



December 2023

# MOTHER GOOSE

Ben Crocker

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**PRESS REACTION**

“A perfect, proper panto.” *The Times, Beauty & the Beast*

“This show bounds along and by the end the young crowd – like Cinderella, have had a ball.” *The Guardian, Cinderella*

“Absolutely delightful panto, put together with wit and verve by Ben Crocker”  
*The Daily Telegraph, Dick Whittington & His Cat*

“A glance around at the children – their faces truly shining, eyes wide and mouths open – illustrates the delight that pantomime still provides.” *The Times, Dick Whittington & His Cat*

“This is a show to be enjoyed by all ages, with enough hearty laughs to lighten anyone’s winter evenings.” *Express and Echo, Aladdin*

“All the ingredients for a jolly good panto romp are chucked into the mix... a rollicking good laugh from start to finish had the adults wiping tears of laughter from their eyes.” *The Stage, Sleeping Beauty*

“This is a pantomime which will be enjoyed by cast and audience alike and one that I would recommend, both as a Dame and as a Director.” *Richard Bond, AS Magazine, Sleeping Beauty*

“What really sets this pantomime apart is the quality of Ben Crocker’s script... Make no mistake, any theatre in the land would be proud to stage this top quality show.” *Oxford Times, Beauty & the Beast*

“Bristling with lots of imaginative ideas, this is a bright, upbeat pantomime with a huge feel-good factor. Ben Crocker takes a new look at the old fairy tale and comes up with a winner. It’s good, traditional family fun with lots of laughs and a fast pace.” *Western Morning News, Cinderella*

“The best family festive treat in the South West!” *Crediton Country Courier, Aladdin*

## CHARACTERS

SMORG	A Wicked Troll
FAIRY AURORA	Fairy of the North
MOTHER GOOSE	Dame
FREYA GOOSE	Mother Goose's Daughter. Principal Girl
HEIDI THE GOOSE	
BARON VON RUMPENSMAKKA	
GONK	The Baron's Henchman
SVEN	The Baron's Nephew. Principal Boy
THE GRAND HIGH SNOW GOOSE	
CUCKOO CLOCK	Cameo Role
BOSS SNOWMAN	Cameo Role
Snowmen 1, 2 & 3	Cameo Roles
CHORUS	Geese, Trolls, Baby Trolls, Snowmen, Guard Geese, etc.

### HEIDI THE GOOSE

I have imagined Heidi as the goose equivalent of one of the cats from the stage version of "Cats", i.e. with a human body and the performer's face visible. However, if you prefer, it is just as possible to play the role in a full goose skin – just simplify the egg laying!

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## PROLOGUE

**Show cloth or tabs.**

**PYRO. SMORG jumps on**

SMORG: Aha! Yes, it's me, the wicked troll, Smorg! Welcome to my home in Norway - a Scandinavian country in Scandinavia. The main thing about Norway is that it's very cold and full of nice caves, bogs, forests - and mashed potato. And not very many people – which is perfect for trolls because we don't like 'em! Unlike mashed potato which we really like –

**MUSIC. AURORA enters**

Oh, no, it's Aurora, Fairy of the North -

AURORA. (**displeased**) Smorg! What are you doing here?  
Up to no good again, I fear.

SMORG. I'm telling these people how I hate 'em!

AURORA. Is that really how you rate 'em?

SMORG. You think people are all fluffy and nice,  
But I'll prove they're rubbish in half a trice!

AURORA. You know that's not true – take Mother Goose!

SMORG. What a strange person to go and choose!

AURORA. She's one of the kindest people I know!

SMORG. Humbug – all her good deeds are just for show.  
It's vanity is that one's curse.  
And can we stop the rhyming verse?

AURORA. Alright, alright – but she's warm hearted, good and kind!

SMORG. It's vanity will break her!

AURORA: Nonsense!

SMORG: You don't believe me? I'll prise open that chink in the armour  
of her goodness. I'll twist her heart inside out and make her  
betray her closest friend! Do you want to bet?

AURORA. Alright, you're on. She's good. I'll stake my reputation on it.

SMORG. And I mine too. Shake.

**They spit on their hands and shake**

You'll lose, Aurora. All humans are rubbish! Look at that lot out there.

**They look at the Audience and react**

AURORA: They're from a land faraway...

SMORG. They look dodgy to me –

AURORA. They're not on trial, it's Mother Goose.  
And she'll disprove your mean abuse.

SMORG: Well, let's just see – there's no excuse  
And here she comes – our show's on the loose!

**MUSIC****BLACKOUT**

## SCENE 1: Mother Goose's Festival of Christmas Jumpers.

There is a big sign, or banner emblazoned – 'Mother Goose's Goosery'

**CHORUS** as Geese and Villagers, many of whom are wearing Christmas jumpers, **HEIDI** (the goose), **MOTHER GOOSE** in a ridiculous jumper and **FREYA** in another jumper

*Opening Number: Mambo #5 / Hard Day's Night / Footloose / Can't Touch This / Party Rock Anthem / Can't Stop the Feeling / It's My Life*

MG. Welcome to my festival of Christmas jumpers! Oh, what a wonderful, cuddly time of year it is! Good, old fashioned Chiswickian fun and a handy money maker too! **(To CHORUS geese)** Now, have all you geese had your saunas?

