

# Strictly Come Panto

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## Act One

### Scene 1. Goody Two Shoes

*Full stage. Wellington Farm. Cue music: I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside. Goody and Billy, with chorus*

**Goody** Lots of people like to watch a Punch and Judy show,  
On the beach or at the end of the pier.  
And when the circus comes to town they simply have to go,  
And see the clowns and jugglers every year.  
But when the summer's over and done, and winter has begun,  
You need a bit of fun, to stop you feeling glum.  
Just buy yourself a ticket to see the local pantomime.  
When you take your seat, it'll be a treat, and you'll have a jolly time.

**All** Oh, I do like to go and see the panto.  
I do like to go and see the show.  
I do like to shout at Mother Goose, Goose, Goose,  
And to sing along with Puss in Boots, Boots, Boots.  
I'll head for the theatre in December,  
Slipping and sliding in the snow.  
It's the only place to be, so you'd better come with me,  
To see the panto, to see the show.

**Billy** Cinderella's ugly sisters used to make her cry,  
Then she ended up the belle of the ball.  
And Jack went up the beanstalk to a castle in the sky,  
Soon the giant had a terrible fall.  
The stories are ridiculous and the jokes are very poor,  
But if you're immature, they'll tickle you for sure.  
You'll hiss and boo when baddies appear, and shout for all you're worth.

When you meet the dame, you'll be glad you came, to the greatest show on earth.

**All** Oh, I do like to go and see the panto...[etc.]

*Chorus exit*

**Goody** Hello, boys and girls. I'm Goody Two Shoes, and this is my best friend, Billy.

**Billy** Billy Gumboots, that's the name. (*Pats his red wellies*) Although some people call me Silly Billy.

**Goody** We both live here at Wellington Farm.

**Billy** Here, I bet they'd like to meet the farm animals. Shall we bring on the lovely little lambs?

**Goody** We don't have any lambs, Billy. Or sheep. Or goats.

**Billy** Oh, I forgot. Well, how about meeting the pretty pink piggies?

**Goody** We don't have any pigs, either. Or chickens. We don't even have a cat.

**Billy** Ah yes, we had to sell them all.

**Goody** But we do still have a cow.

**Billy** That's right, we do. (*To the audience*) Would you like to meet Daisy the Cow?

**Audience** Yes!

**Billy** All right, will you give a big warm welcome...

*Nelly enters, unseen by Goody and Billy. She reacts to the grand introduction*

**Billy** To our leading lady...

**Goody** The star of the show...

**Billy** The biggest old cow you'll ever see...

**Nelly** The biggest old cow?

**Billy** I didn't mean you, Mum, I meant Daisy.

**Nelly** Let's try that again. You give me a big introduction, then the audience can give me a five-minute standing ovation.

**Goody** I think they might struggle with a standing ovation.

**Billy** It'd take some of them five minutes to get up.

**Nelly** All right, I'll settle for a nice loud cheer.

*Nelly exits*

**Billy** Right, I think you can manage a nice loud cheer.

**Goody** And when she shouts "Hello boys and girls!" you shout back "Hello Nelly!"

**Billy** So, let's have a warm welcome for our leading lady...

**Goody** The star of the show...

**Billy** Mrs Nelly Gumboot!

*Nelly enters. Goody and Billy encourage the audience to cheer*

**Nelly** Hello, boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello Nelly!

**Nelly** I think we can do better than that. (*Louder*) Hello boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello Nelly!

**Nelly** Very good. And thank you for that lovely *non*-standing ovation.

**Goody** (*points*) That man at the back is standing up.

**Billy** I think he's off to the toilet.

**Nelly** Anyway, you remember the nursery rhyme about the old woman who lived in a shoe? Well, I'm the young lady who lives in a welly.

**Billy** I remember that rhyme. She had so many children, she didn't know what to do.

**Nelly** I bet she didn't. It's bad enough having the one. (*Points at Billy*) Although Goody here, she's just like a daughter to me.

**Goody** Aww! And you're like a mother to me.

**Nelly** Aww!

*Nelly and Goody link arms*

**Goody** And Billy's like a brother to me.

*Billy takes Goody's other arm*

**Billy** Aww! And you're like a sister to me.

**Nelly** Yes, I think that'll do.

**Billy** And you're like a mother to me.

**Nelly** (*snaps*) I *am* your mother.

**Goody** I'm very lucky to have a family like this. It was Billy who came to my rescue, all those years ago.

**Nelly** Oh yes. (*To the audience*) It was the first day of December, and it was freezing cold.

**Billy** I was walking back from the village, and I heard a voice calling me from the woods.

**Nelly** Which I still don't understand. The tiny tot was too young to talk. She was barely old enough to walk.

**Billy** Anyway, I found her, and I wrapped her in my coat and brought her here to the farm.

**Nelly** She was so young, she couldn't tell us where she came from. She couldn't even tell us her name.

**Billy** So I called her Goody Two Shoes, because she was such a great little dancer.

**Nelly** Yes, Christmas came early that year. But these days we're lucky if it comes at all.

**Billy** There'll be no turkey or goose for dinner this year, because we haven't got any left.

**Nelly** And you know who we can thank for that? Queen Stiletto and her friend Lord Cornplaster.

**Billy** They tax our milk and butter.

**Goody** And our yoghurt and cheese.

**Nelly** They've even started taxing ice cream.

**Goody** I don't understand why the Queen needs so much money.

**Nelly** I'll tell you why: she spends it all on shoes. She must have a thousand pairs.

**Billy** And she's got huge feet.

**Goody** I suppose it takes a lot of shoe leather to cover them.

**Nelly** It does, my dear. We used to have the biggest dairy herd in the kingdom, but I couldn't afford my taxes, so they took my cows.

**Billy** You know what the Queen says: "Anything that moos, ends up as shoes."

**Goody** And now we've only got Daisy left.

**Nelly** Yes, and the poor dear's been working overtime in the milking shed. She's *udderly* exhausted. Get it?

**Billy** But Daisy won't end up as shoes, will she?

**Nelly** Not if we can get some money. We need to sell plenty of cheese at the market. I've just made a nice batch of Edam.

**Billy** A batch of what?

**Nelly** Edam cheese. You know, it looks like a big red ball.

*A mouse runs across the stage behind them, carrying a red ball*

**Billy** We'd better make sure those cheeky mice don't steal any of it.

*Another mouse runs across the stage, carrying two red balls*

**Goody** (to the audience) You'll tell us, won't you, if you see any mice stealing the cheese?

*Another mouse runs across the stage, carrying a big red balloon*

**Audience** Behind you!

**Nelly** What? Behind us?

*More mice run across the stage with red balls and balloons*

**Audience** Behind you!

*Nelly, Billy and Goody look, but don't see the mice. More run past when their backs are turned*

**Billy** Are you sure?

*Nelly, Billy and Goody see the mice*

**Nelly** They've got my cheese! Catch them!

*Cue music: Yakety Sax. Nelly, Billy and Goody chase the mice. Billy grabs a sack and tries to capture a mouse, but it escapes. Two mice taunt Nelly with a red ball, bouncing it, then tossing it to each other, with Nelly as piggy in the middle. Other mice run into the audience, throwing red balls and balloons at people. Goody chases them. Nelly exits, followed by Billy. Goody climbs back on stage with a few red balls. Billy drags on Nelly, who is covered down to the waist by a sack*

**Billy** I've caught one, Mum!

**Goody** Er, Billy, are you sure that's a mouse?

**Billy** Yes, it's a right whopper. Mum! Where are you?

**Nelly** (*muffled*) I'm in here.

**Billy** You be quiet, you naughty mouse. Wait 'til my mum gets her hands on you.

*Billy pulls off the sack and jumps with fright*

**Nelly** You dozy great clot!

**Billy** Sorry, Mum.

**Goody** Those mice are very hard to catch.

**Nelly** Well, we'll have to do something about them. The little rascals are eating us out of house and home.

*Cue music: A Windmill in Old Amsterdam. The mice return to join in with the song*

**Nelly** A mouse lived in the dairy at Wellington Farm.

He kept his claws covered with sandals of rubber.

**Mr Mouse** For tiptoeing softly they work like a charm,

Stealing round the dairy at Wellington Farm.

**Nelly** I saw a mouse!

**All** Where?

**Nelly** There on the stair.

**All** Where on the stair?

**Nelly** Right there! A little mouse with Crocs on.

**All** Well, I declare!

**Nelly** Going flip-flippety-flop on the stair. Oh yeah!

**Mr Mouse** I go where I please and I nibble her cheese.

**Nelly** That slippery beggar keeps eating my cheddar.

**Mr Mouse** My feet never set off the burglar alarm,

Stealing round the dairy at Wellington Farm.

**Nelly** I saw a mouse! [etc.]

**Mr Mouse** My wife is a fan of Italian food.

**Nelly** So that thieving fella nicks my mozzarella.

**Mrs Mouse** If parmesan's needed then he'll chance his arm,

Stealing round the dairy at Wellington Farm.

**Nelly** I saw a mouse! [etc.]

**Mrs Mouse** My husband and I keep our children well fed.

**Nelly** Those cheeky sods feed 'em on great balls of Edam.

**Mice** And she's got no cat so we'll come to no harm,

Stealing round the dairy at Wellington Farm.

**Nelly** I saw a mouse! [etc.]

**Mice** If you bring a cheese knife we'll cut you a slice.

Come dine at the dairy with the overweight mice.

Oh yeah!

## Scene 2. Queen Stiletto

*Half stage. High Heel Castle. There is a throne in the centre. Veruca and Bunion enter*

**Veruca** Hello everyone. My name's Veruca, and this is Bunion. We work for Lord Cornplaster

**Bunion** He's very important. You've got to be on your best behaviour with him.

**Veruca** And he's given strict instructions that when he comes in, there's to be no booing and hissing.

**Bunion** Yes, he really hates booing and hissing.

**Veruca** But I'm sure these are very polite boys and girls. They won't boo and hiss. Will you?

**Bunion** I think they know what to do. *(Winks and grins at the audience)*

**Veruca** Here he comes now! Ahem! Boys and girls, please welcome Lord Cornplaster.

*Cornplaster enters, waving grandly. The audience boos and hisses. He scowls furiously*

**Cornplaster** Be quiet, you filthy peasants! *(Glares at Veruca and Bunion)* I gave you idiots strict orders. No booing and hissing.

**Bunion** Sorry, Lord Composter.

**Cornplaster** Cornplaster!

**Bunion** Cornplaster, sorry.

**Cornplaster** Now listen to me, you horrible toe rags. I need you to pick up a birthday gift for Queen Stiletto.

**Veruca** I thought we were collecting the taxes.

**Cornplaster** You can do both at the same time. You'll be collecting money from some elves and a shoemaker.

**Veruca** You mean Mr Blister?

**Cornplaster** That's the fellow. My spies tell me that he's made a pair of special red dance shoes. You two are going to steal them for me.

