

DAME. Daisy...!

PRINCESS. Good girl, Daisy.

DAME. Oh, no! I shouldn't even think it!

SIMON. Think what, Mrs T?

DAME. It's too awful!

SIMON. It is?

DAME. It is. But it's the only way!

SIMON. It is?

DAME. It is! (**Half sobbing**) It is, it is, it is!

PRINCESS. She's been ever so well behaved, Mrs T. I'm sure she'll be alright now.

DAISY. (**nods**) Moo.

DAME. Well that's good... Demelza, dear, would you mind if I had a private word with Jack and Simon?

PRINCESS. No, of course not.

JACK. What's the problem?

PRINCESS. (**picking up on the change of tone**) Don't worry, Jack, your mum just wants a word, I'll, er, I'll maybe see you tomorrow. Bye. (**Exits hurriedly.**)

(**JACK, SIMON, DAME & DAISY bunch up together.**)

JACK. What did you send her away for?

SIMON. (**blurting out**) We still owe the King and he's going to chuck us out if we can't pay!

DAME. We'll be evicted, out on the street! And we've got nothing!

JACK. Nothing?

DAME. Nothing at all, except Daisy.... I'm awfully, terribly, horribly sorry, but we're going to have to sell Daisy.

J & S } No!

DAISY. } Moo!

DAISY. I know! I don't want to either, but it's the only way.

JACK. We can't, Mum, we just can't!

SIMON. Please don't do it, Mrs T!

DAME. But we won't be able to keep Daisy if we're out on the street – at least this way we can make sure she goes to a good home. You do understand, don't you, Daisy? We wouldn't do this if we had any choice.

DAISY. **(sadly nodding her head)** Moo.

SIMON. **(fighting tears)** Oh, Daisy!

DAME. I'm so very sorry, Daisy. Jack, will you take her to market? I don't think I could bear to do it myself.

JACK. Yes, Mum.

DAME. And make sure you get a good price for her. Remember she's just such a very, very – special cow.

JACK. Yes, Mum.

DAME. **(sobs)** Oh, dear.

JACK. I suppose I'd better go straight away.

DAME. Yes, dear. I think that would be best. Bye bye, Daisy. **(Hugs DAISY.)** Bye bye, my darling, I'll never forget you.

SIMON. And neither will I, you're the best cow in the world! **(Also hugs DAISY.)**

JACK. Come on Daisy, let's go now. There's a good girl.
(Very gently, JACK starts to lead DAISY off.)

DAME. Bye bye, Daisy.

SIMON. Bye – **(He can say no more.)**

JACK. Bye Mum, Bye Simon.
(Just before reaching the wing, DAISY turns her head and the DAME blows her a gentle kiss. She "moos" quietly and goes off with JACK. BLACKOUT.)

SCENE 4.

The Road to Market. Front cloth or tabs.

SLIMEBALL revealed.

SLIME. Hello again! (**AUDIENCE reaction.**) Look, all this booing is all very fine - but we could be such friends! We could! Or, my name's not Sidney Slimeball...! Well, it's not actually. But I'll let you into a bit of a secret, shall I? (**Regardless of response.**) Alright, I will. Jack'll be here soon with that ugly old cow of his – and of course we all hope that he gets a really good price for her – don't we? (**AUDIENCE reaction.**) So, that's why I'm going to offer him this bag of solid gold pieces. The only problem is – they'll just be boring old beans by the time he gets home! (**AUDIENCE reaction.**) Oh, belt up! (**Looks off.**) Look, here he comes. Time for my amazing transformation! (**Produces flat tweed cap.**)
This magic cap is just my size,
And will my slimy self disguise,
Poor Jack won't see that I am me,
And so, will sell his cow, Daisee!
I love a rhyme. (**Puts cap on.**)

(**JACK enters leading DAISY.**)

JACK. Nearly there, Daisy. It can't be much further. Are you very tired?

(**DAISY nods.**)

SLIME. Hello, young sir. I can't help noticing that you have with you - a cow.

(**DAISY shuffles back towards JACK.**)

Nervy, isn't she?

JACK. Oh, don't worry. She's just a bit shy, that's all.

SLIME. What a coincidence! I've been looking for a shy cow all day.

JACK. Really?

SLIME. Especially one that's so pretty and so-o-oo beautiful.

(**DAISY is delighted and bashes SLIMEBALL playfully with her head.**)

Ow! Clumsy old – I mean, nice cow! Is she for sale?

(DAISY retreats to JACK.)

JACK. Well, I was going to market to get the very best price.

SLIME. Then look no further. How would a nice big bag of gold suit you?
(Offers bag of gold.)

JACK. **(looking inside)** Wow! That's a fortune!

SLIME. Enough to please your Mum?

JACK. How did you know? **(To Audience)** Do you think I should sell her, boys and girls? **(Audience Response.)** But there's ever such a lot of gold in here - are you sure I shouldn't sell her?
(Audience Response.)

SLIME. **(with a gesture that transfixes JACK)**
Just cut the chat and consider the gold,
You get the cash and the cow gets –

JACK. Sold! **(Comes out of trance.)**

DAISY. **(desperately shaking head)** Moo!

SLIME. It's a bargain then!

JACK. I'm sorry, Daisy. I hate having to do this...

DAISY. **(Hangs her head.)**

JACK. But I hope you'll be very, very happy in your new home.

SLIME. **(taking the halter)** Of course she will.

JACK. Bye, bye Daisy. **(Exits.)**

SLIME. **(watching him go)** Bye, bye. Bysie, bysie. **(To AUDIENCE.)**
How's that for a result? One in the eye for Edena. **(Covering DAISY'S ears.)** And a nice bit of steak for Blunderbore!
(Probable reaction. SLIMEBALL sees something off.) Now shut your traps, because someone's coming. **(Looking into wing.)** It's the Princess – and she's running away from a tree! I'll tie up Daisy over here and wait to see what's what. **(Goes off pulling a reluctant DAISY.)**

(The PRINCESS enters followed by TRUMPET, still disguised as a tree. She stops abruptly. TRUMPET freezes.)

PRINCESS. Trumpet, will you stop following me!

GIANT. This is the life, eh? Me in the kitchen and you in your little cage.

PRINCESS. I'm not speaking to you.

GIANT. You just did. (**Chuckles.**) I've got the key right here, baby. (**Yawns.**) Busy day, eh? I might just have – (**Yawns again.**) a little nap. (**Falls asleep and snores gently.**)

JACK. (**from wing**) Psst!

PRINCESS. (**nervously**) Who's there?

JACK. (**whispering**) It's me!

PRINCESS. Jack!

JACK. (**entering**) Sssh!

PRINCESS. (**whispering**) I mean, Jack! Thank goodness you're here. You came after me!

JACK. Of course, I did. How do I get you out of there?

PRINCESS. The key's on his belt. (**JACK crosses to GIANT.**) And Jack –

JACK. Yes?

PRINCESS. They've got Daisy.

JACK. Daisy!

PRINCESS. Sssh!

(**The GIANT stirs, grunts a bit and resumes his gentle snoring.**)

JACK. It's OK. He's still asleep. (**Working at key.**) I think I can get it off. Where's Daisy?

PRINCESS. In the larder –

JACK. OK, first we'll get you free and then we'll rescue Daisy. There, it's just coming –

SIMON. (**off, in a deep voice**) Fee fi fo fum!

PRINCESS. What's that?

JACK. I don't know. (**Taking out his sword.**) Another giant? (**Hides, ready to pounce.**)