loudly.*

**SQUIRE Grabham** All right all right ALL RIGHT! You people go about your business and I'll deal with these two. GO!!!! LEAVE!! BEGONE!!!

*The TOWNSPEOPLE & SIMPLE SIMON leave.*

**SQUIRE Grabham** (CONT'D) *(he addresses DR. DEE)* Now then - who are you?

**DR.DEE** Oh a very deep question: who am I? Who indeed are any of us?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** I'm Georgie!

*They all look at him as he sidles behind his father..*

**SQUIRE Grabham** Are you by any chance looking for a job?

*There is a violent reaction from DR. DEE who faints and is violently fanned by Master Tweedle.*

**MR.TWEEDLE** 'Ere - watch your language mister!

**SQUIRE Grabham** Get him up. *(biz.)* I could use a couple of likely lads like you. Come with me and I'll tell you what I want you to do.....

*They all exit into GRABHAM HALL, with GEORGIE bringing up the rear.*

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Da-a-d! Wait for me! Da-a-ad *(etc. ad lib)*

exits

S.F.X. - LITTLE JACK 'S HORN

We hear the sound of a horn, and LITTLE JACK enters.

**LITTLE JACK** Hullo - where is everyone? Market day and no-one about? That's odd. (he knocks on MOTHER GOOSE'S COTTAGE door) Hello. Hello Anyone home?

Enter LITTLE BO PEEP. She pulls CHARLES - a small lamb - on wheels behind her.

**LITTLE JACK** (he likes her but is a bit shy) Oh hello Bo Peep - d'you know where everyone is?

**BO PEEP** Hello Little Jack . No I don't. Isn't Mother Goose at home?

**LITTLE JACK** No she isn't.

**BO PEEP** Oh dear. And I brought my lamb to see her. He's not feeling very well.

**LITTLE JACK** Well Mother Goose will soon make him better - she's the best vet in the whole kingdom.

S.F.X. - NOISES OFF and. EMERGENCY VEHICLE SIREN.

MUSIC - DAME'S ENTRANCE

The TOWNSPEOPLE re-enter noisily with MARY MARY, SIMPLE SIMON AND MOTHER GOOSE (THE DAME), She is a plain woman, dressed in outrageously ugly clothes. She is driving an 'AMBULANCE' (can be a pushed handcart) with a flashing light on top. It does a circuit of the stage, scattering people as it goes, and then stops C. She gets out, goes round to the rear and opens the back doors, taking out a COVERED BASKET (or removes it from the handcart).

**MOTHER GOOSE** Quick, somebody help me - it's an emergency.

The TOWNSPEOPLE react as

**LITTLE JACK** Is it a poorly puppy?

**MARY MARY** Is it a feverish ferret?

**SIMPLE SIMON** Is it a bilious bunny?

**MOTHER GOOSE** (removing the cover and exposing a NEWSPAPER WRAPPED PARCEL) No, it's me fish and chips - they're getting cold.

GENERAL REACTION as AMBULANCE, FISH & CHIPS and BASKET are removed.

**MOTHER GOOSE (CONT'D)** (to aud) Hello everybody - welcome to Nursery-rhyme land.

ALL do waving, hello-ing, 'call me' signs etc to audience.

**MOTHER GOOSE (CONT'D)** Right that's enough. (*indicates audience*) Much more audience participation and we'll have to pay 'em as talent.

**BO PEEP** Mother Goose?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Where? Oh – silly me! Yes child?

**BO PEEP** Is the clinic open today?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Of course it is. Where's me stethoscope – (*she takes out an enormous stethoscope and puts it on then listens to her own heart we hear.*)

SFX – BEATING HEART SEGUEING INTO LATIN RHYTHM,

MOTHER GOOSE leads short conga line

**MOTHER GOOSE** Oh my my my – I knew I shouldn't have had salsa with me chips! Wait a minute – where's my nurse? Priscilla.....Priscilla... where are you? I know, let's all call her. (*to aud.*) You out there – you too. We'll all call together. Right – on the count of three ..... ah one, ah two, ah (*hold*) ...wait for it! Three...