**Bunion** Are you sure they'll fit you?

**Cornplaster** They're not for me, you cretin! They're my surprise birthday present for the Queen.

**Veruca** But are you sure they'll fit *her*?

**Bunion** Queen Stiletto's got great big feet.

**Cornplaster** Yes, but I'll tell you what she *hasn't* got. *(Conspiratorially)* She hasn't got any living relatives. Her brother and sister both died in unfortunate accidents.

**Bunion** Unfortunate accidents?

**Cornplaster** So, just think – if I were to marry the Queen, and then *she* had an unfortunate accident, then who would become king? *(Malevolently)* Ha ha ha!

**Veruca** Ha ha ha!

**Bunions** Er, ha ha ha! (*Slight pause*) I don't know. Who?

**Cornplaster** Me, you idiot!

**Veruca** But what if she doesn't want to marry you?

**Cornplaster** Don't be ridiculous! (*Recites*)

No woman can resist the charms of handsome Lord Cornplaster.

The Queen would love to be my wife, I only have to ask her.

But just imagine if my bride should meet with a disaster.

If we're on the ramparts and a cannonball should blast her,

Or if she falls into the moat as I go walking past her.

We'll have a quick succession if her husband should outlast her.

I'll soon ascend the throne and I'll be crowned your sovereign master.

Then all you fools will live in fear of evil King Cornplaster!

*Queen Stiletto enters, wearing enormous shoes*

**Cornplaster** Ah, Your Majesty, what a great pleasure to see you.

**Stiletto** Who are these two?

**Cornplaster** They're our tax collectors, Ma'am.

**Stiletto** Hmm. You don't often see a pair like that.

**Bunions** And you don't often see a pair like *that*. (*Points at Stiletto's feet*)

**Veruca** Shh!

**Cornplaster** But before we discuss the taxes, I have an important question to ask you. (*Stiffly drops on one knee*)

**Stiletto** What question?

**Cornplaster** Your Majesty... (*Feels in his pocket*) Would you do me the great honour... (*Tries another pocket*)  
Of accepting my... (*Pats more pockets*)

**Stiletto** Are you looking for something?

**Cornplaster** (*to Veruca*) Have you got the ring?

**Veruca** What ring?

**Cornplaster** The engagement ring.

**Bunions** Engagement ring?

**Stiletto** Ooh! You're rather forward.

**Bunion** Who, me?

**Veruca** No, you're rather backward.

**Bunion** 'Ere, shut up, you!

**Veruca** Don't tell me to shut up!

*Veruca and Bunion scuffle*

**Cornplaster** You can both shut up! I will not stand for this kind of... *(Tries to stand, but is stuck)* I will not stand...

*Cornplaster gestures at Veruca and Bunion, who help him up. They begin dusting him down, but he swats them away*

**Cornplaster** I appear to have misplaced the ring, Ma'am, but I was hoping you'd do me the honour-

**Stiletto** You're a very cheeky boy, Lord Cornplaster. But I'm far too young to think of getting engaged.

**Cornplaster** Oh, indeed. You don't look a day over, er...

**Bunion** Seventy?

**Stiletto** What was that?

**Veruca** Er, seventeen, Ma'am!

**Stiletto** Ah, yes. That's how old I *look*, but believe it or not, I'll soon be approaching twenty.

**Bunion** From which direction?

**Cornplaster** Shut up and listen. I want you to go out and collect our new footwear tax.

**Veruca** Right you are. How much is the tax, My Lord?

**Cornplaster** That depends on the size of your feet.

**Stiletto** Let's use mine as an example. Now, I take a size three.

**Bunion** A size three?

**Stiletto** I know, they *look* smaller. So, we have a size three shoe...

**Cornplaster** And we double the figure for a pair. Two times three is...?

**Veruca** Er... Two times three...

**Bunion** *(counts on her fingers)* Er...

**Veruca** *(to the audience)* Do you know?

**Bunion** Someone said six.

**Cornplaster** Six, that's right. And then to get the final figure, we multiply that by a hundred.

**Veruca** Six times a hundred? Er...

**Bunion** Er...

**Veruca** *(to the audience)* Six what?

**Bunion** Six hundred?

**Stiletto** And so anyone who takes a size three owes me six hundred pounds.

**Veruca** What happens if they haven't got six hundred pounds?

**Cornplaster** Then take whatever they've got.

**Bunion** Like what?

**Cornplaster** Well, let's say you're in Mr Blister's shoe shop. If he can't pay his tax bill, take something else instead. Are you with me? *(Taps his nose and winks at Veruca)*

**Veruca** Aha! Got it. *(Taps her nose)*

**Stiletto** Anyway, who's going to miss six hundred pounds? They won't even notice it's gone.

*Cue music: These Boots Are Made For Walking*

**Queen** I've been counting all my lovely money,  
Making plans to build up my wealth.  
I'm gonna pick the pockets of you peasants,  
Sneaking up and taxing you by stealth.

**Queen** These boots are made for stalking.

**Veruca and Bunion** But Queen Stiletto stamps.

**Queen** One of these days these boots are gonna kick you in the pants.

**Queen** You won't see me creaming off your profits.  
Pouring them in my purse, where they belong.

**Cornplaster** She's gonna put the squeeze on you cash cows,  
Until it's time to pull the udder one.

**Queen** We'll empty all their wallets.

**Veruca and Bunion** And you can fill your boots.

**Queen** Getting their assets stripped, and leaving just their birthday suits.

**Queen** You can't stop me hogging all your savings.  
Pulling the plug to drain your piggy banks.

**Cornplaster** These two swines will bring home the bacon.

Taking your cash, without a word of thanks.

**Queen** So go and get the booty.

**Veruca and Bunion** Your taxes we'll collect.

**Queen** Flushing out every coin...

**All** ...We'll have a laxative effect.

### Scene 3. Hard Cheese

*Full stage. Wellington Farm. Clever Clogs enters with a rolled up parchment. He unrolls this and calls out*

**Clever Clogs** Citizens of Shoestring, gather round!

*Nelly, Billy, Goody and some villagers enter*

**Clever Clogs** I have a proclamation from the noble, wise and beloved Lord Cornplaster.

**Nelly** Boo!

*The others boo and encourage the audience to join in*

**Clever Clogs** Show some respect, you impudent rabble. *(Reads from the parchment)* As some of you dopey peasants may know, the first of December is Queen Stiletto's birthday. To celebrate this happy occasion, Her Majesty will be holding a special dance contest, called "Strictly Birthday Dancing". There are two prizes to be won. The couple in second place will receive five thousand pounds.

**Billy** Ooh! *(Encourages the audience to 'ooh')*

**Clever Clogs** The winning couple will receive ten thousand pounds.

**All** Ooh!

**Clever Clogs** And Lord Cornplaster will cover these costs with a new tax you all have to pay.

**All** Boo!

**Nelly** You're already taxing our cheese and our ice cream. What's next?

**Clever Clogs** It's a levy on shoes. It's called the sole tax.

**Nelly** You miserable lot are milking us for every penny.

**Clever Clogs** *(peers at Nelly)* Wait a moment, I remember you. You're the old woman who lives in a shoe.

**Nelly** No, I'm the young lady who lives in a welly. *(Points at the welly)*

**Clever Clogs** Listen here. You will take this proclamation, and stick it up on the side of that shoe. Make sure all the villagers read it.

*Clever Clogs hands the parchment to Nelly*

**Nelly** I'm not sticking that on my welly. It'll leave a nasty mark.

**Clever Clogs** That's just hard cheese. Put it up there, unless you can think of somewhere else to stick it.

**Nelly** Oh, I can think of exactly where to stick it. *(Rolls up the parchment)*

**Clever Clogs** You'll regret this, madam!

**Nelly** Not as much as you will. *(Makes a jabbing gesture)*

*Clever Clogs exits, hastily*

**Goody** Did you hear that? Strictly Birthday Dancing! Maybe I could enter.

**Nelly** But it's for couples. You'd need a dance partner, dear. I'm no dancer, and Billy here's got two left feet.

**Goody** (*forlornly*) Oh yes, I see.

**Billy** So how are we going to pay more taxes?

**Nelly** We'll just have to sell more cheese. Goody, dear, will you go and fetch Daisy?

**Goody** Yes, Auntie Nelly.

*Goody exits, sadly*

**Billy** Poor Goody. If only we could get her a dance partner.

**Nelly** At least we can get her some dance shoes. Mr Blister's making her a special red pair for her birthday.

**Billy** Oh yes. Should I go and collect them?

**Nelly** We'll need the money to pay for them first. And those thieving mice are eating all our profits. Here...

*Nelly unrolls the parchment and turns it over*

**Nelly** We'll use this to make a sign. Get your paintbrush and write on the back, "Cat wanted. Free board and lodgings."

**Billy** Cat wanted...

**Nelly** "No wages, but all the mice you can eat."

**Billy** ...All the mice you can eat.

**Nelly** "Apply to Nelly Gumboot, Wellington Farm."

**Billy** Got it.

**Nelly** Then stick it on the farm gate.

*Goody returns*

**Goody** Daisy doesn't want to come out of the cow shed.

**Nelly** Why not?

**Goody** I told her all the boys and girls want to see her, and she's gone all shy.

**Billy** Oh, that's daft. They're all friendly.

**Nelly** Let's give her a shout, shall we?

**All** Daisy!

*They pause. Nelly turns to the audience*

**Nelly** Come on, you'll need to help us call her. All together now...

**Audience** Daisy!

**Nelly** A little bit louder.

**Audience** Daisy!

*Daisy runs in. Nelly and the others encourage the audience to cheer*

**Nelly** There you are, dear. Now, you mustn't panic, but I'm afraid we need even more milk from you.

*Daisy starts to run out. The others stop her*

**Nelly** I'm sorry, love, but it's important. We've got more taxes to pay.

**Billy** And if we can't get the money, then the tax collectors might take you instead.

**Nelly** You know what the Queen says: "Anything that moos, ends up as shoes."

*Daisy's knees knock together*

**Goody** Oh, don't worry, Daisy. We won't let that happen.

**Nelly** But you must try to squeeze out a bit more.

*Daisy sags*

**Billy** Poor Daisy, she does her best.

**Goody** I know what might help. I often sing to Daisy while I'm milking her.

**Nelly** Ooh, so do I. And I've noticed, the louder you sing, the more milk you get.

**Billy** So, we need a nice, loud song to get her juices flowing.

**Nelly** I know just the thing. It starts off quiet, but it keeps getting louder. Join in, everyone.

*Cue music: The Cow Kicked Nelly*

**All** Oh, the cow kicked Nelly in the belly in the barn.

Oh, the cow kicked Nelly in the belly in the barn.

Oh, the cow kicked Nelly in the belly in the barn.

And the farmer said it'd do no harm.

