

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

|                |                               |                    |                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Gertie1</b> | Kind Gertie Goose             | <b>Pip</b>         | Pip the Sweep                               |
| <b>Gertie2</b> | Vain Gertie Goose             | <b>Ned</b>         | Ned Thatcher, Bald Villager                 |
| <b>Billy</b>   | Billy Goose                   | <b>Phil</b>        | Phil McAvity, Villager with bad teeth       |
| <b>Tilly</b>   | Tilly Tangles                 | <b>Gladys</b>      | Gladys Flatbottom, Villager with a flat bum |
| <b>Squire</b>  | Squire Cedric Blackheart      | <b>Honkers</b>     | Honkers McFlap - The Goose                  |
| <b>Snitch</b>  | Snitchy McSpleen              | <b>Minions</b>     | Squire's minions                            |
| <b>Dark</b>    | Dark Feather                  | <b>Connie</b>      | Miss C. Lingus, Beauty Rep                  |
| <b>Light</b>   | Light Feather                 | <b>Cora</b>        | Cora Crumble, Squire's Cook                 |
| <b>Jolli</b>   | Basil Jollibottom, the Butler | <b>Gina</b>        | Gina Gymbunny                               |
| <b>Bridges</b> | Mrs Bridges, the Housekeeper  | <b>Evan</b>        | Evan Davis                                  |
| <b>Rita</b>    | Rita Rollers                  | <b>Sign Holder</b> |                                             |
| <b>Fiona</b>   | Fiona Frizz                   |                    |                                             |
| <b>Dolly</b>   | Dolly Wobble                  |                    |                                             |
| <b>Mickey</b>  | Mickey Muscles                |                    |                                             |
| <b>Betty</b>   | Betty Botox                   |                    |                                             |
| <b>Cheryl</b>  | Cheryl Spraytan               |                    |                                             |
| <b>Sandra</b>  | Sandra Slimfast               |                    |                                             |
| <b>Chantal</b> | 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 SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE, BILLY, TILLY AND RITA ROLLERS ON STAGE.

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

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

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

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

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

15 GERTIE PUTS RITA UNDER THE DRIER

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

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

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

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

22 Billy And why is that mother? As if we didn't know!

23 Gertie1 Well, a lot of them are lonely of course, they just want to pop in when they're passing. I  
24 like to have a little chat about their hair and spruce them up a bit, maybe a shampoo  
25 and set, and then we all have a nice cuppa.

26 Tilly Oh Gertie, you're too kind for your own good. We should at least charge them what  
27 they can afford.

28 Billy Tilly's right Ma, we can't carry on like this, I don't think you realise how poor we are,  
29 *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE LOOKING SAD)* we're so poor!

30 Audience Awwwww

31 Billy Oh c'mon, we're much poorer than that! *(ENCOURAGING AUDIENCE TO RESPOND WITH A  
32 MUCH LOUDER AWWWWW).*

33 Audience Awwwww

34 Billy *(TURNS BACK TO GERTIE)* we can't even afford a turkey for Christmas dinner this year. All  
35 we've got in the pantry is a big tin of spam, and I think that's older than me! Ma, you're  
36 gonna have to learn to toughen up.

37 Gertie1 I know... It's just so hard when all I want to do is make everyone look beautiful,  
38 especially those who can't afford it.

39 *RITA SUDDENLY POPS HER HEAD OUT FROM UNDER THE DRIER*

40 Rita I don't wish to complain, but there's a terrible smell of burning coming from this drier! I  
41 came in for a perm, not a cremation!

42 Tilly *(SNIFFING THE AIR)* It does smell a bit!

43 Gertie1 Oh, you're fine, Rita, it's probably just the chemicals in the perm solution, I'll let you  
44 know when you're ready

45 Billy D'you want to be rare, medium or well done!

46 *RITA GLARES AT BILLY SHAKES HER HEAD THEN POPS HER HEAD BACK UNDER THE DRIER*

47 Tilly *(LIGHTLY PUNCHING BILLY'S ARM)* Oh Billy, you're so naughty. He's right about one thing  
48 though Gertie, I just don't know how you can make any money if you continue to be so

49 kind to the customers. You're generous to the point of bankruptcy! Although, I can't  
50 complain, I'll always be grateful for you for rescuing me from the orphanage and giving  
51 me a home, it was such a kind thing to do!

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

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

55 *CONNIE ENTERS STAGE FROM VESTRY*

56 Connie Morning all! I assume I'm speaking to the one and only Gertie Goose, of Gertie Goose's  
57 Salon fame? I'm Miss Lingus, your new Hair & Beauty Rep, but you can call me Connie  
58 I've popped in to offer you the opportunity of a lifetime, the latest miracle products in  
59 hair care. You know what they say....

60 All No

61 Connie *(TURNING TO AUDIENCE AND GIVING CHEESY WINK)* You can count on Connie for Hair care!

62 *CONNIE GIVES A CARD TO GERTIE1*

63 Gertie1 By 'eck this is posh, *(READING FROM THE CARD)* Miss C Lingus, Beauty Rep to Royalty.  
64 Wow! Do you sell products to the royal family then?

65 Connie Well, not quite, but I once sold some 'do it yourself' perming solution to a woman  
66 whose daughter-in-law's cousin works in the gift shop in Windsor Castle, so I'm  
67 practically on first name terms with Charlie & Camilla.

68 *CONNIE OPENS SUITCASE*

69 Connie Now, have a look at this lot, I've got everything you could possibly want in here, pure  
70 quality, pure quality... permanent hair dye, semi-permanent hair dye and possibly  
71 permanent hair dye... take your pick!

72 Gertie1 Possibly?

73 Connie Well it might wear off, with a bit of time... and some white vinegar, hard to say for sure  
74 really!

- 75 Tilly Oh, I think we should give that one a miss.
- 76 Connie Fair enough... what about this then... (*PRODUCES A BOTTLE*) this is my newest shampoo  
77 sensation... 'Volume Explosion'
- 78 Billy What's explosive about it?
- 79 Connie Its revolutionary... it sort of makes your head fart out of your ears!
- 80 Tilly That sounds dangerous
- 81 Connie Oh it's not that dangerous, I've only had 3 complaints
- 82 Gertie1 Three?
- 83 Connie Well... two complaints and one insurance claim, but it's still legal to sell in the UK until  
84 the enquiry is over. Or what about this... 'Mostly Miracle Hair Restorer' just one  
85 application and you'll have the thickest hair in Britain.
- 86 Billy Does it work?
- 87 Connie Absolutely... take a look at this photo.
- 88 *CONNIE SHOWS A PHOTO TO GERTIE1*
- 89 Gertie1 That's a sheep!
- 90 Connie Well that's just for pictorial purposes, but you get the idea, and remember Gertie, you  
91 don't have to pay for anything until next month.
- 92 Gertie Oh go on then Miss Lingus, I'll try one box of everything
- 93 Billy Ma!
- 94 Connie Thanks Gertie... You won't regret it... remember... (*TURNING TO AUDIENCE AND GIVING*  
95 *CHEESY WINK*) you can count on Connie for hair care! Ta ta!
- 96 *CONNIE EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*
- 97 Tilly Oh Gertie, we can't afford any new products

98 Billy Ma, what am I going to do with you!

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

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

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

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

109 *RITA EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

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

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

117 Gertie1 Development... What sort of development... Highlights, lowlights, a badly cut fringe.

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

120 *SQUIRE AND SNITCH REACH THE STAGE*

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

123 Tilly Thank you. I think.

124 Billy There is no need to come in here all mob handed you know, bringing all your scary  
125 minions with you.

126 Squire Yes...I'm rather proud of my little minions. I'm teaching them how to be mean and  
127 nasty, (turns to Minions) show them all how mean you can be ..... (*MINIONS ALL GROWL*)

128 Snitch Oh well done, well done!

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

131 *MINION HANDS SNITCH A SCROLL THAT HE UNRAVELS ACROSS THE FLOOR WITH THE MINIONS TAKING*  
132 *HOLD OF THE OTHER END.*

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

135 *MINIONS GATHER AROUND AND START CHATTERING*

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

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

139 *MINIONS NODDING IN AGREEMENT*

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

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

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

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

147 Squire Calm down McSpleen! Don't make me slap you! (*MINIONS ALL COWER & GASP*) (*TO*  
148 *GERTIE*) Just remember, pay up by Christmas Day... or pack up by Boxing Day!

149 Gertie1 Well, we'll try our very, very best.

150 Billy We really will, sir!

151 Tilly But you'll get no kindness points for bullying good people.

152 Squire Kindness doesn't pay the bills, *(STRIKES A VILLAINOUS POSE)* and I've always done very  
153 well without it!

154 Snitch Oh me too... I had a terrible childhood, my parents only ever showed cruelty, and my  
155 nanny used to beat me... and look how well I turned out!

156 Squire *(LOOKING ASKANCE AT SNITCH AND SHAKING HIS HEAD)* Well that explains a lot! Come,  
157 McSpleen let us make our exit!

158 *SQUIRE, SNITCH & MINIONS EXITS STAGE DRAMATICALLY VIA AISLE*

159 Tilly *(IF AUDIENCE DO'NT BOO INSTINCTIVELY)* Well! Now you've met Squire Blackheart,  
160 everyone. And what do we think of him, I think he deserves a boo?

161 *TILLY ENCOURAGES AUDIENCE RESPONSE: BOO!*

162 Audience Boo!

163 Billy Come on! Pretend he's just nicked your games console and cancelled Christmas and  
164 give us a louder Boooo!

165 Audience Boooo!

166 Billy Right! So, whenever you see that mean old Squire again, what are you going to do?

167 Audience BOOOO!

168 Tilly Exactly! Good work, team. Now—let's see if we can come up with a plan to save the  
169 day.

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

172 *GERTIE SNIFFS THEATRICALY*

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

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

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

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

179 *BILLY AND TILLY GO BEHIND THE CUBE*

180 *FIONA FRIZZ ENTERS THE STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

194 Gertie1 I'm very big boned you see... and I do retain water, oh, and cake! In fact, mainly cake!

195 Fiona You'll be fine, we'll keep the lights low and just don't look down!

196 Gertie1 See in my day you didn't get weighed, you just wore elasticated waistbands, and if they  
197 snapped you just blamed the washing machine.

198 Fiona You and me both! It's really good of you to let us hold Fat club here in the salon Gertie,  
199 with all the new members it was starting to get a bit crowded in my garage.

200 Gertie1 Oh you're welcome Fiona, you know me, always happy to help out when I can. So, love  
201 is your Dave back from Uni for Christmas?

202 Fiona Oh, don't mention Christmas – Dave's got himself a new girlfriend and they have gone  
203 to her parents, he's left me, his poor old mum to sit at home on her own on Christmas  
204 day. I mean, talk about gratitude.

