

Updated 30 May 2026

Three Villages Pantomime Company
is pleased to present:

Mother Goose

First Performance Wednesday 20th January 2027
Evening Performance Thursday 21st January 2027
Evening Performance Friday 22nd January 2027
Matinee Performance Saturday 23rd January 2027
Evening Performance Saturday 23rd January 2027

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Character List

Gertie1	Kind Gertie Goose	Pip	Pip the Sweep
Gertie2	Vain Gertie Goose	Villager1	Bald Villager
Billy	Billy Goose	Villager2	Villager with bad teeth
Tilly	Tilly Tangles	Villager3	Villager with a flat bum
Squire	Squire Cedric Blackheart	Honkers	Honkers McFlap - The Goose
Snitch	Snitchy McSpleen	Minions	Squire's minions
Dark	Dark Feather	Sign Holder	
Light	Light Feather		
Jolli	Basil Jollibottom, the Butler		
Bridges	Mrs Bridges, the Housekeeper		
Rita	Rita Rollers		
Fiona	Fiona Frizz		
Dolly	Dolly Wobble		
Mickey	Mickey Muscles		
Betty	Betty Botox		
Cheryl	Cheryl Spraytan		
Sandra	Sandra Slimfast		
Chantal	Chantal, the Saturday girl		

1 ACT ONE: The Downfall of Mother Goose

2 Scene 1: Mother Goose's Hairdressers on Christmas Eve

3 CHRISTMAS MUSIC PLAYS, WITH SOUNDS OF HAIRDRIERS IN THE BACKGROUND

4 SET AND SCENE DIRECTIONS – INCLUDES A DRYER

5 CHARACTERS: GERTIE; BILLY; TILLY TANGLES; SQUIRE BLACKHEART; SNITCHY MCSPLEEN; RITA ROLLERS; FIONA FRIZZ

6 SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE, BILLY, TILLY AND RITA ROLLERS ON STAGE.

7 BILLY IS BRUSHING THE FLOOR, TILLY IS LOOKING THROUGH THE APPOINTMENTS BOOK, AND RITA IS SITTING
8 IN HAIRDRESSERS CHAIR GOSSIPING WHILE HAVING THE LAST OF HER ROLLERS PUT IN HER HAIR BY GERTIE.

9 Rita I'm telling you now Gertie, I was there in the room with 'em both, she said 'once they
10 got married he went from rampant to stagnant practically overnight'

11 Gertie1 Oh no... Rita I can't believe that she said that, and her convent educated too.

12 Rita Oh, you are funny Gertie, I was educated by Nuns, and let me tell you, they taught me
13 all the best swear words I know, and they taught me how to roll my own ciggies... Ooh
14 those were the days.

15 Gertie1 Well, I never, I've clearly lived a sheltered life Rita. Right, that's you done love, lets pop
16 you under the drier.

17 PUTS RITA UNDER THE DRIER

18 Tilly She's a proper gossip that one isn't she?

19 Gertie1 Oh, she certainly is, if gossip were electricity she could power the entire village.

20 Tilly (STUDYING THE APPOINTMENT BOOK) Gertie, I'm worried about the business, we don't
21 seem to have many appointments in the diary this week.

22 Gertie1 No love, you know that most of our customers don't like to make appointments, they
23 just like to pop in and stay a few hours for a natter.

- 24 Billy And why is that mother? As if we didn't know!
- 25 Gertie1 Well, a lot of them are lonely of course, they just want to pop in when they're passing. I
26 like to have a little chat about their hair and spruce them up a bit, maybe a shampoo
27 and set, and then we all have a nice cup of tea.
- 28 Tilly Oh Gertie, you're too kind for your own good. We should at least charge them what
29 they can afford.
- 30 Billy Tilly's right Ma, we can't carry on like this, I don't think you realise how poor we are,
31 *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE LOOKING SAD)* we're so poor!
- 32 Audience Awwwww
- 33 Billy Oh c'mon, we're much poorer than that! *(ENCOURAGING AUDIENCE TO RESPOND WITH A
34 MUCH LOUDER AWWWWW).*
- 35 Audience Awwwww
- 36 Billy *(TURNS BACK TO GERTIE)* we can't even afford a turkey for Christmas dinner this year. All
37 we've got in the pantry is a big tin of spam, and I think that's older than me! Ma, you're
38 gonna have to learn to toughen up.
- 39 Gertie1 I know... It's just so hard when all I want to do is make everyone look beautiful,
40 especially those who can't afford it.
- 41 *RITA SUDDENLY POPS HER HEAD OUT FROM UNDER THE DRIER*
- 42 Rita I don't wish to complain, but there's a terrible smell of burning coming from this drier! I
43 came in for a perm, not a cremation!
- 44 Tilly *(SNIFFING THE AIR)* It does smell a bit!
- 45 Gertie1 Oh, you're fine, Rita, it's probably just the chemicals in the perm solution, I'll let you
46 know when you're ready
- 47 Billy D'you want to be rare, medium or well done!
- 48 *RITA GLARES AT BILLY SHAKES HER HEAD THEN POPS HER HEAD BACK UNDER THE DRIER*

49 Tilly *(LIGHTLY PUNCHING BILLY'S ARM)* Oh Billy, you're so naughty. He's right about one thing
50 though Gertie, I just don't know how you can make any money if you continue to be so
51 generous and kind to the customers. You're generous to the point of bankruptcy you
52 are! Although, I can't complain, I'm still ever so grateful for you rescuing me from the
53 orphanage and giving me a home, it was so kind!

54 Gertie1 Oh, Tilly love, not everything is about money. Kindness is like glitter, you sprinkle it
55 around, and suddenly everyone's shiny and lovely!

56 Billy *(SWEEPING THE FLOOR)* ...and it's a pain in the bum to clean up !

57 Gertie1 Come on now you two, stop worrying. We've got each other we've got Christmas spirit
58 and we're surrounded by beautiful people. Everything else will sort itself out. It always
59 does. *(GOES OVER TO TAKE RITA FROM UNDER THE DRIER)* That's you done Rita, a bit of
60 backcombing and you'll look 20 years younger.

61 Rita Aw, thanks Gertie, I don't worry too much about looking good at my age, beauty fades
62 love, *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)* but sarcasm, now that lasts forever.

63 Gertie1 *(FINISHING RITA'S HAIR)* There you go love, I've put plenty of hairspray on it, so keep
64 away from naked flames.

65 Rita I try to avoid anything naked & hot at my age... Mind you, if it's tall dark and breathing I
66 make no promises! Toodle-oo!

67 *RITA EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

68 *SQUIRE & SNITCH ASSEMBLE AT BACK OF HALL AND START DISCUSSING (SILENTLY) THEIR PLANS*

69 Billy Oh, no, that's all we need. Look who's slithering across the village green! It's that
70 villainous landlord of ours, Squire Blackheart, and that awful brown nose Snitchy
71 McSpleen – what a vile little human he is.

72 Tilly They're always up to no good those two, I caught them last week standing outside the
73 salon staring into space and muttering something about Development!!

74 *SQUIRE AND SNITCH BEGIN WALKING DOWN THE AISLE FOLLOWED BY THEIR MINIONS*

75 Gertie: Development... What sort of development... Highlights, lowlights, a badly cut fringe.

76 Billy Well, it certainly wouldn't be personal development that's for sure! I think they're both
77 beyond help in that department.

78 *SQUIRE AND SNITCH REACH THE STAGE*

79 Squire Ah! There you all are! Old Mother Goose! Goose Junior! And... *(LOOKS AT TILLY)* the
80 slightly more competent one.

81 Tilly Thank you. I think.

82 Billy There is no need to come in here all mob handed you now, bringing all your minions
83 with you.

84 Squire Now listen carefully, you Goose-brained simpleton. Your rent is overdue... by *quite*
85 some margin. In fact, *(GLANCING AT SNITCH)*, how long is it, McSpleen?

86 *MINION HANDS SNITCH A SCROLL THAT HE UNRAVELS ACROSS THE FLOOR*

87 Snitch Eight hours, three minutes, and... er... a smudge. *(SHOWS TO THE MINIONS AND SAYS)*
88 Does that say Tuesday, or is it just gravy?

89 *MINIONS GATHER AROUND AND START CHATTERING*

90 Squire Silence minions! *(MINIONS STAND IN A LINE TO ATTENTION)* Unless I receive full payment
91 *immediately*, I shall have no choice but to evict you!

92 Billy But Squire Sir, it's Christmas! Can't you give Mum a bit more time?

93 *MINIONS NODDING IN AGREEMENT*

94 Snitch We don't *do* time extensions, sir. Bad for business. Bad for our plan. Very bad.

95 Squire Quiet, Snitch! *(TURNING TO THE OTHERS, SMOOTHING HIMSELF)* I am a man of rules.
96 Regulations. Rent schedules! *(ASIDE TO SNITCH, NOT VERY QUIETLY)* and once this
97 hairdressing salon is gone, the land is mine... *(CATCHES HIMSELF)* *I mean*, the land will be
98 free for... er... agricultural improvement!

99 Tilly You mean the "mysterious development" you were whispering about last week

100 Snitch She heard! She *knows*! Burn the plans! Eat the evidence!

- 101 Squire Calm down McSpleen! Don't make me slap you! (*MINIONS ALL COWER & GASP*) (*TO*
102 *GERTIE*) Just remember, pay up by Christmas Day... or pack up by Boxing Day!
- 103 Gertie1 Well, we'll try our very, very best.
- 104 Billy We really will, sir!
- 105 Tilly But you'll get no kindness points for bullying good people.
- 106 Squire Kindness doesn't pay the bills, (*STRIKES A VILLAINOUS POSE*) and I've always done very
107 well without it!
- 108 Snitch Oh me too... I had a terrible childhood, my parents only ever showed cruelty, and my
109 nanny used to beat me... and look how well I turned out!
- 110 Squire (*LOOKING ASKANCE AT SNITCH AND SHAKING HIS HEAD*) Well that explains a lot! Come,
111 McSpleen let us make our exit!
- 112 *SQUIRE & SNITCH EXITS STAGE DRAMATICALLY VIA AISLE*
- 113 Tilly (*IF AUDIENCE DO'T BOOK INSTINCTIVELY*) Well! Now you've met Squire Blackheart,
114 everyone. And what do we think of him, I think he deserves a boo?
- 115 *TILLY ENCOURAGES AUDIENCE RESPONSE: BOO!*
- 116 Audience Boo!
- 117 Billy Come on! Give us a louder BOOOO!pretend he's just cancelled Christmas and nicked
118 yer telly!
- 119 Audience Boooo!
- 120 Billy Right! So, whenever you see that mean old Squire again, what are you going to do?
- 121 Audience BOOOO!
- 122 Tilly Exactly! Good work, team. Now—let's see if we can come up with a plan to save the
123 day.

124 Gertie1 Ooh, I like the sound of that Tilly, but first we must get everything ready for Christmas. I
125 can already smell the festive cheer!

126 *GERTIE SNIFFS THEATRICALY*

127 Tilly Ah! that's probably Billy's socks, when were they last washed?.

128 Billy They're *my Christmas socks Tilly*; I wear them every year for a few days then put them
129 back in the drawer till next year I think they smell like... winter.

130 Tilly Mmm... a very *harsh* winter.

131 Billy Cheeky... c'mon let's go and have a look at the salon accounts and see if we can find
132 some money for the rent.

133 *BILLY AND TILLY GO BEHIND THE CUBE*

134 *FIONA FRIZZ ENTERS THE STAGE VIA VESTRY*

135 Fiona Cooeee! I'm here for me pre-Christmas spruce-up!

136 Gertie1 Nice to see you Fiona! Sit yourself here and we'll get started. Now then, tell me all your
137 news, how's your new Fat Club doing love? Have you got many members?

138 Fiona Ooh yes, it's doing really well thanks Gertie, I've got about 20 members now.

139 Gertie1 Wow 20 members I bet they've lost a lot of weight between them all.

140 Fiona Well not really only two or three of them get weighed each week the rest just come for
141 a free cuppa and the gossip. Still, I'm doing alright though I lost four last week.

142 Gertie1 4lbs in a week that's amazing Fiona.

143 Fiona Oh no Gertie, 4 ounces love! It's the most I've lost in months I was so chuffed I
144 celebrated with a fig roll

145 Gertie1 Well at least the scales are moving in the right direction... I must say I'm not looking
146 forward to getting on those scales tonight when I join Fat Club!

147 Fiona Fear not, we always have smelling salts at the ready!

- 148 Gertie1 I'm very big boned you see... and I do retain water, and cake! In fact, mainly cake!
- 149 Fiona You'll be fine, we'll keep the lights low and just don't look down!
- 150 Gertie1 See in my day you didn't get weighed, you just wore elasticated waistbands, and if they
151 snapped you just blamed the washing machine.
- 152 Fiona You and me both! It's really good of you to let us hold Fat club here in the salon Gertie,
153 with all the new members It was starting to get a bit crowded in my garage.
- 154 Gertie1 Oh you're welcome Fiona, you know me, always happy to help out when I can. So, love
155 is your Dave back from Uni for Christmas?
- 156 Fiona Oh, don't mention Christmas – Dave's got himself a new girlfriend and they have gone
157 to her parents, he's left me, his poor old mum to sit at home on her own on Christmas
158 day. I mean, talk about gratitude.
- 159 *BILLY AND TILLY COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE CUBE CARRYING LEDGER WHICH THEY PUT ON THE*
160 *RECEPTION DESK AND LEAN OVER TO HAVE A LOOK AT*
- 161 Gertie1 Oh no, how ungrateful. But what about your Kenneth, haven't they let him out yet?
- 162 Fiona No, he got his sentence extended.
- 163 Tilly Oh Fiona! I heard about that, I'm so sorry
- 164 Billy Yes, who knew that 'Buy one, get one free' is not a legal defence!
- 165 Gertie1 Well, it'll just be the three of us this year. Me, Billy, and Tilly, you're welcome to join us.
- 166 Billy Making my special Christmas lunch! *(SPOKEN IN A FRENCH ACCENT WITH A FLOURISH OF*
167 *THE HAND)* Spam a la cordon bleu, cooked the traditional French way... Straight from the
168 tin and pan-fried until it looks appetising and expensive. Although, I might try stuffing it
169 this year, to see if it'll go a bit further
- 170 Fiona *(SHAKING HER HEAD)* Gertie, that is so kind. Honestly, you are the beating heart of this
171 whole village. But I couldn't, honestly, I feel like I'd be imposing.
- 172 Gertie1 Don't be daft, we can't have you sitting at home on your own when we're just down the
173 road, can we.

