

EXCERPT from PUSS in BOOTS from ACT II Scene 1

Previously, in ACT I we learned about the death of the Miller and the details of his inheritance for his three sons. The two elder, feckless and rather unpleasant older sons Tom and DICK were left the Mill and the Transport! The widow and stepmother to the three sons, BETTY BUN was left the tenancy of the house for as long as she wished.

Unfortunately, it seems that all the younger son, HARRY was left only the Cat, PUSS. However, this is no ordinary cat, for PUSS is turning out to be something quite unexpected! Dressed as a man in newly bought fine clothes and smart boots, PUSS introduced himself to the KING and QUEEN as the representative of a Marquis, laying the first seeds of a plan which at this point he is keeping to himself. The older sons do not yet know how special PUSS is or what he is capable of but both HARRY and BETTY BUN are now aware that this is one amazing and very unusual Cat. It is sometime later deep in the woods...

HARRY: Just a minute, what guards? What is that cat up to? One minute he talks about castles, calls me a Marquis, but doesn't tell me how all this is ever likely to happen, then he is gone again! Am I going crazy? I'm not a Marquis. I'm a poor, penniless Miller's son. *(Sighs)* If I really was a Marquis, I'd ask the Princess to marry me, but I know that is only a dream.

Enter TOM and DICK

TOM: I thought it was you! I could hear you whining from miles away. You make me sick!

DICK: I see you haven't got that mad moggy with you today, thank goodness. That cat gives me the creeps!

TOM: We've been looking for you.

HARRY: Well, you've found me so what do you want?

Enter BETTY BUN

BETTY BUN: I'll tell you what the low down, rotten toe-rags want! I came looking for you to tell you that they want us to move out of our cottage so they can sell it! They are evicting us! Throwing us into the gutter!

TOM: And the sooner the better! Good riddance! Quick-quick!

BETTY BUN: We can't move home that quickly... don't be silly!

DICK: We move at lightning speed when we've made a decision.

BETTY BUN: Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak! You are horrible, you really are! Aren't they horrible, boys and girls? Boo to you!

BETTY BUN leads audience in Booing!

HARRY: You can't throw us out of our home.

TOM/DICK: Oh, yes we can!

MRS BUN/HARRY: Oh no, you can't!

Audience participation

TOM: Oh ... Shut up!

HARRY: Why are you evicting us?

DICK: The Mill isn't making any money.

TOM: The donkey is useless and the wheel fell off the cart.

DICK: And we haven't any money! Selling the cottage will give us some cash!

HARRY: Why don't you put in some more time working at the Mill and look after the donkey better, and mend the wheel on the cart? And then you could actually earn some money!

TOM: Listen to Mr Fix-it! Blah, blah, blah! It is not up for discussion. You are evicted! Clear out your pitiful possessions. **(Boo audience response)**

DICK: So there! So where is your cat now? Come on kitty...kitty! He isn't here to help you now! He's gone and left you... ha, ha... Cats only care about themselves!

HARRY: Only care about... themselves! No, I thought that was you!

TOM: Come on bro, don't waste any more time on these two... we have a cottage to sell. **(They exit)**

Enter PUSS

PUSS: What's up? You look about as happy as a dog with a bone... on tarmac!

BETTY BUN: It's a disaster! Harry and I are homeless. What shall we do?

PUSS: Stop worrying for a start. I've got a plan so cunning you could put a tail on it and call it foxy! Mrs Bun, go back to the cottage, collect all possessions that you are able to carry, and meet me back here. I promise you everything will be all right. Go on, off you go.

BETTY BUN: Okay, I'll go... **again!** But I still can't believe that I am taking orders from a cat! The world has gone mad! **(Exits)**

PUSS: Harry, go to the Royal palace, invite the King and his family to return with you to your castle, and bring them here!

HARRY: I don't understand! How can I invite them to my castle? What castle? I don't have a castle! Where am I going to find a castle?

PUSS: I've found the castle; I just have to get it for you! Now, no more questions! Go to the Palace. I have work to do. Go on, oh ye of little faith!

HARRY: But...

PUSS: No buts! No questions! You have to trust me, Harry, **cat**egorically! Now go!

HARRY: I'll go but Mrs Bun is right. Either I'm crazy or the world really has gone mad! **(Exits)**

PUSS: Okay, folks, this is where it might just get difficult. Inside these walls, in this castle, unknown to most of the people around here, lives an Ogre. He and I have some, let's say, unfinished business! Thanks to the conversation that I had earlier with the guards, I know how to gain access to the grounds and into the castle. This is all where it either turns out to be a triumph or a **cat**astrophe! Let's hope nothing is im-**puss**-able! Wish me luck! **(Exits)**

EXCERPT CRAZY FOX PHANTOMIMES