Second [etc.] verse, same as the first, a little bit louder and a little bit worse

## Scene 4. An Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe

*Half stage. A road by a forest. There is a signpost which points to High Heel Castle one way, and Wellington Farm the other way. Veruca and Bunion enter from the direction of the castle. Bunion holds a large sheet of paper*

**Bunion** So, if I take a size four, then we times that by, er, what was it?

**Veruca** How many times do we have to go over this? You double it for a pair, then multiply it by a hundred.

*Clever Clogs enters from the direction of the farm*

**Bunion** Halt! (*Reads from the sheet of paper*) All citizens of the kingdom of Shoestring must pay the sole tax.

**Veruca** Don't be daft, that's Mr Clever Clogs.

**Bunion** No one said anything about clogs. Do we charge more for them, or less?

**Veruca** It's not the type of shoe, it's the size.

**Clever Clogs** Ah, so that's how it works. The bigger the shoe...

**Veruca** The more you have to pay.

**Clever Clogs** (*rubs his hands*) I see. Tell me, are you paying a visit to Wellington Farm?

**Veruca** Why?

**Clever Clogs** Because I know an old woman who lives in a shoe.

**Bunion** Lives in a shoe?

**Clever Clogs** And she's a very rude woman. That enormous shoe will cost her a fortune. That'll teach her some manners.

**Veruca** Right you are, we'll go there first.

**Bunion** But why does she live in a shoe?

**Clever Clogs** I don't know why she lives in a shoe. I haven't a clue.

**Veruca** Here, that reminds me of a song.

**Bunion** What song?

*Cue music: I Know an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly*

**Veruca** I know an old woman who lived in a shoe,  
I don't know why she lived in a shoe,  
I haven't a clue.

**Bunion** I know an old woman who knitted a sock,  
M & S had run out of stock.

She knitted the sock to put in the shoe.

**Veruca** I don't know why she lived in a shoe.

**All** I haven't a clue.

**Clever Clogs** I know an old woman who borrowed some wool.

Like the stuff you've got in your skull. (*Points at Bunion*)

She borrowed the wool to knit the sock.

**Bunion** She knitted the sock to put in the shoe... [etc.]

**Veruca** I know an old woman who borrowed a sheep,

Counting them will send you to sleep.

She borrowed the sheep to grow the wool.

**Clever Clogs** She borrowed the wool to knit the sock... [etc.]

**Bunion** I know an old woman who borrowed a dog,

He cocked his leg to go to the bog.

She borrowed the dog to catch the sheep.

**Veruca** She borrowed the sheep to grow the wool... [etc.]

**Clever Clogs** I know an old woman who borrowed a boy.

Just the type you shouldn't employ.

She borrowed the boy to call the dog.

**Bunion** She borrowed the dog to catch the sheep... [etc.]

**Veruca** I know an old woman who borrowed a bloke.

She squeezed him hard and gave him a stroke.

She borrowed the bloke to kick the boy.

**Clever Clogs** She borrowed the boy to call the dog... [etc.]

**Bunion** I know an old woman who borrowed a shoe.

She started with one, and ended with two.

She borrowed the shoe to lend the bloke.

**Veruca** She borrowed the bloke to kick the boy... [etc.]

**Clever Clogs** The woman has reached her borrowing limit,

Maybe it's time to put a sock in it.

She knitted the sock to put in the shoe.

**Bunion** She borrowed the shoe to lend the bloke.

**Veruca** She borrowed the bloke to kick the boy.

**Clever Clogs** She borrowed the boy to call the dog.

**Bunion** She borrowed the dog to catch the sheep.

**Veruca** She borrowed the sheep to grow the wool.

**Clever Clogs** She borrowed the wool to knit the sock.

**Bunion** She knitted the sock to put in the shoe.

**Veruca** I don't know why she lived in a shoe.

**All** I haven't a clue.

## Scene 5. Two Left Feet

*Full stage. Wellington Farm. A mouse runs across the stage with a red ball. Billy runs after it*

**Billy** Get back here, you little thief!

*Another mouse runs on from the other side, chased by Nelly*

**Nelly** Stop that mouse!

*Billy and Nelly collide. The mice escape*

**Nelly** You clumsy great oaf!

**Billy** Sorry, Mum.

**Nelly** *(to the audience)* Hello, boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello, Nelly!

**Nelly** I tell you, the sooner we get a cat, the better.

**Billy** Yes, it's not easy to run in these wellies. Here, should I call at Mr Blister's shoe shop? I could buy a pair of trainers.

**Nelly** We can't afford any trainers. But you'd better go there anyway. Ask Mr Blister if we can pay for Goody's dance shoes after Christmas.

*Veruca and Bunion enter*

**Bunion** All citizens of the kingdom of Shoestring must pay the sole tax.

**Nelly** Look, we've already paid the cheese tax, and the ice cream tax.

**Veruca** Aha, you must be the old woman who lives in a shoe.

**Nelly** No, I'm the young lady who lives in a welly.

*Nelly points offstage. Veruca and Bunion react with amazement*

**Bunion** Look at that great massive boot! What size is that thing?

**Veruca** I reckon that's a ninety-nine.

**Bunion** How do you know?

**Veruca** *(points upwards)* It's got a chocolate flake sticking out.

**Nelly** That's not a flake, it's a chimney.

**Bunion** So, two times ninety-nine is, er...

**Veruca** Ooh, er, let's call it a size hundred.

**Bunion** Right, so we double that.

**Billy** Why do you double it?

**Bunion** For a pair.

**Nelly** I haven't got a pair, there's just the one.

*Goody enters*

**Veruca** All right, so what's a hundred times a hundred?

**Bunion** A hundred times a hundred, is, er...

**Goody** Ten thousand.

**Veruca** Ah, then you owe us ten thousand pounds.

**Nelly** We haven't got ten thousand pounds. Business is bad.

**Veruca** Well, what have you got?

*Cue sound of cow mooing. Billy, Nelly and Goody look alarmed*

**Bunion** *(looks at Veruca)* Was that you?

**Veruca** Course it wasn't me! *(To Nelly)* Have you got a cow on this farm?

**Nelly** *(hastily)* No, no, there's no cows here.

**Billy** No, we've got no animals at all.

**Goody** Except the mice.

**Nelly** That's one of the reasons we're so poor. Your precious Queen keeps taxing our cheese, and those pesky mice keep eating it.

**Veruca** Never mind mice. We'll give you a week. If you don't come up with ten thousand pounds, we'll take that welly.

*Veruca and Bunion exit*

**Billy** Where are we going to find that kind of money?

**Goody** What about the dance contest? Isn't the top prize ten thousand pounds?

**Billy** Oh yeah! And you're such a great dancer, you're bound to win.

**Nelly** Yes, but she'd need a partner.

**Goody** Billy could be my partner.

**Nelly** I've told you. Billy's got two left feet.

**Billy** Yes, but I could practise and get better.

**Goody** It's worth a try. Let's have a beat, shall we?

*The drums strike up the beat to Blue Suede Shoes*

**Goody** Move along with me, Billy.

*Goody does a basic dance step, snapping her fingers. Billy joins in, snapping his fingers out of time with the music. More dancers enter and join in. Goody does a different step. Billy tries it, but bumps into her*

**Nelly** What did I tell you?

*Cue music: Blue Suede Shoes. The dance routine involves Billy doing the opposite actions to the others: stepping back instead of forwards, etc.*

**Nelly** Well, it's one step forward, two steps back.

Poor Silly Billy ain't got the knack.

I've told you, Billy's got two left feet.

**All** Silly Billy! Willy Nilly!

**Nelly** He keeps missing the beat, 'cos Billy's got two left feet.

**Nelly** You can stamp your feet, clap your hands.

Poor Silly Billy don't understand.

He'll trip you up, tread on your shoes,

Trample your toes 'til they're black and blue.

I've told you, Billy's got two left feet.

**All** Silly Billy! Willy Nilly!

**Nelly** He keeps missing the beat, 'cos Billy's got two left feet.

**Nelly** Turn to the left, turn to the right.

Poor Silly Billy ain't none too bright.

He can't tell his feet which way to march,

He don't know his elbow from his arch.

I've told you, Billy's got two left feet.

**All** Silly Billy! Willy Nilly!

**Nelly** He keeps missing the beat, 'cos Billy's got two left feet.

**All** Well, it's two, two, two left feet.

He keeps missing the beat, 'cos Billy's got two left feet.

*The dance concludes with jazz hands. Billy faces the back of the stage. Goody turns him round to face the front*

## Scene 6. Let Them Eat Cake

*Half stage. High Heel Castle. Stiletto and Cornplaster are awkwardly practising their dance routine*

**Stiletto** And slow... slow... quick quick... Will you stop treading on my feet!

**Cornplaster** *(aside)* It's very hard to avoid them.

**Stiletto** What did you say?

*Clever Clogs enters*

**Clever Clogs** I'm sorry to interrupt, Your Majesty.

**Stiletto** What is it, Clever Clogs? We've got to practise for the dance contest.

**Clever Clogs** You need to choose your birthday cake, Ma'am.

**Stiletto** My cake?

*Stiletto stops mid-spin, sending Cornplaster flying*

**Clever Clogs** The bakers need to know what kind you'd like.

**Stiletto** Hmm, let me think...

**Clever Clogs** Perhaps a nice fruit cake?

**Stiletto** No, no. *(Dramatically)* That would remind me of Christmas cake, and of the tragedy I suffered years ago.

**Cornplaster** What tragedy?

**Stiletto** One Christmas, when I was a girl, my big brother was dragged into the lake and drowned by a gang of vicious ducks.

**Clever Clogs** Well, perhaps a victoria sponge?

**Stiletto** Oh no, I had a victoria sponge cake on that tragic birthday of mine. That was the day my little sister was dragged into the woods and eaten by a gang of vicious squirrels. *(Weeps in an exaggerated manner)*

**Cornplaster** Vicious squirrels?

**Clever Clogs** Might I suggest a chocolate cake?

**Stiletto** *(stops weeping abruptly)* Ooh, a chocolate cake, lovely. With chocolate icing, and chocolate sprinkles, and chocolate candles.

**Clever Clogs** I shall inform the bakers, Ma'am.

*Clever Clogs exits*

**Cornplaster** And perhaps we could speak to the bakers about a wedding cake?

**Stiletto** Ooh, you don't give up easily, do you.

**Cornplaster** One glance at you, Ma'am, and my heart melts like a runny ice cream.

*Cue music: It's Now Or Never. Cornplaster drops on one knee and takes Stiletto's hand*

**Cornplaster** Oh, Queen Stiletto! Give in to me.

I'll pop the question, down on one knee.

Come share my loving cup.

And please assist me – I can't get up.

*Stiletto yanks Cornplaster to his feet. They dance*

**Queen** I'm highly flattered by your kind proposal,

But I'm not ready for a betrothal.

I know I'm tasty, but I won't be hasty.

Although I'm queen, I'm just eighteen years old.

**Cornplaster** My heart is burning with fierce desire.

If we are married I'll poke the fire.

I'll buy the best champagne,

And toast my nuptials upon your flame.

**Queen** My youthful beauty made you feel so lovesick,

When Cupid's arrow gave you a sharp prick.