- 174 Fiona *(SUDDENLY CHANGING HER TONE AND ACCEPTING THE OFFER)* Well, when you put it like
175 that, how could I refuse. Of course, I'm not the only one who'll be on their own
176 tomorrow, Cheryl Spraytan is on her own.
- 177 Gertie1 Aww, better invite her too.
- 178 Fiona Will do! *(BEGINS HEADING TO VESTRY DOOR, THEN SPINS BACK)* Oh, I nearly forgot about
179 Kev Kebabs? His wife's gone on a Yoga Retreat with Trevor's wife, leaving him with a
180 vegan microwave curry.
- 181 Gertie1 Oh, they HAVE to come... There's only one thing worse than microwave Curry for
182 Christmas dinner, and that's VEGAN microwave curry *(SHUDDERS)*
- 183 Tilly Erm, Fiona... that's a lot of extra people. You're in danger of overstressing Gertie's
184 good nature here. *(SARCASTICALLY)* Why don't you just invite the whole village?
- 185 Fiona Oh, that's ever so kind. Well just a few more then *(COUNTS ON FINGERS)* There's Dolly
186 Wobble, Rita Rollers, Sandra Slimfast, Mickey Muscles, ooh and Glenys from the Post
187 Office, and her lovely sister... Err what's her name again ...
- 188 Billy Fiona, I think that's more than enough!
- 189 *FIONA STARTS TO EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*
- 190 Fiona Right you are...! I'll go and tell everyone BYEEEE!
- 191 *FIONA LEAVES STAGE VIA VESTRY*
- 192 Gertie1 Oh, bless her. Such a thoughtful girl. She's always thinking of others. *(PAUSES)* Tilly,
193 love... were you keeping count there?
- 194 Tilly: I reckon we're up to about twenty people, but I wouldn't be surprised to find another
195 10 waifs and strays looking for a free lunch! So, I'd plan for forty.
- 196 Billy Forty?! Mum! Our Christmas dinner was supposed to be a large tin of spam, some sage
197 & onion stuffing and a family size bag of sprouts!
- 198 Gertie1 Oh, not to worry, Billy! We'll get it sorted; we always do! Sounds like we need a plan!
- 199 Tilly We're going to need more than a tin of spam, that's for sure.

200 Billy A Christmas hamper from Harrods couldn't even feed that lot!!!

201 Gertie1 Nonsense! Christmas is about generosity! Love! Community! *(PAUSES, THEN TO*
202 *AUDIENCE)* Although I've no idea how I'm gonna stretch a small tin of spam to serve
203 forty people do you?

204 Tilly Oh, that's easy... you just pray that 39 of them are vegetarian.

205 Billy Thank goodness we've got plenty of sprouts!

206 Gertie1 Oh. This is ridiculous we just need to get a big fat goose from the butchers! I'm sure we
207 can find enough money in the tips jar

208 *GERTIE WALKS OVER TO THE TILL AND OPENS IT AND TAKES OUT A TIN.*

209 **KERCHING**

210 *SHE REACHES INTO THE TIN AND THEN STARTS TO HESITATE, BUT THEN SUDDENLY GETS LOTS OF*
211 *CONFIDENCE IN HER TONE*

212 Gertie1 Let's see what we've got in here... ooh, a 50 pence piece, that's a good start... and a 10
213 pence piece, and... yes! *(HOLDING UP A NOTE TRIUMPHANTLY)* a 100 Drachma note! That's
214 gotta be worth something!

215 Tilly Not since Greece joined the Euro...!

216 Gertie1 Oh, how very disappointing! *(TURNING TO AUDIENCE)* I never trusted the Greeks, I mean,
217 who stuffs a vine leaf and calls it food! *(TURNING BACK)* Well... I'm sure Mr Bacon the
218 Butcher will have something we can afford!

219 *GERTIE GIVES THE CONTENTS FROM THE TIN TO BILLY*

220 Gertie1 Go on Billy, off you go now, we'll need to get it plucked and into the oven pronto if
221 we're to get it properly cooked for lunch tomorrow.

222 Billy God knows what we'll end up with.....wish me luck!

223 *BILLY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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224 Gertie1 C'mon Tilly, let's get this place tidied up, we're going to need some trestle tables to
225 make room for everyone

226 Tilly *(ROLLING HER EYES)*. Oh, Gertie, you really are too kind

227 Gertie1 Thank you dear, what a lovely thing to say.

228 Tilly No, I mean, you're too kind!

229 *STAGE GOES DARK AND SCENE ENDS*

230 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: MONEY'S TOO TIGHT TO MENTION**

Scene 2: Village Green

SET AND SCENE DIRECTIONS - ???

CHARACTERS: LIGHT; DARK; BILLY; HONKERS

SCENE OPENS WITH LIGHT AND DARK CHATTING

5 Dark So, Light feather, are you trying to tell me that you believe that goodness and kindness
6 will always triumph over selfishness and greed?

7 Light Yes, Dark feather that's exactly what I believe. I think that's why the world is full of
8 kindness and generosity.

9 Dark Good heavens I sometimes wonder how we could be siblings, you're so ridiculously
10 naïve. Even the loveliest human can be turned into someone selfish and vain under the
11 right circumstances.

12 Light We're just both sides of the same coin Dark feather, but you just don't understand
13 human nature. Most people are born kind and full of goodness and nothing you do will
14 change that.

15 Dark Do you want to bet on it?

16 Light What do you mean bet on it?

17 Dark Let's you and I have a little wager. We'll find a kind and selfless human and I will set
18 about changing their circumstances to turn him or her into a vain and selfish one of
19 their kind. If I succeed then you must bow down and accept that I am the more
20 intelligent sibling and you are completely and utterly wrong in your assessment of
21 human kindness.

22 Light Shush... Someone's coming.

23 *LIGHT AND DARK HIDE ON THE PLATFORM ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STAGE AS THEY HEAR BILLY COMING*
24 *ALONG, LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER – LIGHTING REMAINS ON THEM, BUT LOW SO AS NOT TO DRAW*
25 *THE FOCUS AWAY FROM THE MAIN STAGE. THEY OBSERVE.*

26 *BILLY BEGINS TALKING AT THE BACK OF THE HALL AND SLOWLY WALKS DOWN THE AISLE AND ONTO THE*
27 *STAGE*

28 Billy (TO HIMSELF) Well, that's that then, who knew the butcher wouldn't be tempted by a
29 hundred Drachma. Ah... At least it gave him something to laugh about as he threw me
30 out of the shop.

31 *BILLY NOTICES THE AUDIENCE*

32 Billy (TO AUDIENCE) Oh, hello... sorry, didn't see you there... Listen to me, talking to myself
33 like I've lost my marbles! My bloomin' mum, Gertie Goose, has gone and invited half the
34 village for Christmas dinner and all we've got to feed them is a large tin of spam. Mind
35 you, she's like that, my mum, she hasn't got a selfish bone in her body. Oh, what are we
36 going to do?

37 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON BILLY*

38 *LIGHTS GO UP ON THE FAIRIES*

39 Dark Well, well, this human's mother sounds like the perfect subject to demonstrate my
40 point. This woman sounds too good to be true.

41 Light She sounds lovely and filled to the brim with human kindness

42 Dark Which makes it even more fun! I will turn this woman into a selfish vain character. It'll
43 be like taking candy from a baby.

44 Light You're on Dark Feather, I accept your wager this will be such fun to see you fail, this is
45 so exciting! what are the rules.

46 Dark I will find a way to cast a spell which will turn this Gertie woman around, but once my
47 spell is cast you will not interfere and must let it run its course.

48 Light OK I agree to those conditions because I am convinced good humans, like her can't be
49 turned.

50 Dark You're such a foolish optimist Light Feather, I can't wait to prove you wrong. This will be
51 the most fun we've had in ages.

52 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON FAIRIES*

53 *LIGHTS GO UP ON BILLY*

54 Billy Right, I need a bird! any old bird will do (*LOOKS INTO THE AUDIENCE*), ooh, not you love,
55 it'd take more than a bit of stuffing and some gravy to make you look appealing! On
56 second thoughts maybe not ANY old bird. If you see any wild birds or anything that
57 would do for Christmas dinner will you shout up and let me know.

58 *HONKERS MCFLAP ENTERS THE STAGE FROM VESTRY – UNSEEN BY BILLY – AND SOME VISUAL HUMOUR*

59 AUD Behind you!

60 *BILLY LOOKS AROUND INEFFECTUALLY, LOOKING EVERYWHERE BUT IN THE DIRECTION OF HONKERS MCFLAP*

61 Billy Where, I can't see anything

62 AUD It's behind you!

63 *BILLY FINALLY TURNS AROUND AND SEES HONKERS MCFLAP THEN SOME RUNNING AROUND STAGE ENSUES*
64 *FINALLY CATCHING THE GOOSE*

65 **BENNY HILL THEME**

66 Billy Oh, I can't wait to see mum's face when I turn up with this goose she'll be absolutely
67 speechless. (*TO HONERS*) C'mon, I need to introduce you to Mr Sage & Mr Onion, that'll
68 make your eyes water!

69 *BILLY & HONKERS EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

70 *LIGHT GO UP ON FAIRIES*

71 Dark (*GLEEFULLY*) Yes! Yes, I've got it! What a perfect opportunity. I will cast a spell so that
72 this goose will bring riches to Gertie by laying golden eggs, then watch how she changes
73 into a selfish greedy person.

74 *DARK FEATHER CASTS HIS SPELL*

75 **TWINKLY SOUNDS AND SPELL CASTING MUSIC**

76 Dark The deed is done Light Feather; may the best MAN win.

77 *HIDES BEHIND PEDASTAL CURTAIN WHILST CHUCKLING*

Scene 3: Mother Goose's Hairdressers later on Christmas Eve

OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS

CHARACTERS: GERTIE1; DOLLY WOBBLE, BETTY BOTOX, SANDRA SLIMFAST, CHERYL SPRAYTAN, RITA ROLLERS, AND MICKEY MUSCLES

SCENE OPENS WITH FAT CLUB TAKING PLACE IN SALON.

ON STAGE: GERTIE, BETTY BOTOX, SANDRA SLIMFAST, CHERYL SPRAYTAN, & RITA ROLLERS

BEHIND CUBE: TILLY

ENTER FIONA FROM VESTRY, DRAGGING A COMICALLY LARGE SET OF SCALES THE WOMEN EYE IT UP SUSPICIOUSLY

10 Fiona Right ladies, c'mon it's Christmas Eve, I'm sure we've all got somewhere else we'd
11 rather be... shoes off and jump on the scales

12 All Noooo!

13 Betty I'm not getting weighed this week, I prefer to live in denial.

14 Rita Me neither... Those scales are more critical than my ex-husband, and he made Simon
15 Cowel look like a pussycat!

16 Fiona But you all promised this week you would stick to the plan religiously.

17 Cheryl We did!

18 Fiona And what happened???

19 Cheryl Oh we prayed a lot... but still got fatter.

20 Rita Oh let's face it girls... At our age food is better than a man.

21 Cheryl Hey you... Speak for yourself.

22 Rita I am... cake does NOT disappoint, does NOT snore, and I never met a Jam doughnut that
23 answered me back!

- 24 Betty That's true Rita, and a vanilla slice lasts longer than 2 minutes !
- 25 *MICKY COMES IN FROM VESTRY, JOGGING ON THE SPOT & FLEXING HIS MUSCLES.*
- 26 Mickey Good evening ladies have all of you done your exercises this week?
- 27 Betty *(RAISES HER HAND, AND SIDLES SEDUCTIVELY UP TO MICKY)* Ooh I have Micky.
- 28 Rita You have not!
- 29 Betty *(STROKING MICKY'S ARM MUSCLES)* I have Micky, honest!
- 30 Cheryl What exercises have you done?
- 31 Betty Does lifting biscuits out of the tin repeatedly and shoving them into your mouth count
32 as weightlifting *(FLUTTERING HER EYELASHES AT MICKY)*
- 33 Mickey No Betty! *(SHRUGGING HER OFF)* It does not!
- 34 Cheryl *(TO BETTY)* Told ya!
- 35 Micky Cheryl you can't talk, the amount of Fast Food you eat.
- 36 Rita What does 'fast food' actually mean?
- 37 Cheryl it means scoffing it before anyone notices you're eating it!
- 38 Gertie1 Ooh That can't be good for you, love.
- 39 Cheryl Well at the very least it confuses my Fitbit.
- 40 Mickey Ladies how many times do I have to tell you... you need to move more, and eat less,
41 metabolism slows down with age you know.
- 42 Gertie1 Oh bugger... *(RUBBING HER AMPLE BELLY)* I thought you said EAT more and MOVE less. I
43 don't think I'm gonna lose weight this week!
- 44 Rita Gertie, you haven't lost weight since 1978, when you did the Cabbage soup diet to fit
45 into that dress for the school disco!