205 *BILLY AND TILLY COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE CUBE CARRYING LEDGER WHICH THEY PUT ON THE*  
206 *RECEPTION DESK AND LEAN OVER TO HAVE A LOOK AT*

207 Gertie1 Oh no, how ungrateful. But what about your Kenneth, haven't they let him out yet?

208 Fiona No, he got his sentence extended.

209 Tilly Oh Fiona! I heard about that, I'm so sorry

210 Billy Yes, who knew that 'Buy one, get one free' is not a legal defence!

211 Gertie1 Well, it'll just be the three of us this year. Me, Billy, and Tilly, you're welcome to join us.

212 Billy I'm making my special Christmas lunch! *(SPOKEN IN A FRENCH ACCENT WITH A FLOURISH OF*  
213 *THE HAND)* Spam a la cordon bleu, cooked the traditional French way... *(BACK TO NORMAL*  
214 *WAY OF SPEAKING)* Straight from the tin and pan-fried until it looks appetising and  
215 expensive. Although, I might try stuffing it this year, to see if it'll go a bit further

216 Fiona *(SHAKING HER HEAD)* Gertie, that is so kind. Honestly, you are the beating heart of this  
217 whole village. But I couldn't, honestly, I feel like I'd be imposing.

218 Gertie1 Don't be daft, we can't have you sitting at home on your own when we're just down the  
219 road, can we.

220 Fiona *(SUDDENLY CHANGING HER TONE AND ACCEPTING THE OFFER)* Well, when you put it like  
221 that, how could I refuse. Of course, I'm not the only one who'll be on their own  
222 tomorrow, Cheryl Spraytan is on her own.

- 223 Gertie1 Aww, better invite her too.
- 224 Fiona Will do! (*BEGINS HEADING TO VESTRY DOOR, THEN SPINS BACK*) Oh, I nearly forgot about  
225 Kev Kebabs? His wife's gone on a Yoga Retreat with Trevor's wife, leaving him with a  
226 vegan microwave curry.
- 227 Gertie1 Oh, he HAS to come... There's only one thing worse than microwave Curry for Christmas  
228 dinner, and that's VEGAN microwave curry (*SHUDDERS*)
- 229 Tilly Erm, Fiona... that's a lot of extra people. You're in danger of overstretching Gertie's  
230 good nature here. (*SARCASTICALLY*) Why don't you just invite the whole village?
- 231 Fiona Oh, that's ever so kind. Well just a few more then (*COUNTS ON FINGERS*) There's Dolly  
232 Wobble, Rita Rollers, Sandra Slimfast, Mickey Muscles, ooh and Glenys from the Post  
233 Office, and her lovely sister... Err what's her name again ...
- 234 Billy Fiona, I think that's more than enough!
- 235 *FIONA STARTS TO EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*
- 236 Fiona Right you are...! I'll go and tell everyone BYEEEE!
- 237 *FIONA LEAVES STAGE VIA VESTRY*
- 238 Gertie1 Oh, bless her. Such a thoughtful lass. She's always thinking of others. (*PAUSES*) Tilly,  
239 love... were you keeping count there?
- 240 Tilly I reckon we're up to about twenty people, but I wouldn't be surprised to find another  
241 10 waifs and strays looking for a free lunch! So, I'd plan for forty.
- 242 Billy Forty?! Mum! Our Christmas dinner was supposed to be a large tin of spam, some sage  
243 & onion stuffing and a family size bag of sprouts!
- 244 Gertie1 Oh, don't fret, Billy! We'll get it sorted; we always do! Sounds like we need a plan!
- 245 Tilly We're going to need more than a tin of spam, that's for sure.
- 246 Billy A Christmas hamper from Harrods couldn't even feed that lot!!!

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

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

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

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

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

255 **KERCHING**

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

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

261 Tilly Not since Greece joined the EU 46yrs ago Ma!

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

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

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

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

269 *BILLY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

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

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

275 *STAGE GOES DARK AND SCENE ENDS*

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

## Scene 2: Village Green

*SCENE OPENS WITH LIGHT AND DARK CHATTING*

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

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

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

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

Dark        Do you want to bet on it?

Light        What do you mean bet on it?

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

Light        Shush... Someone's coming.

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

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

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

29 *BILLY NOTICES THE AUDIENCE*

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

35 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON BILLY*

36 *LIGHTS GO UP ON LIGHT FEATHER AND DARK FEATHER*

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

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

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

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

44 Dark I will find a way to cast a spell which will turn this Gertie woman around, but once my  
45 spell is cast you must let it run its course.

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

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

50 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON LIGHT AND DARK*

51 *LIGHTS GO UP ON BILLY*

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

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

57 AUD Behind you!

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

59 Billy Where, I can't see anything

60 AUD It's behind you!

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

63 **BENNY HILL THEME**

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

67 *BILLY & HONKERS EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

68 *LIGHT GO UP ON LIGHT AND DARK*

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

72 *DARK FEATHER CASTS HIS SPELL*

73 **TWINKLY SOUNDS AND SPELL CASTING MUSIC**

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

75 *HIDES BEHIND PEDASTAL CURTAIN WHILST CHUCKLING*

76 Light *(TO AUDIENCE)* I have every faith in Gertie Goose staying true to herself, but just to be on  
77 the safe side I will cast a second spell which will only allow the goose to lay golden eggs  
78 when it's in the care of someone kind and generous.

79 *LIGHT FEATHER CASTS HER SPELL*

80 **TWINKLY SOUNDS AND SPELL CASTING MUSIC**

81 Light That should do it! May the best WOMAN win!

82 *STAGE GOES BLACK*

83 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: IT'S A KIND OF MAGIC**

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

*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*

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

All Noooo!

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

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

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

Cheryl We did!

Fiona And what happened???

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

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

Cheryl Hey you... Speak for yourself.

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

Betty That's true Rita, and a vanilla slice lasts longer than 2 minutes!

*MICKEY COMES IN FROM VESTRY, JOGGING ON THE SPOT & FLEXING HIS MUSCLES.*

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

45 Gina Mornin' everyone, sorry I'm late, I've just done a ten-mile run, a spin class and a quick  
46 cold-water plunge... I feel AMAZING

47 *THE OTHERS ALL SHAKE THEIR HEADS IN DISBELIEF*

48 Rita I felt AMAZING... Once!

49 Cheryl When was that?

50 Rita Ooh... let me think now... What was his name... it was August Bank Holiday 1987, oh,  
51 and he had the most enormous.

52 Mickey Rita! This is a family show!

53 Rita What? I was just going to say he had the most enormous feet!

54 Gina Oh for goodness's sake girls, fitness changes your life!

55 Sandra I'll take your word for it!

56 Gina I like to start my day with a spinach, Kale and wheatgrass smoothie

57 Rita *(TO AUDIENCE)* I dread to think how much she spends on bog roll!

58 Betty I like to start mine with a sausage roll from Greggs

59 Gina *(SHOCKED)* you need more protein than that Betty

60 Betty Oh, well I'll increase it to 2 sausage rolls then from now on!

61 Gina Oh I give up!

62 Mickey Now now ladies...Gina is only trying to help you get fit and achieve fabulous bods like  
63 what we have!

64 Gina Exactly... you're always saying you want to lose weight.

65 Sandra We do!

66 Gina Then why are you always carrying emergency snacks?

*ALL THE GIRLS LOOK EMBARRASSED*

67

68 Rita They're not emergency snacks, they're a preventative measure

69 Gina Against what?

70 Rita Hunger!

71 Gina Oh for Pete's sake

72 Sandra Well, I'm convinced the only way to shift my weight is to get on a plane to Africa.

73 All Africa?

74 Sandra Yes it seems climbing that mountain in Africa is the secret to weight loss

75 Betty What Mountain in Africa?

76 Sandra Kilimanjaro!

77 Micky Oh, for God's sake you mean Mounjaro, you daft bat?

78 Gertie1 Well it doesn't matter what the mountain's called... let's face it girls if we can't be  
79 bothered doing the simple exercises that Micky gives us each week, I don't think we've  
80 got a cat in Hell's chance of climbing a mountain in Africa!

81 Gina Exactly... You all need to improve your core strength

82 *COLLECTIVE GROAN*

83 Micky Ladies! Ladies! Remember, keeping fit is what counts, size doesn't really matter.

84 Rita Mmmm?! Tell that to my knickers they've practically surrendered under the pressure.

85 Micky Well as it's Christmas, I'll let you off for one week then back to it! Remember ladies you  
86 have your girl's trip to Magaluf in May we need to get you bikini ready.

87 Betty I don't need to be bikini ready... I just need the Spanish men to lower their  
88 expectations!

89 Mickey Well as it's Christmas I'll let you off for one week...but then it's back to it. Right, I'm off  
90 to the gym to do some weight-lifting, any of you want to join me?

91 Gina Count me in Mickey!

92 *MICKEY AND GINA EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

93 Fiona Come on girls, time to go and let Gertie prepare for tomorrow's Christmas celebrations.

94 Sandra Ooh yes, if we hurry the chippy might still be open! we could grab some fish bits and  
95 then pop into the Royal Oak for a couple of port and lemons!

96 Rita You know... I've often wondered which part of the fish the 'Fish Bits' come from.

97 Fiona Best not to ask Rita love!

98 *ALL EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY GIGGLING*

99 *TILLY STEPS OUT FROM BEHIND THE CUBE.*

100 Tilly Have all your fat club friends gone Gertie?

101 Gertie1 Aye love... oh they do make me laugh!

102 *BILLY WALKS UP THE AISLE DRAGGING A GOOSE ON A LEAD*

103 Billy Ma, you won't believe what I've found us for Christmas dinner... all our problems are  
104 over.

105 Tilly *(POINTING TO GOOSE)* Is that...

106 Billy ...Yes *(EXCITEDLY)*

107 Tilly but doesn't it need ... *(GESTURES PLUCKING THE FEATHERS OUT)*

108 Billy ...Yes... *(LESS EXCITED)*

109 Gertie1 More to the point doesn't it need *(GESTURES SLITTING THE THROAT)*

110 Billy Well ...Yes... *(DEJECTEDLY)*

111 Gertie1 Oh thank you Billy, you are a love, but there's no way any of us is going to pluck, pick,  
112 prep and properly stuff that plump bird now is there. *(TURNS TO AUDIENCE)* You try  
113 saying that 4 nights a week, it's a disaster waiting to happen, I don't know what the  
114 writers were thinking!

115 Billy But if we don't eat it... what are we going to do with it?

116 Gertie1 I'll put her in the bath overnight and we'll think of something tomorrow.

117 Billy But Ma, what are we going to do about Christmas dinner?

118 Gertie1 We'll manage love, we always do.

119 *GERTIE EXITS VIA VESTRY, TAKING HONKERS WITH HER*

120 Tilly *(STARING AT BILLY ADORINGLY)* Billy you did so well to find the Goose! Not every man  
121 could go out into the wilderness and find food like you did.