BIZ. of calling for PRISCILLA who enters through the House greeting patrons as she comes. If necessary (*because of costume*) MOTHER GOOSE leads her up onto the stage.

**MOTHER GOOSE** There you are. Where have you been? (*PRISCILLA whispers in her ear.*) Oooh – have you now. She says she's been upstairs and downstairs and in some lady's chamber. (*PRISCILLA whispers again*) And there you found an old man? No, I don't want to know what you did with him! Cheeky goose. Now, put your hat on (*puts PRISCILLA'S hat on for her*) and we'll see the first patient. Right, wheel 'em in. (*BO PEEP comes forward pulling her LAMB behind her*) Oh look (*pointing to lamb on wheels*) – wheel 'em in! Now, what seems to be the problem?

**BO PEEP** I don't think he's very well – he's awfully quiet.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Awfully quiet you say?

**BO PEEP** Yes.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Not to worry – I know what that is.

**BO PEEP** Do you?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Yes – he's got Silence of the Lambs. (*to aud*) Silence of the – keep up! Here's what you do: fill up the bath-tub with sour cream and onion soup mix, and then put him in it.

**BO PEEP** Sour cream and onion soup mix?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Have you never heard of a sheep dip? (to aud) Hey? That's a clever one.

GENERAL LAUGH

*SIMPLE SIMON is throwing powder around.*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Simple Simon - what are you doing?

**SIMPLE SIMON** Spreading elephant powder.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Spreading elephant powder? What for?

**SIMPLE SIMON** It keeps the elephants away.

**MOTHER GOOSE** But there are no elephants around here.

**SIMPLE SIMON** I know - it works doesn't it! (*he dodges as MOTHER GOOSE swats at him*)

GENERAL LAUGH

**MARY MARY** Mother Goose, Mother Goose, my duck keeps swimming round in circles. Why is that?

**MOTHER GOOSE** She's quackers.

GENERAL LAUGH

**LITTLE JACK** Mother Goose, my pig's got spots all over his body.

**MOTHER GOOSE** (*hands him container*) Here you go - rub this on him.

**LITTLE JACK** What is it?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Oink-ment!!!

GENERAL LAUGH

**BO PEEP** Mother Goose, what's a polygon?

**MOTHER GOOSE** A dead parrot.

**SIMPLE SIMON** (*a la MONTY PYTHON parrot sketch*) I wish to register a complaint.....

**MOTHER GOOSE** Don't you dare.

**SIMPLE SIMON** Beautiful plumage!! (*dodges a swat from MOTHER GOOSE*)

GENERAL LAUGH

**LITTLE JACK** Hey, remember my pig?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Ye-e-e-s?

**LITTLE JACK** Well now he doesn't make any noise. No sound at all.

**MOTHER GOOSE** That's because he's dis-gruntled. (to aud) There's a test after the show, you know.

*GENERAL LAUGH*

**MARY MARY** Mother Goose, I'm worried about my cat.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Ah, a pussy cat, and is it a tom?

**MARY MARY** No, I brought him with me! (*dodges smack from MOTHER GOOSE*)

*GENERAL LAUGH*

**BO PEEP** Mother Goose why do the cows in the meadow keep giggling?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Because they're a laughing stock?

*GENERAL LAUGH*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Right - anybody else?

*GEORGIE PORGIE has entered from GRABHAM HALL crying into his hankie :*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Oo, look at that. There's someone whose gene pool could do with a little chlorine! (*to GEORGIE*) And what seems to be the trouble with you?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** It's my goldfish.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Your goldfish?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Yes - my daddy gave him to a loan shark.