I'd like a consort if he's not the wrong sort,

So tell me true what you would do for me.

**Cornplaster** I'd be Prince Regent if you were ill,

And King Cornplaster if you were killed.

So be my wedded wife.

You bring the cake and I'll bring the knife.

**Queen** Let's wait 'til Strictly, and if we win,

Just play your cards right and I'll give in.

**Both** We'll make a royal flush.

**Queen** I'll be your love-bird.

**Cornplaster** I'll be your thrush.

## Scene 7. The Elves and the Shoemaker

*Full stage. Mr Blister's shop. Cue music: Whistle While You Work. A group of elves is sitting at a long table, each holding an inflatable hammer. Mr Blister stands at one end of the table, and Melissa stands at the other. Mr Blister passes shoes onto the production line, and Melissa puts them in boxes at the other end. They all smile, and whistle along with the music. During each gap in the tune, the elves hammer a shoe, then pass it down the line. One elf accidentally hits another on the hand. The second elf whacks the first. A third elf laughs, then gets hit by the first elf. All descends into chaos, with all the elves hitting each other with hammers, pushing and shouting. Mr Blister and Melissa pull them apart*

**Mr Blister** Stop that! Stop that!

**Melissa** Will you behave yourselves!

**Elf 3** She started it!

**Elf 2** No, *she* started it!

**Elf 1** I did *not* start it! *You* did!

*The fighting breaks out again. Mr Blister and Melissa drag the elves out. Veruca and Bunion enter*

**Veruca** Right, this is the cobbler's. Remember, we've got to get those red dance shoes.

**Bunion** How are we supposed to get them?

**Veruca** I'll think of something.

*Mr Blister and Melissa enter*

**Mr Blister** Ah, can we help you?

**Bunion** All citizens of the kingdom of Shoestring must pay the sole tax. What's your name?

**Melissa** Blister.

**Bunion** Er, let's see... (*Looks at the sheet*) Ah, here we are. Mr Blister, the shoemaker.

**Melissa** No, I'm *Miss* Blister.

**Bunion** *Miss* Blister? Er, right...

**Melissa** *Miss Melissa* Blister.

**Bunion** *Miss Melissa* Blister?

**Melissa** I'm Mr Blister's sister.

**Bunion** *Miss Melissa* Blister, Mr Blister's sister?

**Veruca** Come on, we haven't got all day.

**Bunion** But *Miss Melissa* Blister, Mr Blister's sister, isn't on the list.

**Veruca** She's supposed to be. You must've missed her off the list.

**Bunions** All right, if you insist, I must've missed Miss Melissa Blister, Mr Blister's sister, off the list. (*Claps her hands at the audience for a reaction*)

**Veruca** Right, what size shoes do you take?

**Melissa** Size five.

**Veruca** And what about you?

**Mr Blister** Size seven.

**Bunions** Right, so that's five times two, plus seven times two...

*An elf enters*

**Veruca** Here, who's that?

**Elf 1** I'm an elf.

**Veruca** And what size shoes do you take?

**Elf 1** Size three.

**Bunions** Er, five times two, plus seven times two, plus three times two...

*Another elf enters*

**Veruca** Wait, there's another elf. What's your shoe size?

**Elf 2** We all take a size three.

**Bunions** Er, five times two, plus seven times two, plus *two* times three times two...

*More elves enter*

**Elf 3** *Three* times three times two.

**Elf 4** *Four* times three times two.

**Elf 5** *Five* times three times two.

**Bunions** I can't keep up! Five times two, plus seven times two, plus five times three times-

**Veruca** Oh, let's just call it five thousand pounds.

**Melissa** We can't afford that!

**Veruca** How about this, then. If you happen to have a special pair of red dance shoes...

**Mr Blister** We *do* have a special pair of red dance shoes.

**Veruca** We could always take those, and forget about the tax.

**Melissa** But those are for Goody Two Shoes.

**Mr Blister** Oh yes, we couldn't possibly let you have those.

**Veruca** It's either that, or pay five thousand pounds.

**Mr Blister** But we haven't got five thousand pounds. Business is bad.

**Bunion** That's what that woman at the farm said.

**Veruca** Yes, don't tell us the mice are eating your shoes.

**Elf 3** Mice?

**Elf 2** Where?

**Melissa** Don't mention mice!

**Elf 1** There's a mouse? Run!

*The elves dash around, banging into each other and shrieking. Mr Blister and Melissa try to calm the elves.*

*They all exit, leaving Veruca and Bunion looking puzzled*

**Bunion** What was all that about?

**Veruca** (*thoughtfully*) Hmm... Elves must be scared of mice.

**Bunion** So, what do we do about the shoes?

**Veruca** I think I've got it.

*Mr Blister and Melissa enter*

**Mr Blister** Sorry about that. They get in a mad panic about mice.

**Veruca** So I see. Tell me, is there a toy shop in the village?

**Melissa** Yes, there's Mrs Flatfoot's toy shop next door.

**Veruca** Right, we'll pay her a visit next.

**Mr Blister** She's got no more money than we have.

**Veruca** You'd better have some by next week, otherwise we'll take all your stock.

**Melissa** By next week?

**Veruca** (*to Bunion*) Come on. Let's see what Mrs Flatfoot has in her toy shop.

*Veruca winks at Bunion. They exit*

**Mr Blister** Oh dear! What are we to do?

**Melissa** I know! What about that dance contest? There's a big prize for winning that.

**Mr Blister** Oh, I'm no good at dancing, Melissa.

*Billy enters*

**Billy** Hello, everyone.

**Mr Blister** Hello, Billy. Have you come to collect Goody's dance shoes?

**Billy** That's right, Mr Blister. They're for her birthday.

**Melissa** Oh, when's that?

**Billy** The first of December.

**Mr Blister** The first of December? Isn't that the same as Queen Stiletto's birthday?

**Billy** Yes, although we don't really know when Goody's birthday is. The first was the day I found her in the woods.

**Mr Blister** (*fetches a shoe box which is wrapped with a bow*) Well, I'm glad you've come. We need every penny we can get at the moment.

**Billy** Er, yes, the thing is, we're a bit short of cash. Mum asked if we can pay you after Christmas.

**Mr Blister** Oh dear. We're a bit short of cash too.

**Melissa** But Goody must have her birthday present.

**Mr Blister** You're quite right, Melissa. Just pay us when you can, Billy.

**Billy** You're both very kind.

*Mr Blister puts the box on the table near Billy. The elves return*

**Mr Blister** One pair isn't going to make much difference, not compared to what we owe.

**Melissa** We've just had the tax collectors in here. They want five thousand pounds.

**Billy** Oh, them. They want ten thousand from us.

**Melissa** But I've had an idea. Queen Stiletto's having a dance contest, and there's a big cash prize. How would you like to be my partner?

**Billy** I'd love to, but I'm entering the contest with Goody.

**Elf 4** I'll be your partner, Miss Blister.

**Elf 5** No, I'll be your partner.

**Elf 3** You can't dance. I'll be her partner.

**Elf 5** Shut up! I offered first.

**Elf 4** No, I offered first.

*The elves begin fighting with hammers. Mr Blister and Melissa intervene. Cue music:*

*Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. During the final chorus, behind the others, Veruca and Bunion enter with a*

*large toy mouse attached to a string and a pole. They lie the mouse at the corner of the stage. Veruca crouches on one side, Bunion tiptoes to the other side and crouches, holding the pole*

**Billy** It's always very noisy here in Mr Blister's shop.

The arguments are endless and the quarrels never stop.

**Mr Blister** In storybooks and movies you find helpful little elves,

But mine have nasty tempers and they fight among themselves.

**All** Oh! Shoemakers are hobbled if they've got a team of squabblers.

Bickering and griping like a bunch of grumpy toddlers.

Some are throwing tantrums and the rest are throwing wobblers.

Now we know the fairy tales are all a load of cobblers.

Um diddle-iddle-iddle, um diddle aye.

Um diddle-iddle-iddle, um diddle aye.

**Elf 1** We have to do the night shift just to try and earn our keep.

**Elf 2** We've got to work long hours so we're always short of sleep.

**Elf 3** And as he pays us peanuts it's no wonder we're all cross.

**Elf 4** That's why we like to pass the time in winding up the boss.

**All** Oh! Shoemakers are hobbled...

**Mr Blister** I'd really like to call a truce and end this civil war,

But I'm afraid I can't afford to pay a penny more.

My revenue is shrinking and my customers have fled.

They sit at home and order shoes from Amazon instead.

**All** Oh! Shoemakers are hobbled...

**Veruca** (to Bunion) All right, say "cheese".

*Bunion tugs at the pole, moving the mouse towards the elves, then sweeping it around the stage*

**Veruca** Look! It's a mouse!

**Elf 1** There's a mouse!

**Elf 3** Where?

**Elf 2** There!

*The elves shriek and run away chaotically. Mr Blister, Melissa and Billy chase the mouse off stage. In the panic, Veruca runs on to the stage and picks up the shoe box. Bunion runs across with the mouse and pole. They high-five each other, and exit, laughing. Mr Blister, Melissa and Billy return*

**Billy** Well, I don't know where it got to.

**Mr Blister** Never mind. You'd better get back home with those shoes.

*They see that the shoe box has gone*

**Melissa** Where have they gone?

**Mr Blister** Someone's taken them!

**Billy** I bet it was that pesky mouse. They're always stealing things.

**Melissa** Oh no! Poor Goody won't have anything for her birthday.

**Billy** Oh dear. I'd better get back home and break the news to her. Bye bye.

**Mr Blister and Melissa** Goodbye, Billy.

*Billy exits*

## Scene 8. A Guardian Angel

*Half stage. The road by the forest. Goody enters*

**Goody** Hello, everyone. I've come to meet Billy. Auntie Nelly said he went into the village, but she wouldn't tell me why. They're being very secretive about something.

*Billy enters*

**Billy** Oh, hello Goody. I didn't expect to see you out here.

**Goody** Hello, Billy. I thought I'd give you a surprise.

**Billy** (*gloomily*) That's what Mum and I wanted to give you. But you're not getting any surprise, not now.

**Goody** What's the matter?

**Billy** You know how you've always wanted some proper dance shoes? Well, we were going to give you a pair for your birthday, but they've been stolen.

**Goody** Oh no!

**Billy** It'll be those thieving mice again. But I promise, I'll get you some dance shoes one day.

**Goody** (*hugs Billy*) You're an angel, Billy.

**Billy** I don't look anything like an angel, Goody. They look more like- (*Looks stunned*) An angel! Why didn't I think of it before?

**Goody** Think of what?

**Billy** It happened right here, all those years ago. I heard a voice calling me from the woods.

**Goody** My voice?

**Billy** No, it was someone else's voice. I've never told anyone the true story, because no one would believe me.

**Goody** Go on, Billy. I believe you.

**Billy** I walked through to a clearing in the trees, and there you both were.

**Goody** Both?

**Billy** Yes, someone was holding your hand. He saw me, and he shouted, "Nice to see you, to see you, nice!"

**Goody** Nice to see you?

**Billy** He said he was your guardian angel. He told me to take care of you, and if ever you were in trouble, just call out his name, and he'd come to help.