122 Billy It was quite easy to be honest Tilly, the goose practically found me.

123 Tilly Well I think you're amazing *(LOVED UP)*.

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

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

128 *BILLY & TILLY EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

131 *HONKERS STARTS TO MOVE AROUND THE STAGE A BIT AND THEN STARTS SQUATTING*

132 **STRAINING HONK NOISE.**

133 *A VERY LARGE, GOLDEN EGG FALLS TO THE FLOOR.*

134

**CLANG**

135

**SURPRISED HONK NOISE.**

136

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

137

**SIGN: "CHRISTMAS MORNING"**

138

*LIGHTS GO UP SLOWLY*

139

**COCK A DOODLE DOO**

140

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

141

*GERTIE HUGS TILLY*

142

Gertie1      Merry Christmas Tilly

143

Tilly          And to you Gertie

144

*BILLY HURRIES ON TO STAGE FROM VESTRY*

145

Billy          Ma.... You'll never guess what's happened in the night!

146

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

147

Billy          Very funny...

148

Tilly          Did 3 Kings from the Orient turn up?

149

Billy          You two are a pair of comedians this morning! No... Honkers laid an egg!

150

Ger & Til    HONKERS?

151

Billy          Yes, I've decided if we're keeping the goose we may as well give her a name, so I've  
152                chosen Honkers McFlap!

153

Gertie1      *(TO AUDIENCE)* I do sometimes wonder what sort of websites he visits!

154

Tilly          *(BEAMING UP AT BILLY)* Oh I think that's a wonderful name Billy, you are so clever!

155 Gertie1 *(SHAKING HER HEAD)* Well at least we'll have eggs for breakfast this Christmas morning.

156 Tilly You sit down Gertie; Billy and I will make breakfast.

157 Billy I'll fetch the egg.

158 *BILLY DASHES OFF STAGE VIA VESTRY AND RETURNS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY CARRYING AN ENORMOUS EGG*

159 **OFF STAGE – STRESSED HONK AS EGG BEING STOLEN**

160 Billy Well this is the weirdest looking egg I've ever seen!

161 Tilly It's a very strange colour Billy. It looks like an Easter Egg, but it's Christmas day! Mind  
162 you, they sell them crème eggs all year now...

163 Gertie1 Well at least it's big enough to feed us all, it'll make an enormous omelette.

164 Billy Its as hard as iron, if i didn't know better I'd swear it was solid gold!

165 *TILLY TAPS IT WITH A WOODEN SPOON*

166 **CLANGING NOISE LIKE A BELL BEING STRUCK**

167 Tilly Wow, it certainly sounds as though it's made of metal Billy, but how could something so  
168 big and metallic have come out of Honker's little bum?

169 Gertie1 *(LAUGHING)* Birds don't lay eggs from their bum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

178 *HONKERS WANDERS ONTO THE STAGE (UNNOTICED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CAST)*

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

182 *HONKERS STARTS PERFORMING AGAIN AND LAYS ANOTHER GOLDEN EGG WITH A FLOURISH. SHAKING HER*  
183 *TAIL FEATHERS.*

184 **EXCITED HONK**

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

186 Tilly Wow, Honkers has laid another golden egg.

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

189 Tilly That's incredible

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

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

195 *THEY MOVE TOWARDS EXIT THEN TILLY STOPS.*

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

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

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

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

200 *BLACK OUT*

SCENE CHANGE SONG: SPANDAU BALLET, GOLD

## Scene 4: The Squire's Manor House

*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.

Jolli        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 people 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?

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

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

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

24 **SOUND OF DOORBELL RINGING**

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

26 Jolli It certainly gave that impression sir

27 *ENTER MRS BRIDGES FROM VESTRY FOLLOWED BY GERTIE*

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 **CLUNK**

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

37 Squire What trickery is this?

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

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

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

41 Gertie1 Yes, why not, business is booming.

42 Snitch *(WHISPERING LOUDLY)* She must be robbing banks!

43 Gertie1 *(SMILING SWEETLY)* No. I'll let you in to a little secret I've acquired a goose.

44 Snitch A goose?!?!?

45 Gertie1 Yes, A very special goose.

46 Squire Special how?

47 Gertie1 It's a goose that lays golden eggs.

48 Snitch Golden eggs... like... actual gold?

49 Gertie1 24 carat. And they're free range.

50 Squire Impossible! That's just Ornithological nonsense!

51 Jolli *(SMOOTHLY)* If I may, sir, poultry-based prosperity is not unheard of, especially in  
52 Pantomimes as well written as this. Although it's clearly ruffled your feathers.

53 *GERTIE SURPRESSES A LAUGH THEIR EYES MEET FOR A MOMENT*

54 Gertie1 So...It seems I'll be staying at the salon after all. In fact, with all my newly found wealth I  
55 shall be turning the salon into an upmarket BUTTOCKS AND ANAESTHETIC clinic.

56 Squire Buttocks & Anaesthetics!

57 Jolli I think the lady means a BOTOX AND AESTHETICS Clinic.

58 Gertie1 Yes... exactly... what he said! *(PUTS HEAD IN HANDS AND SAYS TO AUDIENCE)* Oh No... I've  
59 already ordered the signs!

60 Squire *(THROUGH GRITTED TEETH)* Yes... well... delightful I'm sure.

61 Gertie1 So you see you won't be getting your hands on my salon after all, anyway I must be off.  
62 Goodbye gentleman it's been a pleasure doing business with you. Oh, and Mrs Bridges  
63 be sure to come and visit me in my new clinic, I'm sure we can do *something* WITH  
64 you... I mean FOR you!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 Squire (Angrily) No.... just leave us!

77 Bridges but what about the boy?

78 Squire The boy? What boy?

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

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

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

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

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

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

89 Bridges Poor Pip!

90 CORA CRUMBLE THE SQUIRE'S COOK ENTERS THE STAGE CARRYING A MIXING BOWL AND A WHISK

91 Squire WHAT NOW... Am I to be plagued by every member of my staff this evening?

92     *SQUIRE AND SNITCH RETURN TO THEIR SEATS AT THE FIRESIDE AND DISCUSS PLANS IN THE BACKGROUND*  
93     *AND MRS BRIDGES & CORA MOVE TO OPPO SIDE OF STAGE AWAY FROM SQUIRE*

94     Cora     *(ADDRESSING MRS BRIDGES)* What on earth is going on in here, I thought I could hear the  
95     sound of a woman's laughter .... most unusual in this house.

96     Bridges   *(PULLING CORA TO ONE SIDE)* oh Cora, you've just missed Gertie Goose. She caused quite  
97     a stir; she paid all her rent money in full. You should've seen his Lordship's face, it was  
98     practically purple!

99     Cora     *(WHISKING AWAY)* Gertie Goose, that woman from the clip joint in the village? The one  
100     with enough cleavage to tempt a Bishop?

101    Bridges   That's the one.

102    Cora     And was Mr Jollibottom with her?

103    Bridges   Ooh yes, he offered her his arm, it was so romantic.

104    Cora     *(WHISKING FURIOUSLY)* His arm... HIS ARM? I've been cooking his sausages for 20 yrs, and  
105     he's never offered me so much as an elbow.

106                                 *JOLLIBOTTOM RE-ENTERS*

107    Jolli     Mrs Crumble, are you quite well? You appear to be whisking with menace.

108    Cora     I'm fine Mr Jollibottom, or may I call you Basil *(GAZING ADORINGLY AT JOLLI)*

109    Jolli     I must insist upon formality, please stick to Mr Jollibottom.

110    Cora     Ooh I'd love to stick to you Mr Jollibottom

111    Jolly     Good Grief, how very alarming.

112    Squire    THAT'S ENOUGH! Mrs Crumble, I suggest you take your bowl, your whisk, and your  
113     fanciful little heart back to the kitchen... and stay there until you've come to your  
114     senses.

115    Snitch    What a wonderful turn of phrase Sir, you're so quick witted.

- 116 Jolli *(TO AUDIENCE)* Half-witted more like.
- 117 Cora Yes sir, but in my opinion, that Gertie Goose is nothing but trouble. Women like her  
118 come swanning in with their ample bosoms, and come-hither eyes, and before you  
119 know it decent cooks are left with nothing but over whisked custard and a broken  
120 heart!
- 121 Jolli Irrespective of ample bosoms, I for one would certainly consider over whisked custard  
122 to be intolerable.
- 123 Cora You'll see. She'll bring nothing but chaos to this household.
- 124 *CORA EXITS FURIOUSLY FOLLOWED BY MRS BRIDGES*
- 125 Snitch What a strange little woman, she's completely unstable.
- 126 Jolli Indeed... A perfect employee for this environment.
- 127 Squire *(TURNS ANGRILY TO SNITCH)* A goose that lays golden eggs... do you know what this  
128 means?!
- 129 Snitch She can afford better hair products?
- 130 Squire It means we will never get our hands on that salon if she continues to be rich, you  
131 imbecile! We must kidnap that bird!
- 132 Snitch *(GASPS)* Kidnap the bird?
- 133 Squire Precisely. Without that goose she'll soon become poor again. Then we can evict her,  
134 and my plans for Hard Acre Heights can proceed.
- 135 Snitch *(RUBBING HANDS)* Ooh I do love a bit of burglary.... Or in this case BIRD-LARY!
- 136 **DE DUM TISH**
- 137 Jolli *(RE-ENTERING SILENTLY BEHIND THEM)* Will that be all for tonight sir
- 138 Squire Yes you may leave us now Jollibottom. We must plan. Evil takes a lot of planning

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

141 *JOLLIBOTTOM EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

145 *BLACKOUT*

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

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

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

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

8     Billy                 There you go, Ma, how's that?

9     Gertie1              Oh that's much better Billy

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

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

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

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

16                                                 *BILLY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

17                                                 *CONNIE ENTERS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

18    Connie                 Afternoon all, me again! Well, I can see you've gone all upmarket in here, I've got one  
19                              word to say to you Gertie... LUXURY KOREAN SKINCARE...

20    Tilly                 Er... Isn't that three words?

21    Connie                 *(PULLS A BOTTLE FROM HER CASE)* Tada! everyone's after this... I have a waiting list Gertie,  
22                              but I've put some aside just for you. Oh, you're going to love these products. You've  
23                              heard about the latest craze for Korean Face Masks haven't you?

24    Gertie1                Oh, yes, I have Connie. *(EXCITED)* You've not got some of them have you! I've been after  
25                              some for ages, my face is just crying out for a mask Connie!

26 Connie Well you know what they say Gertie... *(TURNING TO AUDIENCE AND GIVING CHEESY WINK)*  
27 You can count on Connie for skincare. Now these aren't exactly Korean, but I got them  
28 from a lovely woman in an authentic Chinese Emporium.

29 Gertie1 Oh, in Beijing?

30 Connie No luv, the Chinese supermarket in Liverpool... But she does live 2 doors down from a  
31 Korean Barbeque, so they're practically the same as the Korean ones.

32 Gertie1 Fair enough.

33 Connie Look at the quality of this packaging Gertie; this is the genuine item see all that foreign  
34 writing!!

35 Gertie What does that say... *(LOOKS AT PACKAGING)* 'Microwave instructions'?

36 Connie *(SNATCHING IT BACK FROM GERTIE)* ignore that Connie, it means something else in  
37 Mandarin!

38 Gertie1 Fair enough... I'll take all the stock you've got; you cannot put a price on Beauty  
39 Connie... as you can tell just from looking at my face!

