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**response.**) That's better – and once more for luck – are you having a good time! (**AUDIENCE response.**) Fantastic! Now, let me introduce myself. I'm Dame Trot. Dame Madonna Trot. But you can call me Madge. Fit as a fiddle – and wonderfully preserved for a woman of my age. You wouldn't think I was past – thirty, would you? But I am, you know – that's right, widowed before my time... (**Encourages "aaah!" from audience.**) It was a bit more before my time than that! (**Encourages bigger "aaah!"**) Mind you, I'm always looking for another husband. (**HOUSE LIGHTS up.**) Ooh! (**Surveys audience briefly.**) But not today... No, no, I'm only joking – it's lovely to see you all, and some old friends too! Hello, Jack, how's your back...? Hello, Fred, how's your head...? Hello, Annie... You having a nice time...? Yes, I know who some of you are, you see, because I've got a little list! Now, can we have a great big shout from ...?

(**Ad lib parties and birthdays, introducing the band etc.**) Well, it's lovely to talk to you all, but chatting won't get the milking done. I don't know where my cow, Daisy is. She's got a mind of her own. Unfortunately, our cowman, Simple Simon, doesn't seem to have a mind at all. In fact, I think he's lost her. I ask you - how can you lose a cow? And here's me, run off my feet!

(**NUMBER. Half way through, during short dance break, DAISY runs across the stage upstage of the DAME. She is pursued by SIMON. DAME breaks off from song. MUSIC continues to vamp.**)

SIMON. (**crossing the stage in pursuit**) Come back, Daisy, come back! (**Stopping by the opposite wing.**) Hello, Mrs T. Sorry, can't stop! (**Runs off.**)

DAME. Do you ever get the feeling you've just been upstaged? Oh, well. They'll be back in a minute. Now, where was I? Oh yes, thank you dear...

(**Continues with second half of number, at the end of which SIMON comes on.**)

SIMON. Hello there. I've been trying to catch Daisy.

DAME. Oh, well, never mind, Simon. Now you're here, you can say hello to all the boys and girls.

SIMON. Oh, yes, people! Gosh there's loads of 'em! (**Loses confidence.**) Oh, dear -

DAME. What?

SIMON. I feel a bit shy.

DAME. Never mind. Stand by me and introduce yourself.

SIMON. (**very quietly**) Hello, I'm Simon.

DAME. Louder than that.

SIMON. Louder?

DAME. Louder.

SIMON. (**louder, but a bit wooden**) Hello, I'm Simon!

DAME. And friendlier.

SIMON. Friendlier?

DAME. Friendlier and louder.

SIMON. **(loudly with forced friendliness)** Hell-oh-oh, I'm Simon!

DAME. Can you get some humour into it?

SIMON. Humour?

DAME. Just friendlier, louder and with a little touch of humour

SIMON. Hello-oh-hoh-hoh-hoh-hoh, I'm Siiiiimonn! How was that?

DAME. Totally deranged.

SIMON. Oh, I say – I just get nervy turns, that's all!

DAME. I know what! Let's get that lot to help you.

SIMON. How do you mean?

DAME. Well, whenever you get a bit nervous, you shout out "Help me, help me!" and we'll ask them to shout out –

SIMON. "Don't worry Simon, it's probably not as bad as you think it is, so try to be a little bit brave...?"

DAME. That might be a bit long. How about "Be brave, Simon!"?

SIMON. That's brilliant!

DAME. It is, isn't it? **(To AUDIENCE.)** Will you help us? **(AUDIENCE response.)** Fantastic. Let's try it. I'll pretend to scare Simon and he'll shout out -

SIMON. Help me, help me!

DAME. And you shout out – Be brave, Simon!! Got it...? Right, let's give it a go! **(Roars at SIMON and pulls a scary face.)**

SIMON. Help me, help me! **(Without waiting for the AUDIENCE, SIMON is transformed into a gibbering wreck.)**

DAME. Hang on, hang on, you're supposed to wait for them to shout!

SIMON. Oh, yes. Sorry about that.

DAME. Let's give it another go. Right?

SIMON. Okay.

**(DAME roars at SIMON and pulls another scary face.)**

SIMON. Help me, help me!

**(AUDIENCE shout. SIMON is partly reassured and nervously pushes DAME'S shoulder.)**

**(unconvincingly)** Leave me alone - please.

DAME. Not bad.

SIMON. I'm getting better, aren't I?

DAME. Yes, but I think we ought to do it one more time, just to make sure. **(To AUDIENCE.)** So, this time, really raise the roof! Ready? **(To SIMON.)** Ready?

SIMON. Ready!

DAME. Right. **(Roars spectacularly into SIMON's face.)**

SIMON. Help me, help me!

**(AUDIENCE shout. SIMON is transformed and roars back at the DAME, who starts to back away apprehensively.)**

Nobody does that to me!

**(SIMON aggressively pushes the DAME and pursues her around the stage.)**

**(To Audience)** This feels goooood!!

DAME. Simon, Simon, stop it – stop it, it's me remember - it's me!

SIMON. What? Eh, oh... I'm sorry Mrs T, I just had a rush of total courage. It's worn off now.

DAME. Thank goodness for that.

**(DAISY'S "moo!" is heard off stage.)**

Oh, look. It's Daisy, come to see what all the noise was about.

