

Script 1 - Fairies

(Shimmering MUSIC. **FX. Enter FAIRY PRISCILLA R**)

FAIRY. Welcome to our tale of Puss and his boots!
I'm Fairy Priscilla -

(**FX. PERNICIA jumps on L**)

PERNICIA. Who gives two hoots!? (**Allow audience to boo**)

FAIRY. Meet my sister -

PERNICIA. The Fairy Pernicia!

FAIRY. Now that's a fib, you were christened Patricia!

PERNICIA. That name's for patsies – I'm sassy and rude.

FAIRY. Then you'll get what's coming – I hope you'll be booed!

(**FAIRY encourages audience to boo again**)

PERNICIA. Yes, boo away, it's music to my ears.

FAIRY. Whenever she's here, there are always tears.
She failed fairy school three times in a row!

PERNICIA. I always said I didn't want to go!
But now I work for Grimgrab the Ogre,
So, you tell that to your friends at yoga!

PRISCILLA. (**angrily**) I don't do yoga – I do pilates!

PERNICIA. Oooh! Is it all the rage at fairy parties?

PRISCILLA. Really, Patricia, let's get back to the plot.

PERNICIA. The name's Pernicia and I don't give a jot,
'Cos now I'm on the Ogre's payroll,
I can do what I please, so shut your cake hole!

FAIRY. (**aside**) She's always made me want to stamp and spit!

PERNICIA. I'm afraid that won't help one little bit.
The ogre's nearly bled the country dry.

FAIRY. Well, we'll see about that –

PERNICIA. Just you try!
You know he's got his mitts on everything, And
now he's got an engagement ring,
To wed the Princess and make her his wife -
How about that, for some trouble and strife?! I'll
see you all at the fairytale wedding! (**Exits,**
laughing wickedly)

FAIRY. Oh, this really is the news I've been dreading.
But I've got plans for Puss - and I know a cobbler, I'll
rumble my sister - and generally nobble-er! (**Exits**)

Script 2 – Jethro and Jasper

- JETHRO. Hey, Jasper. I reckon that Betty fancies me!
- JASPER. You don't want to worry about her. She's just a girl from the village.
- JETHRO. But I like her. I think she's really dreamy!
- JASPER. She's ok, yeah - but when we're rich we'll be able to have all the girls we want!
- JETHRO. What? You mean, like actually take them to the pictures and things?
- JASPER. Exactly! "And things!" That is exactly what I mean, Jethro.
(Suggestively) "And things...!" **(Winks elaborately)**
- JETHRO. What sort of things?
- JASPER. Well – you know... **(He is at a loss for words)** Nice things! And I tell you what, Jethro....
- JETHRO. What?
- JASPER. I do like girls.
- JETHRO. Me too! I like Betty... **(Longingly)** Ooooooh!
- JASPER. You'll get plenty of "ooooh" when we're rich. Now, let's read this will. We're completely alone.
- JETHRO. Hey, Jasper – JASPER.
What is it now?
- JETHRO. We're not alone. **(Points to Audience)** Look!
(Houselights up)
- JASPER. **(looking)** Oh, my goodness!
- JETHRO. What?
- JASPER. Look at them! Half of them are girls!
- JETHRO. Girls?? Real ones?
- JASPER. Real, live girls! **(Starting to leave the stage)** Well, hello Ladies!
- JETHRO. Where are you going?

JASPER. **(descending into the audience)** I'm just going to say hello to some of these beautiful girls – 'cos there are some very lovely people of the female persuasion in the house tonight!!

JETHRO. Hey, Jasper, come back!

JASPER. **(choosing an audience member)** Ding dong! Hello, Gorgeous, what's your name...? Daphne...? And can I ask you a personal question, Daphne...? How old are you Daphne...? Fifty-six? And I thought you were twenty-one!

JETHRO. Jasper, Jasper – we're supposed to be reading the will!! JASPER. I'm sorry, Daphne, I've got to go. But just remember, Daphne - next time you see me, you look out for the size of my wad! **(Regains the stage)** OK, Jethro. Let's do it. Let's read the will!