GEESE. No, Mother Goose.

MG. Well, run along and get roasting...! Maybe I'll re-phrase that. Run along and have a nice hot sauna. Hot, but not too hot!

GEESE **(running off)** Yes, Mother Goose!

MG. And take those jumpers off! **(To VILLAGERS)** And you lot, if you haven't got your new jumpers, now's the time to do so!

VILLS. **(exiting)** Bye, Mother Goose!

MG. Oh, dear, they left in a hurry. **(To FREYA)** I remember your first Christmas Jumper, Freya!

**HEIDI and FREYA share a look**

FREYA. Bright green, with a purple polar bear?

MG. **(delightedly)** You remember!

FREYA. Yes, Mum.

MG. **(mimes)** You were about so big.

FREYA. Yes, Mum, I know I was –

MG. And we'd just found Heidi in the kitchen, where she'd crept in to be warm from the wind and the snow!

FREYA. Yes, Mum -

MG. When she was a little baby snow goose, with a broken wing!

**HEIDI mimes comically broken wing**

FREYA. Yes, and I used to feed her little bits of bread and keep her warm in my bed –

MG. Because she weighed ounces, Freya, just ounces!

FREYA. Yes, Mum -

MG. And we mended her wing using little twigs to set it –

BOTH. But we could never teach her to fly...!

MG. Have I told you this before?

FREYA. Yes, Mum!! Only about nine hundred times!

MG. But you were both so lovely, like a pair of sisters – one with feathers and one without. **(To HEIDI)** And anyway, Heidi dear, flying's for losers. You're very good at other things!

**HEIDI curtsies to the audience**

**(To audience)** You see? Not many geese can do that! **(To HEIDI)** And you look very nice in your new jumper/scarf dear. **(Shyly)** I say, what do you two think of mine?

FREYA. **(quickly)** It's lovely. **(HEIDI nods in vigorous agreement)**

MG. Really? I wasn't sure about the pink/green/puce...

FREYA. Honestly, Mum, it's lovely.

MG. You're sure?

FREYA. Yes, Mum. Definitely. **(Nods decisively with HEIDI)**

MG. Because I was just a teeny bit – you know.

FREYA. **(nodding with HEIDI)** Yes, Mum, we know.

MG. **(brightly)** Good, that's settled, then. How many jumpers have we sold this year?

FREYA. Well, we're still working on it, so the final figure isn't in...

**HEIDI shakes her head in solemn agreement**



MG. But so far?

FREYA. You mean, as of now?

MG. Yes.

FREYA. None.

MG. None!!

FREYA. Well, it's Christmas, Mum.

MG. A Christmas jumper is an ideal Christmas present!

FREYA. I know – but everybody seems to be wearing last year's.

MG. But what are we going to do? All those lovely goose themed Christmas jumpers!!!

FREYA. Ok, ok – relax!

MG. I am relaxing – it's just that there's bills to be paid, rent due, geese to feed, a teeny bit of makeup – and the Baron always likes to turn the screw at Christmas!

FREYA. Ok, ok, Mum, but look on the bright side.

MG. What bright side?

FREYA. You've still got your health!

MG. My back hurts, I've got arthritis in my big toe and I've got piles – of washing to do!

FREYA. But you haven't forgotten how to laugh!

MG. I have forgotten how to laugh!! Laughter and I have forgotten each other.

FREYA. Sorry, Mum, we were just trying to cheer you up.

MG. Huh, if you knew even the half of it!

**Renewed tears. Maybe Mother Goose even starts to “cry” jet propelled tears, which cover FREYA and HEIDI.**

**Song: *When Will I Be Loved (Dame's song)***

I've been cheated  
Been mistreated  
When will I be loved?

I've been put down  
I've been pushed 'round  
When will I be loved?

When I find a new man  
That I want for mine  
He always breaks my heart in two  
It happens every time

I've been made blue  
I've been lied to  
When will I be loved?

When I find a new man  
That I want for mine  
He always breaks my heart in two  
It happens every time

Oh, I've been cheated  
Been mistreated  
When will I be loved?

When will I be loved?  
Tell me, when will I be loved?

**Each verse results in more tears, especially as MOTHER GOOSE goes down into the auditorium during the song**

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I just got a teeny weeny bit upset.

**Sound of bicycle bells off**

Oh, no! It's the Baron! He'll want his rent - or even worse...  
**(Exchanges look with FREYA, who shudders)** Quick,  
everyone! Into the house!

**MG, HEIDI and FREYA run into the house. We hear a sustained barrage of locks and bolts flying into place, then then a deep, throaty engine noise. The house drives off...**

**The BARON and GONK enter**

BARON. Here we are, Gonk. Mother Goose's Goosery. Personally, I can't see what she sees in the blasted birds.

GONK. You're right, your honour. Nasty snappy things, if you ask me, sir.