40 Connie How right you are Gertie, occasionally Mother Nature needs a bit of help! I'll pop your  
41 invoice in the post... and remember... *(TURNING TO AUDIENCE AND GIVING CHEESY WINK)*  
42 You can count on Connie for Skincare... Ta ta!

43 *CONNIE EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

44 *MICKY ENTERS STAGE*

45 Gertie1 Oh 'ello Micky, you here for your lip plumping treatment?

46 Micky *(NERVOUSLY)* Ooh I'm really worried about this lip filler Gertie, are you sure it's a good  
47 idea? I don't want to look daft; I just want to be able to show off me Turkey Teeth!!

48 Gertie1 Leave it to me Micky, your lips will look amazing, If it's good enough for Mick Jagger, it's  
49 good enough for you. I know what I'm doing! This is good stuff.... I got it from Connie,  
50 *(PULLS OUT OVERSIZE CAN OF EXPANDING FOAM AND SHAKES IT)* Now hold still, this might  
51 tingle a bit!

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

53 Micky I just don't know what to say Gertie...I'm speechless!

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

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

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

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

59 *MICKY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

60 *GERTIE1 GOES BEHIND CUBE TO GET RID OF THE FOAM GUN AND STAYS THERE FOR A MINUTE OR TWO*

61 *DOLLY WOBBLE ENTERS FROM VESTRY*

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

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

64 Dolly Chantal?

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

67 *TILLY SHOUTS OFF STAGE FOR CHANTAL,*

68 **OFF STAGE: CHINA BREAKING (DROPPED CUPS AND SAUCERS).**

69 *CHANTAL ENTERS THE STAGE FROM VESTRY CARRYING SMALL BOXES OF BEAUTY PRODUCTS, SHE RUSHES*  
70 *ONTO STAGE, AND CLUMSILY DROPS ALL THE BOXES,*

71 **BOXES FALLING TO THE GROUND**

72 *CHANTAL SCURRIES TO PICK THEM ALL UP APOLOGISING OVER AND OVER*

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

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

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

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

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

79 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  
80 hot drink?

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

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

83 *CHANTAL EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

84 **OFF STAGE: CLATTERING OF LOTS OF STUFF FALLING TO GROUND**

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

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

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

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

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

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

93 *GERTIE LEADS DOLLY TO MIRROR*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

103 *DOLLY EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

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

108 Betty I think you've overdone the botox (*AUDIENCE CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS AS NOT MOVING*  
109 *LIPS*)

110 Gertie1 What's that love?

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

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

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

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

116 *BETTY SPEAKS IN GARBLED MANNER AGAIN TO TILLY*

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

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

121 Gertie1 Well think of all the weight you'll lose by next week's weigh in Betty! You'll probably win  
122 'Loser of the week' how marvellous is that!

123 Betty (LOOKING HAPPY, SPEAKING WITHOUT MOVING LIPS) Oh, you're a genius Gertie! Thank you.  
124 Don't tell the others though or they'll all want this much Botox!

125 Tilly She said thank you, you're a genius, and don't tell the others or they'll all want this  
126 much Botox!

127 BETTY WALKS DOWN CENTRAL AISLE AND MEETS BILLY ON THE WAY WHO IS COMING IN FROM THE BACK  
128 OF THE HALL

129 Billy Hello there Betty.

130 Betty (LOOKING HAPPY, SPEAKING WITHOUT MOVING LIPS) Oh hello there Billy. Long time no see.  
131 How are you love. I've just been chatting to your lovely mother about my Botox. She's a  
132 genius you know, I'm going to be slim and beautiful this time next week, just you see.  
133 Anyway, listen to me gassing on, I'd best be off. See you later!

134 Billy (LOOKING A BIT AWKWARD AS HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER, CHECKING HIS WATCH, BUT BEING  
135 POLITE & LISTENING) Oh, yes, quite!

136 BETTY EXITS VIA AISLE

137 Billy I have absolutely no idea what she just said! I think we might need to ration the free  
138 prosecco a bit, if they're all going to overdo it like that...

139 Gertie1 The only reason I give them any free Prosecco is because it encourages them to spend  
140 more on treatments. Anyway...you're back, has our lovely Honkers produced today's  
141 egg yet Billy?

142 Billy No Ma, nothing's been laid in a while!

143 Gertie1 (ADDRESSING AUDIENCE) You can say that again! It's been that long I'm going to need a  
144 refresher course. (GESTURES TO HER VOLUPTUOUS BODY) It's a mystery to me how anyone  
145 could resist this.

146 Tilly Maybe Honkers is moulting... do geese moult?

147 Billy I've no idea Tilly, but Honkers might, she's no ordinary goose that's for sure, she's more  
148 what you'd call exceptionally free range!

149 Gertie1 I don't care if she's orgasmically organic... I just want something gold, and oval shaped  
150 to fall out of her back end... today preferably... I've got plans for the proceeds from her  
151 next egg... in fact her next half dozen, so she needs to buck her ideas up.

152 Billy Maybe she's just feeling the pressure, she is a bit highly strung.

153 Gertie1 She will be highly strung... in the butcher's window if she doesn't lay me an egg soon!

154 Tilly *(LOOKING AROUND)* Where is everyone, Gertie? I've never seen the salon so empty.

155 Gertie1 Everyone leaves after their treatments these days, nobody stays around to chat.

156 Billy It's because you're charging them full price for everything now, Ma!

157 Gertie1 Plus a bit extra of course for their tea and biscuits, I'm not made of money! Oh! silly me  
158 of course I am! Not for much longer though if that stupid goose doesn't lay me an egg.

159 Tilly I miss the old days when the salon was full of people laughing and gossiping.

160 Gertie1 Yes well that was before I came to my senses and realised that no one gets anything for  
161 nothing.

162 Tilly That makes me sad!

163 Gertie1 Oh God, please don't say you're sad enough to break into song though, it's really not  
164 that kind of Panto Tilly! pull yourself together, go on now, you two get off, I'll lock up

165 *BILLY AND TILLY EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY, OTHERS ON STAGE FREEZE*

166 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON SALON AND LIGHTS GO UP ON DARK FEATHER AND LIGHT FEATHER*

167 Dark I don't understand it, why is that goose not laying golden eggs

168 Light Ahh, that's probably my fault, I have a confession to make.

169 Dark Light Feather what have you done? The rules said you could not undo my spell!

170 Light Calm down Dark Feather I haven't undone your spell, I just added in a small spell of my  
171 own that only allows the goose to lay golden eggs if she's in the care of someone kind  
172 and loving, but it appears that's no longer the case.

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

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

180 *LIGHT HIDES BEHIND PEDESTAL CURTAIN*

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

184 *LIGHTS GO DOWN ON DARK FEATHER*

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

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

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

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

193 Gertie1 Oh, I didn't realise you were another beauty Rep, why didn't you say, sit yourself down  
194 and tell me what you've got that will delay the aging process. Although quite why you  
195 wouldn't use it yourself, is a mystery to me. God knows you need it! D'you not have any  
196 mirrors at home love? Anyway, tell me what you've got, money is no object.

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

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

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

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

206 *GERTIE EXITS VIA VESTRY AND RETURNS WITH HONKERS*

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

211 *DARK CASTS SPELL*

212 **MAGICAL NOISE**

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

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

215 *GERTIE EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY, VERY EXCITED*

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

217 *THEY TURN TO EYE EACH OTHER UP*

218 **ANGRY HONK**

219 *WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD THEY EXCHANGE THE GOOSE*

220 **DEJECTED HONK**

221 ALL EXIT THE STAGE. DARK HIDES BEHIND CURTAIN ON PEDESTAL AND SQUIRE AND HONKERS EXIT VIA  
222 CENTRAL AISLE.

223 PLAINTIVE HONK

224 *LIGHTS GO UP SUNRISE PROJECTED ONTO STAGE.*

225 COCK A DOODLE DOO

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

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

228 GERTIE2 STEP TREPIDATIONOUSLY ONTO THE STAGE FROM VESTRY. SHE LOOKS THINNER, MORE  
229 GLAMOUROUS, BETTER HAIR (DIFFERENT ACTOR IN IDENTI OUTFIT TO GERTIE 1) SHE STEPS UP IN FRONT OF  
230 A MIRROR IN THE SALON AND STARTS TO PREEN

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

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

236 Billy Ma, is that you?

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

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

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

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

242 Billy How did this happen?

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

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

247 Billy Yes Ma what did you have to pay

248 Gertie2 *(SHEEPISHLY)* Nothing

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

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

251 Tilly Oh no not lovely Honkers..... how could you?!

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

254 *GERTIE2 IS PRIMPING AND PREENING IN THE MIRROR AS SHE SPEAKS*

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

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

262 *BILLY & TILLY STORM OFF STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

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

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

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

277 *GERTIE2 EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

278 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: PRETTY WOMAN**

279 Rita Will any more eggs (or anyone in fact) get laid?

280 Fiona Will Gertie Goose see the error of her ways, will she keep her salon, will the Fat Club  
281 lose weight without travelling to Africa?

282 Rita Will Betty be able to do any other facial expressions other than Startled after her Botox  
283 overdose; will Tilly and Billy get it on?

284 Fiona Join us in Act 2 to find out! You've got a 20-minute break now, please get yourselves  
285 and ice cream, drink or other refreshments and settle back in your seats by <<time>> to  
286 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

*ACTION STARTS IN FRONT OF THE CLOSED CURTAIN*

*SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE2 ARRIVING OUTSIDE THE MANOR, SHE HAS 'VOGUE'- STYLE CONE 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.

Gertie2     *(GOBSMACKED)* ...What?

23 Jolli Before all this preening and posing. You had warmth. Kindness. Laughter in your eyes.  
24 Now you look as though you'd charge someone just to stand near you.

25 Gertie2 Well! That's a very odd compliment.

26 Jolli It was not intended as one. Nothing good ever comes from vanity Madam. Beauty that  
27 costs you your goodness is far too expensive.

28 Gertie2 *(WOUNDED)* Oh, well! Easy for you to say. You don't know how good it feels to suddenly  
29 become fabulous.

30 Jolli No, but I do know what it's like to watch someone lose themselves.

31 *GERTIE2 IS ABOUT TO ANSWER WHEN SQUIRE AND SNITCH BURST ONTO STAGE*

32 Squire Ah-ha! Just as I suspected! The goose woman herself! There's something not quite right  
33 about you today... *(PEERING IN TO LOOK CLOSELY AT HER)* I can't quite put my finger on it!

34 Snitch I told you she'd come! I said she'd come slinking up the drive like an over-moisturised  
35 ferret!

36 Gertie2 I don't want any trouble. I'm just here for my goose, Honkers.

37 Squire Your goose? Your goose?! *(LAUGHING MEANLY)* It ceased to be yours the moment you  
38 handed it over to my associate you ridiculous woman.