JETHRO. Shouldn't we wait for Jack?

JASPER. He's only our step-brother. I don't see why we should. JETHRO. Are you sure?

JASPER. Of course, I'm sure. Now, shut up and let's read. **(They both study the will. A pause)**

JETHRO. **(hesitantly)** Jasper. JASPER. What?

JETHRO. I can't actually read.

JASPER. What do you mean, you can't actually read? JETHRO. I just can't, Jasper. What does it say?

JASPER. Well, it says.... JETHRO. Yes?

JASPER. It says.... JETHRO. Yes?

JASPER. It just says... Well, I can't actually read either. I thought you could read!

JETHRO. Maybe we should have waited for Jack.

JASPER. Let's go and find him. The sooner we do, the sooner we'll know how rich we are! Come on. **(To DAPHNE)** Back in a minute, Daphne!

Script 3 – Jack and Esme

JACK. Hello, Puss! Have you come to hear the reading of the will?

PUSS. **(nods)**

JACK. So, have I. I thought Jasper and Jethro would be here by now. Do you know where they are?

PUSS. **(shrugs)**

JACK. Oh, well. I'm sure they'll be here in a minute. I don't suppose I'll get much. After all, it was jolly kind of Father to look after me the way he did - and to bring me up as one of the family. Jasper and Jethro are his real sons.

PUSS. **(shakes his head in denial and points to JACK)**

JACK. Me? No, I'm afraid I'm not, Puss. I arrived in a basket. Father found me on his doorstep and took me in. No, I think after the will is read, I'll leave Jasper and Jethro to run the mill and set off to seek my fortune!

PUSS. **(points to himself and then to JACK)**

JACK. What? You'll come with me?

PUSS. **(nods enthusiastically)**

JACK. But you're the mill cat, Puss. I can't take you away!

PUSS. **(nods very definitely and nuzzles in to JACK)**

JACK. Well, we'll see. I'll certainly find it very hard to leave you behind.

(PRINCESS enters)

PRINCESS. Oh – hello!

JACK. Hello. Who are you?

PRINCESS. Me? My name's Esmerelda. (**Aside to audience**) I should never have done it!

JACK. Done what?

PRINCESS. Run away from my parents!

JACK. What?

PRINCESS. Oh, I don't mean forever – I mean just for now. (**Aside to audience**) Oh gosh, he's gorgeous!

JACK. I beg your pardon?

PRINCESS. (**aside**) What am I saying? (**To JACK, in a rush**) They want to marry me off, you see – but I don't want to be married – well, I didn't until I... (**Aside**) Oh, why am I being so obvious??!! (**Back to JACK, still rushing**) So, I sort of lost them - but I don't really know where I am - so I thought I'd try and find them again, but they're not where they were anymore, so I can't do that, but I've found you, which is great, but, well....It's all a bit of a muddle.

JACK. I see.

PRINCESS. Do you?

JACK. Not really.

PRINCESS. Neither do I – I just seem to always speak without thinking - and it's just that you've got such a lovely, lovely.... Cat! (**PUSS perks up**) You've got a lovely cat! And it's nothing to do with your smile, or er - anything! I must go! I must go and try and find my mother and father!

JACK. Maybe I can help? Who are they?

PRINCESS. Oh, you'll know them when you see them.... They're very, very, sort of – posh... And they wear crowns! I must go! (**Rushes out**)

Script 4 – Ogre and Pernicia

The Ogre's Chamber. Cloth or Tabs.

(Doom laden chord. FX Thunderclap)