*GENERAL BOO, SHAME ETC.*

**MOTHER GOOSE** That's not only not funny, it's downright unpleasant. Why did your dad do that?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Because we're broke and he'll do anything to get out of trouble with the money lenders.

**MOTHER GOOSE** I thought your family had loads of money.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** We used to have - but my dad invested in (*insert losing stock or company etc*)

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Oh dear. Well I'm sorry they have no money, but if his dad wasn't so snooty and so nasty to everyone he could share in the wealth of the village with all of us. (*GEORGIE suddenly cries again*) NOW what's the matter?

**GEORGIE PORGIE**

S-s-s-some girls kissed me. (*indicates GIRLS*)

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Isn't that supposed to be the other way round? Georgie Porgie pudding and pie, kissed the girls and made *them* cry?

**GEORGIE PORGIE**

I'm dyslexic.

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Be that as it may, let's all go and get ready for the party. I want everyone to look their best for Priscilla's birthday.

**SIMPLE SIMON**

Ooooh should I wear my birthday suit?

*GENERAL LAUGH*

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Naughty boy. Behave yourself or you'll get no marrah.

**SIMPLE SIMON**

Marrah? What's a marrah?

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Nothing - what's a marra with you!

*MUSIC - REPRISE - opening chorus music - TOWNSPEOPLE, MOTHER GOOSE, PRISCILLA, SIMPLE SIMON, MARY MARY, BO PEEP AND LITTLE JACK*

*After song, Gen. exit leaving SIMPLE SIMON alone on stage*

**SIMPLE SIMON**

Phew - I thought they'd never leave. Hello, how are you all? My name's Simple Simon - what's yours? (*BIZ of listening to names.*) Wow, what a nice bunch of people - best audience we've had tonight (*this afternoon*). Welcome to Nursery Rhyme Land. Have you been here before? Yes? No? (*biz*) Well I'll bet you all know some nursery-rhymes don't you? Can anyone say one for me? (*biz*) That's very good (*ad lib*) But didn't you ever wonder where all the nursery-rhyme characters actually lived? Right - here! This is our home. Nursery-rhyme land. It's nice, isn't it? Hey, how about we play a little game? Every time I come out here I'm going to shout Hi de hi de hi and I want you to shout, ho de ho de ho. Can you do that? You can? Good. Let's try it. (*biz.*) Now I'm off to look for Mary Mary. I think she's the best girl in nursery-rhyme land and I'm going to ask her to come to the party with me tonight. Only trouble is, sometimes she's so contrary I don't understand what she's saying! Oh well. Here goes.... See you later! (*exits*)

*Enter MASTER TWEEDLE & DR. DEE from GRABHAM HALL*

**DR.DEE** This is good; very, very good. I do believe we've fallen on our feet at last!

**MASTER TWEEDLE** *(looking at his feet)* Er...

**DR.DEE** Yes, Tweedle?

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Is that me too?

**DR.DEE** Yes of course!

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Ooooh - it didn't hurt a bit!

**DR.DEE** What didn't?

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Us - fallin' on my feet.

**DR.DEE** Come here. *(takes TWEEDLE'S hat off, smack on head)*

**MASTER TWEEDLE** What's that for?

**DR.DEE** That wasn't four, that was one. You really must learn to count. No, I'm talking about us, getting paid for being villains and thieves.

**MASTER TWEEDLE** We're going to work for HMRC?

**DR.DEE** Even I wouldn't stoop that low. But hush - here comes our new employer.

*Enter SQUIRE GRABHAM from GRABHAM HALL*

**SQUIRE Grabham** Right, that's Mother Goose's cottage over there: you know what you have to do.

**DR.DEE** Don't worry - we know

**Master TWEEDLE** What do we know?

**DR.DEE** What we have to do.

**MR.TWEEDLE** *(beat)* And what's that??

**DR.DEE** Er.....?

**SQUIRE Grabham** Imbeciles! Serves me right for shopping at Value Villains! Now listen - you disguise yourselves as pastry cooks to get into Mother Goose's kitchen. Once inside, you kidnap Priscilla and bring her to my hide-out in the Haunted Cave - before midnight!