39 Snitch Legally speaking, morally speaking, poultry speaking...

40 Squire *(TALKING OVER SNITCH)* oh do shut up, McSpleen.

41 Gertie2 Give me back my Honkers this instant! Or... *(PETERS OUT AS SHE REALISES SHE DOESN'T*  
42 *HAVE ANYTHING TO THREATEN)*

43 Squire *(CONDESCENDINGLY)* Or what, you ridiculous woman!? I think you'll find that I hold all  
44 the cards here! Seize her!

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

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

47 Snitch I thought she was slippery!

48 Squire Lock her in the dungeon!

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

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

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

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

56 *JOLLIBOTTOM EXITS VIA VESTRY*

57 *CURTAINS OPEN UP TO A DUNGEON AREA WITH GERTIE2 LOCKED IN A CAGE*

58 Gertie2 Oh, this is a nightmare. First I lose Honkers, then Billy and Tilly tell me I've changed, and  
59 not in a good way, then the one man I wanted to say I was gorgeous says he preferred  
60 me before! I mean c'mon on *(TO AUDIENCE DEFIANTLY)* look at me .... if looks were cars  
61 I'd be a Ferrari! Before I was more like an old shopping trolley... with a wonky wheel!  
62 And not even a Waitrose one – more like Lidl *(SHE SLUMPS DEJECTEDLY)* oh what if  
63 they're right. What if I *have* changed in a bad way. I was awful to Billy & Tilly, And poor  
64 Honkers. *(GETTING UPSET)* I gave away a living creature for a flatter stomach and fewer  
65 wrinkles. *(STARTING TO CRY)* What sort of woman does that? I've become so vain, and  
66 selfish. I'm beginning to think that old crone was no beauty rep at all... but some sort of  
67 bad fairy up to no good. Oh, if only I could find a good fairy to put things right...

68 **TWINKLY MUSIC.**

69 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS.*

70 Light Well, my lovely, it looks like it might be your lucky day. I'm Light Feather, and it was my  
71 mischievous brother Dark Feather who cast the spell to give you eternal beauty.

72 Gertie2 *(GASPING)* I knew something was a bit off! Nothing like that ever happens in real life, it's  
73 more like the sort of thing that happens in a tinpot panto. Oh please, you must help me.  
74 Can you reverse the spell at once, I want to go back to being a lovable shopping trolley!.

75 Light I can't simply overturn it, Gertie. Magic doesn't work like that, after all we've only just  
76 started Act 2, there's a lot left to happen before we reach the 'Happy Ever After' bit!

77 Gertie2 Oh, yes, good point. Then what can we do?

78 Light All I can do is tell you that the spell can be broken if you *truly* see the error of your ways.  
79 But for it to work you must stop chasing vanity and go back to being the kind, loving,  
80 humble woman you used to be.

81 Gertie2 Then that's exactly what I'll do. I don't want this (*POINTING TO HER FACE*) if it means  
82 losing Billy, Tilly, Honkers... and myself – it's just not worth it. Oh, thank you Light  
83 Feather. Oh and, um, (*HESITATING TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT LIGHT FEATHER*) once this is  
84 all over, feel free to pop into the salon and I'll see if I can do something about that chin  
85 hair love!

86 Light (*LAUGHING*) Maybe I will Gertie. There is hope for you yet.

87 *LIGHT FEATHER EXITS. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY DARK FEATHER APPEARS.*

88 Dark Hope? What a revolting little word. I should have known that my sister would not be  
89 able to resist interfering...!

90 Gertie2 You!

91 Dark Yes, it's Me (*PROUDLY*). Though last time I saw you, you certainly didn't look this good!  
92 Now listen to me.... Why would you give this up? The tiny waist, the glossy hair, the  
93 ability to turn heads without even trying? You could have admirers, influence, luxury!  
94 You could walk into any room and have people gasp. Why go back to being ordinary?

95 Gertie2 I'll have you know that I often made people gasp before!

96 Dark Yes. But for all the wrong reasons dearie!

97 Gertie 2 And anyway I never used to feel ordinary.

98 Dark Of course you did. That's why you were so quick to say yes to eternal beauty. Deep  
99 down, this is exactly what you wanted... And you still do.

100 Gertie2 I... maybe you're right... It is nice not frightening the cat when I walk into the room. Oh, I  
101 can't think straight, I'm so confused, I don't know what I want anymore!

102 Dark Oh, I think you do. Choose beauty. Choose youth. Leave kindness to all those boring  
103 women .....the ones who wear cardigans.

104 *DARK FEATHER EXITS (SMILING). GERTIE2 IS LEFT FEELING TORN.*

105 Gertie2 Oh, what am I supposed to do? If I stay like this, I'm stunningly beautiful... but  
106 miserable. If I change back, I lose all this... *(TOUCHES HER FACE)* ...and let's face it, these  
107 are excellent cheekbones. I'm so confused! I don't know what to do! Stay young and  
108 beautiful? Or go back to being my old self? Oh! I need help!

109 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS ONE SIDE OF THE STAGE. DARK FEATHER APPEARS THE OTHER.*

110 Dark *(TO LIGHT)* I will tell her to stay beautiful!

111 Light *(TO DARK)* And I will tell her to stay true to herself!

112 *DARK AND LIGHT TURN TO THE AUDIENCE AND TAKE THEIR HALF (BUILDING ON THE WARMUP)*

113 Dark Come on my side shout it out! Tell her she needs Youth and Glamour! Youth and  
114 Glamour!

115 Aud Youth and Glamour!

116 Light No, no, no! My side, tell she needs Kindness and Love!

117 Aud Kindness and Love!

118 Dark Louder! She can't hear you!

119 Light Yes, call that shouting? Come on, raise the roof!

120 Aud Youth and Glamour! / Kindness and Love! *(BOTH AT THE SAME TIME)*

121 Dark *(TURNING TO LIGHT)* Shut up Sister, she wants fine features!

122 Light No she doesn't, she wants a fine character!

123 Dark She wants a smooth forehead!

124 Light No! she wants a smooth conscience!

125 *DARK AND LIGHT GET THE AUDIENCE TO REPEATEDLY SHOUT YOUTH AND GLAMOUR / KINDNESS AND LOVE*  
126 *AT THE SAME TIME, WITH OVERLAPPING CHAOS*

127 Gertie2 *(OVERWHELMED & SHOUTING TO BE HEARD OVER EVERYTHING)* Oh stop, stop! You're both  
128 giving me a headache... and the last thing I want is stress lines!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

141 Light Not where love has a fighting chance!

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

143 Gertie2 Oh what a conundrum! I'm so torn.....What am I to do?!

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

145 *LIGHTS GO OUT*

146 *SCENE ENDS*

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

## Scene 2: Village Green with Duck Pond

1

2     *RITA, MICKEY, CHERYL, DOLLY WOBBLER, BETTY BOTOX, AND FIONA FRIZZ AND GINA ARE ON THE VILLAGE*  
3     *GREEN ATTEMPTING TAI CHI. IT IS NOT GOING WELL ONLY GINA IS ABLE TO PERFECTLY EXECUTE*  
4     *THE MOVEMENTS.*

5     Mickey     Flow with the movement girls... breathe in through the whole body...

6     Gina       Concentrate girls... this one is called "Grasp the Sparrow's Tail"

7     Rita       My Derek's been trying to Grasp the Sparrow's Tail for thirty years and he still hasn't  
8       found it!

9     Dolly      They don't half have some weird names for these Tai Chi moves

10    Gina       Rita, Centre Yourself!

11    Rita       How can I centre myself, when I can't even see my feet over these *(CLUTCHING HER*  
12       *BOOBS) (TO AUDIENCE)* d'you know, inside this body there's a thin person just waiting to  
13       get out!

14    Mickey     Just the one?

15    Gina       but Rita you need to make an effort, your posture is terrible, and you were leaning  
16       against a tree a minute ago.

17    Rita       It was supporting me on my fitness journey.

18    Gina       Right. Well, the next move is called Fair Lady Works at Shuttles. Watch me carefully.  
19       *(DEMONSTRATES STANDING ON ONE LEG AND MOVING HER ARMS IN AND OUT GRACEFULLY)*

20    Rita       *(PEERING)* What's she doing with her hands?

21    Mickey     I think she's weaving.

22    Rita       Oh Fair play to her, after all it is a dying art.

23    Gina       Rita! Are you going to try it or not?

24 Rita        *(ATTEMPTING THE MOVE, WOBBLING DRAMATICALLY)* Fair Lady Works at Shuttles! *(LOSING*  
25                *BALANCE)*. I'll tell you where you can shove your shuttles!

26 Fiona        *(WOBBLING TOO)* I agree with Rita it's just too difficult to stay upright.

27 Betty        *(LEANING FORWARD AND MOVING HER ARMS ALL OVER THE PLACE TOO FAST)* Look girls I  
28                think I've got it!

29 Gina        It's about fluidity, ladies. Imagine you're flowing water.

30 Fiona        Well that's just makes me wan't the loo

31 Cheryl        Ooo, I think I've pulled something – and I don't mean a bloke! I just don't think I'm cut  
32                out for all this keep fit malarkey!

33 Dolly        I quite like the one where you stand still and stare into space like you're trying to  
34                remember where you've left your car keys.

35 Betty        I thought all this slow motion moving would be good for you, but I start to move and it's  
36                so slow I completely forget where I'm supposed to be going and end up standing with  
37                one leg in the air looking like I've got wind!

38 Fiona        I wondered what the smell was! It is a bit slow though, isn't it... I liked the Zumba better  
39                than this, we were really good at that!

40 Cheryl        I know, Zumba was great fun, but at least I don't accidentally wee myself doing Tai Chi.

41 Dolly        Tell me about it!

42 Mickey        Keep up ladies! This move is called 'Golden Cockerel stands on one leg'

43 Rita        Oh I'm definitely not trying that one!

44 Fiona        Me neither, I think we might have to leave this one to the younger ones!

45 Gina        Dolly... are you eating something?

46 Dolly        it's just a mini pork pie

47 Gina        during Tai Chi?!

48 Dolly But I need the fuel

49 Gina For what!!

50 Dolly All the chewing!

51 Betty *(TO MICKEY)* Ere, Mickey love, I thought you said we were doing 5K to couch. I liked the  
52 sound of that.

53 Mickey It's couch to 5k Betty, but we can't just launch straight into it girls, we need to build up.  
54 *(TO AUDIENCE)* mind you, at this rate of buildup, I'm thinking we won't be doing it in my  
55 lifetime!

56 Gina Nor mine!

57 Betty But how are we going to do the couch to 5k without a couch? *(TO THE OTHERS)* I'm not  
58 sure that he knows what he's doing.

59 Cheryl Maybe the couch comes later.

60 Fiona Ooh, I like the sound of that, as long as it's a comfy one. Oh, will there be coffee and  
61 cake too?

62 Dolly Maybe we should try gymnastics... I was always good at that in school!

63 Rita Don't mention gymnastics to him Dolly, or before you know where you are he'll have us  
64 all wearing leotards and dangling upside down from the parallel bars! I for one have  
65 reached an age where I don't function well unless I'm upright!