- 46 Sandra Well, I'm convinced the only way to shift my weight is to get on a plane to Africa.
- 47 All Africa?
- 48 Sandra Yes it seems climbing that mountain in Africa is the secret to weight loss
- 49 Betty What Mountain in Africa?
- 50 Sandra Kilimanjaro!
- 51 Micky Oh, for God's sake you mean Mounjaro, you daft bat?
- 52 Gertie1 Well it doesn't matter what the mountain's called... let's face it girls if we can't be
53 bothered doing the simple exercises that Micky gives us each week, I don't think we've
54 got a cat in Hell's chance of climbing a mountain in Africa!
- 55 Micky Ladies! Ladies! Remember, keeping fit is what counts, size doesn't really matter.
- 56 Rita Mmmm?! Tell that to my knickers they've practically surrendered under the pressure.
- 57 Micky Well as it's Christmas, I'll let you off for one week then back to it! Remember ladies you
58 have your girl's trip to Magaluf in May we need to get you bikini ready.
- 59 Betty I don't need to be bikini ready... I just need the Spanish men to lower their
60 expectations!
- 61 Fiona Come on girls, time to go and let Gertie prepare for tomorrow's Christmas celebrations.
- 62 Sandra Ooh yes, if we hurry the chippy might still be open! we could grab some fish bits and
63 then pop into the Royal Oak for a couple of port and lemons!
- 64 Rita You know... I've often wondered which part of the fish the 'Fish Bits' come from.
- 65 Fiona Best not to ask Rita love!
- 66 *ALL EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY GIGGLING*
- 67 *TILLY STEPS OPUT FROM BEHIND THE CUBE.*
- 68 Tilly Have all your fat club friends gone Gertie?

- 69 Gertie1 Yes love... oh they do make me laugh!
- 70 *BILLY WALKS UP THE AISLE DRAGGING A GOOSE ON A LEAD*
- 71 Billy Ma, you won't believe what I've found us for Christmas dinner... all our problems are
72 over.
- 73 Tilly *(POINTING TO GOOSE)* Is that...
- 74 Billy ...Yes *(EXCITEDLY)*
- 75 Tilly but doesn't it need ... *(GESTURES PLUCKING THE FEATHERS OUT)*
- 76 Billy ...Yes... *(LESS EXCITED)*
- 77 Gertie More to the point doesn't it need *(GESTURES SLITTING THE THROAT)*
- 78 Billy Well ...Yes... *(DEJECTEDLY)*
- 79 Gertie1 Oh thank you Billy, you are a love, but there's no way any of us is going to pluck, pick,
80 prep and properly stuff that plump bird now is there. *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)* You try
81 saying that 4 nights a week, it's a disaster waiting to happen, I don't know what the
82 writers were thinking!
- 83 Billy But if we don't eat it... what are we going to do with it?
- 84 Gertie1 I'll put her in the bath overnight and we'll think of something tomorrow.
- 85 Billy But Ma, what are we going to do about Christmas dinner?
- 86 Gertie1 We'll manage love, we always do.
- 87 *GERTIE EXITS VIA VESTRY, TAKING HONKERS WITH HER*
- 88 Tilly *(STARING AT BILLY ADORINGLY)* Billy you did so well to find the Goose! Not every man
89 could go out into the wilderness and find food like you did.
- 90 Billy It was quite easy to be honest Tilly, the goose practically found me.
- 91 Tilly Well I think you're amazing *(LOVED UP)*.

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92 Billy Well let's see how amazing you think I am tomorrow when all you've got to eat for
93 Christmas dinner is Spam and sprouts!

94 Tilly Don't forget the Sage & onion stuffing too! C'mon (*LINKS ARMS WITH BILLY*) let's call it a
95 night and lock up.

96 *BILLY & TILLY EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

97 *SIGN – "IN THE MIDDLE OF CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT SOMEHWERE IN THE MOTHER GOOSE'S FLAT"*

98 *HONKERS RETURNS TO STAGE AND IS PICKED UP BY SPOTLIGHT – IT'S THE MIDDLE OF NIGHT*

99 *HONKERS STARTS TO MOVE AROUND THE STAGE A BIT AND THEN STARTS SQUATTING AND MAKING A*
100 *STRAINING HONK NOISE. A VERY LARGE, GOLDEN EGG FALLS TO THE FLOOR.*

101 **CLANG**

102 *HONKERS DOES A SURPRISED HONK NOISE.*

103 *LIGHTS GO OFF, HONKERS LEAVES STAGE VIA VESTRY (TAKING EGG WITH HER)*

104 *SIGN: "CHRISTMAS MORNING"*

105 *LIGHTS GO UP*

106 *GERTIE & TILLY ENTER STAGE VIA VESTRY, IN DRESSING GOWNS*

107 *GERTIE HUGS TILLY*

108 Gertie1 Merry Christmas Tilly

109 Tilly And to you Gertie

110 *BILLY HURRIES ON TO STAGE FROM VESTRY*

111 Billy You'll never guess what's happened in the night, mum!

112 Gertie1 Was a baby born in next door's stable?

113 Billy Very funny...

- 114 Tilly Did 3 Kings from the Orient turn up?
- 115 Billy You two are a pair of comedians this morning! No... Honkers laid an egg!
- 116 Ger & Til HONKERS?
- 117 Billy Yes, I've decided if we're keeping the goose we may as well give her a name, so I've
118 chosen Honkers McFlap!
- 119 Gertie1 *(TO AUDIENCE)* I do sometimes wonder what sort of websites he visits!
- 120 Tilly *(BEAMING UP AT BILLY)* Oh I think that's a wonderful name Billy, you are so clever!
- 121 Gertie1 *(SHAKING HER HEAD)* Well at least we'll have eggs for breakfast this Christmas morning.
- 122 Tilly You sit down Gertie; Billy and I will make breakfast.
- 123 Billy I'll fetch the egg.
- 124 *BILLY DASHES OFF STAGE VIA VESTRY AND RETURNS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY CARRYING AN ENORMOUS EGG*
- 125 **SOUND FROM OFF STAGE – HONKERS STRESSED ABOUT EGG BEING STOLEN**
- 126 Billy Well this is the weirdest looking egg I've ever seen!
- 127 Tilly It's a very strange colour Billy. It looks like an Easter Egg, but it's Christmas day! Mind
128 you, they sell them crème eggs all year now...
- 129 Gertie1 Well at least it's big enough to feed us all, it'll make an enormous omelette.
- 130 Billy Its as hard as iron, if i didn't know better I'd swear it was solid gold!
- 131 *TILLY TAPS IT WITH A WOODEN SPOON*
- 132 **CLANGING NOISE LIKE A BELL BEING STRUCK**
- 133 Tilly Wow, it certainly sounds as though it's made of metal Billy, but how could something so
134 big and metallic have come out of Honker's little bum?
- 135 Gertie1 *(LAUGHING)* Birds don't lay eggs from their bum.

136 Billy *(LAUGHING)* Oh Tilly you are funny.

137 Tilly *(TO BILLY)* Well where do they come from?

138 Billy *(HE HAS NO CLUE WHERE EGGS COME FROM)* Errr... Ma, tell Tilly where eggs come from.

139 Gertie1 Everyone knows that... Aldi... Or Waitrose if you want the really posh ones... now come
140 on let's have a closer look at this egg!

141 *THEY ALL PROD, POKE AND BASH THE EGG*

142 Billy Good grief... I think it really is made of Gold... solid Gold! Wow, can you imagine how
143 much this egg is worth.

144 Gertie1 Let's take it to Mr Percy's Pawn Palace and see what he thinks it's worth. *(TURNS TO*
145 *AUDIENCE)* I know, it's a terrible name for a pawn shop, but it was the best that ChatGPT
146 could come up with!

147 *MEANWHILE HONKERS STARTS MAKING A RACKET AGAIN AND LAYS ANOTHER GOLDEN EGG WITH A*
148 *FLOURISH. SHAKING HIS TAIL FEATHERS.*

149 *BILLY HOLDS IT UP FOR ALL TO SEE.*

150 Tilly Wow, Honkers has laid another golden egg.

151 Gertie1 *(BENDS OVER TO LIFT UP THE FEATHERS AT THE BACK END OF THE GOOSE AND PEERS AT*
152 *HONKER'S REAR END)* Good heavens... how many more are up there I wonder.

153 Tilly That's incredible

154 Gertie1 It certainly is Tilly. Oh my, our fortunes may have just changed for the better. Think
155 what we could do with the money... I could pay off my debts, then have a big party and
156 invite the whole village. How wonderful would that be.

157 Billy C'mon, let's go and get these eggs valued before everyone arrives for Christmas dinner,
158 and maybe we can get something from Mr Bacon for us all to eat.

159 *THEY MOVE TOWARDS EXIT THEN TILLY STOPS.*

160 Tilly Oh! Don't forget to put the sprouts on Billy

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161 Billy Don't worry Tilly; they've been simmering since last Tuesday!

162 Gertie1 I wondered what the smell was, *(TO BILLY)* I thought it was your socks!

163 *GERTIE1, BILLY, & TILLY WALK DOWN THE AISLE HANDING OUT SMALL GOLDEN EGGS*

164 *BLACK OUT*

165 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: SPANAU BALLET, GOLD**

Scene 4: The Squire's Manor Hall

SET AND SCENE DIRECTIONS - ???

CHARACTERS: SQUIRE; GERTIE; SNITCH; JOLLIBOTTOM

SCENE OPENS WITH STAGE EMPTY,

THUNDER RUMBLES. ENTER FROM VESTRY: SQUIRE HARD ACRE IN A VELVET SMOKING JACKET, MCSNITCH SCUTTLES BEHIND HIM CARRYING PAPERS.

Aud Boo

THEY SIT EITHER SIDE OF THE FIREPLACE AND THE SQUIRE RINGS A BELL

JOLLIBOTTOM ARRIVES ON STAGE

Jolli You rang squire?

Squire Yes Jollibottom I'd like two large whiskeys at once.

Jilli Why of course sir, I live to serve with immediacy

JOLLIBOTTOM GOES OVER TO OTHER SIDE OF ROOM TO POUR DRINKS

Squire Well McSpleen! By this time tomorrow that piteous little salon will be mine!

Snitch Yes, and we will be one step closer to building our tower block of flats Sire

Squire Indeed we will, I will call it Hard Acre Heights! I will have a large billboard to advertise the properties, it will say 'Experience luxury living where poor were once permed'

JOLLIBOTTOM RETURNS WITH THE DRINKS

Snitch Oh squire you're a genius! Isn't he Mr Jollibottom?

Jolli Oh undoubtedly sir, the breadth of his knowledge is unbounded.

Snitch What DO you mean Jollibottom?

22 Jolli I'd explain it to you sir, but I don't appear to have any crayons to hand.

23 *JOLLIBOTTOM MOVES TO SIDE OF STAGE AND STANDS IN WAITING*

24 Squire We just need to arrange for her eviction, then we can start demolition right away.

25 **SOUND OF DOORBELL RINGING**

26 Squire *(TO JOLLIBOTTOM)* is that the doorbell?

27 Jolli It certainly gave that impression sir

28 *ENTER MRS BRIDGES FROM VESTRY FOLLOWED BY GERTIE*

29 *MRS BRIDGES IS CARRYING A FEATHER DUSTER AND AS SHE TURNS SHARPLY TO INTRODUCE GERTIE TO THE*
30 *SQUIRE HE HAS TO DUCK AS SHE NEARLY TAKES HIS EYE OUT*

31 Bridges *(TO SQUIRE)* Oh! Dear! Have you dropped something sir

32 Squire *(FLUSTERED)* No Mrs Bridges! *(TURNS TO GERTIE)* Have you come to beg for mercy!

33 Snitch *(LAUGHING)* I have to tell you there's no point.

34 Gertie1 Oh no, Squire. Quite the opposite. I've come to pay my debts.

35 *SHE DROPS A HEAVY POUCH ONTO THE TABLE IT CLUNKS*

36 **CLUNK**

37 Snitch *(EYES BULGING)* That sounds like a small fortune!

38 Squire What trickery is this?

39 Gertie1 No trickery. Just good fortune. Here's every penny I owe... plus six months in advance.

40 *MRS BRIDGES CLAPS ENTHUSIASTICALLY SMACKS THE SQUIRE WITH A FEATHER DUSTER*

41 Squire Six months?! Before it's even due?

42 Gertie1 Yes, why not, business is booming.

- 43 Snitch *(WHISPERING LOUDLY)* She must be robbing banks!
- 44 Gertie1 *(SMILING SWEETLY)* No. I'll let you in to a little secret I've acquired a goose.
- 45 Snitch A goose?!?!?
- 46 Gertie1 Yes, A very special goose.
- 47 Squire Special how?
- 48 Gertie1 It's a goose that lays golden eggs.
- 49 Snitch Golden eggs... like... actual gold?
- 50 Gertie1 24 carat. Free range.
- 51 Squire Impossible! That's just Ornithological nonsense!
- 52 Jolli *(SMOOTHLY)* If I may, sir, poultry-based prosperity is not unheard of, especially in
53 Pantomimes as well written as this. Although it's clearly ruffled your feathers.
- 54 *GERTIE SURPRESSES A LAUGH THEIR EYES MEET FOR A MOMENT*
- 55 Gertie1 So...It seems I'll be staying at the salon after all. In fact, with all my newly found wealth I
56 shall be turning the salon into an upmarket BUTTOCKS AND ANAESTHETIC clinic.
- 57 Squire Buttocks & Anaesthetics!
- 58 Jolli I think the lady means a BOTOX AND AESTHETICS Clinic.
- 59 Gertie1 Yes... exactly... what he said! *(PUTS HEAD IN HANDS AND SAYS TO AUDIENCE)* Oh No... I've
60 already ordered the signs!
- 61 Squire *(THROUGH GRITTED TEETH)* Yes... well... delightful I'm sure.
- 62 Gertie1 So you see you won't be getting your hands on my salon after all, anyway I must be off.
63 Goodbye gentleman it's been a pleasure doing business with you. Oh, and Mrs Bridges
64 be sure to come and visit me in my new clinic, I'm sure we can do *something* WITH
65 you... I mean FOR you!

66 Bridges Oh thanks Gertie, I will, I only want a few subtle tweaks here and there though.... I don't
67 want my face to permanently look like I've just received a huge gas bill!