**Goody** A guardian angel? What's his name?

**Billy** I can't remember.

**Goody** Oh, do try, Billy.

**Billy** It's a bit like Billy. It starts with a B.

**Goody** Barny? Benny?

**Billy** No.

**Goody** Bertie? Bobby?

**Billy** No. Can you help, boys and girls?

**Audience** Brucie!

**Billy** Brucie, that's it! Come on, let's call his name together.

**All** Brucie!

*Brucie enters and does the 'Thinker' pose*

**Brucie** Hello, my dears! Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, nice to see you, to see you...

**All** Nice!

**Brucie** What a lovely audience. So much better than last night.

**Goody** Are you really my guardian angel?

**Brucie** I am indeed, dear. Now, what can I do for you?

**Goody** Well, have you heard of Queen Stiletto?

**Brucie** I'm afraid I know all about Queen Stiletto. The tales I could tell you. They'd make your hair stand on end.

**Billy** (*stares at Brucie's head*) Did they make your hair stand on end, Brucie?

**Brucie** (*firmly*) We don't talk about my hair. Now, you were saying?

**Goody** The Queen's having a dance contest, and Billy and I need to win the prize. Otherwise they'll take away our home.

**Billy** But Goody's special red dance shoes have been stolen.

**Brucie** Oh, that's a shame. But listen, dear. It's not the shoes that matter, it's the feet inside them.

**Goody** I suppose so.

**Brucie** Come on, let's see how you move. After me.

*Cue drums, tapping a rhythm on the hi-hat. Brucie does a neat set of dance steps. The drums do a crash on its conclusion. Goody follows suit, with the same drums. She copies Brucie perfectly*

**Brucie** There you go, what did I tell you? You don't need special shoes, you'll be fine as you are.

**Billy** Yes, but she's got me for a partner, and I've got two left feet.

**Brucie** Well, let's see what you've got.

*Billy tries and fails to mimic Brucie's dance steps to a loose clattering of tom toms. Brucie looks horrified*

**Brucie** Dear oh dear, I think he needs a little Brucie bonus. Come with me, dears. It's time to play The Generation Game.

## Scene 9. Spit and Polish

*Full stage. Wellington Farm. Cue music: Generation Game theme. There is a set of screens in the middle, with 'The Generation Game' painted on them. There is an closed square window in the middle. Below this is the 'conveyer belt'. Anthea, Nelly and some villagers enter and stand at the side. Veruca and Bunion enter and stand at the other side*

**Nelly** Who's this supposed to be?

**Goody** This is Brucie. He's my guardian angel.

**Brucie** And this is my friend Anthea. Would you show Billy to his place, dear?

*Anthea leads Billy to a chair behind the screens. Billy sits, and Anthea returns to the front. The square window opens*

**Brucie** Watch carefully, and try to remember everything you see.

**Anthea** All the things you remember, you get to keep.

**Brucie** And look out for your special Brucie bonus.

*Cue elevator music. Items start sliding across, each one announced by Anthea*

**Anthea** An electric blanket. A fondue set. A carriage clock. A cuddly toy...

**Brucie** A cuddly toy!

**Anthea** A standard lamp. A bottle of Mateus Rosé. A bedside teasmade. A tin of magic shoe polish...

**Brucie** Magic shoe polish!

*The square closes and the music stops. Anthea leads Billy out. They stand with Brucie*

**Brucie** Right, you've got forty-five seconds, starting... now!

**Billy** Er... er...

**Anthea** Think carefully. What did you see?

**Billy** Er... a cuddly toy?

**Brucie** A cuddly toy, yes. What else?

**Billy** Er, a bacon butty.

**Brucie** A bacon butty?

**Billy** Oh no, that's what I had for breakfast.

**Anthea** Time's ticking, Billy.

**Billy** Er... er...

**Brucie** Come on, boys and girls, give him a hand!

**Nelly** A fondue set!

**Billy** A fondue set.

**Veruca and Bunion** A bottle of wine!

**Billy** Bottle of wine.

*Nelly and Goody encourage the audience to shout out answers. Billy repeats these, except the shoe polish*

**Brucie** We still need the Brucie bonus! Come on, what was it?

**Billy** Ooh! Magic shoe polish!

**Brucie** That's the one!

*Cue sound of bell ringing*

**Brucie** Didn't he do well!

*Brucie encourages everyone to clap. Anthea brings on the shoe polish and hands it to Goody*

**Goody** Magic shoe polish?

**Brucie** That's right. It's a special gift for both of you. *(Recites)*

Here's a tip you'll never hear in dancing school or college.

You'll put a shine on Billy with a bit of spit and polish.

It's only for rehearsal though, and not when you're competing.

Mark my words, or you could be disqualified for cheating.

Rub it on his boots and it'll make him nice and spruce.

This tin's an early birthday present from your old friend, Bruce.

**Goody** I don't know how to thank you.

**Brucie** You can thank me by winning that contest, dear. Queen Stiletto needs putting in her place.

**Nelly** It's very kind, but are you sure it'll work?

**Goody** I'm sure it will, if we get in plenty of practice.

**Brucie** That's the spirit. And if the polish doesn't do the trick, I might send you an early Christmas present.

**Billy** So we rub this all over my boots?

**Brucie** Just a little dab on each, not too much.

**Anthea** And remember, it's just for rehearsals, not for the competition.

**Brucie** Best of luck, dear.

**Goody** Oh, it really is nice to see you, Brucie.

*Cue music: Angels. Veruca and Bunion exit*

**Goody** Oh, can it be?  
Is an angel watching over me?  
He'll be a light,  
To guide me through the night,  
If I go astray.  
And he'll lead the way,  
To the dawning of a brand new day.  
So if I ever shed a tear,  
I'll never have to fear,  
Now I know he will appear.  
My guardian angel is near.

**All** And if I call he'll offer me assistance.  
I know I can go the distance,  
If I can count on him.  
And any time I fall,  
He'll take my hand and lift me,  
With lots of love to give me.  
When I need a friend, he'll soon be with me.  
My guardian angel is near.

**Goody** When I'm feeling low,  
And I just don't know which way to go.  
I'll call on him,  
And he'll come and help me through anything.  
With him up in the sky,  
I've got no need to cry,  
I know he'll appear.  
My guardian angel is near.

**All** And if I call he'll offer me assistance... [etc.]

## Act Two

### Scene 1. Puss In Boots

*Full stage. Wellington Farm. Goody and Billy enter*

**Goody** Shall we try again, Billy?

**Billy** Yes, I've just been putting on a bit more polish on my boots.

**Goody** Well, it's one step forward...

*Goody steps forward. Billy lunges forward*

**Goody** Two steps back...

*Goody steps backwards. Billy gallops several steps back*

**Goody** Stamp your feet...

*Goody stamps a foot. Billy stamps both, several times*

**Goody** Clap your hands...

*Goody claps once. Billy claps repeatedly, faster and faster*

**Goody** How much polish did you use?

**Billy** I might have got a bit carried away. *(Holds up his hands, which are stained red all over)*

*Nelly enters*

**Nelly** Hello, boys and girls!

**Audience** Hello, Nelly!

**Nelly** Billy! I thought I told you to put up a "Cat wanted" sign.

**Billy** I did. I stuck it on the gate.

**Nelly** Well, I've just looked, and it's not there.

**Goody** It was there this morning.

**Billy** It must have blown away.

**Nelly** It can't have. There hasn't been a breath of wind today.

**Billy** I'll make another sign after we've finished our dance practice.

**Nelly** How's that going, then?

**Goody** I think Billy needs a bit more time.

**Nelly** He's had plenty of time, and the dance contest's tomorrow.

*Puss In Boots enters, holding a parchment*

**Puss** Hello. Is this Wellington Farm?

**Nelly** Might be. Who's asking?

**Puss** My name's Puss In Boots. *(Holds up the sign)* This says you're looking for a cat.

**Billy** Where did you find that?

**Puss** It was very strange. I was walking along the road, about a mile away, and this blew right towards me. But it wasn't windy at all.

**Nelly** Well, I'm glad you're here. Are you any good at catching mice?

**Puss** I'm not bad, but I'm better at dancing.

**Goody** You're a dancer?

**Puss** That's right. I've just been to High Heel Castle. I wanted to enter the contest, but they told me it was for couples only.

**Billy** Yes, you need a partner.

**Puss** *(sadly)* But I haven't got a partner. In fact, I haven't got a friend in the world.

**Nelly** Aww! *(Encourages the audience)*

**Goody** We'll be your friends, Puss.

**Nelly** Especially if you can catch those thieving mice.

*A mouse runs across the back of the stage*

**Billy** There's one!

*Puss lets out a loud meow, and chases after the mouse. It squeaks and retreats. Cue drumbeat. With a series of runs and dance moves, Puss dashes from side to side, each time pursuing more mice. Nelly, Billy and Goody shout encouragement. The chase ends with Puss dragging on all the mice, tied round with a rope. Drum crash.*

*Nelly, Billy and Goody cheer*

**Nelly** Gotcha, you little thieves!

**Mr Mouse** We're very sorry, Mrs Gumboot.

**Nelly** Never mind sorry. What did you do with Goody's dance shoes?

**Mrs Mouse** We didn't take any shoes, just cheese.

**Billy** One of you was in Mr Blister's shop.

**Mr Mouse** No, we stay away from there, honest.

**Mrs Mouse** Those elves whack us with their hammers.

**Puss** So, what shall we do with this lot? Would you like me to eat them?

**Mice** No! Please!

**Nelly** Well, you can't stay here.

**Puss** I've got an idea. When I was at the castle, I saw the baker delivering a huge chocolate cake.

**Goody** That'll be for Queen Stiletto's birthday.

**Billy** The rotten old bag doesn't deserve a cake.

**Puss** That's what I was thinking. Wouldn't it be a shame if someone ate it?

**Nelly** Yes, that'd be a *terrible* shame. What do you think, mice? Who likes chocolate cake?

**Mice** Chocolate cake? Yay! [etc.]

**Nelly** Let 'em go, Puss.

*Puss releases the mice, who thank everyone, shaking hands with Billy, Goody and Nelly. They line up and do a conga*

**Mice** Ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-chocolate!

Ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-chocolate!

It's chocolate cake!

It's chocolate cake!