66 Betty Me neither Rita, if I were to hang upside down from the parallel bars without a decent  
67 sports bra I'd have two black eyes!

68 Gina Honestly Mickey I don't know why we bother

69 Rita because deep down you love us

70 Gina No Rita...it's because deep down I think I need therapy!

71 Mickey Don't give up on 'em Gina, they're a bunch of lunatics, but at least they're our lunatics.

72 Gina Well, either way, it's time for my smoothie, I don't like to miss it. See you ladies later.

73 *GINA EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY AND OTHERS HOLD A TAI CHI POSE*

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

76 Tilly I hope your mum is OK, Billy.

77 Billy so do I, I'm worried sick. Thank goodness we discovered the note she left!

78 Tilly I know, imagine if we didn't know where to find her.

79 *BILLY & TILLY RUSH ON TO STAGE*

80 Billy Oh hey everyone! Thank goodness we found you, we need some help.

81 Mickey What's happened?

82 Tilly Gertie's gone to the Manor House. She thinks the Squire has Honkers.

83 Billy She left us this note *(HOLDS OUT A NOTE)*

84 Mickey What does it say?

85 Billy *(READING REALLY SLOWLY AND CLEARLY)* Gone to the Manor House, I think the squire has  
86 Honkers!

87 Rita *(TO AUDIENCE)* Well that doesn't add much does it!

88 Dolly Sounds a bit of a caper to me. I expect she'll need some help.

89 Fiona Oh poor Gertie, I've never liked the squire, he gives me the heebie jeebies

90 Rita Too right... I wouldn't trust that great dollop of lard and his miserable little sidekick!  
91 Men like that are always up to no good.

92 Mickey Aye, that's what boarding school does for you.

93 Billy We're going after her, but we could do with backup.

94 Mickey Then you've got it.

95 Cheryl I was getting a bit fed up with all that deep breathing and buttock clenching anyway.

96 Rita At my age it'd take two strapping firemen and a sturdy winch to clench mine!

97 Betty I'm not convinced that it burns any calories anyway!

98 **TWINKLY MUSIC.**

99 *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS.*

100 Light Well fortunately for you, you won't be going alone.

101 Billy Oh! You're... you're a...well actually I'm not sure what you are!

102 Rita She's a ... Wobblegeist!

103 Mickey A what?!

104 Cheryl I think she means a Wigglefern.

105 Dolly She's Definitely a Spriggle!

106 Fiona No she's a ticklewink!

107 Mickey Eh? I'm still not getting it!

108 Betty I think they mean a Ghoulie.

109 Fiona Don't they normally come in pairs? Shouldn't there be two of them?

110 Light Well, it's funny you should say that, but first listen carefully. Gertie is being held captive.

111 Tilly I knew it!

112 Billy Oh, my poor mum! We must rescue her.

113 Mickey We'll do it together. She's been so good to us all.

114

**TWINKLY SOUNDS**

115 Light My brother cast a spell to tempt her into becoming a vain and selfish woman by  
116 granting her everlasting beauty. But Honkers will only lay eggs for someone who's kind  
117 and generous so unless Gertie truly changes back into the lovely woman she once was,  
118 Honkers will never lay another golden egg.

119 Billy So that's why she stopped laying eggs!

120 Tilly I knew there had to be a good reason

121 Light Yes, and the Squire and McSnitch plan to kill Honkers soon if she doesn't lay any eggs  
122 for them.

123 Betty And let's face it she's never gonna lay eggs for those two.

124 Dolly No, they don't have a kind bone in their body!

125 Mickey Poor Honkers... I'd say her days are numbered!

126 Tilly Then we've no time to lose, we must hurry.

127 Billy First we rescue Ma. Then we rescue Honkers.

128 Light Good. And take heart, Gertie is beginning to see the truth, that true beauty comes from  
129 within.

130 *RITA CROSSES HERSELF DRAMATICALLY.*

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

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

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

134 *LIGHT FEATHER BEGINS TO EXIT STAGE.*

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

136 *LIGHT FEATHER EXITS.*

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

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

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

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

144 Mickey Right then, what's the plan!

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

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

147 Billy Mr Jollibottom!

148 Tilly Do you know where Gertie is?

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

151 Billy Will you help us?

152 Jolli My dear boy, helping decent people defeat that appalling man is one of the few  
153 pleasures left in life.

154 Tilly We met Light Feather, she explained everything.

155 Jolli Did you indeed? How splendid. *(LOOKING A LITTLE PAINED AT HAVING TO ASK A QUESTION)*  
156 My apologies, Miss, but who pray tell is Light Feather

157 Billy She's a kind and wonderful magical being. She told us that her brother Dark Feather has  
158 cast a spell on my poor Ma to turn her into a vain and selfish woman. But all is not lost,  
159 Light Feather told us that Ma can break the spell herself, if she chooses kindness over  
160 vanity.

161 Jolli Then let us pray she has the strength to do so, Sir. Come! The passageway into the  
162 dungeon runs beneath the old scullery. I know the house better than I know the  
163 Squire's tax avoidance strategies.

164 Rita Lead on. *(JOLLIBOTTOM GOES BEFORE HER AND SHE PEERS AT HIS BEHIND)* Oooh, I can see  
165 why they call you Jollibottom!

166 Mickey Right behind you. *(GOES IN FRONT OF CHERYL)*

167 Cheryl *(ADMIRING MICKEY'S BOTTOM)* Ooh, yours is looking pretty happy too Mickey. Must be all  
168 that buttock clenching you do.

169 *BILLY TAKES TILLY'S HAND WITHOUT THINKING. SHE LOOKS AT IT, PLEASED. HE REALISES AND AWKWARDLY*  
170 *LETS GO.*

171 Billy Sorry... I just, well, didn't want you getting lost.

172 Tilly *(SMILING)* Then don't let go.

173 *BILLY TAKES HER HAND AGAIN*

174 *ALL EXIT STAGE VIA AISLE*

175 **SCENE CHANGE SONG: RESCUE ME, FONTELLA BASS**

## Scene 3: The Squire's Dungeon

*SCENE OPENS WITH GERTIE2 STILL IN THE DUNGEON, PACING.*

Gertie2 *(STOPPING PACING AND COMING TO A DECISION)* I have finally 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, I think these 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.

Mickey But how are we gonna get you out of that cell, Gertie?

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 my life so much 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.

Billy *(RELIEVED)* Oh Ma...

- 26 Tilly That's the Gertie we know.
- 27 Gertie2 I can see now what a foolish old woman I've been and I've finally seen the error of my  
28 ways. Can you all forgive me.
- 29 Billy Of course we can Ma, we always knew you'd find your way back eventually.
- 30 Rita Thank God for that; it was exhausting pretending not to hate the new improved Gertie.
- 31 Mickey So... what happens now?
- 32 Gertie2 I suppose I'll slowly change back into the old me and I'll return to the old face, the old  
33 figure...
- 34 Rita *(INTERRUPTING GERTIE)* ...the old bosom.
- 35 Cheryl *(JOINING IN, LIKE IT'S A GAME TO NAME THINGS)* Oh, the old knees.
- 36 Rita The old backside...
- 37 Gertie2 *(JUMPING IN BEFORE THEY GET INTO THEIR STRIDE)* Ok, Ok, no need to list *everything*.
- 38 Mickey Fear not Gertie we can do a Fitness Bootcamp, that'll stop everything from sagging  
39 again!
- 40 Gertie2 *(ROLLING HER EYES)* oh I can hardly wait Mickey and thank you for that florid description  
41 of my attributes sliding south! It's made me feel so much better!
- 42 Jolli Well I for one will be delighted to get the old Gertie back, face, figure, knees, backside  
43 and bosom alike!
- 44 Gertie2 You will?
- 45 Jolli Oh, absolutely. I've always thought inner beauty was what counted, and to me... you  
46 were always beautiful, if I may be so bold.
- 47 *GERTIE2 IS TOUCHED.*
- 48 Gertie2 *(SWOONING)* Oh! Mr Jollibottom... that is the loveliest thing anyone has ever said to me

49 *THEY SHARE A FLIRTATIOUS SMILE.*

50 *BILLY AND TILLY HAVE HUNG BACK A LITTLE AT SIDE OF STAGE.*

51 Tilly I'm glad we've got the old Gertie back Billy

52 Billy Me too.

53 Tilly I was frightened we'd lost her.

54 Billy I was frightened too. *(PAUSE)* But not as much as I would have been without you.

55 Tilly Me?

56 Billy Well... yes. Because when everything goes wrong, you're the one who makes everything  
57 right again. And when everything goes right... you're the one I want to share it with.

58 Tilly *(SWOONING)* Oh, Billy...what a lovely thing to say.

59 *THE OTHERS SUDDENLY REALISE WHATS GOING ON AND START TO CROWD IN TO EAVESDROP ON BILLY &*  
60 *TILLY*

61 Rita *(LOUDLY TO CHERYL)* About bloomin' time! I was beginning to think he hadn't got the  
62 brains he was born with.

63 Cheryl Aww, Rita I always knew he'd come to his senses.

64 Micky Shhh... I can't hear them properly

65 *THEY ALL GET CLOSER STILL*

66 Billy *(TO TILLY)* Sorry, I know this isn't a good time

67 Tilly *(MOVING CLOSER TO BILLY)* Well maybe we can find time to talk when we get home Billy

68 Billy *(MOVING CLOSER TO TILLY)* I'd like that... there's so much to say.

69 Micky *(STAGE WHISPERING TO THE OTHERS)* I think he's finally coming to his senses

70 Tilly Oh there is Billy... there is! *(SWOONING)*

71 Gertie2 Oh for goodness' sake I wish they'd just get on with it, or this will be the longest Act 2 in  
72 the history of Pantomime!

73 *BILLY & TILLY BOTH LAUGH AND START TO MOVE IN TOGETHER AND STARE INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES BUT*  
74 *RITA STEPS BETWEEN THEM*

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

76 Gertie2 Yes, romance later, rescue mission first. Come on, we've got a goose to save. We'll go  
77 that way (*POINTING TO THE AISLE AND PULLING MR JOLLIBOTTOM TOWARD HER*) you lot go  
78 that way (*POINTING TO VESTRY*)

79 *GERTIE2 AND JOLLI EXIT STAGE VIA AISLE*

80 Billy Let's hope we can find Honkers.

81 Tilly Oh I hope we're not too late.

82 *MICKEY, CHERYL, RITA, BILLY, & TILLY EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

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

## Scene 4: The Squire's Manor House

*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!

**MISERABLE HONK**

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!

**DEFIANT HONK**

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

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

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

25

*GERTIE2 AND JOLLIBOTTOM BURST IN FROM THE VESTRY*

26

Squire      You're supposed to be locked in the dungeon .....what's going on?

27

Gertie2      Well you know what they say you can't keep a good woman down.

28

Snitch      Maybe the goose will lay an egg for us now she's here.

29

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

30

Squire      Oh no....and why not?