68 *GERTIE1 TURNS TO LEAVE. JOLLIBOTTOM STEPS FORWARD.*

69 Jolli *(OFFERING HIS ARM)* Allow me to escort you to the door Madam. It would be... my
70 pleasure.

71 Gertie1 *(SOFTLY AND VERY COY)* How very gallant, Mr Jollibottom.

72 Jolli May I say how wonderful it is to see true wealth accompanied by dignity and beauty not
73 something I'm used to seeing in this house.

74 *THEY EXIT TO VESTRY SLOWLY TOGETHER. MRS BRIDGES WATCHES DREAMILY WHILST DUSTING*
75 *EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.*

76 Bridges Oh I do love a bit of romance. Can I fetch you anything, sir?

77 Squire NO! Leave us! Although I would like something light for my supper.

78 Bridges Right you are my luv, but what about the boy?

79 Squire The boy? What boy?

80 Bridges Pip the chimney sweep sir he's been waiting for hours to see you *(GESTURES TO*
81 *FIREPLACE)*

82 *PIP THE CHIMNEY SWEEP STEPS OUT ONTO STAGE FROM FIREPLACE (CUBE) AND MRS BRIDGES DUSTS HIM*
83 *WITH HER FEATHER DUSTER*

84 Squire What is it boy? What do you want?

85 Pip Please sir I've been up the chimney for a week now and I wondered if I could get paid
86 sir.

87 Squire No Pip you cannot! Get back up the chimney and stay there until I tell you to come back
88 down... do I make myself clear?

89 Pip Yes sir! Crystal clear! *(PIP GOES BACK IN THE FIREPLACE DEJECTEDLY)*

90 Squire *(TO MRS BRIDGES)* That will be all Mrs Bridges

91 *MRS BRIDGES SCURRIES OFF STAGE VIA VESTRY*

92 Squire *(TURNS ANGRILY TO SNITCH)* A goose that lays golden eggs... do you know what this
93 means?!

94 Snitch She can afford better hair products?

95 Squire It means we will never get our hands on that salon if she continues to be rich, you
96 imbecile! We must kidnap that bird!

97 Snitch *(GASPS)* Kidnap the bird?

98 Squire Precisely. Without that goose she'll soon become poor again. Then we can evict her,
99 and my plans for Hard Acre Heights can proceed.

100 Snitch *(RUBBING HANDS)* Ooh I do love a bit of burglary.... Or in this case BIRD-LARY!

101 **DE DUM TISH**

102 *MRS BRIDGES COMES ON STAGE WITH A CANDLE ON A PLATE*

103 Bridges Here you are luv *(HANDS HIM THE CANDLE ON PLATE)*

104 Squire What in god's name is this all about?

105 Bridges You said you wanted something light!

106 *SQUIRE ROLLS EYES AND SHOVES IT BACK INTO MRS BRIDGES HANDS*

107 Squire You imbecilic specimen! Get out! And take this with you!

108 Jolli *(RE-ENTERING SILENTLY BEHIND THEM)* Will that be all for tonight sir

109 Squire Yes you may leave us now Jollibottom. We must plan. Evil takes a lot of planning

110 Jolli Very well sir. I shall leave you to 'Hatch' your plans *(CHUCKLING TO HIMSELF AT HIS*
111 *EGGCELLENT JOKE).*

112 *JOLLIBOTTOM EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

113 Snitch D'you think he heard us plotting, should we be worried?

114 Squire Who knows, but even if he did, he's just a manservant, what is he going to do about it
115 Come on let's make plans to grab this goose.

116 *BLACKOUT*

117 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: MONEY BY FLYING LIZARDS**

1 **Scene 5: Mother Goose's Fantabulous Salon and Beauty Parlour**

2 **OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS**

3 **CHARACTERS: GERTIE1; HONKERS; BILLY; TILLY; DARK; LIGHT; SQUIRE; CUSTOMERS**

4 *SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE1, MICKY MUSCLES, BILLY & TILLY ON STAGE*

5 *THE SALON RECEPTION DESK IS STILL IN PLACE BUT BILLY IS KNEELING IN FRONT OF IT WITH A LONG THIN*
6 *PAINTBRUSH AND A SMALL TIN OF BLACK PAINT. HE STEPS BACK TO ADMIRE HIS WORK. THE SIGN HAS*
7 *CHANGED FROM BUTTOCKS & ANAESTHETICS TO BOTTOX & AESTHETICS. ('U' HAS BEEN CHANGED TO AN 'O'*
8 *AND A BIG X WRITTEN OVER THE 'CKS' SO NOW SAYS BUTTOX AND 'AN' HAS BEEN CROSSED OF*
9 *ANAESTHETICS)*

10 **Billy** There you go, Ma, how's that?

11 **Gertie1** Oh that's much better Billy

12 **Tilly** Well that should put an end to any misunderstanding about what treatments we offer,
13 Rita Rollers popped in yesterday and asked if we could do her a Brazilian Butt Lift!

14 **Billy** *(LAUGHING)* Oh no, what did you say?

15 **Gertie1** I told her there wasn't a country anywhere in the world that could lift her backside

16 **Billy** Oh I wish I'd been here to see her face! Anyway... I'm going to check on honkers see if
17 she's laid an egg. See you later.

18 *BILLY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

19 *GERTIE1 TURNS BACK TO MICKY WHO HAS HIS FACE HIDDEN FROM AUDIENCE SHE HAS A MASSIVE SYRINGE*
20 *IN HER HAND*

21 **Gertie1** Now Micky where were we?

22 **Micky** Are you sure about this lip filler Gertie, I don't want to look daft, I just want to be able
23 to show off me Turkey Teeth!!

24 Gertie1 Leave it to me Micky, I know what I'm doing! If it's good enough for Mick Jagger, it's
25 good enough for you. *(PULLS OUT OVERSIZE CAN OF EXPANDING FOAM AND SHAKES IT)* Now
26 hold still, this might tingle a bit!

27 *GERTIE1 INJECTS MICKY'S LIPS THEN TAKES HIM TO THE MIRROR TO SHOW HIMSELF*

28 Micky Oh Wow!

29 *MICKY TURNS TO FACE AUDIENCE AND HE HAS OUTRAGEOUSLY LARGE LIPS!*

30 Gertie1 I know... they're amazing aren't they. I really feel like I'm getting the hang of it now.

31 Mickey Well you've certainly used enough filler Gertie! I'm off to show the lads at the gym, I
32 wonder how long it'll take them to notice.

33 Tilly Oh, not long Mickey not long at all!

34 *MICKY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

35 *GERTIE1 GOES BEHIND CUBE TO GET RID OF THE SYRINGE AND STAYS THERE FOR A MINUTE OR TWO*

36 *DOLLY WOBBLE ENTERS FROM VESTRY*

37 Dolly Morning everyone, I'm here for my eyebrow enhancement. Ooh I am excited!

38 Tilly Hi Dolly, Gertie won't be long. I'll get Chantal to look after you while you're waiting.

39 Dolly Chantal?

40 Tilly She's our new Saturday girl, I'm so busy as Gertie's PA now her new business has taken
41 off, so we needed some help.

42 *TILLY SHOUTS OFF STAGE FOR CHANTAL, AND THERE'S A SOUND OFF STAGE OF GLASS BREAKING AS*
43 *THOUGH SHES DROPPED SOME CUPS AND SAUCERS. SHE THEN ENTERS THE STAGE FROM VESTRY CARRYING*
44 *SMALL BOXES OF BEAUTY PRODUCTS, SHE RUSHES ONTO STAGE, AND CLUMSILY DROPS ALL THE BOXES,*
45 *THEN SCURRIES TO PICK THEM ALL UP APOLOGISING OVER AND OVER*

46 Chantal Sorry, oh I'm really sorry, I'm so clumsy!

47 Tilly Don't worry Chantal. *(HELPING TO PICK UP THE BOXES)* these things happen. Can you show
48 Dolly to her seat and look after her until Gertie is ready for her.

49 Chantal *(SHOWS DOLLY TO HER SEAT FACING AUDIENCE)* Take a seat, I'll just gown you up.

50 *CHANTAL GOES BEHIND DOLLY AND TIES A GOWN AROUND DOLLY'S NECK TOO TIGHTLY*

51 Dolly *(CHOKING)* Er here, I'll do that love.

52 Chantal Sorry, I'm new and it's taking a bit of time for me to learn the ropes. Can I get you a nice
53 hot drink?

54 Dolly I don't think I'll risk it ..thank you!

55 Chantal Oh, ok, if you're quite sure. I'll leave you to it and go back to tidying the store cupboard.

56 *CHANTAL EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY SOUND OF STUFF FALLING TO GROUND*

57 *GERTIE ARRIVES BACK FROM BEHIND THE CUBE WITH HER TREATMENT TROLLEY*

58 Gertie1 Now Dolly let's tackle these brows, shall we?

59 *DOLLY STANDS WITH HER BACK TO AUDIENCE; GERTIE STANDS IN FRONT OF HER FACING AUDIENCE. GERTIE*
60 *DOES THAT THING THAT ARTISTS DO WHERE THEY MAKE A SQUARE WITH THEIR FINGERS AND LOOKS*
61 *THROUGH IT AT DOLLYS FACE MUMBLING TO HERSELF.*

62 Gertie1 Yes, I've got it now. *(SHE LEANS IN AND GETS TO WORK)*

63 Dolly Don't forget now Gertie, I want them to look as natural as possible.

64 Gertie1 Mm Hmm... my work here is done! Come and have a look at yourself in the mirror

65 *GERTIE LEADS DOLLY TO MIRROR*

66 Gertie *(BEAMING SMILE)* What d'you think?

67 Dolly Oh my Lord... I look like I've been tarmacked Gertie!!

68 *DOLLY TURNS AROUND AND HAS THE WORST SCOUSE BROWS IMAGINABLE*

69 Gertie1 Oh they'll settle down love... Eventually!

70 Dolly I hope so Gertie, I wasn't expecting to end up with brows that have their own postcode.
71 Ah well too late now, I suppose they do frame my face!

72 Gertie1 Yes they do... like a nice hedge!

73 Dolly Thanks Gertie, I'll go and show the girls from Fat Club, see what they think, see you next
74 week for my liposuction

75 *DOLLY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

76 Gertie1 Bye love... Ooh, I'd forgotten all about the liposuction, 'Tilly... can you order some new
77 filters for the Henry Hoover!'

78 *GERTIE TAKES HER TREATMENT TROLLEY TO BACK OF STAGE – BEHIND CUBE*

79 *BETTY BOTOX ENTERS SALON AND SPEAKS IN GARBLED WAY (NOT MOVING LIPS) TO TILLY*

80 Betty I think you've overdone the botox (*AUDIENCE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS AS NOT MOVING*
81 *LOPS*)

82 Tilly What's that love?

83 Betty I THINK YOU'VE OVERDONE THE BOTOX (*FRUSTRATED STILL INCOMPREHENSIBLE*)

84 Tilly (*TO BACK OF CUBE*) Betty says she's got a bit of a problem with the Botox you did
85 yesterday Gertie

86 Gertie1 (*ARRIVING BACK FRONT OF STAGE*) What sort of problem?

87 Tilly (*TO BETTY*) What sort of problem Betty?

88 *BETTY SPEAKS IN GARBLED MANNER AGAIN TO TILLY*

89 Betty I can't feel anything from the neck up and can't open my mouth! (*STILL NOT MOVING*
90 *LIPS*)

91 Tilly (*TO GERTIE*) I think she said she can't feel anything from the neck up and she can't open
92 her mouth properly!

- 93 Gertie1 Well think of all the weight you'll lose by next week's weigh in Betty! You'll probably win
94 'Loser of the week' how marvellous is that!
- 95 Betty *(LOOKING HAPPY, SPEAKING WITHOUT MOVING LIPS)* Oh, you're a genius Gertie! Thank you.
96 Don't tell the others though or they'll all want this much Botox!
- 97 Tilly She said thank you, you're a genius, and don't tell the others or they'll all want this
98 much Botox!
- 99 *BETTY WALKS DOWN CENTRAL AISLE AND MEETS BILLY ON THE WAY WHO IS COMING IN FROM THE BACK*
100 *OF THE HALL*
- 101 Billy Hello there Betty.
- 102 Betty *(LOOKING HAPPY, SPEAKING WITHOUT MOVING LIPS)* Oh hello there Billy. Long time no see.
103 How are you love. I've just been chatting to your lovely mother about my Botox. She's a
104 genius you know, I'm going to be slim and beautiful this time next week, just you see.
105 Anyway, listen to me gassing on, I'd best be off. See you later!
- 106 Billy *(LOOKING A BIT AWKWARD AS HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER, CHECKING HIS WATCH, BUT BEING*
107 *POLITE & LISTENING)* Oh, yes, quite!
- 108 *BETTY EXITS VIA AISLE*
- 109 Billy I have absolutely no idea what she just said, but I think we might need to ration the free
110 prosecco a bit, if they're all going to overdo it like that...
- 111 Gertie1 Ah, you're back, Has our lovely Honkers produced today's egg yet Billy?
- 112 Billy No Ma, nothing's been laid in a while!
- 113 Gertie1 *(ADDRESSING AUDIENCE)* You can say that again! It's been that long I'm going to need a
114 refresher course. *(GESTURES TO HER VOLUPTUOUS BODY)* It's a mystery to me how anyone
115 could resist this.
- 116 Tilly Maybe Honkers is moulting... do geese moult?
- 117 Billy I've no idea Tilly, but Honkers might, she's no ordinary goose that's for sure, she's more
118 what you'd call exceptionally free range!