**DR.DEE** Oh right. *(beat)* Why before midnight?

**SQUIRE Grabham** Because that's when she lays her birthday egg, and I want that egg!

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Egg-sactly. 'ere, 'ang on - why d'you want a smelly old goose's egg anyway?

**SQUIRE Grabham** Because it's made of solid gold, that's why.

**MASTER TWEEDLE** *(the penny drops)* Ooohhh.....

**DR.DEE** And if we do it right, right, you, right, are going to see us right, right?

**SQUIRE Grabham** *(slightly confused)* Right - *(recovering)* I promise you'll both get everything you deserve. Now go on about our business. I'll meet you at the hideout later.

*TWEEDLE & DEE are leaving as GEORGIE PORGIE enters. TWEEDLE & GEORGIE do the adolescent "s'up" greeting thing as they pass each other. Dr. Dee growls at Georgie. Dee and Tweedle exit.*

**SQUIRE Grabham** Ah, there you are Georgie.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** I don't think I like that man father.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Nonsense, he's just - a business associate of mine.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** He looks look like a heartless, cold-blooded, uncaring, mercenary person who'd take all our money and then leave us to starve.

**SQUIRE Grabham** You mean like *(insert current unpopular head of company, govt department etc)*? No, no, no, no, no - don't worry - he's my - banker.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Well I don't trust him daddy.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Never mind - you just stay away from them both.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** But daddeeee - I like Master Tweedle. I bet he's got a Nintendo Switch.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** A what?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** A switch. He's probably got a Switch.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Well he should use the ointment then.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** No daddy, I mean he probably has a game system.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Oh - you want a game system?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** *(very excited)* Oh yes, daddy, yes I do. Have you got a one for me daddy - have you? Huh, have you??

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Yes I've got a *brilliant* game system for you. This was mine when I was a lad. Here. *(gives him a piece of string)* There's no end to the games you can play with that and it never needs batteries. Now go away - I've things to plot - er, do.

*Georgie exits, playing with his string as lord luvverduck enters. He is a typical, huntin' shootin', fishin' what-ho lord type and carries an assortment of lethal weaponry including a huge blunderbuss, a panto-sized net and a child's fishing rod.*

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** I say, you there, peasant chappie.....?

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** *(outraged)* What???

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Could you point the way to Grabham Hall?

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** I could, but I won't.

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Ah - well I've come down to the country for a spot of sport, doncha know. *(he waggles gun)*

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Sport? Oh, you're going to kill things.

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Exactly. An' seein' as I'm here, I'm goin' to billet meself with me tenant. Blighter owes me more money than America's national debt.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** So you're...

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Lord Luvverduck, yes.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Your grace, I am honoured to welcome you to my humble abode. *(obsequious bow, indicating Grabham Hall)*

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Of course you are. So you're the chappie then? The Welcher.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Er, yes. That would be me.

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Jolly good show. Lead on. Show me my room, make me a cup of tea and then what was it? Oh yes - you're evicted.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Evicted!!!????

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Unless you cough up the money you owe me.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Oh but I will. I can. I mean *(a la Baldrick)* I have a cunning plan my lord....

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** *(interrupting)* Yes, yes, yes - well it better be a good'un, or outcha go! Now, I hear there's a giant goose lives in the area. It'll look marvellous stuffed and mounted at my castle. Better than a pink flamingo what!! Let's have that spot of tiffin and then I'll track it down and when I find it..... *(aims blunderbuss & mimes shooting it)* BOOM!! Tally ho!!!! *(exits)*

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Well that's a revoltin' development! If he shoots Priscilla, bang go my golden eggs - literally. Bah! (*ping - idea*) Hmm - suppose his high-and mightiness just - disappeared? That'd kill two birds with one stone - as it were. I'll get the boys right on it.....