*The mice exit*

**Billy** Well, Puss, you can certainly move in those boots.

**Puss** Thank you. It's warm work, and it's been a long day. I don't suppose I could have... (*Sways unsteadily*)

**Goody** Are you all right, Puss?

**Puss** I'm just a bit thirsty, that's all. I haven't had anything to drink since... since...

*Puss staggers, then collapses. Billy and Goody catch him and lower him to the ground*

**Nelly** Oh heck! We need to get him something to drink.

**Billy** But what do cats drink?

**Nelly** Shall we make him a cup of tea?

**Goody** I don't think cats drink tea.

**Billy** What about a glass of juice?

**Goody** Or a bottle of water?

**Nelly** *(to the audience)* Here, what do cats like to drink?

**Audience** Milk!

**Nelly** What was that?

**Audience** Milk!

**Nelly** Of course! He needs a saucer of milk.

**Goody** Let's call Daisy, everyone.

**All** Daisy!

*Cue sound of mooing. Daisy walks on*

**Billy** Daisy, this cat needs a drink of milk, quickly!

*A hand under Daisy lowers a four-pint carton of milk. Goody takes it*

**Goody** And where can we get a saucer?

*A hand under Daisy lowers a saucer. Billy takes it. Nelly peers under Daisy*

**Nelly** What else have you got up there? I'll have a cappuccino with two sugars.

*Goody pours some milk into the saucer and raises it to Puss's mouth*

**Goody** There you go, Puss. Drink up.

*Puss takes a few laps, then straightens up, takes the saucer and drinks*

**Billy** That's doing the trick. You'll soon have a spring in your step.

*Cue music: Skimbleshanks the Railway Cat. Puss stands, and six more cats enter*

**The Cats** Puss in Boots, the dancing cat, the mog with the kitten heels.

**Cat 1** With a saucerful of milk he'll be moving smooth as silk.

It goes through him like a dose of salts.

It's a tonic for the troops that'll soon have Puss in Boots,

Up and ready for a lively waltz.

**Puss** I would be extremely grateful if you pour another plateful,  
And perhaps a dish of cream.  
If I wipe it off my whiskers I can rub it on my blisters,  
As my footwear lets off steam.

*Goody pours more milk. Puss drinks it, then dances*

**Cat 2** When he finishes a saucer he can do a flying salsa,  
Like a matador with claws.

**Puss** I'll be feeling rather bullish when I finish with a flourish,  
And I'm milking the applause.

**All** Puss in Boots, the dancing cat, the mog with the kitten heels.

**Cat 3** He will tango night and day at Hernando's Hideaway,  
With the trumpets and guitars.

**Puss** A cat is never knackered when he's shaking his maracas,  
Or he's showing his cha-chas.

**Cat 4** You really must be careful if he's coughing up a hairball,  
And he sulks if he gets wet.

**Puss** And you'd better keep away when I'm in my litter tray,  
Or I'm hiding from the vet.

**Cat 5** He can cover lots of ground and escape a pack of hounds,  
With his flashing dashing paws.

**Puss** A foxtrot is a breeze, but it damages your knees,  
If you do it on all fours.

**All** Puss in Boots, the dancing cat, the mog with the kitten heels.

**Puss** But what I've always lacked is a partner for my act.  
It's a lot more fun with two.

It'll be our lucky number if you join me for a rumba.

I would bet my shirt on you.

**Cat 6** So if you make a bee-line for a fascinating feline,

You could make a winning pair.

**Puss** They'd really have to watch us if you'd be my Ginger Rogers,  
And I'd be your Fred Astaire.

*Puss takes Goody's hand. They dance enthusiastically during an instrumental section*

**Puss** With a gathering crescendo we'll be dancing a flamenco,  
No-one else can move so quickly.  
There'll be such a celebration when we've had our coronation,  
As the king and queen of Strictly.

**All** Puss in Boots, the dancing cat, the mog with the kitten heels.  
Puss in Boots, the dancing cat, the mog with the kitten heels.

**Goody** Wow! You're a great dancer, Puss.

**Puss** You're not so bad yourself. Would you be my partner? We could enter the contest together.

**Goody** That'd be great, but I can't. You see, Billy and I are partners.

**Billy** No, no. You two are made for each other.

**Goody** But what about you?

**Billy** It's all right. You see, Miss Blister asked me to be her partner. But if you and Puss team up, then I can team up with her.

**Nelly** You'd better go and ask her, then. We can all go together.

*Cue sound of mooing*

**Nelly** Oh, not you, Daisy. You'll have to stay here.

*Daisy bows her head*

**Billy** Aww!

**Nelly** I'm sorry, dear, but we can't let Queen Stiletto see you.

**Goody** You know what she says: "Anything that moos, ends up as shoes."

**Billy** Wait! I know what to do.

*Billy rushes off, and comes back on with a sheepskin rug*

**Billy** She can go in disguise, see? Instead of Daisy the Cow... *(Throws the rug on Daisy's back)* She can be Maisy the Sheep.

**Nelly** *(flatly)* Oh, brilliant. I'd never recognize her.

*Cue sound of mooing*

**Billy** No, you mustn't say "moo", Daisy. Just copy me... Baa!

*Cue sound of mooing*

**Billy** No, no... Baa!

*Cue sound of cockerel crowing*

**Nelly** Close enough. Get some feathers, and she can go as a chicken.

**Billy** Try again, Daisy. Baa!

*Cue sound of pig oinking*

**Billy** No, no! Baa. Help her out, everyone.

**All** Baa!

*Cue sound of donkey braying*

**Billy** Come on, boys and girls. What do sheep say?

**Audience** Baa!

*Cue sound of sheep bleating. Billy and the others cheer and encourage the audience to clap*

## Scene 2. The Red Shoes

*Half stage. High Heel Castle. Cornplaster enters*

**Cornplaster** *(to the audience)* I've told you grubby lot before, no booing!

**Audience** Boo!

**Cornplaster** You just wait 'til I'm king, you'll be booing on the other side of your faces.

*Stiletto enters, in her stockinged feet*

**Stiletto** Ah, Lord Cornplaster. Aren't you going to give me my birthday present?

**Cornplaster** It's not your birthday 'til tomorrow, Ma'am. But maybe I could find a little engagement present for you today.

**Stiletto** Ooh, you're very persistent. Always trying to pop the question. *(Lowers her voice)* But I know what you're up to.

**Cornplaster** *(flustered)* You do?

**Stiletto** Oh yes, I can see right through you.

**Cornplaster** Who's been talking?

**Stiletto** You men are only interested in one thing. *(Looks around)* Well, there's nobody watching, so why not? *(Sits and sticks out her foot)* This one first.

**Cornplaster** What do you mean?

**Stiletto** You silly sausage! This little piggy.

**Cornplaster** Oh, I see.

*Cornplaster lowers himself on one knee, painfully. Stiletto giggles as he twiddles her toes. Unseen by either of them, Veruca and Bunion enter. They nudge each other and grin*

**Cornplaster** This little piggy went to market.

This little piggy stayed at home.

This little piggy had roast beef.

This little piggy had none.

And this little piggy went...

**Veruca and Bunion** Wee wee wee wee wee!

*Stiletto and Cornplaster yelp with surprise. She snatches her foot away and stands*

**Cornplaster** You miserable toe rags! (*Tries to get up*) Wait 'til I get my... 'til I get my... Give me a hand, damn it!

*Veruca and Bunion help Cornplaster to his feet*

**Bunion** There you go, Lord Composter.

**Cornplaster** Cornplaster!

**Veruca** We've collected the tax money, My Lord.

**Cornplaster** And did you collect enough cash for the prizes?

**Bunion** Mr Clever Clogs is counting it now.

**Veruca** Are we too late to enter the contest?

**Bunion** I reckon we've got a chance of winning.

*Veruca and Bunion do some funky dance moves*

**Cornplaster** Stop that nonsense.

**Stiletto** There's only going to be one winner, and that's me. Ten thousand pounds to Queen Stiletto!

**Veruca** Yes, but what about second place?

**Bunion** Five thousand quid.

**Cornplaster** That's for me.

**Stiletto** Our routine is going to be so superb, we'll be awarded *both* prizes.

**Cornplaster** And did you fetch the, er... (*Mutters to Veruca*) Surprise present?

**Veruca** Yes, My Lord. (*Walks to the wings and picks up the shoe box*)

**Stiletto** Is that for me?

**Cornplaster** Yes, but you're not allowed to have it until-

**Stiletto** I'm the Queen, I'm allowed to do anything I want.

*Stiletto snatches the box from Veruca*

**Stiletto** Besides, I need cheering up at this time of year. I'm still haunted by that very sad Christmas, when my dear brother was drowned by a gang of vicious ducks.

**Bunion** Vicious ducks?

**Stiletto** And my tragic birthday party, when my darling sister was eaten by a gang of vicious hedgehogs.

**Cornplaster** You said it was squirrels.

**Stiletto** Squirrels, that's right. (*Tugs at the bow and opens the box with delight*) Ooh, look! Pretty red dance shoes.

*Stiletto takes out the shoes and throws the box at Bunion*

**Veruca** And we learned something interesting in the village.

**Cornplaster** What was that?

**Veruca** There's a lad called Silly Billy, and he's got some magic shoe polish. It's supposed to spruce up your dancing.

**Stiletto** Magic shoe polish?

**Cornplaster** Go and steal it, right away.

**Veruca** But we've only just got here.

**Cornplaster** Don't argue, just do as you're told.

**Bunio**n All right. We can use the mouse again.

**Veruca** No, they won't fall for the same thing twice. We'll pay another visit to the toy shop.

**Stiletto** But first you can help me with these.

*Stiletto hands the red shoes to Veruca and Bunion, then sits. Cue music: Putting On The Ritz. Some guards enter. During the song, Veruca and Bunion try to squeeze the shoes onto Stiletto's feet*

**Cornplaster** Have you seen Her Majesty?

With her awful vanity?

Trying shoes and slippers on.

Won't admit the size is wrong.

No-one would dare to tell her, she ain't no Cinderella.

With a mighty push, it's a terrible crush!

**Guards** If you squeeze your blundering feet inside these, then you'll be in an awful fix.

Putting on a six.

**Guards** See her choose a very tight pair of dance shoes, crushing them like a ton of bricks.

Putting on a six.

**Cornplaster** She would think she'd died and gone to heaven,

If her feet could fit in a size seven.

**Guards** Or elevens!

**Guards** When you give your nails a clip they could do with a bigger snip to get in those.

Cutting off the toes.

*The guards perform a tap dance, using their pikestaffs as canes*

**Guards** Maybe we can do a swap, so let's take these back to the shop and ask the elves,  
Have you got a twelve? [*Repeat*]

### Scene 3. Cobbled Together

*Full stage. Mr Blister's shop. Billy dashes in, carrying a bag containing the shoe polish*

**Billy** Mr Blister! Melissa! I've got fantastic news!

*Mr Blister and Melissa enter*

**Melissa** Ooh, did you get the money to pay the sole tax?

**Billy** Well, no...

**Mr Blister** Did you find Goody's dance shoes?

**Billy** No, we didn't.

**Melissa** What is it, then?

**Billy** *(with a flourish)* We've got a cat!

**Mr Blister** *(underwhelmed)* You've got a cat?

**Billy** His name's Puss In Boots, and he's caught all our mice. And he's a great dancer, just like Goody.

**Melissa** That's good news.

**Billy** He's going to be her partner in the dance contest. So I can be *your* partner, if you still want me.

**Melissa** That'd be terrific! Maybe we could win a prize.

**Mr Blister** But if this cat and Goody are great dancers, won't *they* win the prize?

**Melissa** Yes, but there's a runners-up prize as well.

**Billy** That's right. It's five thousand pounds for second place.

**Mr Blister** Five thousand? That's exactly what we owe in taxes.

*Veruca and Bunion enter behind them on tiptoe. Veruca is holding a toy crow, and Bunion is holding a pole*

**Billy** And look what I've got. *(Opens the bag and shows them the tin of polish)* This is magic shoe polish. It's helping to make me a better dancer.