- 119 Gertie1 I don't care if she's orgasmically organic... I just want something gold, and oval shaped
120 to fall out of her back end... today preferably... I've got plans for the proceeds from her
121 next egg... in fact her next half dozen, so she needs to buck her ideas up.
- 122 Billy Maybe she's just feeling the pressure, she is a bit highly strung.
- 123 Gertie1 She will be highly strung... in the butcher's window if she doesn't lay me an egg soon!
- 124 Tilly *(LOOKING AROUND)* Where is everyone, Gertie? I've never seen the salon so empty.
- 125 Gertie1 Everyone leaves after their treatments these days, nobody stays around to chat.
- 126 Billy It's because you're charging them full price for everything now, Ma!
- 127 Gertie1 Plus a bit extra of course for their tea and biscuits, I'm not made of money! Oh! silly me
128 of course I am! Not for much longer though if that stupid goose doesn't lay me an egg.
- 129 Tilly I miss the old days when the salon was full of people laughing and gossiping.
- 130 Gertie1 Yes well that was before I came to my senses and realised that no one gets anything for
131 nothing.
- 132 Tilly That makes me sad!
- 133 Gertie1 Oh God, please don't say you're sad enough to break into song though, it's really not
134 that kind of Panto Tilly! pull yourself together, go on now, you two get off, I'll lock up
- 135 *BILLY AND TILLY EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY, OTHERS ON STAGE FREEZE*
- 136 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON SALON AND LIGHTS GO UP ON DARK FEATHER AND LIGHT FEATHER*
- 137 Dark I don't understand it, why is that goose not laying golden eggs
- 138 Light Ahh, that's probably my fault, I have a confession to make.
- 139 Dark Light Feather what have you done? The rules said you could not undo my spell!
- 140 Light Calm down Dark Feather I haven't undone your spell, I just added in a small spell of my
141 own that only allows the goose to lay golden eggs if she's in the care of someone kind
142 and loving, but it appears that's no longer the case.

143 Dark So it looks like I was right all along, Mother Goose is no longer the kind generous
144 woman she was before, she's become vain and selfish. I'm quite proud of her, she's
145 turned into a hard-nosed businesswoman.

146 Light Oh dark feather how could you be happy about that. You wait and see.... now she no
147 longer has any golden eggs, she will soon see the error of her ways. Then when the
148 goose starts laying again she will be so grateful that she will go back to being the
149 wonderful woman she was before, and I will win this bet!

150 *LIGHT HIDES BEHIND PEDESTAL CURTAIN*

151 Dark I need to stop that from happening... If Light Feather can interfere in the fate of the
152 humans then so can I. If I am to win this bet I need to take that infernal bird away from
153 that damn woman. But how can I persuade her to give it away.

154 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON DARK FEATHER*

155 *LIGHTS GO UP ON GERTIE IN THE SALON, WHO IS SWEEPING THE STAGE, WHILST DARK FEATHER DONS A*
156 *CLOAK AND FALSE NOSE*

157 *DARK FEATHER ENTERS THE SALON FROM PEDESTAL, DRESSED AS AN OLD CRONE*

158 Gertie1 Sorry dear we're closed, ooh, and even if we weren't I'm not sure I could do anything for
159 you. You're a bit of a lost cause in the beauty department if you don't mind me saying
160 so, love.

161 Dark I'm not here for me, I'm here to do you a favour... To offer you the opportunity of a
162 lifetime.

163 Gertie Oh, I didn't realise you were a beauty Rep, why didn't you say, sit yourself down and tell
164 me what you've got that will delay the aging process. Although quite why you wouldn't
165 use it yourself, is a mystery to me. God knows you need it! D'you not have any mirrors
166 at home love? Anyway, tell me what you've got, money is no object.

167 Dark Well that's exactly why I'm here. I am a very unusual beauty products rep, I am blessed
168 with special powers, some would say I have a gift! What if there was a way to bestow
169 upon you the gift of eternal beauty. You will never age, and you'll stay beautiful for the
170 rest of your life.

171 Gertie Oh my! This is a dream come true, yes, yes... I don't care what you have to do to make
172 this happen, just do it!

173 Dark All I want in return is your magic goose, after all she's no use to you now she's stopped
174 laying golden eggs, and I will make sure she has a loving home.

175 Gertie1 Take the stupid goose, it's no use to me now anyway, so I've got nothing to lose!

176 *GERTIE EXITS VIA VESTRY AND RETURNS WITH HONKERS*

177 Dark Very well my good woman, *(PUTS LEAD AROUND HONKER'S NECK)* I know someone who's
178 been looking for a magic goose. *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)* The Squire will be so happy to get
179 his hands on this. *(TURNS BACK TO GERTIE1)* and in return I will cast my spell to give you
180 eternal beauty.

181 *DARK CASTS SPELL*

182 **MAGICAL NOISE**

183 Gertie1 *(LOOKING PUZZLED)* Is that it? I don't feel any different.

184 Dark Go to bed, and when you wake in the morning your life will have changed for ever.

185 *GERTIE EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY, VERY EXCITED*

186 *LIGHTS DIM AND SPOTLIGHT APPEARS ON DARK. THEN THE SQUIRE STEPS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT*

187 *THEY TURN TO EYE EACH OTHER UP, AND THE GOOSE HONKS. WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD THEY EXCHANGE*
188 *THE GOOSE, THE GOOSE HONKS AGAIN AND THEY ALL EXIT THE STAGE. DARK HIDES BEHIND CURTAIN ON*
189 *PEDESTAL AND SQUIRE AND HONKERS EXIT VIA CENTRAL AISLE. GOOSE HONKS ONCE MORE THEN SILENCE*

190 *LIGHTS GO UP SUNRISE PROJECTED ONTO STAGE.*

191 **COCK A DOODLE DOO**

192 *SIGN: THE NEXT MORNING (BOXING DAY)*

193 Gertie2: *(FROM THE VESTRY SQUEALING)* JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH... AND THE WEE DONKEY!

194 *GERTIE2 STEP TREPIDATIONOUSLY ONTO THE STAGE FROM VESTRY. SHE LOOKS THINNER, MORE*
195 *GLAMOUROUS, BETTER HAIR (DIFFERENT ACTOR) SHE STEPS UP IN FRONT OF A MIRROR IN THE SALON AND*
196 *STARTS TO PREEN*

197 Gertie2: Bloomin' 'eck, I look like one of those women in the adverts – you know, the ones who
198 are always rollerblading or waterskiing with their long hair blowing in the wind! I feel
199 like a completely new woman!

200 *BILLY & TILLY ENTER FROM CENTRE AISLE LAUGHING AND JOKING. BILLY SPOTS GERTIE AND STOPS DEAD IN*
201 *HIS TRACKS. TILLY RUNS INTO HE BACK OF HIM.*

202 Billy Ma, is that you?

203 Tilly Gertie... what's happened, you've changed! How did you become... *(HESITATES AND*
204 *GESTURES UP AND DOWN TOWARDS MG'S BODY)* ...THIS!

205 Gertie2 I know I know.....I'm GORGEOUS, aren't I!?

206 Billy Well that's a matter of opinion Ma. You look like a completely different person!

207 Tilly Oh Gertie, what have you done, we loved you just as you were.

208 Billy How did this happen?

209 Gertie2 Well you won't believe my good fortune, this funny looking old woman came into the
210 salon yesterday evening and said she could give me eternal beauty... Don't I look
211 incredible.

212 Tilly But Gertie nobody does that sort of thing for nothing what did it cost.

213 Billy Yes Ma what did you have to pay

214 Gertie2 *(SHEEPISHLY)* Nothing

215 Billy *(INCREDULOUS)* Nothing? C'mon you must've paid something

216 Gertie2 Well nothing important... Just that useless goose

217 Tilly Oh no not lovely honkers..... how could you?!

218 Gertie2 Well she was useless to me she'd stopped laying golden eggs and was just moulting all
219 over the shag pile.

220 *GERTIE2 IS PRIMMING AND PREENING IN THE MIRROR AS SHE SPEAKS*

221 Billy *(HEAD IN HANDS)* Ma, you've gone too far this time we don't even know who you are
222 anymore you used to be so kind and generous and now you've become self-centred,
223 vain and no longer care about the people around you... All you care about is YOU!

224 Tilly Billy's right, think of all the good you could have done with the proceeds from the
225 golden eggs what happened to you Gertie. I used to look up to you! I can't believe you
226 would give Honkers away to a stranger, what if they don't treat her kindly!? what if they
227 pluck her and eat her, Oh Gertie how could you.

228 *BILLY & TILLY STORM OFF STAGE VIA VESTRY*

229 *GERTIE2 TURNS TO MIRROR WITH LIPSTICK POISED IN HER HAND THEN STOPS AND TURNS SLOWLY*

230 Gertie2 Oh, no, I wonder if I have changed... I suppose I should really look for that old crone and
231 get her to reverse the spell?! *(LOOKS IN THE MIRROR)* But then I'd be denying the world
232 of all this beauty *(TURNS BACK TO AUDIENCE)* I'm not sure I can give all this up, now I've
233 got it! But they're right about one thing, I can't be this beautiful and not have some
234 cash! I need to be gorgeous **and** rich. Never mind that old crone, it's that blasted goose I
235 need to find! Trouble is I have no idea where that crone took her. I don't suppose you
236 know who has got Honkers do you?

237 AUD The Squire! The Squire! *(IF NEEDED, GERTIE PROMPTS THEM)*

238 Gertie2 The Squire! What on earth does he want with a goose? Oh no, what if Tilly's right and
239 honkers is about to be served up for dinner... Right! I must go to the Manor House
240 immediately and rescue Honkers! Or I'll never be rich again... *(GOES TOWARD EXIT THEN*
241 *STOPS AND TALKS TO AUDIENCE)* oh just wait till Mr Jollibottom sees how beautiful I've
242 become; he won't be able to resist me!

243 *GERTIE2 EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

244 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: PRETTY WOMAN**

245 **TBC** Will any more eggs (or anyone in fact) get laid?

246 **TBC** Will Gertie Goose see the error of her ways, will she keep her salon, will the Fat Club
247 lose weight without travelling to Africa?

248 **TBC** Will Betty be able to do any other facial expressions other than Startled after her Botox
249 overdose, will Tilly and Billy get it on?

250 TBC Join us in Act 2 to find out! You've got a 20-minute break now, please get yourselves
251 and ice cream, drink or other refreshments and settle back in your seats by <<time>> to
252 find out!

ACT TWO: The Rise of Mother Goose

Scene 1: Outside Squire Blackheart's Manor House / and in the Dungeon

OPENING MUSIC: VOGUE, MADONNA

OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS

CHARACTERS: GERTIE2; JOLLIBOTTOM; SQUIRE BLACKHEART; SNITCHY MCSPLEEN; LIGHT FEATHER; DARK FEATHER

ACTION STARTS IN FRONT OF THE CLOSED CURTAIN

SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE2 ARRIVING OUTSIDE THE MANOR, SHE HAS 'VOGUE'- STYLE COPME BRA ON AND IS ACTING OUT THE VOGUE MOVES AS SHE MOVES UP THE AISLE.

Gertie2 Right... now I'm here at Squire Blackheart's Manor House I must not lose my nerve. Honkers McFlap, wherever you are, I'm coming for you. *(PAUSES, CHECKS HER REFLECTION IN HER COMPACT MIRROR)* And if Mr Jollibottom just happens to see me while I'm rescuing her, well... that can only be a bonus, can't it?

JOLLIBOTTOM ENTERS STAGE FROM VESTRY. HE STOPS DEAD WHEN HE SEES HER.

Jolli Good heavens.

Gertie2 *(PREENING)* I know. It is rather breathtaking, isn't it? *(TO AUDIENCE)* I'm like a new woman, aren't I?

Jolli It is certainly... a change.

Gertie2 Oh, come on now. Don't tell me you're not impressed. Look at this figure! This hair! This skin! I've gone from gorgeous to drop dead gorgeous overnight!

Jolli Madam, if I may speak frankly...

Gertie2 Please do. I imagine it'll sound even nicer in your voice.

Jolli I do believe that you were more beautiful before.

- 24 Gertie2 *(GOBSMACKED)* ...What?
- 25 Jolli Before all this preening and posing. You had warmth. Kindness. Laughter in your eyes.
26 Now you look as though you'd charge someone just to stand near you.
- 27 Gertie2 Well! That's a very odd compliment.
- 28 Jolli It was not intended as one. Nothing good ever comes from vanity Madam. Beauty that
29 costs you your goodness is far too expensive.
- 30 Gertie2 *(WOUNDED)* Oh, well! Easy for you to say. You don't know how good it feels to suddenly
31 become fabulous.
- 32 Jolli No, but I do know what it's like to watch someone lose themselves.
- 33 *GERTIE2 IS ABOUT TO ANSWER WHEN SQUIRE AND SNITCH BURST ONTO STAGE*
- 34 Squire Ah-ha! Just as I suspected! The goose woman herself! There's something not quite right
35 about you today... new look, is it? Or have I just lowered my standards?"
- 36 Jolli If you lower them any further, sir, they'll need planning permission!
- 37 Snitch I told you she'd come! I said she'd come slinking up the drive like an over-moisturised
38 ferret!
- 39 Gertie2 I don't want any trouble. I'm just here for my goose, Honkers.
- 40 Squire Your goose? Your goose?! *(LAUGHING MEANLY)* It ceased to be yours the moment you
41 handed it over to my associate you ridiculous woman.
- 42 Snitch Legally speaking, morally speaking, poultry speaking...
- 43 Squire *(TALKING OVER SNITCH)* oh do shut up, McSpleen.
- 44 Gertie2 Give me back my Honkers this instant! Or... *(PETERS OUT AS SHE REALISES SHE DOESN'T*
45 *HAVE ANYTHING TO THREATEN)*
- 46 Squire *(CONDESCENDINGLY)* Or what, you ridiculous woman!? I think you'll find that I hold all
47 the cards here! Seize her!

48 *SNITCH GRABS GERTIE2. THERE IS A STRUGGLE.*

49 Gertie2 Take your filthy hands off me! This blouse is satin!

50 Snitch I thought she was slippery!

51 Squire Lock her in the dungeon!

52 Jolli Sir, I really must object... one should never manhandle a lady, regardless of one's...
53 poultry-related disagreements. Furthermore, imprisoning women is generally frowned
54 upon.