*LORD LUVVERDUCK re-enters briefly*

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** What ho, peasant chappie? By the way.....

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Yes?

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Just in case you go gettin' any funny ideas, I've left instructions back at my castle, what? If I'm not back in three days, they're going to come lookin' for me. And they'll be VERY upset if anything happens to me.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Oh?

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Yes - last time anyone tried any funny-business, it took ten days just to figure out who he used to be.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Oh.

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** That's by way of being a threat, doncha know. So glad we understand each other. Right - TTFN

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** ??

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** Ta ta for now.

*Exits into GRABHAM HALL*

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** I'd like to ta ta him! Suppose I was to..... (*ad libs various violent actions re: his lordship until*).....

**LORD LUVVERDUCK** (off) Grabham!!!

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Coming your lordship, coming.....

*EXITS INTO GRABHAM HALL muttering*

*As the frontcloth flies in*

**SCENE 2 – FRONTCLOTH – MOMENTS LATER – JUST OUTSIDE JOLLYTON**

Enter LITTLE JACK

**LITTLE JACK** (to aud.) Hello. Have any of you seen Bo Peep? No? I'm hoping she'll come by this way - I want to ask her something, but I always get so shy around her. Uh oh, I think I hear her! Oh dear - I'll be over here. (hides)

Enter BO PEEP, still pulling her lamb along behind.

**BO PEEP** Now Charles, hold still while I make you look pretty for the party tonight. (she begins to tie RIBBON around his neck)

**LITTLE JACK** (peeping out and clearing his throat nervously) Ah - hem???

**BO PEEP** (to CHARLES) Did you say something?

**LITTLE JACK** Ah-hem!!

**BO PEEP** Charles - do you have a cold? We'd better go and see Mother Goose right away (she begins to leave)

**LITTLE JACK** Wait! It was me, Bo Peep.

**BO PEEP** Little Jack - were you hiding?

**LITTLE JACK** No - I was - er - waiting for a bus?

**BO PEEP** I don't believe you.

**LITTLE JACK** Well, anyway, I'm glad we - accidentally bumped into each other, because I want to ask you something. Will you g-g-g-..... Will you g-g-g- ..... Will you g-g-g-.....

**CHARLES** (perhaps his bow tie lights up with each syllable) Oh for pity's sake - will you go to the party with him tonight?

THEY both look at him in surprise.

**CHARLES** What? I have 20 gig of ram on board. Because I'm a sheep. Ram. Oh dearie, dearie me.

**BO PEEP** Of course I'll go to the party with you tonight. I'm just off to help Mother Goose get everything ready. Want to help me?

**LITTLE JACK** Bo Peep - for you, I'd do anything.

MUSIC - DUET BO PEEP & LITTLE JACK

Following song, *THEY* exit

The 'We're All Square' Gag (may be omitted for running time)

Enter *SIMPLE SIMON*

**SIMPLE SIMON** Hi de Hi de hi de hi!

Enter *MOTHER GOOSE*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Ooh, there you are Simple Simon. I'm ever so glad to see you.

**SIMPLE SIMON** (warily) Why, what do you want?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Well, remember that two pounds I lent you?

**SIMPLE SIMON** Yes - I bought some pies with it! Yum!!

**MOTHER GOOSE** Well, I need to get some things for Priscilla's party so can I have it back please?

**SIMPLE SIMON** Oops - I haven't got any money at the moment. Hang on (to *MUSICAL DIRECTOR/or audience member*) Can you lend me two pounds please?

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR** I haven't got two pounds, but I can lend you one pound. (hands it to *SIMPLE SIMON*)

**SIMPLE SIMON** Thanks - that'll help. (to *MOTHER GOOSE*) Now, I owe you two pounds: here's one pound of it, and I still owe you one pound. (hands pound to *MOTHER GOOSE* then exits)

**MOTHER GOOSE** Thank you very much.

Enter *SQUIRE Grabham*

**SQUIRE Grabham** Oi - Mother Goose. You owe me two pounds and I want it now.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Manners - how about a thank you?