**Melissa** Magic polish? You're going to use it in the contest?

**Billy** No, it's just for practising. You're not allowed to use it in the contest.

**Veruca** *(winks at Bunion)* Watch the birdie!

*Bunion lifts the pole, swooping the crow over their heads. Mr Blister, Melissa and Billy react with alarm*

**Mr Blister** Look at that! Is it a bird?

**Billy** It looks like a magpie.

**Melissa** How did that get in here?

*They run around, reaching up and shoo-ing the crow. Veruca tiptoes across the stage*

**Billy** One magpie on its own, that's bad luck.

**Melissa** I think it's a crow.

**Mr Blister** It's still bad luck if it poops everywhere. Go on, shoo!

*Veruca reaches into Billy's bag and takes the tin of polish. Bunion moves the crow off into the wings. Billy, Mr Blister and Melissa chase after it, shouting. Veruca gives Bunion a high-five, and they exit. Billy, Mr Blister and Melissa return*

**Billy** Where did it get to?

**Melissa** It must've flown out of the window.

*Nelly, Goody and Puss enter*

**Nelly** Come on, you lot. We have to be at the castle soon.

**Goody** Puss has been telling us about entering the contest.

**Puss** We have to fill in a form, and they want a photo of us.

**Nelly** So we'd best get cracking. Are we all here?

**Billy** There's just one more to come. *(Peers off)* Here she is now. *(To Mr Blister)* Here, I bet you can't guess who this is.

*Daisy enters with the sheepskin on her back. Mr Blister and Melissa look at each other, puzzled*

**Mr Blister** *(deadpan)* You're right, Billy. I can't guess.

**Billy** This is Maisy the Sheep. Otherwise known as... *(Pulls off the sheepskin)* Daisy the Cow!

**Mr Blister** *(rolls his eyes)* That's amazing, Billy. We were completely fooled.

*Cue sound of mooing. Everyone reacts in alarm*

**Billy** No, Daisy. You mustn't moo. Come on, boys and girls. What do sheep say?

**Audience** Baa!

*Cue sound of sheep bleating. Billy puts the sheepskin back on Daisy*

**Nelly** Right, have we got everything?

**Billy** Let me just get my shoe polish. (*Picks up the bag and looks inside*) Hey! It's gone!

**Goody** Someone's taken it?

**Billy** I bet it was that thieving magpie. They like stealing shiny things.

**Melissa** It was a crow, Billy.

**Billy** (*gloomily*) Whatever it was, that bird's nicked my polish. What am I going to do?

**Goody** You'll be all right, Billy. You're dancing so much better than before.

**Melissa** And we don't need to win, we just need to come second.

**Nelly** And Goody and Puss will come first, you just watch.

**Billy** I suppose so.

**Nelly** Come on, repeat after me. We will win at Strictly.

**Billy** (*half-heartedly*) We will win at Strictly.

**Nelly** No, no, we can do better than that. Let me hear you all... (*Rhythmically*) We will win at Strictly.

**All** (*a little louder*) We will win at Strictly.

**Nelly** (*to the audience*) I think they need a bit of motivation. Join in, like this...

*Nelly stamps her feet twice, then her hands once, in the style of 'We Will Rock You'. The others join in. Nelly sings*

**Nelly** We will win at Strictly.

**All** We will win at Strictly.

**Nelly** Goody and her cat gonna be the best when they strut their stuff at the dance contest.

They'll be setting the pace, in first place, putting a smile on every face, singing...

**All** We will win at Strictly.

We will win at Strictly.

**Nelly** Goody and her cat gonna beat that Queen, with her awful taxes she's cruel and mean.

She'll be losing the race, in last place, the smile wiped off her horrible face.

**All** We will win at Strictly. [*Repeat*]

## Scene 4. Happy Birthday To Me

*Half stage. High Heel Castle. Clever Clogs is holding a folder and checking his watch. Cornplaster enters*

**Clever Clogs** Ah, My Lord. Is the Queen on her way? She needs to approve the dance contestants.

**Cornplaster** (*glances over his shoulder*) She's just coming. Slowly.

*Stiletto enters, wearing Goody's red dance shoes. With each step she winces. She stops and smiles uncomfortably*

**Stiletto** Ta-daa!

**Cornplaster** They suit you down to the ground, Ma'am.

**Clever Clogs** Your Majesty, about the contestants for the dance...

**Stiletto** Never mind the contestants, I want my birthday cake. Fetch it at once. (*Turns her back on Clever Clogs*)

**Clever Clogs** (*nervously*) Ah, about the cake, Ma'am. You see-

**Stiletto** I'll blow out the candles, and I'll make a wish, and... Ooh, mustn't forget the song...

**Clever Clogs** If you'd just let me explain, Ma'am-

**Stiletto** (*sings*) Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday, Queen Stiletto. Happy birthday to meee!

*Stiletto takes a deep breath, turns and blows with her eyes closed. She opens her eyes and reacts*

**Stiletto** Where's my cake?

**Clever Clogs** I'm sorry, Ma'am. Your cake has been eaten by mice.

**Stiletto** By mice? How dare they! (*Stamps her foot in rage, then contorts in pain*) Oww!

**Clever Clogs** Are you quite sure those shoes fit?

**Stiletto** Yes, yes. They're a bit stiff, that's all. They just need breaking in. (*Hobbles to her throne and sits*)

**Cornplaster** You look like you're breaking out.

**Stiletto** They need some of that magic shoe polish. Where are those two idiots?

**Cornplaster** I'm sure they won't be long.

**Clever Clogs** Your Majesty, you really must approve the other dance contestants. I have their photographs, as requested. (*Opens his folder*)

**Stiletto** Oh, if we must.

**Clever Clogs** We have Cinderella and Prince Charming.

**Stiletto** Cinderella? With the little glass slippers? No, no, I want people talking about *my* dainty feet, not hers.

Give her the boot.

**Clever Clogs** Very good, Ma'am. And we have Beauty and the Beast.

*Clever Clogs passes a photo to Stiletto. She cackles gleefully*

**Stiletto** Ha! Does she call herself a beauty? I'm *much* more attractive, am I not?

**Cornplaster** You are indeed. But that's the Beast.

**Clever Clogs** *This is Beauty.*

*Clever Clogs passes a photo to Stiletto. She looks annoyed*

**Stiletto** No way! I'm not being upstaged by any mutton dressed as lamb. Give her the chop.

**Clever Clogs** As you wish. And here we have Goody Two Shoes.

*Clever Clogs passes a photo to Stiletto. She shrieks with horror*

**Stiletto** It can't be! It's not possible!

**Clever Clogs** Are you all right, Ma'am? You look like you've seen a ghost.

**Stiletto** (*panicky*) A ghost? No, there's no such thing!

**Cornplaster** Do you recognise this girl?

**Stiletto** (*recovers herself and attempts to be casual*) Er, no, I've never seen her in my life. And I have no wish to see her in my ballroom. Next!

*Stiletto tosses the photo to Clever Clogs. Cornplaster glances at the folder*

**Clever Clogs** But Ma'am, you must have *some* competitors.

**Cornplaster** And look at her partner. She's dancing with a cat.

**Stiletto** A cat? Whoever heard of a dancing cat?

**Cornplaster** Exactly. Remember, we just need a few useless rivals to make up the numbers.

**Stiletto** Oh, yes, I suppose so.

**Clever Clogs** And here we have Billy Gumboot, with Melissa Blister.

*Clever Clogs passes a photo to Stiletto. Veruca and Bunion enter with the shoe polish and a brush*

**Stiletto** Ha! Look at the state of him. Yes, he's just the type we need.

**Clever Clogs** Next, there's Dick Whittington and-

**Stiletto** No, we've got enough as it is.

**Clever Clogs** That's only three couples, Ma'am.

**Stiletto** Three's plenty. Kick the others out.

**Veruca** My Lord, we've got the magic shoe polish.

**Cornplaster** And about time too. The contest is starting soon.

*Cornplaster snatches the polish and brush from Bunion. Clever Clogs exits*

**Stiletto** Rub it on my shoes, quick!

**Veruca** But it's only for practising. You're not supposed to use it for the contest.

**Stiletto** Oh, shut up!

**Cornplaster** Get down to the ballroom. If either of the other couples looks like winning, you throw a spanner in the works.

**Bunion** What? Set a dog on them?

**Veruca** A spanner, not a spaniel.

**Stiletto** (to Cornplaster) Come on, get that polish on.

*Veruca and Bunion exit. Cornplaster kneels and opens the tin. He rubs one of Stiletto's shoes. Cue magical sound*

**Stiletto** Ooh! It can feel I tingling! Do the other one.

*Cornplaster rubs Stiletto's other shoe. Cue magical sound*

**Stiletto** I think it's working! They've stopped pinching.

*Stiletto stands and does a few dance steps*

**Stiletto** Look! Nothing can stop me now. Get up, then.

**Cornplaster** (tries to get up) Could you rub some of this on my back?

**Stiletto** Never mind your back.

*Stiletto pulls Cornplaster up roughly. He yelps with pain*

**Stiletto** Come on. We've got a contest to win. Then I'll be The Strictly Queen! Ha ha ha!

## Scene 5. The Dance Contest

*Full stage. The ballroom. A throne is on a platform at the rear. Cue music: Strictly Come Dancing theme. Tess and Claudia enter. Nelly and Mr Blister stand at one side of the stage. Clever Clogs, Veruca, Bunion and the judges stand at the other*

**Tess** Good evening, everyone, and welcome to Strictly Birthday Dancing.

**Claudia** We're here at High Heel Castle to celebrate Queen Stiletto's, er, nineteenth birthday.

**Tess** Tonight, three couples will be competing for the top spot.

**Claudia** The winners will receive a prize of ten thousand pounds.

**Tess** And there's a runners-up prize of five thousand pounds.

**Claudia** So, without further ado, let's welcome our first contestants.

**Tess** Billy Gumboot and Melissa Blister!

*Cue music: [tbc]. Billy and Melissa enter. Mr Blister and Nelly clap and cheer. The dance goes fairly well, but Daisy enters and joins in towards the end. Nelly drags her off. Billy and Melissa join Daisy, Nelly and Mr Blister at the side*