55 Squire Feel free to frown away – In your own time!McSpleen, take her!

56 *SNITCH DRAGS GERTIE2 OFF VIA VESTRY, FOLLOWED BY SQUIRE. JOLLIBOTTOM LOOKS AFTER HER,*
57 *CONCERNED.*

58 Jolli Oh, Gertie... What am I going to do with you?

59 *JOLLIBOTTOM EXITS VIA VESTRY*

60 *CURTAINS OPEN UP TO A DUNGEON AREA*

61 Gertie2 Oh, this is a nightmare. First I lose Honkers, then Billy and Tilly tell me I've changed, and
62 not in a good way, then the one man I wanted to say I was gorgeous says he preferred
63 me before! I mean c'mon on *(TO AUDIENCE)* look at me if looks were cars I'd be a
64 Ferrari! Before I was more like an old shopping trolley... with a wonky wheel! And not
65 even a Waitrose one – more like Lidl

66 *(SHE SLUMPS DEJECTEDLY)* Maybe... maybe all of them were right. Maybe I *have* changed in a bad
67 way. Oh Billy... Tilly... I was awful to you both. And poor Honkers. *(GETTING MORE UPSET)*
68 I gave away a living creature for a flatter stomach and fewer wrinkles. *(STARTING TO CRY)*
69 What sort of woman does that? I wish I'd never been so vain. I'm beginning to think
70 that old crone was no beauty rep at all... but some sort of bad fairy up to no good. Oh, if
71 only I could find a good fairy to put things right...

72 **TWINKLY MUSIC.**

73 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS.*

- 74 Light Well, my lovely, it looks like it might be your lucky day. I'm Light Feather, and it was my
75 mischievous brother Dark feather who cast the spell to give you eternal beauty.
- 76 Gertie2 *(GASPING)* I knew something was a bit off! Nothing like that happens in real life, it's
77 more like the sort of thing that happens in a tinpot panto. Oh please, you must help me.
78 Can you reverse the spell at once, I want to go back to being a lovable shopping trolley!.
- 79 Light I can't simply overturn it, Gertie. Magic doesn't work like that, after all we've only just
80 started Act 2, there's a lot left to happen before we reach the 'Happy Ever After' bit!
- 81 Gertie2 Oh, yes, good point. Then what can we do?
- 82 Light All I can do is tell you that the spell can be broken if you *truly* see the error of your ways.
83 But for it to work you must stop chasing vanity and go back to being the kind, loving,
84 humble woman you used to be.
- 85 Gertie2 Then that's exactly what I'll do. I don't want this *(POINTING TO HER FACE)* if it means
86 losing Billy, Tilly, Honkers... and myself – it's just not worth it. Oh, thank you Light
87 Feather. Oh and, um, *(HESITATING TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT LIGHT FEATHER)* once this is
88 all over, feel free to pop into the salon and I'll see if I can do something about that chin
89 hair love!
- 90 Light *(LAUGHING)* Maybe I will Gertie. There is hope for you yet.
- 91 *LIGHT FEATHER EXITS. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY DARK FEATHER APPEARS.*
- 92 Dark Hope? What a revolting little word. I should have known that my sister would not be
93 able to resist interfering...!
- 94 Gertie2 You!
- 95 Dark Yes, it's Me *(PROUDLY)*. Though last time I saw you, you certainly didn't look this good!
96 Now listen to me.... Why would you give this up? The tiny waist, the glossy hair, the
97 ability to turn heads without even trying? You could have admirers, influence, luxury!
98 You could walk into any room and have people gasp. Why go back to being ordinary?
- 99 Gertie2 I could still make people gasp!
- 100 Dark Yes. But for all the wrong reasons dearie!

- 101 Gertie 2 and anyway I never used to feel ordinary.
- 102 Dark Of course you did. That's why you were so quick to say yes to eternal beauty. Deep
103 down, this is exactly what you wanted... And you still do.
- 104 Gertie2 I... maybe you're right... It is nice not frightening the cat when I walk into the room. Oh, I
105 don't know what I want anymore, I can't think straight
- 106 Dark Oh, I think you do. Choose beauty. Choose youth. Leave kindness to all those boring
107 womenthe ones who wear cardigans.
- 108 *DARK FEATHER EXITS (SMILING). GERTIE2 IS LEFT FEELING TORN.*
- 109 Gertie2 Oh, what am I supposed to do? If I stay like this, I'm beautiful... but miserable. If I
110 change back, I lose all this... *(TOUCHES HER FACE)* ...and let's face it, these are excellent
111 cheekbones. Oh, I'm so confused! *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)* What do you lovely people think
112 I should do? Stay young and beautiful? Or go back to being my old self?
- 113 *AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION*
- 114 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE. DARK FEATHER APPEARS THE OTHER.*
- 115 *DARK AND LIGHT ENCOURAGE THE AUDIENCE TO SHOUT FOR THEIR SIDE.*
- 116 Dark Come on everyone! Look at her! Tell her to stay beautiful!
- 117 Light No! Tell her to be true to herself!
- 118 Dark Shout it out... Youth & Glamour! Youth & Glamour!
- 119 Light No...shout Kindness & Love! Kindness & Love!
- 120 Dark *(TURNING TO LIGHT)* shut up Sister, she wants Fine features!
- 121 Light No she doesn't, she wants a Fine character!
- 122 Dark She wants a Smooth forehead!
- 123 Light No... a Smooth conscience!

124 Gertie2 *(OVERWHELMED)* Oh stop, stop! You're both giving me a headache... and the last thing I
125 want is stress lines!

126 Light *(MOVING CLOSER TO GERTIE)* Listen to your heart, Gertie.

127 Dark *(MOVING CLOSER TO GERTIE AND HOLDING UP A)* Listen to your mirror.

128 Light *(MOVES CLOSER STILL)* Choose what matters.

129 Dark *(MOVES CLOSER STILL)* Choose what flatters.

130 Gertie Just leave me alone to make up my own mind. I can't think with all this bickering! Go,
131 on now, go!

132 Dark Come sister, this stage isn't big enough for your nonsense, and let's face it, of course
133 she's going to go with beauty!

134 Light You're wrong, her beauty comes from within, but let's take it somewhere your ego will
135 fit!

136 *LIGHT & DARK EXIT DOWN CENTRAL AISLE, STILL BICKERING.*

137 Dark I'm telling you, vanity always wins!

138 Light Not where love has a fighting chance!

139 *GERTIE2 IS LEFT ALONE. SHE STANDS, THINKING.*

140 Gertie2 Oh goodness me, what a conundrum! What am I to do?!

141 *PAUSE. SHE LOOKS IN HER COMPACT MIRROR, THEN AWAY FROM IT*

142 *LIGHTS GO OUT*

143 *SCENE ENDS*

144 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: DEVIL IN DISGUISE, ELVIS**

Scene 2: Village Green with Duck Pond

OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS

**CHARACTERS: BILLY; TILLY; RITA ROLLERS; MICKEY MUSCLES; CHERYL SPRAYTAN; FIONA FRIZZ; BETTY; DOLLY WOBBLE;
LIGHT FEATHER; JOLLIBOTTOM**

*RITA, MICKEY, CHERYL, DOLLY WOBBLE, BETTY BOTOX, AND FIONA FRIZZ ARE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
ATTEMPTING TAI CHI. IT IS NOT GOING WELL.*

- 7 Mickey Flow with the movement girls... breathe in through the whole body... centre
8 yourselves...
- 9 Rita How can I centre meself, when I can't even see my feet over these (*CLUTCHING HER*
10 *BOOBS*) (*TO AUDIENCE*) d'you know, inside this body there's a thin person just waiting to
11 get out!
- 12 Mickey Only one?
- 13 Cheryl Ooo, I think I've pulled something – and I don't mean a bloke! I just don't think I'm cut
14 out for all this keep fit malarkey!
- 15 Dolly I quite like the one where you stand still and stare into space like you're trying to
16 remember where you've left your car keys.
- 17 Betty I thought all this slow motion moving would be good for you, but I start to move and it's
18 so slow I completely forget where I'm supposed to be going and end up standing with
19 one leg in the air looking like I've got wind!
- 20 Fiona I wondered what the smell was! It is a bit slow though, isn't it... I liked the Zumba better
21 than this, we were really good at that!
- 22 Cheryl I know, Zumba was great fun, but at least I don't accidentally wee myself doing Tai Chi.
- 23 Dolly Tell me about it!
- 24 Mickey Keep up ladies! This move is called 'The flowing River walk'
- 25 Rita Talking of incontinence!

- 26 Betty *(TO MICKEY)* Ere, Mickey love, I thought you said we were doing 5K to couch. I liked the
27 sound of that.
- 28 Mickey It's couch to 5k Betty, but we can't just launch straight into it girls, we need to build up.
29 *(TO AUDIENCE)* mind you, at this rate of buildup, I'm thinking we won't be doing it in my
30 lifetime!
- 31 Betty But how are we going to do the couch to 5k without a couch? *(TO THE OTHERS)* I'm not
32 sure that he knows what he's doing.
- 33 Cheryl Maybe the couch comes later.
- 34 Fiona Ooh, I like the sound of that, as long as it's a comfy one. Oh, will there be coffee and
35 cake too?
- 36 Dolly Maybe we should try gymnastics... I was always good at that in school!
- 37 Rita Don't mention gymnastics to him Dolly, or before you know where you are he'll have us
38 all wearing leotards and dangling upside down from the parallel bars! I for one have
39 reached an age where I don't function well unless I'm upright!
- 40 Betty Me neither Rita, if I were to hang upside down from the parallel bars without a decent
41 sports bra I'd have two black eyes!

42 *ALL HOLD A TAI CHI POSE*

43 *BILLY AND TILLY ARE AT THE BACK OF THE HALL AND TALK AS THEY WALK UP THE CENTRAL AISLE TOWARDS*
44 *THE STAGE.*

- 45 Tilly I hope your mum is OK, Billy.
- 46 Billy so do I, I'm worried sick. Thank goodness we discovered the note she left!
- 47 Tilly I know, imagine if we didn't know where to find her.

48 *BILLY & TILLY RUSH ON TO STAGE*

- 49 Billy Oh hey everyone! Thank goodness we found you, we need some help.
- 50 Mickey What's happened?

- 51 Tilly Gertie's gone to the Manor House. She thinks the Squire has Honkers.
- 52 Billy She left us this note (*HOLDS OUT A NOTE*)
- 53 Mickey What does it say?
- 54 Billy (*READING REALLY SLOWLY AND CLEARLY*) Gone to the Manor House, I think the squire has
55 Honkers!
- 56 Rita (*TO AUDIENCE*) Well that doesn't tell us much does it!
- 57 Cheryl Sounds a bit of a caper to me. I expect she'll need some help.
- 58 Fiona Oh poor Gertie, I've never liked the squire, he gives me the heebie jeebies
- 59 Rita Too right... I wouldn't trust that great dollop of lard and his miserable little sidekick!
60 Men like that are always up to no good.
- 61 Mickey Aye, that's what boarding school does for you.
- 62 Billy We're going after her, but we could do with backup.
- 63 Mickey Then you've got it.
- 64 Cheryl I was getting a bit fed up with all that deep breathing and buttock clenching anyway.
- 65 Rita At my age it'd take two strapping firemen and a sturdy winch to clench mine!
- 66 Betty I'm not convinced that it burns any calories anyway!
- 67 **TWINKLY MUSIC.**
- 68 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS.*
- 69 Light Well fortunately for you, you won't be going alone.
- 70 Billy Oh! You're... you're a...well actually I'm not sure what you are!
- 71 Rita She's a ... Wobblegeist!

- 72 Mickey A what?!
- 73 Cheryl I think she means a Wisp a whiff.
- 74 Fiona no she's a ticklewink !
- 75 Mickey Eh? I'm still not getting it!
- 76 Betty I think they mean a Ghoulie.
- 77 Fiona Aren't there normally two of those ?
- 78 Light Well, it's funny you should say that, but first listen carefully. Gertie is being held captive.
- 79 Tilly I knew it!
- 80 Billy Oh, my poor mum! We must rescue her.
- 81 Mickey We'll do it together. She's been so good to us all.

82 **TWINKLY SOUNDS**

- 83 Light *(TO AUDIENCE)* Sounds like it's time for a little more encouragement. *(TO EVERYONE)* My
84 brother cast a spell to tempt her into becoming a vain woman by granting her
85 everlasting beauty, but unless Gertie truly changes back into the kind and loving woman
86 she once was, Honkers will never lay another golden egg.
- 87 Billy So that's why she stopped laying!
- 88 Light Yes, and the Squire and McSnitch plan to kill Honkers soon if she doesn't lay any eggs
89 for them.
- 90 Betty and let's face it there's nothing kind about those two !
- 91 Tilly Then we've no time to lose, we must hurry.
- 92 Billy First we rescue Ma. Then we rescue Honkers.
- 93 Light Good. And take heart, Gertie is beginning to see the truth, that true beauty comes from
94 within.

95 *RITA CROSSES HERSELF DRAMATICALLY.*

96 Rita Thank goodness for that. I was starting to think we'd lost her to Botox and delusion.

97 Fiona Aww, we'll soon have the old Gertie back, I just know it!

98 Cheryl let's hope so....I miss the old Gertie !

99 *LIGHT FEATHER BEGINS TO EXIT STAGE.*

100 Light Hurry now. All may yet be well, if love and kindness can beat vanity.

101 *LIGHT FEATHER EXITS.*

102 Betty Mickey, you Rita & Cheryl can help Billy & Tilly rescue Gertie. Dolly, Fiona and me will
103 head back to the village and man the salon in case she returns.

104 Fiona Good thinking Betty. *(TO MICKEY, RITA, CHERYL, BILLY & TILLY)* Good luck, we'll see you
105 when you get back.

106 Dolly be careful, you know what slippery characters those two are. Bring Gertie safely back to
107 us.

108 *BETTY, FIONA, & DOLLY EXIT VIA VESTRY*

109 Mickey We'll we need a plan!

110 *JOLLIBOTTOM ENTERS QUICKLY, LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER.*

111 Jolli *(TO BILLY)* There you are, Sir. I've been looking everywhere for you.

112 Billy Mr Jollibottom!

113 Tilly Do you know where Gertie is?

114 Jolli Locked in the dungeon, I'm afraid. Your mother arrived full of confidence that she could
115 rescue her goose, and things went downhill from there.