**SQUIRE Grabham** All right - I'll thank you to give me my money.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Near enough. Well I haven't got two pounds, but here's one pound and I still owe you one pound.

She exits

**SQUIRE Grabham** Well, it's better than nothing I suppose.

Enter *SIMPLE SIMON*

**SIMPLE SIMON** Ah there you are Squire. Remember that two pounds I lent you a while back?

**SQUIRE Grabham** Certainly not.

**SIMPLE SIMON** Well I need it back.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Oh very well. But I haven't got two pounds, so here's one pound and I owe you one pound.

**SIMPLE SIMON** Thank you.

*Enter MOTHER GOOSE*

**SIMPLE SIMON** Ah, hello again. Now I still owe you one pound don't I?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Yes you do.

**SIMPLE SIMON** Well, here it is - one pound. That's you and I square, isn't it?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Thank you. *(to SQUIRE Grabham)* And I still owe you one pound don't I?

**SQUIRE Grabham** Absolutely.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Well here it is. - one pound. That's you and I square isn't it?

**SQUIRE Grabham** *(to SIMPLE SIMON)* Now I suppose I owe you one pound don't I?

**SIMPLE SIMON** Why, yes you do.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Well here it is one pound. That's you and I square isn't it?

**SIMPLE SIMON** *(to MUSICAL DIRECTOR)* And I believe I owe you one pound?

**M DIRECTOR** Yes you do.

**SIMPLE SIMON** Well here it is. That's you and I square isn't it?

**ALL** Now we're all square!

*THEY ALL exit*

### **SCENE 3 - MOTHER GOOSE'S KITCHEN**

*This is a typical panto. kitchen with a PRACTICAL BRICK OVEN set into one wall. There is a table with slapstick props pre-set.*

*AT RISE MOTHER GOOSE & THE TOWNSPEOPLE are preparing food for the party.*

*MUSIC - happy baking type song*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Right, off you go and get the market square ready for the party. See you later - bye (ad. lib etc. etc.)

**TOWNSPEOPLE** (ad lib) bye - see you later - etc. etc. etc.

*THEY exit as TWEEDLE & DEE dressed as pastry cooks enter.*

**DR.DEE** Good morning madam

**MASTER TWEEDLE** .... we're looking for the lady of the house.

**MOTHER GOOSE** I am the lady of the house.

*TWEEDLE AND DEE both fall about laughing.*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Oooh, the very nerve. I'll have you know this is the face that launched a thousand ships

**DR.DEE** More like the face that stopped a thousand clocks.

**MOTHER GOOSE** How rude. *(she whips out a hand mirror and examines her face - with not totally satisfactory results)*

*Enter SIMPLE SIMON*

**SIMPLE SIMON** Hi de Hi de hi Hello Mother Goose - I'm ready to help with the baking.

**MOTHER GOOSE** 'Ere, d'you think I'm pretty?

**SIMPLE SIMON** Pretty what?

**MOTHER GOOSE** Pretty. Good-looking. Gorgeous in fact - in a mature sort of a way.

**SIMPLE SIMON** *(uncomfortable)* Mother Goose, you are the kindest, sweetest, nicest person I know.

*Enter MARY MARY*

**SIMPLE SIMON** And - look, here's Mary Mary....

**MARY MARY** Hello Mother Goose. Can I borrow a cup of salt please? I'm making sugar-candy.

**MOTHER GOOSE** Mary Mary - d'you think I'm pretty?

**MARY MARY** (*uncomfortable*) Pretty what?

**SIMPLE SIMON** I tried that.

**MARY MARY** Mother Goose, you are the kindest, sweetest, nicest person I know. Gotta go. Bye.

**MOTHER GOOSE** (*hooks a finger in MARY MARY'S collar*) Come back here you. You can help with the baking.

*SIMPLE SIMON prepares the SLAPSTICK props.*

**MOTHER GOOSE** (to aud) D'you think I'm pretty? Never mind pretty what, d'you think I'm good-looking? Full of girlish charm? Dazzlingly beautiful in fact. No? Oh dear.