**Claudia** Let's hear it for Billy and Melissa.

**Tess** Please welcome our next couple... Queen Stiletto and Lord Cornplaster.

*Cue music: [tbc]. Stiletto and Cornplaster enter*

**Mr Blister** Hey, those are Goody's dance shoes.

**Nelly** Why, the thieving old cow!

*Stiletto and Cornplaster dance quite poorly, with Stiletto needing frequent help as she totters unsteadily. Several guards prop her up and stop her falling. At the end, Veruca and Bunion clap and cheer loudly, and hand Stiletto a bouquet of flowers. She curtseys and blows kisses to the audience, then sits on her throne. Cornplaster stands next to her*

**Claudia** Er, yes, that was quite a spectacle.

**Tess** And now, our final contestants, Goody Two Shoes and Puss In Boots!

*Cue music: [tbc]. Goody and Puss enter. Their dance goes very well. Stiletto looks furious. Cornplaster gestures at Veruca and Bunion, who give him the thumbs-up. They walk out and return with the toy mouse and crow. At the conclusion of the dance, Bunion dangles the toy mouse halfway across the stage*

**Bunion** Say cheese!

*Puss meows loudly, and chases after the mouse. He bumps into people, scattering them. Goody and Nelly try to stop Puss*

**Veruca** Watch the birdie!

*Veruca flies the crow around. Puss chases after it, causing more mayhem. Veruca swoops the crow near Stiletto's head. Puss dashes up the platform, knocking into Cornplaster. Puss swipes at the crow, knocking off Stiletto's crown. She shrieks. Veruca and Bunion remove the crow and mouse, and things calm down*

**Claudia** Er, I think we'd better move on to the scores.

**Tess** Can we have our judges, please.

*Three judges step forward with their score cards*

**Claudia** First, may we have your scores for Billy Gumboot and Melissa Blister.

*The judges hold up cards with sevens. Nelly and the others clap*

**Stiletto** Hang on! It must be against the rules to have a dancing sheep in your routine.

**Clever Clogs** I'll check, Your Majesty. *(Flicks through pages of a book)* Er, no, there's nothing about sheep in here.

**Stiletto** Yes, there is. And it says to deduct three points.

*Queen Stiletto snaps her fingers at the judges, who change their cards for fours. Nelly encourages the audience to boo*

**Cornplaster** Be quiet, you riff raff!

**Tess** And now, your scores for Queen Stiletto and Lord Cornplaster.

*The judges hold up cards with sixes. Queen Stiletto clears her throat very loudly, and Cornplaster makes a throat-slitting gesture. They turn their cards upside down to display as nines*

**Nelly** Here, that's tampering with the jury!

**Cornplaster** Shut up, you ugly old hag!

**Claudia** And finally, your votes for Goody Two Shoes and Puss In Boots.

*The judges hold up cards with tens. Nelly encourages the audience to cheer*

**Stiletto** Wait a minute. You've got to penalise them for knocking off my crown. And for messing up the royal hairdo. Deduct nine points.

*Queen Stiletto snaps her fingers at the judges, who change their cards for ones*

**Nelly** This is a fix! You sabotaged their routine.

**Billy** Yes, there was that toy mouse scuttling around.

**Mr Blister** And there was that toy crow flapping about.

**Melissa** You put them off deliberately.

**Stiletto** That was nothing to do with me, it was, er... *(Looks at Cornplaster)*

**Cornplaster** It was those two. *(Points at Veruca and Bunion)*

**Bunion** Here, that's not fair. You ordered us to do it.

**Cornplaster** I did no such thing.

**Stiletto** *(to Clever Clogs)* There must be a rule about toy mice.

**Clever Clogs** *(flicks through pages)* No, there's nothing about mice in here.

**Stiletto** Well, there should be. It was mice who ate my birthday cake.

**Cornplaster** Guards! Lock these villains in the dungeons for a year.

*Two guards seize Veruca and Bunion*

**Veruca** Hang on! What's the punishment for using a banned substance?

**Tess** Using a what?

**Veruca** A performance-enhancing shoe polish.

**Billy** You stole my polish?

**Bunion** He told us to.

**Veruca** Yes, and whose idea was it to steal those red dance shoes?

**Bunion** It was Lord Composter!

**Cornplaster** No, it was Lord *Cornplaster!* *(Realises his mistake)* I mean to say, er...

**Melissa** Aha! So you admit it was you.

**Goody** That polish is just for practising. You're not supposed to use it in the contest.

**Billy** That's right. So they should both be disqualified.

**Stiletto** Both? Oh no, not me. I didn't rub any polish on any shoes. He did. Look!

*Stiletto holds up Cornplaster's hand, which is stained red*

**Stiletto** You see? Caught red-handed.

**Cornplaster** Yes, but you told me to do it.

**Stiletto** I did not.

**Veruca and Bunion** You did.

**Stiletto** Oh no I didn't!

**All** Oh yes you did!

**Stiletto** Oh no I didn't!

**All** Oh yes you did!

**Stiletto** I don't have to listen to you lot. I'm the Queen, and I say he's guilty. Three years in prison!

*More guards enter and seize Cornplaster*

**Cornplaster** Why, you lying, devious old rat bag!

**Stiletto** Rat bag? Make it five years!

*Veruca, Bunion and Cornplaster are led out by the guards*

**Stiletto** Right, that's that. I hereby declare myself The Strictly Queen. *(Throws out her arms in triumph)* Hooray for me!

**All** Boo!

*Stiletto scowls. When the booing subsides, there is the sound of a moo. Everyone freezes and stares at Daisy.*

*Stiletto descends from her throne and approaches Daisy*

**Stiletto** What was that? Did I hear someone boo? Or did I hear someone moo?

*Everyone gasps as Stiletto pulls the sheepskin off Daisy's back*

**Stiletto** Aha! What a lovely birthday present for me. Anything that moos, ends up as shoes.

**Goody** No, Your Majesty, please. Daisy's our friend. Have mercy.

**Stiletto** Ha! You can get lost.

**Goody** *(gasps)* Get lost? I remember you!

**Stiletto** What?

**Goody** (*turns to Nelly*) It was her, all those years ago. She took me into the woods, and then she said, "You can get lost".

**Stiletto** (*fiercely*) I *knew* I should have pushed you into the lake, just like I did with our brother- (*Stops suddenly and claps her hand over her mouth*)

**Goody** What do you mean, "Our brother"?

**Nelly** Hang on. Do you mean Goody is your sister?

**Stiletto** Of course she isn't. My sister was eaten by a gang of vicious rabbits.

**Puss** Vicious rabbits?

**Stiletto** I mean, hedgehogs. Or was it squirrels?

**Melissa** Squirrels don't eat people.

**Stiletto** I've heard enough from you lot. Guard! Remove these people.

**Goody** Guard? That's it! We need to ask my guardian angel.

**Billy** You mean Brucie?

**Goody** He said he knew all about Queen Stiletto. Let's give him a shout.

**All** Brucie!

*Brucie enters, followed by the guards*

**Brucie** Hello, everyone. Nice to see you, to see you...

**All** Nice!

**Stiletto** Who the heck is this?

**Brucie** Hmm, but it's not very nice to see you again.

**Stiletto** Again? I've never seen you before.

**Brucie** But I've seen you. I saw you that Christmas time, feeding the ducks with your brother. You pushed him into the lake.

**Stiletto** I did not!

**Brucie** And I saw you at your birthday party, playing hide and seek in the gardens. You took your sister into the woods and abandoned her there.

**Stiletto** (*furiously*) Oh yes, my precious sister. (*To Goody*) You were Daddy's little angel. And our brother was Mummy's little pet. I was just piggy in the middle. I had to get rid of you both.

**Claudia** (*to Clever Clogs*) So, what's the sentence for abandoning your sister in the woods?

**Clever Clogs** (*consults the book*) Er, that'll be, ten years in prison.

**Stiletto** Ten years? That means I won't get out until I'm... twenty-nine.

**Tess** And what's the sentence for drowning your brother in a lake?

**Clever Clogs** That'll be fifty years in prison.

**Stiletto** (*wails*) Fifty years?

**Nelly** Take her away, guards.

**Clever Clogs** And I'll take this away.

*Clever Clogs snatches the crown off Stiletto's head*

**Stiletto** My crown!

**Clever Clogs** It's not yours any more. You've been deposed.

**Nelly** Toodle-oo, love!

*Stiletto is dragged off, wailing*

**Puss** So, now she's out of the picture, who won the dance contest?

**Brucie** I think we should go back to the original scores.

**Claudia** Good idea. So, in second place, let's hear it for Billy Gumboot and Melissa Blister!

**Tess** And the winners of Strictly Birthday Dancing are Goody Two Shoes and Puss In Boots!

**Clever Clogs** (*holds up the crown*) And with Queen Stiletto gone, her sister is next in line to the throne.

**Goody** You mean me?

**Nelly** Of course! We'd better get ready for your coronation.

**Billy** Three cheers for Queen Goody. Hip hip!

**All** Hurray!

**Billy** Hip hip!

**All** Hurray!

**Billy** Hip hip!

**All** Hurray!

## Scene 6. Nelly Gumboot Had a Farm

*Front of curtains. Billy, Puss, Mr Blister and Melissa step forward*

**Mr Blister** Well, Puss, what are you going to do with all that prize money?

**Puss** I think that should go back to all the poor folks who've paid all those taxes.

**Billy** Here, if we get a bit of tax money back, Mum might be able to buy some pigs, and sheep, and chickens.

**Melissa** And so Nelly Gumboot will have a farm.

**Billy** Which reminds me of a little song...

*Cue music: Old MacDonald Had a Farm. The audience is split down the middle or people invited up on stage*

**Billy** Nelly Gumboot had a farm

**All** E-I-E-I-O!

**Billy** And on that farm she had a cow.

**All** E-I-E-I-O!

With a 'moo moo' here and a 'moo moo' there... [etc.]

Here a 'moo', there a 'moo', everywhere a 'moo moo'.

Nelly Gumboot had a farm

E-I-E-I-O! [etc.]

## Scene 7. The Strictly Queen

*Full stage. The ballroom. Walk-Down. Cue music: Dancing Queen*

**All** Ooh, you've got class, you've got style,  
Lighting the room with your smile.  
Ooh, see her dance like a dream.  
Goody the Strictly Queen.  
You're a winner at number one.  
Like our favourite ABBA song.  
You'll be ruling the airwaves,  
Every time you sing.  
Getting us all in the swing.  
Take your partner and hit the floor.  
You and kitty are hand in paw.  
You'll be stealing the spotlight,  
Every time you dance.  
Goody's the talk of the town.  
And now you wear the crown.  
You are the Strictly Queen.  
You and Puss make a perfect team.  
Strictly Queen.  
Dazzling us on the stage and screen, oh yeah.  
You've got class, you've got style,  
Lighting the room with your smile.  
Ooh, see her dance like a dream.  
Goody the Strictly Queen.  
You're a lady who's going far,  
Like a Hollywood movie star.  
You'll be living the high life,  
Every day and night.  
Goody's the talk of the town.  
And now you wear the crown.  
You are the Strictly Queen [etc.]