31

Gertie2      Because Honkers only lays golden eggs for someone kind and loving with a good heart.

32

So frankly, you and McSnitch have no chance whatsoever you... you... um... *(TRYING TO*

33

*THINK OF SOMETHING TO CALL THEM).*

34

Jolli      Might I suggest 'Insufferable Buffoons'

35

Gertie2      What he said *(POINTING AT JOLLIBOTTOM)*

36

Snitch      Oh that's just rude. Is this true that the goose will not lay eggs for us?

37

Jolli      Given my firsthand knowledge of the Squire's moral character, I'd say there's more

38

chance of that bird laying a patio than laying an egg!

39

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

40

Snitch      Yes! We'll wring her scrawny neck!

41

*SNITCH AND SQUIRE MOVE TOWARDS HONKERS MENACINGLY. CORA ENTERS FROM VESTRY BRANDISHING*

42

*A CLEAVER*

43

Cora      What's all this shouting...What's going on, it's like bloomin' Eastenders in here!

44

Squire      Ahhhh... Cook! Perfect timing. Prepare the goose.

45

Gertie2      Don't you dare!

46

Cora      Prepare her... As in... Christmas dinner prepare her?

- 47 Snitch Exactly... Pluck, stuff, roast, then just add gravy.
- 48 **HONKERS GIVES A TERRIFIED HONK**
- 49 Cora Oh, absolutely not. No, no, no. I am not cooking Honkers.
- 50 Squire *(MENACINGLY)* You - will - do - as - you - are - told!
- 51 Cora I've done as I'm told for twenty years. I've scrambled your eggs, I've poached your  
52 pilchards, I've fricasseed your shanks, I've stewed, skewered and flambéed under  
53 pressure... but I will not cook a goose that has more human qualities than you do!
- 54 Gertie2 Oh well said Cora.
- 55 Jolli Why, Mrs Crumble... I could not have phrased it any better myself. How noble and kind!
- 56 Cora Was it?
- 57 Jolli Very much so.
- 58 Cora Did you hear that, Gertie? he called me Noble & kind ...
- 59 Gertie2 You are noble & Kind love. A bit on the scary side too
- 60 Squire How dare you defy me... Consider yourself relieved of your duties immediately.
- 61 Cora You don't scare me Squire... I've wanted to retire to the Costa Del Sol for years, I was  
62 only hanging on in the hope that Mr Jollibottom here would sweep me off my feet and  
63 come with me, but clearly he's found someone else.
- 64 Gertie2 Oh Cora, I am sorry!
- 65 Cora Oh don't worry Gertie, I can see he'll be in safe hands. I shall go live in Spain and find  
66 myself a nice Spanish waiter to trifle with!
- 67 Jolli Well, I never, what an unexpected development.
- 68 Squire Oh SHUT UP all of you! Snitch! Seize the cleaver!

69 Gertie2 *(TO AUDIENCE)* well there's a euphemism I haven't heard in a long time!

70 Snitch Erm... Well, I'm not sure that's a sensible thing for me to do!

71 Cora *(BRANDISHING THE CLEAVER)* if you come any closer McSpleen we'll be serving you up for  
72 dinner with wilted spinach and a nice cheese sauce

73 *SNITCH JUMPS BACK IN ALARM*

74 *CORA MOVES TO HONKERS*

75 Cora Stand back, everyone.

76 Squire STOP HER!

77 Snitch YOU STOP HER!

78 *CORA USES CLEAVER TO BREAK THE CHAIN AND HONKERS IS FREED AND WADDLES OVER TO GERTIE2.*

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

81 *HONKERS NESTLES INTO TO GERTIE2'S BOSOM*

82 Jolli Oh! what a privileged specimen!

83 *SUDDENLY HONKERS MOVES TOWARD THE SQUIRE*

84 **ANGRY AND THREATENING HONKING**

85 Gertie 2 Ooh, this will be fun... hope you 2 can run fast.

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

87 Snitch It's looking at me funny!

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

89 **BENNY HILL THEME**

90        *SNITCH AND SQUIRE ARE CHASED OFF STAGE BY HONKERS AIDED BY MRS CRUMBLE BRANDISHING THE*  
91                    *CLEAVER. THEY RUN DOWN THE AISLE SQUEALING MRS CRUMBLE IS LAUGHING*

92    Gertie2      Thank you Mrs Crumble, you were magnificent!

93    Jolli         A warrior if I may say so

94    Cora        *(BECOMES ALL FLUSTERED)* aww thanks, I'm proper plum tuckered out now though, that's  
95                   enough excitement for one day, so I'm off to pack my bags and book my flights to  
96                   Benidorm. I shall say my goodbyes now... I wish I could say I'll miss you all, but I'll be  
97                   having too much fun with Manuel... Be happy and look after one another.

98        *MRS CRUMBLE EXITS VIA VESTRY THEN BILLY, TILLY RITA, MICKEY & CHERYL DASH DOWN CENTRAL AISLE*  
99                    *AND BURST ONTO STAGE*

100   Mickey      What did we miss?

101   Rita         Someone being goosed by the sounds of it!

102   Gertie2      Honkers just turned on The Squire and Snitch and chased them both right out of the  
103                   building!

104   Cheryl       Oh well done honkers... they deserve it

105   Billy         Wow, I wish I'd seen that.

106   Tilly         I wonder what will happen to them now.

107                   **TWINKLY MUSIC.**

108                   *LIGHT FEATHER APPEARS.*

109   Light        *(TO AUDIENCE)* We can't just let those villains escape justice can we?. I think with the  
110                   help of this amazing audience we can turn the two of them into Geese! I'll need your  
111                   help with a spell. When I raise my wand, I want everyone to shout "Feathers & Beaks,  
112                   and four webbed feet!"

113   Aud         Feathers and Beaks and Four Webbed Feet!

114   Light        Louder!

115 Aud Feathers and Beaks and Four Webbed Feet!

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

117 **TWINKLY MUSIC**

118 *LIGHT FEATHER CASTS SPELL.*

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

120 **MAGICAL SOUND.**

121 **FROM REAR OF THE HALL: HONKING & SQUAWKING**

122 *SNITCH AND SQUIRE VOICES OFF STAGE (RECORDINGS)*

123 Snitch What's happening to me... there is something sprouting out my bum!

124 Squire Good Lord! Why am I waddling?! Snitch, come here and make this stop! Oh my, you've  
125 got feathers... and a beak

126 Snitch Aaaarrrrggghhhhhh!

127 Squire Oh Noooooooooo!

128 Light I think that's done the trick! And Honkers is safe and well once again. Well done  
129 everyone.

130 *LIGHT FEATHER LEAVES STAGE*

131 *GERTIE AND THE OTHERS LAUGH OUT LOUD AT THE COMMENTS THEY CAN HEAR FROM SQUIRE & SNITCH*  
132 *THEN SILENCE.*

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

134 Jolli Home, Madam?

135 Gertie2 Yes. To the salon. To my family, My friends, and back to my fabulous old life.

136 Jolli I'm right behind you my dearest.

137 GERTIE, TILLY, BILLY, CHERYL, RITA & MICKEY ALL EXIT. JOLLI MOVES TO EXIT STAGE AFTER THEM WHEN MRS  
138 BRIDGES RE-ENTERS THE STAGE FROM THE VESTRY

139 Bridges Good Lord where is everyone, what have I missed? Was that the squire and snitch I  
140 could hear screaming?

141 Jolli Well suffice to say Mrs Bridges that we will likely never see either of them again! We  
142 are now free agents to do whatever we wish.

143 Bridges Ohh... Well, beggin' yer pardon Mr Jollibottom, but now that Dumb & Dumber have  
144 gone for good, d'you think it would be ok for Pip the sweep to come down from inside  
145 the chimney before I go home, only he's been up there for 3 months now and I'm  
146 worried he might grow to like it up there and we'll never be able to light the fire again!

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

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

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

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

152 Bridges Yes, Pip you will indeed, c'mon let's get you cleaned up then we can get you back home,  
153 your family must be missing you!

154 Pip I ain't got no family Mrs B

155 Bridges What do you mean NO family

156 Pip I'm an orphan

157 Bridges but where do you sleep?

158 Pip Up chimneys mainly!

159 Bridges Well not any longer Pip, you can come and live with me!

160 Pip Oh OK, will I have a proper bed?

161 Bridges Yes Pip...

162 Pip With a mattress?

163 Bridges Yes Pip..

164 Pip and blankets?

165 Bridges Yes Pip...

166 Pip is it Indoors?

167 Bridges Yes it is Pip!

168 Pip Oh go one then, I'll give it a go if it'll make you happy! it'll be nice living with someone  
169 who's not a pigeon.

170 Bridges *(LAUGHING)* Well that's mighty kind of you Pip. We will indeed give it a go and hopefully  
171 we'll get along like a house on fire!

172 Pips Don't worry about that.....chimneys are my specialty!

173

174

*BLACKOUT*

175

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

## Scene 5: Mother Goose's Hairdressers

*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.*

Gertie1 Well that's it then. Mother Goose's Hair salon is back where it belongs. No more fillers, no more freeze-dried foreheads, no more scouse brows that arrive in the room before the client does.

Tilly So what are we doing now then?

Gertie1 Holistic treatments, Tilly.

Chantal Oh..... HOLISTIC treatments, I thought you said HOSTILE treatments... no wonder that woman just slammed the phone down on me!

Rita Hostile... Holistic... what's the difference?

Gertie1 Holistic means natural beauty, inner peace, herbal healing and gentle wellness.

Mickey Sounds fabulously peaceful and healthy.

Cheryl Well that Depends on who's doing the 'Herbal Healing' ... If it's Chantal, then nobody's safe! *(CHANTAL GIVES CHERYL A CONFUSED LOOK)*

Tilly *(TO CHANTAL)* Take no notice of Cheryl, she's only joking. Well, it all sounds fabulous Gertie.

Billy And absolutely no one gets vacuumed by a Henry Hoover.

Rita Oh well it looks like there'll be no liposuction for me then! I shall just have to continue tucking my belly into me Spanx knickers and hope for the best!

Gertie1 We've got a lovely new list of treatments though Rita, tell her what they are Chantal.

*CHANTAL PICKS UP A CLIP BOARD, PROMPTLY DROPS IT, THEN PICKS IT UP AGAIN AND READS FROM LIST)*

Chantal There's moonstone scalp alignment, chakra conditioning, intuitive fringe balancing, and a seaweed wrap for people whose 'tights' need spiritual support.

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

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

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

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

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

53 **SAD HONKING NOISE**

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

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

58 Cheryl That's typical of your good nature Gertie.

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

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

63 *CONNIE ENTERS STAGE VIA AISLE*

64 Connie Afternoon everyone, or should I say... NAMASTE! *(SAID QUICKLY)*

65 Rita Gesundheit!

66 Connie Eh?

67 Gertie1 Oh yes, it is Connie!

68 Connie Eh?

69 Gertie1 A nice day

70 Connie *(TOTALLY CONFUSED)* Right... well anyway... nice to see you've re-branded again Gertie,  
71 and you know what they say... *(TURNING TO AUDIENCE AND GIVING CHEESY WINK)* YOU can

72 count on Connie for Organic; it's your lucky day! Ladies, Have I got some outstanding  
73 natural products for you.