**DR.DEE** Ahem - hating to interrupt your moment here, but you should know that we're highly qualified pastry cooks!

**MOTHER GOOSE** Oh yes? Does that mean you're well bred? Have you got lots of dough? Do you know how to make a sausage roll??

**MASTER TWEEDLE** Push it down a hill???

**MOTHER GOOSE** (*aud*) They don't get any batter do they? Batter? Please yourselves. Well, I suppose you'll have to do. Let's get started on Priscilla's birthday cake.

**DR.DEE** Ah - and speaking of that fine feathered bird - where would she be right now?

**MOTHER GOOSE** She's upstairs putting her tail in curlers.

**DR.DEE** Upstairs, eh? Master Tweedle - what are we a-thinking of? Before we commence our culinary duties, we must needs hie us up to the bathroom and wash our hands.

**MOTHER GOOSE** We haven't got a bathroom upstairs.

**DR.DEE** Really? Ah. (*thinks and then*) Oh my my - what can that be?

**MOTHER GOOSE** What can what be?

**DR.DEE** I heard a strange noise - from upstairs. Mayhap it was a burglar or some other ne'er-do-well. Never fear dear lady, Master Tweedle will go and investigate. Off you go Master Tweedle.

**MASTER TWEEDLE** I don' wanna.

*TWEEDLE is encouraged to leave with the assistance of Dee's foot.*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Right - let's get ready.

*BUSINESS OF SETTING SLAPSTICK PROPS ETC*

*S.F.X. - HUGE NOISE OF CRASHING ETC.*

*They all look up.*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Must do something about those mice.

*TWEEDLE re-enters rubbing his knees*

**DR.DEE** Ah, Master Tweedle, you're - here! On your own.

**MASTER TWEEDLE** I fell over.

**DR.DEE** But what about Priscilla?

**MASTER TWEEDLE** No, she didn't fall over. Just me. I fell over.

**DR.DEE** Aaagh! Where is she?

**MASTER TWEEDLE** I got a rope round her neck but then she scarpered.

**DR.DEE** What?? *(to MOTHER GOOSE)* I'm afraid we must leave you dear lady. Pressing business you know.

**MOTHER GOOSE** You do laundry as well? *(to aud)* Pressing business?? Please yourselves. *(back in) (grabs them)* You can't go yet - I need your help. Now come over here and let's get busy. I've got everything ready to make the cake.

*THEY line up behind table: T, Dee, M.Goose, Mary Mary and Simon.*

*INSERT SLAPSTICK, ENDING AS BELOW:...*

**MOTHER GOOSE** Never mind all this malarky, let's get it in the oven.

*THEY gather together the mess and put it in the oven.*

**SIMPLE SIMON** Don't forget the candles.

*SIMON throws the candles in after the cake. Tweedle, DEE & SIMON clear up during the following, Mary Maary helps ma goose.*

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Now has anyone out there got a birthday today? (*biz*) Come on up here then. What's your name? And how old are you? (*ad lib lines with child*) Right – let's all count together

*BIZ counting backwards from 10 to 1. On 1:*

*SPFX – EXPLOSION FROM OVEN – DOOR FLIES OPEN AND THERE IS A PERFECT BIRTHDAY CAKE COMPLETE WITH BURNING CANDLES. SIMON brings cake down to M. GOOSE.*

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Let's all sing the song – maestro.