116 Billy Will you help us?

- 117 Jolli My dear boy, helping decent people defeat that appalling man is one of the few
118 pleasures left in life.
- 119 Tilly We met Light Feather, she explained everything.
- 120 Jolli Did you indeed? How splendid. *(LOOKING A LITTLE PAINED AT HAVING TO ASK A QUESTION)*
121 My apologies, Miss, but who pray tell is Light Feather
- 122 Billy She's a kind and wonderful magical being. She told us that her brother Dark Feather has
123 cast a spell on my poor Ma to turn her into a vain and selfish woman. But all is not lost,
124 Light Feather told us that Ma can break the spell herself, if she chooses kindness over
125 vanity.
- 126 Jolli Then let us pray she has the strength to do so, Sir. Come on! The passageway into the
127 dungeon runs beneath the old scullery. I know the house better than I know the
128 Squire's tax avoidance strategies.
- 129 Rita Lead on. *(JOLLIBOTTOM GOES BEFORE HER AND SHE PEERS AT HIS BEHIND)* Oooh, I can see
130 why they call you Jollibottom!
- 131 Mickey Right behind you. *(GOES IN FRONT OF CHERYL)*
- 132 Cheryl *(ADMIRING MICKEY'S BOTTOM)* Ooh, yours is looking pretty happy too Mickey. Must be all
133 that buttock clenching you do.
- 134 *BILLY TAKES TILLY'S HAND WITHOUT THINKING. SHE LOOKS AT IT, PLEASED. HE REALISES AND AWKWARDLY*
135 *LETS GO.*
- 136 Billy Sorry... I just, well, didn't want you getting lost.
- 137 Tilly *(SMILING)* Then don't let go.
- 138 *BILLY TAKES HER HAND AGAIN*
- 139 *ALL EXIT STAGE VIA AISLE*
- 140 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: RESCUE ME, FONTELLA BASS**

Scene 3: The Squire's Dungeon

OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS

CHARACTERS: GERTIE2; BILLY; TILLY; JOLLIBOTTOM; RITA; MICKEY; CHERYL

SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE2 STILL IN THE DUNGEON, PACING.

Gertie2 *(STOPPING PACING AND COMING TO A DECISION)* Finally, I have realised what really matters, and if that means losing the cheekbones *(HESITATES AND FEELS HER FACE)*, so be it *(SHOWING RESOLVE)*. Although I will miss them, good cheekbones are the only thing preventing the rest of my face from a landslide.

Jolli *(FROM VESTRY)* It's just a little further and the tunnel will bring us out in the dungeon.

CLATTERING

BILLY, TILLY, JOLLIBOTTOM AND THE OTHERS APPEAR FROM THE VESTRY.

Billy Ma!

Tilly Gertie!

Gertie2 Billy! Tilly! Oh, thank goodness. I'm so happy to see you, I'm so sorry.

Rita Save it for later Gertie, we've only got so much time before those two imbeciles realise we're here. But how are we gonna get you out of that cell, Gertie love?

Jolli *(STEPPING FORWARD)*. If I may, Madam *(HOLDS UP A LARGE KEY)* One of the many perks of being a butler is knowing where everything is hidden.

JOLLIBOTTOM UNLOCKS THE CELL.

Gertie2 Ooh, Thank you Mr Jollibottom. I'd always hoped you'd impress me with something large, and you didn't disappoint! I'm so happy to see all of you. Light Feather has helped me see what a fool I've been. I thought riches and beauty would make life better, but I was wrong. It was never the golden eggs that made me rich. It was everything I already had.....Billy... Tilly... my friends... my village. And, if I get Honkers back, I've decided I want to use her golden eggs to help people and share the wealth.

- 48 Tilly I'm glad we've got the old Gertie back Billy
- 49 Billy Me too.
- 50 Tilly I was frightened we'd lost her.
- 51 Billy I was frightened too. *(PAUSE)* But not as much as I would have been without you.
- 52 Tilly Me?
- 53 Billy Well... yes. Because when everything goes wrong, you're the one who makes everything
54 right again. And when everything goes right... you're the one I want to share it with.
- 55 Tilly *(SWOONING)* Oh, Billy...
- 56 Rita *(LOUDLY TO CHERYL)* About bloomin' time! I was beginning to think he hadn't got the
57 brains he was born with.
- 58 Cheryl Aww, Rita I always knew he'd come to his senses.
- 59 Billy *(TO TILLY)* Sorry, I know this isn't the time
- 60 Tilly Oh, don't let that stop you!
- 61 Billy I just mean... Well, I care about you too. More than I've ever properly said.
- 62 Tilly Good. Because I was getting tired of waiting for you to catch up.
- 63 Gertie2 Oh for goodness' sake just get on with it or this will be the longest Act 2 in the history of
64 Pantomime!

65 *BILLY & TILLY BOTH LAUGH AND START TO MOVE IN FOR A KISS / STARE INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES*

66 Rita There's no time for snogging now though, you'll have to wait a bit longer.

67 Gertie2 Yes, romance later, rescue mission first. Come on everyone, we've got a goose to save.

68 *CAST EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

69 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: TRUE COLOURS, CINDY LAUPER**

Scene 4: The Squire's Manor House

OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS

CHARACTERS: GERTIE; SQUIRE BLACKHEART; SNITCHY MCSPLEEN; HONKERS McFLAP; GERTIE2; BILLY; TILLY; JOLLIBOTTOM;
RITA; MICKEY; CHERYL; LIGHT FEATHER; MRS BRIDGES

SCENE OPENS WITH HONKERS CHAINED UP. THE SQUIRE & SNITCH ARE ON STAGE

Squire I just don't understand it! She's got food, water, a nice straw bed. Frankly, she's got better conditions than you Snitch! Why isn't she laying any eggs?

Snitch We've tried everything! Poetry, whale music, a motivational chart, Gin! Although, to be fair, the gin was more for our benefit.

Squire Ungrateful bird! Maybe violence is the better option!

HONKERS HONKS MISERABLY

Snitch *(CONSULTING CLIPBOARD)* Sir, I feel I must point out that if we do not receive an egg by close of business, we'll have to revise the projections for Hard Acre Heights.

Squire There will be no revising! That salon land is mine! If I have to strangle an egg out of the damn goose! *(HOLDING HIS HANDS IN A STRANGLING MOTION AND WALKING TOWARDS HONKERS)*

Snitch *(QUICKLY STEPPING IN)* Sir! Sir! Perhaps not 'strangling'... HR were quite clear after the last incident.

Squire *(PAUSES MENACINGLY)* Listen to me Snitch.....Do I look like the kind of man who cares about HR.....

Snitch No Sir, not at all Sir....HR be damned, sir.

Squire *(TO HONKERS, MENACINGLY POLITE)* Now listen here, you feathered freeloader... you **will** produce an egg... or you will face the consequences!

HONKERS HONKS DEFIANTLY

Snitch *(LEANING IN)* Sir... I think that was a no.

26 Squire *(FURIOUS)* No one says no to me!

27 *SQUIRE ADVANCES ON HONKERS WITH HANDS OUTSTRETCHED – BACK TO THE STRANGLING STRATEGY!*

28 *GERTIE2 AND THE OTHERS BURST IN FROM THE VESTRY*

29 Billy Step away from that goose!

30 Tilly Unchain her at once!

31 Gertie2 Squire Blackheart, that goose will never lay golden eggs for the likes of you.

32 Squire Oh no? And why not?

33 Gertie2 Because Honkers only lays golden eggs for someone kind and loving with a good heart.
34 So frankly, you and McSnitch have no chance whatsoever you... you... um... *(TRYING TO*
35 *THINK OF SOMETHING TO CALL THEM).*

36 Jolli Might I suggest 'Insufferable Buffoons'

37 Gertie2 What he said *(POINTING AT JOLLIBOTTOM)*

38 Snitch Oh that's just rude.

39 Rita But accurate!

40 Snitch Is this true that the goose will not lay eggs for us?

41 Jolli Given my firsthand knowledge of the Squire's moral character, I'd say there's more
42 chance of that bird laying a patio than laying an egg!

43 Squire Silence, that's enough... If we can't have the goose's golden eggs, no one can.

44 Snitch Yes! We'll wring her scrawny neck!

45 *SNITCH AND SQUIRE MOVE TOWARDS HONKERS MENACINGLY*

46 *SUDDENLY MRS BRIDGES BURSTS IN WITH A FEATHER DUSTER AND A LARGE FIRE IRON.*

47 Bridges Stand back, you villains!

48 Squire *(STARTLED AND CONFUSED)* Mrs Bridges?!

49 Bridges Nobody's harming Honkers while I'm around! *(SHE SWINGS WILDLY, HITTING SNITCH, THEN*
50 *ACCIDENTALLY THE SQUIRE)* Oops! Beggin' yer pardon sir. *(REALISING WHERE HER LOYALTIES*
51 *LIE)* No, actually... not sorry.

52 *SNITCH YELPS.*

53 Billy Go Mrs Bridges!

54 Bridges Oh, sorry. OK sir, I'll go.

55 *MRS BRIDGES LEAVES STAGE VIA VESTRY*

56 Mickey Wow, that's a great swing... Have you ever thought of playing golf!

57 *TILLY AND BILLY RELEASE HONKERS FROM HER CHAINS. HONKERS FLAPS ABOUT FURIOUSLY.*

58 Tilly There you are, girl, free again!

59 Gertie2 Come here, Honkers, my little feathered friend. I'm so sorry I let you down, let me
60 clutch you to my bosom!

61 Jolli Oh! what a privileged specimen!

62 *HONKERS NESTLES INTO TO GERTIE2'S BOSOM*

63 *SUDDENLY HONKERS MOVES TOWARD THE SQUIRE HONKING LOUDLY.*

64 Rita Ooh, this will be fun... hope you can run fast matey!

65 Squire *(COWERING BEHIND SNITCH)* Keep that beast away from me!

66 Snitch It's looking at me funny!

67 *HONKERS CHARGES. THE SQUIRE & SNITCH RUN AROUND THE STAGE IN PANIC.*

68 **BENNY HILL THEME**

69 Billy Go Honkers!

70 Cheryl Chase 'em!

71 Mickey Faster, Squire! That's really good cardio!

72 *SNITCH AND SQUIRE ARE CHASED OFF STAGE AND DOWN THE AISLE BY HONKERS.*

73 **TWINKLY MUSIC.**

74 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS.*

75 Light *(TO AUDIENCE)* We can't just let those villains escape justice. I think I will turn them into
76 Geese! I'll need your help with a spell. When I raise my wand, everyone shout "Feathers
77 & Beaks, and four webbed feet!"

78 Aud Feathers and Beaks and Four Webbed Feet!

79 Light Louder!

80 Aud Feathers and Beaks and Four Webbed Feet!

81 Light That was brilliant! And now to finish the spell!

82 **TWINKLY MUSIC**

83 *LIGHT FEATHER CASTS SPELL.*

84 Light Feathers and Beaks and four webbed feet, your Goose transformation is now complete!

85 **MAGICAL SOUND.**

86 *FROM REAR OF THE HALL: HONKING, SQUAWKING, AND PANICKED SHOUTS.*

87 Snitch *(OFF STAGE)* What's happening to me...there is something sprouting out my bum!

88 Squire *(OFF STAGE)* Good Lord! Why am I waddling?! Snitch, come here and make this stop! Oh
89 my!, you've got feathers

90 Rita Best transformation of the whole show, if you ask me. Even better than that Gertie's
91 transformation in Act 1

Updated 30 May 2026

92 Gertie2 Come on everyone. Let's go home. You too Jollibottom.

93 Jolli Home, Madam?

94 Gertie2 Yes. *(SHE TAKES JOLLI'S HAND)* To the salon. To my family, My friends, and back to my
95 fabulous old life.

96 *MRS BRIDGES REENTERS THE STAGE FROM THE VESTRY*

97 Bridges Beggin' yer pardon Mr Jollibottom, but now that Dumb & Dumber have gone for good,
98 d'you think it would be ok for Pip the sweep to come down from inside the chimney,
99 only he's been up there for 3 months now and I'm worried he might grow to like it up
100 there and we'll never be able to light the fire again!

101 Jolli Of course Mrs B, free the poor little blighter forthwith!

102 Bridges *(SHOUTS LOUDLY UP THE CHIMNEY)* Pip, you can come out now!

103 *PIP APPEARS ON STAGE FROM FIREPLACE, BLINKING AT THE LIGHT*

104 Pip Well this is nice, I'd completely forgotten what daylight looks like! Will I get paid now
105 missus?

106 Bridges Yes, Pip you will indeed, c'mon let's get you cleaned up!

107 *BLACKOUT*

108 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: CHIM CHIMENY BY DICK VAN DYKE**

Scene 5: Mother Goose's Hairdressers

OPENING STAGE SETTING AND PROPS DIRECTIONS

**CHARACTERS: GERTIE1; BILLY; TILLY; CHANTAL; RITA; MICKEY; DOLLY; CHERYL; VILLAGER1; VILLAGER2; VILLAGER3;
HONKERS McFLAP**

SCENE OPENS BACK IN THE OLD SALON. THE ORIGINAL SIGN HAS BEEN PUT BACK UP. THE AESTHETICS PARAPHERNALIA HAS GONE. IN ITS PLACE ARE ODD HOLISTIC ITEMS. GERTIE, TILLY, BILLY, RITA, MICKEY, AND CHERYL, ARE ALL ON STAGE WITH HONKERS IN HER BED.