74 Cheryl Weren't you selling Botox last week?

75 Connie I've been on a course since then... I'm now level 3 certified B.A.R.M.Y.

76 Rita Oh you're definitely Barmy!

77 Mickey You have to be careful of these phony qualifications Gertie... What does barmy stand  
78 for?

79 Connie Botanical Aromatherapy, Reiki, Mindfulness, & Yoga

80 Gertie1 Ooh, I've always fancied doing Yoga! Rita and I once signed up for a taster session didn't  
81 we?

82 Rita We did Gertie, she asked us to start by touching our toes, I said can we start with  
83 something easier like our elbows!

84 Gertie1 Then she said *(MAKING QUOTATION SIGNS WITH HER FINGERS)* 'Listen to your body' ... well  
85 ours were telling us to go home and have a lie down... so we left and never went back.

86 Cheryl Well it's not for everyone

87 Mickey It is if you want a flexible body ladies!

88 Gertie1 Well, I get no complaints from Mr Jollibottom about my flexibility thank you Mickey!

89 Mickey Oh I need to bleach me brain now Gertie!

90 Connie Yes, well... let me show you what I've got for you today... *(HOLDS UP A SPRAY BOTTLE)* this  
91 is the new, improved 'Aura Mist', you simply spray it around your head and negative  
92 energy just disappears

93 Cheryl Ooh sounds fab... what's in it?

94 Connie Tap water – a bit of lavender oil – and a dash of Febreze!

95 All Febreze?!

- 96 Connie No? That one's not floating your boat? How about some 'Spiritually Activated Shampoo'
- 97 Gertie1 What's spiritual about it?
- 98 Connie They play gospel music over loudspeaker in the factory where it's made
- 99 Mickey Does any of this stuff actually work?
- 100 Connie Well, that depends
- 101 Cheryl On what?
- 102 Connie On how open your Chakras are
- 103 Gertie1 Oh I say...steady on Connie!
- 104 Rita I told you we should keep our legs closed at all time Gertie
- 105 Mickey And your purse!
- 106 Gertie1 You're right Mickey, I'm not buying any 'Miracle Products' anymore Connie, I'm sticking  
107 to all natural homemade from here on in.
- 108 Connie *(PACKING UP HER BAG)* Fair enough Gertie, but before I go... can I tempt you with some  
109 Gluten free body cream?
- 110 Cheryl Why would body cream need to be Gluten Free?
- 111 Connie Well you never know who might fancy giving you a nibble!
- 112 Mickey Ooh... I think I'll take a couple of jars of that Connie, you never know when that might  
113 come in handy!
- 114 Connie Right you are Mickey. Well, it's been a pleasure doing business with you Gertie, and  
115 remember now... *(TURNING TO AUDIENCE AND GIVING CHEESY WINK)* YOU can count on  
116 Connie for Organic... Ta ta!
- 117 *CONNIE EXITS STAGE VIA VESTRY*

118 Gertie1 Oh she's a funny one that lass... Now then what was I up to before Connie arrived... oh  
119 yes, I know... (turns to audience) I was about to explain to you all that now Honkers is  
120 back to laying golden eggs again we're putting them to good use supporting villagers in  
121 need of investment. *(HOLDS UP TWO GOLDEN EGGS)* in fact, I've assembled a panel of  
122 experts to help me choose the most deserving candidates. *(POINTS TO RITA, MICKEY, AND*  
123 *CHERYL; DOLLY JOINS THEM FROM THE VESTRY... THEN WHEN THEY ARE ALL ASSEMBLED,*  
124 *HONKERS WADDLES OVER AND SITS NEXT TO GERTIE)* "Welcome to **Honkers Den** – where  
125 big ideas are hatched!"

126 **DRAGON'S DEN MUSIC**

127 Evan Welcome... to Honkers' Den! Today, three hopeful villagers will make the long walk  
128 down the aisle, armed with nothing but a dream, a business plan written on a beer mat,  
129 and an alarming lack of dignity. Their mission? To persuade our panel of investors to  
130 part with one of Honker's precious golden eggs. The rules of the Den are simple.  
131 Convince the panel and you could be walking away with a golden egg, but if you fail,  
132 you'll leave with nothing more than a bruised ego, and a crushing sense of inadequacy!  
133 The stakes couldn't be higher. Well... they could. But it's Panto..... and I have to sound  
134 dramatic! So, take a deep breath, steady your nerves, and prepare yourselves...It's time  
135 to enter the Honker's Den!

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

137 *NED, A BALD MAN, STEPS FORWARD TO FRONT EDGE OF STAGE*

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

139 Gertie1 So tell me why we should invest in you, Ned?

140 Ned Well... err... I'd really really like hair.

141 Gertie1 *(DEADPAN)* Obviously!

142 Mickey What return is there on this investment?

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

144 Cheryl And how much are you asking for...?

145 Ned Enough for a full head hopefully

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

147 Dolly and what exactly do we get in return?

148 Ned well I'm not sure really.... i suppose I could offer you ten per cent... of whatever grows –  
149 after I've had it cut, of course!

150 Gertie1 You need to learn to love yourself as you are. I wish you all the very best, I really do...  
151 but it's not for me. I'm out.

152 Mickey Have you actually done your numbers? Because from where I'm sitting, this business  
153 has no potential for growth ... and on that basis, I'm out.

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

155 Cheryl Me too!

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

159 *RITA EXITS ARM IN ARM WITH NED VIA VESTRY*

160 Evan So, no egg for our follicly challenged friend. His pitch was a little thin on top. But he  
161 leaves with Rita, so... at he's gained a lifetime supply of unsolicited opinions. Next into  
162 the Den: a man with a dream, and a smile that's got more gaps than the village Wi-Fi.

163 *PHIL STEPS FORWARD.*

164 Phil Hello panel. I'm Mr McAvity and I'm asking for an egg... to pay for a trip to Turkey to get  
165 me teeth fixed. As you can see they're a bit uneven.

166 Mickey A BIT uneven? They look like a picket fence in a hurricane, Phil.

167 Phil Exactly!

168 Cheryl What's the trip gonna cost?

169 Phil Well it's a bit pricey, what with the cost of the flights, the hotel, the food, the beach  
170 towels and the designer budgie smugglers, oh, and the duty-free fags and vodka!

- 171 Dolly Wow... that sounds expensive... exactly how great will the return on investment be?
- 172 Phil Oh... great... in fact Really great, especially after all that vodka!
- 173 Gertie1 I've heard enough... Your teeth are fine. It's your personality that needs a bit of  
174 work.....and for that reason I'm out.
- 175 Mickey Let me tell you where I am. Nowhere near those teeth I'm out.
- 176 Dolly I've seen better teeth... but I've also seen worse... I'm out too.
- 177 Cheryl *(STEPPING FORWARD)* Oh don't listen to them! There's nothing wrong with a man whose  
178 teeth look like a badly laid path! Come on, let's go somewhere we can both enjoy a  
179 drink, we can compare dentists over a few cocktails, I'll have a Cherry B and cider, and  
180 you can try a Moscow Mule!
- 181 *CHERYL AND PHIL EXIT ARM IN ARM VIA VESTRY*
- 182 Evan Another no. The panel just couldn't get their teeth into it. Last to face the Den: a young  
183 woman hoping the panel will get behind her. Quite literally.
- 184 *GLADYS STEPS FORWARD.*
- 185 Gladys Good morning. I'm Gladys, I'd like a golden egg... to pay for buttock implants.
- 186 Gertie1 BUTTOCK IMPLANTS!
- 187 Gladys Yes, I absolutely hate my flat bum!
- 188 Gertie1 I can't see anything wrong with it?
- 189 Gladys That's just it, you can't see it, nobody can see it! It's practically non-existent!
- 190 Dolly It's Minimalist... I'll give you that... But I quite like it, loads of women would give  
191 anything to have a small bum.
- 192 Gertie1 I agree... I can't invest in vanity projects; there's nothing wrong with your bottom! So,  
193 I'm out!
- 194 Mickey I second that, I think you just need to do some strengthening exercises,

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

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

200 *MICKEY, DOLLY AND GLADYS EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

201 Evan Well, that's it from Honkers Den. Three pitches, no investments, and the strangest  
202 booking of my career. This has felt a little more like a village idiot support group than a  
203 business pitch. but frankly, after some of the pitches I've sat through on the real show...  
204 this lot weren't far off.

205 Gertie1 Oh, well. No eggs given out today then Honkers. These eggs are for genuine need. For  
206 Helping people. Not for vanity. *(HOLDS UP TWO GOLDEN EGGS)* I think I'll donate these to  
207 the village hall.

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

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

210 Jolli Good morning, Gertie.

211 Gertie1 Mr Jollibottom! How lovely to see you.

212 Jolli Please, call me Basil.

213 Gertie1 Basil!?

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

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

217 *BILLY AND TILLY MOVE DOWNSTAGE A LITTLE.*

218 Tilly Aww that's so sweet!

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

220 Tilly Billy... can I tell you something?

221 Billy Of Course.

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

224 Billy What? Why?

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

227 Billy *(SURPRISED AND EXCITED AT THE FACT THAT TILLY WANTS HIM TO FALL IN LOVE WITH HER)*  
228 Oh, Tilly...I think it's time to have that talk! I'll go first.....Tilly, I've been in love with you  
229 since forever!

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

231 Billy Of course I have. I just never thought you could possibly feel the same until we were on  
232 our mission to rescue Honkers and I realised for the first time that you might actually  
233 like me.

234 Tilly oh Billy why would you think I didn't like you?

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

238 Tilly Perfect Billy... that's what you are. Just perfect....and that's why I love you too!

239 Billy oh Tilly! I'm so happy....!

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

241 Gertie1 *(TO JOLLI)* Oh my! Just look at us all. This is what matters. Love. Friendship. Kindness.  
242 Community... And of course, the occasional goose-based miracle. *(INTO VESTRY)* C'mon  
243 Honkers luv, let me give you a lovely cuddle!

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

246

CLANG

247

PROUD HONK

248

Jolli

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

249

250

Gertie1

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

251

252

Jolli

Spoken like the woman I always knew you were.

253

Gertie1

And I'm reight glad to be her again.

254

*JOLLI & GERTIE EXIT STAGE VIA VESTRY*

255

*LIGHT FEATHER & DARK FEATHER APPEARS ON STAGE.*

256

Light

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

257

258

Dark

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

259

260

Light

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

261

Dark

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

262

263

Light

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

264

265

Dark

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

266

267

Light

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

268

Dark

But surely not all humans are as nice as these soppy idiots! There must be others out there totally lacking in moral fibre! Who don't care about kindness and humanity! I

269

270 mean, look at him (*POINTS TO SOMEONE IN THE AUDIENCE*) he looks like he has less moral  
271 fibre than candyfloss in a downpour.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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