- OGRE. (roaring off) PERNICIA!! PERNICIA!! (Entering. He wears a toupee) Where is that useless, good for nothing girl-witch? (Notices audience) And what are you lot doing here? Don't you realise this is my private chamber? I'm the wicked ogre, Grimgrab, you can't just come barging in here – particularly when I'm in a bad mood - AND I AM ALWAYS IN A BAD MOOD!! Now, where is that girl, Pernicia!!
- PERNICIA. (nervously running on) I'm here, your Grossness, I came as quickly as I could!
- OGRE. Not quick enough, I've been stood here making idle chit chat with this ugly bunch. (Audience will almost certainly shout) And yes, I do mean you, sir.... I mean, madam. (To PERNICIA) Now, what's this I hear about suitors at the Royal Bathing Party?
- PERNICIA. Well –
- OGRE. Am I invited?
- PERNICIA. I er, didn't think you'd want to go! What with your new hair and everything I thought -
- OGRE. I don't pay you to think!
- PERNICIA. No!
- OGRE. I pay you to keep a grip on things, keep your meddling sister under control and get me Esmerelda!
- PERNICIA. Give me one last chance! Otherwise, I'll have to go back to fairy school! Please!!!
- OGRE. Very well, one last chance.
- PERNICIA. Thank you, thank you! You're like a father to me!
- OGRE. No, I'm not! And anyway, I'm not doing it for you, I'm doing it for Esmerelda! I've done everything for that girl. I've brought the kingdom to its knees, plunged her parents into debt –
- PERNICIA. You've done fantastic, misery all round!

OGRE. And not just that – I've transformed myself. Tummy tuck, new nose, new hair, I look like a young god!

PERNICIA. I know, I know!

OGRE. I've used some of my best magic.

PERNICIA. You look fab! (**Adjusts his toupee**)

OGRE. I'm irresistible! I just need to meet her!

PERNICIA. I'm on the case, your Grossness.

OGRE. Good, because any rich suitors other than me could ruin everything.

PERNICIA. Absolutely!

OGRE. If anyone so much as looks at the Princess, I want him discredited –

PERNICIA. Smeared!

OGRE. Slandered!

PERNICIA. Slimed!

OGRE. Whatever it takes. Every day between now and the Royal Bathing Party, you need to be up to the mark and vigilant. Keep that princess safe for me – and only me. Because when an ogre falls in love, it's forever!

Script 5 – Puss and Jack

SCENE 5.

The Lake in the Woods. Full set. The Woods, but with a backcloth suggesting a lake.

(PUSS IN BOOTS and JACK enter)

- PUSS. Here we are, Master. It's the Royal Bathing Party and the King and Queen look forward to meeting you!
- JACK. As the Marquis of Carabas, yes. But I still look like plain Jack Miller.
- PUSS. I keep telling you not to worry. I've got a plan!
- JACK. You've always got a plan.
- PUSS. Relax.
- JACK. Relax!??
- PUSS. Just go for a swim.
- JACK. I don't want to go for a swim.
- PUSS. Who's the boss?
- JACK. Me.
- PUSS. And what's the deal?
- JACK. I do what you tell me.
- PUSS. Exactly! So, go for a swim. Put all thoughts of becoming the Marquis of Carabas out of your head and just enjoy yourself!
- JACK. But –
- PUSS. **(sternly)** Go for a swim!
- JACK. Oh, alright. But what about my clothes?
- PUSS. I'll look after your clothes. **(Pointing off)** You see that island in the middle of the lake?
- JACK. That's miles!
- PUSS. I want you to swim all the way there - and by the time you get back everything will be sorted.

JACK. (going off) The water doesn't look very inviting.

PUSS. It'll be fine once you get in.

JACK. (off) Do you think anyone can see me?

PUSS. No one can see you. (Aside to audience) Poor Master, I don't think he'd go in at all if he knew that the first thing I'm going to do is lose those old clothes of his! Don't get me wrong – I'll get him some nice, new posh ones instead!

JACK. (off) Aaah!

PUSS. What now?

JACK. (off) It's cold. I just put my toe in... Here are my clothes! (Bundle of clothes are lobbed on and PUSS catches them)

PUSS. I've got them, Master. Safe and sound. Enjoy your swim!

JACK. (off) Here goes!

(FX. Splosh sound. PUSS watches off for a moment)

PUSS. Brrrrr! Sooner him than me. Oh, well – he's young. Now, to get rid of these clothes somewhere and say they've been stolen!