**(MUSIC. DAISY runs on stage.)**

Hello, dear, you're just in time to say hello to everybody!

**(DAISY notices the AUDIENCE and curtsies daintily with L legs to R.)**

Oh, lovely. What a well-bred cow!

**(GIANT MUSIC sting. The DAME, SIMON and DAISY are transfixed with fear.)**

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

DAME &  
SIMON. It's the Giant!!

GIANT. **(off)** Fee Fi Eat my Fill! I smell the blood of a nice mixed grill!

DAME &  
SIMON.

That's us!! He's going to grill us!

SIMON.

I can't take anymore! **(To AUDIENCE.)** Help me, help me!

**(AUDIENCE shout.)**

Phwooah! That's better. **(To GIANT.)** Now, look you overgrown, big bully -

DAME.

Simon, what are you doing?!!

SIMON.

What am I doing? I'm telling this pesky giant to – to, er... **(Loses it.)** I don't know what I'm doing...

**(The GIANT chuckles menacingly.)**

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JACK. Look, Mum, I'm really sorry –

DAME. Alright, if you won't go, I'll go. A bag of beans, Jack! Whatever's going to happen to us in the morning? Our Daisy, sold for a bag of beans! **(Throws bag on the ground.)** There. That's what I think of that. I just can't believe it!

**(She leaves. JACK and SIMON look at each other.)**

JACK. Honestly, Simon. I don't understand.

SIMON. I think she's a bit cross.

JACK. But I saw the gold... I just - oh, well. Come on then. Maybe something will turn up in the morning.

**(Dejectedly, they both go out.)**

**NB. The action can run on continuously. Alternatively, if you need a few moments to set anything up for the Beanstalk sequence, you may find it useful to treat Edena's speech as a little mini-scene and fly the tabs in briefly.**

**PYRO. EDENA enters.)**

EDENA. That's true indeed, Jack, very true,  
I'm planning on surprising you.  
**(indicating smoke)** I hope that didn't make you cough,  
I didn't mean to let one off.  
I'll make old Slimeball rue the day,  
He thought to come down here and play!  
Prize winning veg is just my thing;  
I'll give those beans some special zing,  
And send them up into the skies,  
Before we see the new sun rise!

**(Waves wand - fly out tabs if you have flown them in.  
BEANSTALK GROWING SEQUENCE.**

**This could be a BALLET, or a NUMBER led by EDENA, with  
the CHORUS as garden sprites, or fairies.**

**Alternatively, it could be staged very effectively as a UV  
SEQUENCE.**

**At the end of the sequence, JACK enters yawning from the  
cottage. He sees the beanstalk.)**

JACK. Wow...! Mum! Simon! Come and have a look at this!

**(SIMON and DAME enter from the cottage, they are both in ludicrous night  
attire.)**

SIMON. Gosh!

DAME. Blimey. Those were some beans. You wouldn't want to eat beans like those.

JACK. Look how high it goes. Right up to the clouds.

**(The KING enters.)**

KING. Just as I thought! I've caught you red-handed. The Princess has disappeared and it's quite obvious to me that you lot must have kidnapped her!

JACK. But that's ridiculous.

KING. Don't contradict me, I'm the King!

EDENA. **(entering)** In that case I will - and I'm a fairy.  
Though truth to tell, things have got hairy.

KING. Hairy? Hairy? How do you mean, hairy?

EDENA. I mean confusing and all contrary.

KING. All contrary? But first you said hairy,  
This isn't contrary, it's all airy-fairy!

DAME. Then let's not argue outside the Dairy.

SIMON. **(helpfully)** I once knew a girl whose name was Mary.

KING. Oh, shut up!

EDENA. Let me speak plain and tell you true.

KING. That's all I'm asking you to do.

JACK. But where's Demelza, is she okay?

EDENA. It's true she has been taken away.

KING. Oh, no!

EDENA. Oh, yes.

SIMON. Oh, crumbs.

DAME. Oh, dear.

EDENA. Transported to the Giant, I fear.  
But eco fairies make things grow... **(Gestures to the Beanstalk.)**

**(A beat.)**

KING. And your point is?

EDENA. You're all so slow!

JACK. I could climb there!

KING. What?

DAME. Oh no, Jack, not the beanstalk thing!

JACK. Why not? It's almost as if it's been put there on purpose.

KING. He's right. Up you go, lad and we'll say no more about the rent.

DAME. **(To KING)** He's my only son!

JACK. I'm sorry Mum – I've got no choice. I have to rescue Demelza!

DAME. But the giant is such a nasty man!

EDENA. Then I shall help Jack all I can,

**(EDENA gestures with her wand. A little Fairy enters with a sword.)**

This special sword has magic power,  
To call on in a needy hour.

DAME. Oh, Jack!

JACK. Yes, Mum.

DAME. Must you go now?

JACK. I must.

KING. He must!

DAME. Alright then, ciao.

EDENA. So, climb to win a battle rare,  
And claim for wife a maiden fair!

KING. I say!

EDENA. What is it you want to say?

KING. Not much.

JACK. **(starting to climb)** Then off I go without delay!

**(MUSIC swells. CHORUS run on. NUMBER.**

**CURTAIN.)**