

SCENE 8.

The Giant's Kitchen. Fullset.

The PRINCESS is discovered in a cage – or imprisoned in some way. Large table with chair for Giant. Short, sad NUMBER. SLIMEBALL enters at the end of the number.

SLIME. Hello again, Miss Demelza! Lovely song, lovely sentiment. Shame it's just a lot of old tosh.

PRINCESS. Go boil your head!

SLIME I'd sooner grill your toes. But never mind, I just thought you'd like to know that Blunderbore is on his way.

GIANT. (off) Fee Fi Fo Fum!
I smell the blood of an Englishman...!

SLIME. Here he is, the blushing groom!

(SLIMEBALL rushes to open the door UC.

Smoke, backlighting etc. The GIANT enters.)

GIANT. Be he alive, or be he dead,
I'll grind his bones
To make my bread...!
Slimeball! Where's that cow you got me?

SLIME. She's just in the larder.

PRINCESS. Daisy's in the larder?!

SLIME. We've been fattening her up for you.

GIANT. Not too fat. I wanna look good for my little wifey to be.

PRINCESS. I wouldn't marry you if you were the last man in the history of the world!

GIANT. But I love you, Demelza!

PRINCESS. You've never even met me before.

GIANT. I've met you in my dreams.

PRINCESS. How disgusting!

(Short Barry White NUMBER for GIANT - with lots of sweaty grunting and grotesque soul dancing.)

GIANT. There, Baby. Now do you see it was meant to be?

PRINCESS. No, I do not!

SLIME. Now, I call that ungrateful!

GIANT. Not to worry. I'll marry her anyway – and if it don't work out - she'll make a very tasty snack. Where's Harpy?

SLIME. On your table as always.

GIANT. Show Demelza what Harpy does.

(SLIMEBALL picks up the harp which starts to play.)

See? It always plays when you pick it up... Ah... Really pretty. Alright put it down.

(SLIMEBALL does so.)

(Yawns.) I like music. It always makes me sleepy. Where's Hetty?

SLIME. **(picks up a hen sitting in a basket)** Here she is. Your little treasure.

GIANT. Lay a golden egg for Daddy, Hetty!

(SOUND EFFECT. Hen cackles, ending with a little whoop.)

SLIME. **(holding up golden egg)** One a day, regular as clockwork.

GIANT. Give it to Demelza as a little prezzie from me. **(Goes to sit at his table.)**

SLIME. **(handing egg to PRINCESS)** Isn't he the perfect gentleman?

GIANT. Shut your face, you grovelling little toad. And put Hetty back on the table. Where's that intruder you told me about. Have you caught him yet?

SLIME. Er, not quite.

GIANT. Not quite? Well, get after him you dim witted slug!

SLIME. One thousand excuse me's, I'll get on to it straightaway. **(Exits.)**

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 well 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.)**

(SIMON enters, wearing a long cloak and sitting on the shoulders of the DAME and the KING. Their feet are visible.)

SIMON. Fee fi fo fum, I, er, I, er ...

DAME. **(poking her head out, whispering)** I smell the blood. **(Closes cloak.)**

SIMON. I smell the blood of - what was it?

KING. **(poking head briefly out)** An Englishman! **(Closes cloak.)**

JACK. **(loud whisper)** Simon!

SIMON. **(whispering)** Jack!

JACK. **(whispering)** What are you doing?

KING. **(poking his head out, loud stage whisper)** We're pretending to be the Giant. **(Puts head back in again.)**

JACK. Why?

DAME. **(poking her head out, loud stage whisper)** To get into the castle. **(Puts head back in again.)**

JACK. Are you serious - don't you realise the real giant is already here?

(DAME and KING'S heads poke out.)

KING, DAME
& SIMON. The real giant??!

SIMON. He's right here and he's really, really big! Help me! Help me!

(AUDIENCE shout.)

GIANT. **(waking with a start)** What's that noise?

ALL THREE. Aaah!

(The false giant collapses.)

GIANT. What's happening? Who are you? I'll smash you all to pieces!

PRINCESS. Wait!

GIANT. What?

PRINCESS. They're here to, er –

DAME. Mend the drains?

PRINCESS. No! They're here – to sing to you!

GIANT. Sing to me?

PRINCESS. Yes, that's right. To sing to you. Slimeball and I - we arranged some music for you as a special treat.

GIANT. You did that for me?

PRINCESS. Yes, of course we did -

GIANT. Oh, baby!

PRINCESS. You like music, it always makes you sleepy – and when you wake up you can eat them.

GIANT. Sounds good. Relaxing and nutritious.

DAME. Eh?

PRINCESS. What sort of music do you like best?

GIANT. Well, I like a bit of everything really. You know, classical, opera, rock - all the 70's stuff, of course. And **(Name of singer or group.)**

PRINCESS. You like him/her/them?

GIANT. They're one of my favourites!

(NUMBER. Literally anything can be chosen so long as it is fun. During the song the GIANT falls asleep, but should wake up on a couple of occasions to join in – alarmingly - before falling back asleep. By the end, JACK has got the key off the GIANT’S belt.)

JACK. It’s worked. Now Mum, don’t get excited, but Daisy’s up here too.

DAME. **(loudly exclaiming)** Daisy!!!

ALL. Ssh!!!

JACK. It’s alright, she’s out there in the larder. Simon, you go and get her. I’ll free Demelza. **(Crosses to PRINCESS.)**

SIMON. **(exiting)** OK.

KING. Right everybody. I think I can take charge from now.

PRINCESS. Oh, do shut up, Daddy.

KING. Eh?

JACK. **(frees PRINCESS)** There!

PRINCESS. Well done, Jack! Mrs Trot, you grab hold of that hen, it lays golden eggs – look! **(Holds up golden egg.)**

DAME. **(picking up hen)** Then she’s my kind of hen!

(SIMON enters with DAISY.)

SIMON. Here she is, safe and sound.

DAME. Oh, Daisy! My lovely, Daisy! **(Goes to hug DAISY.)**

JACK. Alright, mum, we can say hello properly later - let’s go before the Giant wakes up!

KING. **(picking up harp)** Let’s take this as well.

(EFFECT. Harp starts to play.)

It’s starting to play!

PRINCESS. Put it down, Daddy!

KING. Eh?

PRINCESS. It plays when you pick it up!

ALL. **(loud whisper)** Put it down!

(KING puts down harp. MUSIC stops.)

GIANT. **(waking)** What’s happening? What’s going on? **(Calling out.)** Slimeball!

JACK. Quick! Back down the beanstalk. Run for your lives!

(ALL run off R, but the PRINCESS stops at the wing, or hides behind a piece of furniture.)

GIANT. I'll teach you to take my Princess! **(Calling out.)** Thieves! Slimeball!

(FIGHT. The GIANT lunges at JACK with his club. During the fight SLIMEBALL enters L.)

SLIME. Go on big boy, smash him into little pieces! Stick it on him! Etc.

(SLIMEBALL tries to pinion JACK, but JACK jumps free and BLUNDERBORE hits SLIMEBALL by mistake.)

Aaah!

GIANT. Ooops! Sorry!

SLIME. You clumsy oaf, you bashed my head,
You've done me in, I'll soon be dead!
My senses leave, I'm feeling wan,
I'm going, I'm going - **(Dying theatrically.)** and now I'm gone!

GIANT. I'm really sorry, Slimeball!

PRINCESS. Quick Jack, run!

(JACK and the PRINCESS run off R.)

GIANT. Come back here! You made me kill Slimeball. Cockroaches! Cockroaches! Catch the thieves! Catch the thieves!

(BLACKOUT as the GIANT lumbers off R.)