Script 6 – Queen, King, Bobbie, Princess, Jack

- QUEEN. Here we are, Wally. We've arrived!
- KING. Yes, dear!
- QUEEN. Oh, look! They're all sitting down. **(To audience member)** Hello, dear. I'm your Queen. What do you do...? **(Cutting off answer)** How interesting. **(To KING)** Well, go on Wally, say hello!
- KING. Yes, dear.
- QUEEN. But don't rabbit on endlessly!
- KING. No, dear.
- QUEEN. **(to another audience member)** Hello, what do you do...? **(Cutting them off)** How interesting. Do you do it often? **(Again cutting them off)** Fascinating.
- BOBBIE. **(calling)** Your majesty!
- QUEEN. Oh, look, Wally. There's Bobbie! **(To BOBBIE)** What are you doing up there?
- BOBBIE. Waiting for you. Where did you get to?
- QUEEN. We've been looking for Esmerelda. We can't find her anywhere.
- PRINCESS. **(running on)** I'm here!
- QUEEN. Well, you stay there and we'll come to you. We don't want to lose you again. Hurry up, Wally.
- KING. Yes, dear.
- QUEEN. **(to audience)** Don't get up. You can all stay sitting down in your strange parallel world. **(To PRINCESS)** Are you alright, Esmerelda?
- PRINCESS. Yes, mother.
- QUEEN. Come along, Wally- and don't run off again, Esmerelda.
- PRINCESS. No, mother. **(To JACK, shyly)** Hello, again.
- JACK. Hello. I never realised that you were –
- PRINCESS. I know, I'm sorry -

QUEEN. (gaining stage - to BOBBIE) Right, Bobbie. We're here. You can announce us.

BOBBIE. Oh, yes... (Announcing) Their royal majesties, King Wally the Once and Queen Wendy the Won't and the Princess Esmerelda!

QUEEN. Thank you dear – and thank you all for coming to our official “no money at all Walkabout”. Now, I know Wally wants to say a few words, don't you dear?

WALLY. Yes, dear -

QUEEN. So, I want you all to listen very carefully to what he's got to say to you. Are you ready, Wally?

KING. Yes, dear. (Dons spectacles and takes out notes)

BOBBIE. Pray silence for his majesty!

KING. (clears his throat)

QUEEN. What Wally really wants to say is this. We're broke – the horrible Ogre, Grimgrab has taken everything and now we're camping out in rented. Aren't we, Wally?

KING. Yes, dear.

QUEEN. And have you any idea how much it costs to rent a palace?

CHORUS 1. He's put up the rents everywhere!

CHORUS 2. We'll all soon be skint!

QUEEN. I know, I know! Why the Ogre couldn't go to (Local town) I've no idea... It would have suited him much better. Anyway, the long and the short of it is that we need a hero!

CHORUS 3. Someone to fight the Ogre?

QUEEN. No, just someone very rich to marry our lovely daughter Esmerelda and get us out of trouble.

PRINCESS. But I want to marry for love!

QUEEN. Don't be ridiculous! Do you think your father and I married for love? Did you marry for love, Wally?

KING. (a beat) No, dear.

QUEEN. There you see. Now, unless you want to marry the Ogre –

PRINCESS. Ugh!

QUEEN. Exactly – so we hope to see all suitors by next Wednesday at our royal bathing party – is anybody here particularly rich?

JASPER. I'm rich! I'm really rich!

BABS. Oh, Jasper! (**Bursts into tears**)

QUEEN. Have you got a palace?

JASPER. Not exactly –

QUEEN. Or land?

JASPER. Well –

QUEEN. Or at least a title that we could flog on Ebay?

BABS. He's Lord Muck, that's who he is! (**Storms off**)

QUEEN. Lord Muck? Well, at least where there's muck, there's money. Maybe we'll see you again tomorrow at Royal Rabbit Day.

PRINCESS. But mother –

QUEEN. I'm sorry Esmerelda, but needs must and if we don't get a happy ending by next Wednesday, then my name's not Wendy the Queen. Now, as you all know, tomorrow is Royal Rabbit Day, so can we all just put a smile on our faces and sing a song. What shall we sing, Wally?

KING. (**opens his mouth to speak**)

QUEEN. No, that's a bit glum. Let's sing (**Name of up tempo song**) Hit it Wally!

KING. Yes, dear!