MUSIC – HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*IF no birthday person in house, we sing to PRISCILLA.. IF there IS A BIRTHDAY PERSON at this point MOTHER GOOSE encourages them to blow out the candles. Then MARY MARY takes the person back to their seat after the song.*

**MOTHER GOOSE**

Give (child's name) a nice round of applause everybody. That's it. Now, back to baking.

*THEY busy themselves, with MASTER T & DEE attempting to creep out as the FRONTCLOTH comes in.*

PantoScripts Perusal

#### **SCENE 4 – FRONTCLOTH**

Enter SQUIRE Grabham checking his pocket watch.

**SQUIRE Grabham** They should just about be reaching the Haunted Cave with my golden goose.

GEORGIE PORGIE enters.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Georgie - what're you doing here? I thought you had a welding class. Or was it extreme wool-gathering?

**GEORGIE PORGIE** The sheep were on holiday so I've decided to spend the day with you papaa. It's time we had some quality father and son time together.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Yes, but not today. I have pressing business.....

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Oh, do we do laundry too ?

**SQUIRE Grabham** *(indicates audience)* They didn't laugh the first time. No, there's somewhere I have to be and it's not suitable for a young lad like yourself.

**GEORGIE PORGIE** Dadyyy! - are you going to *(disreputable local pub or club)*??

**SQUIRE Grabham** No.....

SPFX FLASHPOT

Enter DEMON KING

**DEMON KING** *(to GEORGIE)* BOO!

GEORGIE PORGIE runs off.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Oh yes - and who are you?

**DEMON KING** Dude - I am SO the Demon King!!!! *(enthusiastic air guitar)*

**SQUIRE Grabham** And.....?

**DEMON KING** I bring news most heinous. Your helper doods didn't get the goose.

**SQUIRE Grabham** What? Those imbeciles! It was all so simple: Get me the goose, bring me the goose, she lays an egg - I'm happy. But now? I'm very unhappy.

**DEMON KING** WHOA - bogus.

**SQUIRE Grabham** What exactly do you want?

**DEMON KING** Well I truly believe *you* should get the bird.....

**SQUIRE Grabham** *(to audience)* Don't you dare say a word.

**DEMON KING** .....so I'm gonna help you kidnap Priscilla.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Impossible. Wherever she goes Mother Goose is with her - and vice versa.

**DEMON KING** *(a la GROUCHO)* Forget the versa, let's work on the vice *(reverts)*. But dood, be not downhearted. I can totally extricate Mother Goose from the action.

**SQUIRE Grabham** Oh yeah? And what about Elmer Fudd??

**DEMON KING** Who?

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** is Lordship if-it-moves-I'm-gonna-shoot-it Luvverduck. He's after Priscilla. He wants to stalk her, stuff her and stick her in his courtyard.

**DEMON KING** No way!

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Way.

**DEMON KING** Whoa! Then I'll take him out as well.

**SQUIRE GRABHAM** Why? Why do you want to help me?

**DEMON KING** Because you are a most outstandingly excellent bad-dood. Besides, if I help you - I'll catch you later: Literally! Ha ha ha ha. *(Grabham joins in laugh - albeit a little uncertainly. Demon stops laughing..)* Off you go. Bye bye now! *(when he doesn't move..)* Take off, eh...

*SQUIRE Grabham exits doing his somewhat uncertain nasty laugh: DEMON KING joins in, but he's just nasty.*

**DEMON KING** So audience dudes - check this out. Mother Goose totally thinks she's a most egregiously non-bodacious babe! That's non-pretty for you audience-doods. So I'll bring her to the amazing Fountain of Beauty which is situated deep in the Enchanted Forest and while I keep her busy there Priscilla will be alone and defenceless. Then after Ma Goose has visited the Fountain - well, she just won't care anymore. And Lord Luvverduck? I'm gonna mess with his mind so he won't know which way to turn. Dude - I am so evil! *(air guitar)* Ah ha ha ha

EXITS

Enter SIMPLE SIMON