- 8 Gertie1 Well that's it then. Mother Goose's Hair salon is back where it belongs. No more fillers,
9 no more freeze-dried foreheads, no more scouse brows that arrive in the room before
10 the client does.
- 11 Tilly So what are we doing now then?
- 12 Gertie1 Holistic therapies, Tilly.
- 13 Chantal Oh..... holistic treatments, I thought you said HOSTILE treatments... no wonder that
14 woman just slammed the phone down on me!
- 15 Rita Hostile... Holistic... what's the difference?
- 16 Gertie1 Holistic means natural beauty, inner peace, herbal healing and gentle wellness.
- 17 Mickey Sounds fabulously peaceful and healthy.
- 18 Cheryl Well that Depends on who's doing the 'Herbal Healing' ... If it's Chantal, then nobody's
19 safe! *(CHANTAL GIVES CHERYL A CONFUSED LOOK)*
- 20 Tilly *(TO CHANTAL)* Take no notice of Cheryl, she's only joking. Well, it all sounds fabulous
21 Gertie.
- 22 Billy And absolutely no one gets vacuumed by a Henry Hoover.
- 23 Rita Oh well it looks like there'll be no liposuction for me then! I shall just have to continue
24 tucking my belly into me Spanx knickers and hope for the best!
- 25 Gertie1 We've got a lovely new list of treatments though Rita, tell her what they are Chantal.

- 26 *CHANTAL PICKS UP A CLIP BOARD, PROMPTLY DROPS IT, THEN PICKS IT UP AGAIN AND READS FROM LIST)*
- 27 Chantal There's moonstone scalp alignment, chakra conditioning, intuitive fringe balancing, and
28 a seaweed wrap for people whose 'tights' need spiritual support.
- 29 Cheryl TIGHTS!
- 30 Tilly It's THIGHS Chantal... THIGHS!
- 31 Chantal Oops... sorry... for people whose THIGHS need spiritual support !
- 32 Rita Is there anything on that list for extreme irritability and emotional bitterness, love?
- 33 Chantal *(FRANTICALLY SCOURING THE LIST)* Err No, I can't see anything.
- 34 Mickey You could try my new Ballet Pilates class Rita – it is very relaxing and helps firm up any
35 wobbly bits too. Betty's farting can be a bit off putting, but you soon get used to the
36 smell.
- 37 Gertie1 Or I can do you a nettle compress and a gong bath.
- 38 Cheryl Oh, I like the sound of the nettles and gongs!
- 39 Rita *(LOOKING AT CHANTAL)* Well I suppose it's better than Flatulence isn't it lovey!
- 40 Chantal I don't know.....what's Flatulence?
- 41 Cheryl Well it's when.....
- 42 Billy *(INTERRUPTING)* Take no notice of them Chantal, why don't you go and make everyone
43 a nice cup of tea.... erm... actually on second thoughts just bring a jug of water, I think
44 you'll find a plastic one in the kitchen cupboard, and some paper cups!
- 45 Chantal Ok, should I bring a plate of biscuits too?
- 46 Everyone No!
- 47 Gertie 1 Don't worry about a plate.
- 48 Tilly Just bring the packet.

49 Chantal Ok, I've got it, no glass jug, no china cups, no porcelain plate... I think I can manage that.

50 *CHANTAL EXITS STAGE, FOLLOWED BY SOUND OF BREAKING CHINA FROM VESTRY*

51 Gertie1 What are we going to do with her, it's a good job she's adorable!

52 Tilly I know... we just can't let her loose on the clients though

53 Billy Well at least she gets to practice on poor Honkers

54 *HONKERS APPEARS FROM VESTRY WITH BOWS ALL OVER HER HEAD*

55 **SAD HONKING NOISE**

56 Mickey Only you could employ a full-time apprentice who's only capable of sweeping up and
57 answering the phone.

58 Gertie1 Aww... she is so lovely, and if I don't employ her nobody will, so it looks like she'll be
59 here until she retires!

60 Cheryl That's typical of your good nature Gertie,

61 Billy And as for our lovely Honkers... she's back to laying one golden egg a day. Talking of
62 Honkers, come on tilly, let's give Honkers a wash and blow dry and get these bows out
63 of her feathers

64 *HONKERS, BILLY & TILLY EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

65 Gertie1 Indeed she is..... *(TO AUDIENCE)* Which we put to good use supporting villagers in need
66 of investment. *(HOLDS UP TWO GOLDEN EGGS)* I've assembled a panel of experts to help
67 me choose the most deserving candidates. *(POINTS TO RITA, MICKEY, AND CHERYL; DOLLY*
68 *JOINS THEM FROM THE VESTRY... THEN WHEN THEY ARE ALL ASSEMBLED, HONKERS WADDLES*
69 *OVER AND SITS NEXT TO GERTIE)* "Welcome to **Honkers Den** – where big ideas are
70 hatched!"

71 **DRAGON'S DEN MUSIC**

72 **EVAN DAVIES AI GENERATED VOICE IS HEARD SAYING.....BUT REMEMBER NO ONE GETS AN EGG**
73 **WITHOUT PROVING TO THE PANEL THAT THEY HAVE A VERY GOOD REASON FOR WANTING ONE,**

74 **IF YOU CANNOT CONVINCE THE PANEL, THEN THE ANSWER IS A RESOUNDING NO, AND THEY**
75 **MUST LEAVE WITHOUT ANY INVESTMENT!**

76 *VILLAGERS MAKE THEIR WAY DOWN THE CENTRAL AISLE TO STAND ON FLOOR IN FRONT OF STAGE*

77 *VILLAGER1, A BALD MAN, STEPS FORWARD TO FRONT EDGE OF STAGE*

78 Villager1 Good morning. I'm seeking a golden egg... to fund a hair transplant in Harley Street.

79 Gertie1 So tell me why we should invest in you?

80 Villager1 Well... err... I'd really really like hair.

81 Gertie *(DEADPAN)* Obviously !.

82 Mickey What return is there on this investment?

83 Villager1 Well basically.... after you've invested there'll be hair, whereas there was none before?

84 Cheryl how big an investment are you looking for?

85 Villager1 Enough for a full head hopefully!

86 Rita Well you'd look a bit daft with just a fringe!

87 Gertie1 You need to learn to love yourself as you are. For that reason... I'm out.

88 Mickey I think you should just buy a decent toupee... I'm out.

89 Dolly I quite like a man with a full head of hair... but not enough to pay for it. I'm out.

90 Rita *(JUMPING IN)* Well I love you just the way you are! *(TO AUDIENCE)* You know what they
91 say about bald men and virility... sounds exactly like my sort of man, come on, it's your
92 lucky day, you can come back to my place and show me all your other bald patches!

93 *RITA EXITS ARM IN ARM WITH VILLAGER1 VIA VESTRY*

94 *VILLAGER2 STEPS FORWARD.*

- 95 Villager2 Hello panel. I'm asking for an egg... to pay for a trip to Turkey to get me teeth fixed. As
96 you can see they're a bit uneven.
- 97 Mickey A BIT uneven? They look like a picket fence in a hurricane.
- 98 Villager2 Exactly!
- 99 Cheryl What's the trip gonna cost?
- 100 Villager2 Well it's a bit pricey, what with the cost of the flights, the hotel, the food, the beach
101 towels and the designer budgie smugglers, oh, and the duty free fags and vodka!
- 102 Dolly Wow... that sounds expensive... exactly how great will the return on investment be?
- 103 Villager2 Oh... great... in fact Really great, especially after all that vodka!
- 104 Gertie1 I've heard enough... Your teeth are fine. It's your personality that needs a bit of
105 work.....and for that reason I'm out.
- 106 Mickey No fags, no vodka, no investment... I'm out.
- 107 Dolly I've seen better teeth... but I've also seen worse... I'm out too.
- 108 Cheryl *(STEPPING FORWARD)* Oh don't listen to them! There's nothing wrong with a man whose
109 teeth look like a badly laid path! Come on, let's go somewhere we can both enjoy a
110 drink, we can compare dentists over a few cocktails, I'll have a Cherry B and cider, and
111 you can try a Moscow Mule!
- 112 *CHERYL AND VILLAGER2 EXIT ARM IN ARM VIA VESTRY*
- 113 *VILLAGER3 (FEMALE) STEPS FORWARD.*
- 114 Villager3 Good morning. I'd like a golden egg... to pay for buttock implants.
- 115 Gertie1 BUTTOCK IMPLANTS!
- 116 Villager3 Yes, I absolutely hate my flat bum!
- 117 Gertie1 I can't see anything wrong with it?

118 Villager3 That's just it, you can't see it, nobody can see it! It's practically non-existent!

119 Dolly It's Minimalist... I'll give you that... But I quite like it, loads of women would give
120 anything to have a small bum.

121 Gertie1 I agree... I can't invest in vanity projects; there's nothing wrong with your bottom!... So,
122 I'm out!

123 *HONKERS SIGNIFIES ANOTHER NO*

124 Mickey I second that, I think you just need to do some strengthening exercises,

125 Dolly Mickey helps lots of women in the village get fit and healthy.

126

127 Mickey I can show you how to develop your Gluteus Maximus! It won't be long before you love
128 the bottom you were born with! I've got plenty of exercises you can try – C'mon, Dolly
129 and I will give you a tour of the gym and introduce you to some of my ladies... but don't
130 be put off, they're all bark and no bite!

131 *MICKEY DOLLY AND VILLAGER3 EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

132 **AI GENERATED EVAN DAVIES LINE ABOUT NO LUCK IN THE HONKERS DEN FOR THE HOPEFULS**
133 **TODAY**

134 Gertie Oh, well. No eggs given out today then Honkers. These eggs are for genuine need. For
135 Helping people. Not for vanity. (*HOLDS UP TWO GOLDEN EGGS*) I think I'll donate these to
136 the village hall.

137 *BILLY & TILLY ENTER STAGE VIA VESTRY WITH JOLLIBOTTOM, WHO HAS A BUNCH OF FLOWERS.*

138

139 Billy Look who I've found hanging round outside Ma. I think he wants to talk to you

140 Jolli Good morning, Gertie.

141 Gertie1 Mr Jollibottom! How lovely to see you.

142 Jolli Please, call me Basil.

143 Gertie1 Basil!?

144 Jolli Yes, my mother was a big fan of Faulty Towers! I brought you some flowers. Nothing
145 extravagant. Unlike your former cheekbones.

146 Gertie1 (LAUGHING) Thank you. That's very thoughtful. Basil

147 *BILLY AND TILLY MOVE DOWNSTAGE A LITTLE.*

148 Tilly Aww that's so sweet!

149 Billy I know, it's lovely to see Ma so happy.

150 Tilly Billy... can I tell you something silly?

151 Billy Of Course.

152 Tilly I'm glad Gertie's back to her old self. Truly I am. But... a tiny part of me wishes I'd had
153 chance to get something done before the beauty clinic closed.

154 Billy What? Why?

155 Tilly Because... I thought if I were prettier, or more glamorous... maybe you'd fall in love with
156 me.

157 Billy *(SURPRISED AND EXCITED AT THE FACT THAT TILLY WANTS HIM TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HER)*
158 Oh, Tilly... I've been in love with you since forever!

159 Tilly *(EQUALLY SURPRISED AND PLEASED)* You have?

160 Billy Of course I have. I just never thought you could possibly feel the same.

161 Tilly Why not!

162 Billy You're clever and capable and... well... just lovely... But I'm just me. I'm not good enough
163 for someone as wonderful as you! I just sweep up, and find geese, and burn sprouts...
164 I'm just...

165 Tilly Perfect Billy... that's what you are. Just perfect!

166 Billy And so are you Tilly! Come here!

167 *BILLY AND TILLY HUG & EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

168 Gertie1 *(TO JOLLI)* Oh my! Look at them. This is what matters. Love. Friendship. Kindness.
169 Community... And the occasional goose-based miracle. *(INTO VESTRY)* C'mon Honkers
170 luv, let me give you a lovely cuddle!

171 *HONKERS ENTERS FROM THE VESTRY, GIVES GERTIE1 A BIG HUG AND LAYS A GOLDEN EGG WITH A*
172 *FLOURISH.*

173 **CLANG**

174 Jolli Good heavens... She's done it again! *(COLLECTS THE EGG FROM HONKERS AND GIVES IT TO*
175 *GERTIE1)*

176 Gertie1 There we are then. One more golden egg... and this one shall go to whoever in the
177 village needs it most.

178 Jolli Spoken like the woman I always knew you were.

179 Gertie1 And I'm very glad to be her again.

180 *ALL EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

181 *LIGHT FEATHER & DARK FEATHER APPEARS ON STAGE.*

182 Light So big brother, by learning that kindness is worth more than vanity, Gertie Goose found
183 her true riches after all.

184 Dark I know, it's quite sickening, I had no idea that these humans were so pathetic. What's
185 wrong with these people, have they no backbone whatsoever!

186 Light Well on the bright side, at least I won the bet, which makes you the....

187 Dark Do not say the L word, I will not stand for it... we may be related but you do not want to
188 suffer my wrath...

189 Light *(LAUGHING)* But someone has to be the winner, and someone the loser, or else what fun
190 would there be in these games!

191 Dark That's all well and good, as long as I'm always the winner... I have an idea... Let's do
192 double or quits!

193 Light But how... we've already proved that humans are inherently kind.

194 Dark But surely not all humans are as nice as these soppy idiots! There must be others out
195 there totally lacking in moral fibre! Who don't care about kindness and humanity! I
196 mean, look at him *(POINTS TO SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE)* he looks like he has less moral
197 fibre than candyfloss in a downpour.

198 Light Quite possibly... but maybe we should aim bigger. Where could we go next?

199 Dark I know of a few places we could look, let's start with the White House in America... I
200 believe it recently housed such a person, quite unhinged by all accounts, who knows,
201 we might get lucky!

202 Light Ok you're on, double or quits, what could we possibly lose?

203 Dark Nothing at all Light Feather, nothing at all. Well, the humans might not fare so well once
204 we've finished interfering in their lives, but you and I will have great fun!

205 *ALL CAST EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY AND CONGREGATE FOR WALKDOWN*

206 **WALKDOWN SONG: HAPPY — PHARRELL WILLIAMS**

207 *SNITCH & MCSPLEEN HAVE PARTIAL GOOSE OUTFITS FOR THE WALKDOWN*