- BARON. I wasn't asking you, Gonk.
- GONK. No ,sir.
- BARON. Now, look everybody - I'm Baron Von Rumpensmakka. This funny little chap here is my man, Gonk and this being Christmas, we're here for the rent - and if Mother Goose can't pay, then I'm of a mind to marry her pretty little daughter and make her Lady Von Rumpensmakka. And between you, me and the gatepost, I rather hope the old bat is bang out of kroner! **(Chuckles suggestively)** Eh, what, Gonk?
- GONK. You're a hot blooded man, sir. It's only natural.
- BARON. Quite right, Gonk. Quite right. How do you think I'm looking?
- GONK. Handsome, your Honour. Proud to serve you.
- BARON. You like the tie?
- GONK. Sweet!
- BARON. Yes, I've always been a bit of a lad for the Ladies.
- GONK. **(reverently)** You're more than a lad, sir.
- BARON. Yes, thank you, Gonk.
- GONK. The force of nature rises in you –
- BARON. Yes, alright –
- GONK. It bubbles up!
- BARON. I said, alright!
- GONK. It won't be denied –
- BARON. Gonk, will you just shut up!!
- GONK. Sorry, your Honour. But I believe there are one or two of the female species in here right now, your Honour.
- BARON. **(looking)** There are, aren't there! Well, let's have a proper look at them all. **(Shouting off)** You there, lights up! **(To GONK)** Maybe I'll get in a little Chiswickian ootchi kootchi practice before tea time!
- GONK. Chiswickian ootchi kootchi practice it is, sir!

## Mother Goose

BARON. **(sending GONK into audience)** Line one up for me, Gonk!  
There's nothing like a little ootchi kootchi practice!

BARON. Who've you got there, Gonk?

GONK. I don't know.

BARON. Well, ask her! Don't worry, Madam, he won't bite!

GONK. Excuse me your ladyship, but what's your name?

### Audience member responds

Her name's Sheila, your worship.

BARON. Sheila, eh? Nice name, Sheila – and I like your top... **(or choose something appropriate, e.g. "The equestrian look")** I like it very much! Well, buzz off, Gonk. I've got ootchi kootchi business to attend to!

### A CHORUS postman enters

POST. Are you Baron Herbert Von Rumpensmakka?

BARON. What if I am?

POST. Special delivery for you, sir.

### Hands over letter, salutes and exits

BARON. **(opening letter)** What's this?

GONK. Who's it from, sir?

BARON. My brother.

GONK. What's he say?

BARON. He's dead!

GONK. Nice of him to let you know, sir.

BARON. Bother 'nice' - he wants me to look after his boy, Sven, who'll be arriving today. Typical - another mouth to feed! **(To Sheila)** I'm sorry, Sheila, wrong time and place – the chemistry was there, but the fates didn't smile on us. Back to business. **(To GONK)** Now, let's knock up Mother Goose. **(They move to regain the stage)**

GONK. Yes, your worship. Where, your worship?

BARON. Well, where do you think?

GONK. It's just, the house is usually there

BARON. Yes?

GONK. But it isn't.

BARON. **(does double take)** That's very strange.

GONK. It is, sir.

BARON. We must have taken a wrong turn somewhere. We'll go back, retrace our steps and things are sure to become plain.

GONK. Very good, sir. Retrace our steps it is, sir.

**The BARON and GONK exit.**

**We hear beeping and a deep engine noise as MG's house reverses back on. MG is looking out of the window, as if steering. The house comes to rest and the engine stops**

MG. Fooled him! That's the good thing about having a mobile home!

**SVEN enters carrying a small suitcase and consulting a map**

SVEN. Well, this is the village alright, even down to the Goosery, I just need to find where Uncle lives. Maybe the people here can help.

**SVEN knocks on MG's door. We hear a barrage of locks. SVEN shares a look of surprise with the audience and takes a step or two back from the house.**

**FREYA opens the door. Love sting. The two look at each other across the stage**

SVEN. Er, I er....

FREYA. Yes...? Can I help?

SVEN. Yes....! I'm sure you can. Miss –

FREYA. Goose.

SVEN. Miss Goose.

FREYA. That sounds very formal.

SVEN. Does it?

FREYA. Everyone calls me, Freya. But I quite like it.

SVEN. You do...? Miss Goose?

FREYA. I do, Mr...?

SVEN. Von Rumpensmakka.

FREYA. **(appalled)** Von Rumpensmakka!!!

SVEN. Is it that bad?

FREYA. Oh, don't worry. It's just we know the most awful man with the same name!

SVEN. Oh - I was actually going to ask directions...

FREYA. To his house?

SVEN. He's my uncle.

FREYA. Oh, dear.... That's a shame.

SVEN. My first name's Sven. Is that any good?

MG. **(bustling out of house)** Freya, who are you chatting to on the doorstep? **(Sees SVEN)** Oooh, what a lovely young man! **(preens)**

FREYA. This is Sven -

SVEN. **(bowing formally)** Mrs Goose.

MG. Charmed! **(Bobs a curtsey)**

FREYA. Von Rumpensmakka.

MG. WHAT!!!??

FREYA. He's the Baron's nephew.

MG. Well, he can't help that. **(To SVEN)** I'm sure you're nothing like your horrible uncle.

**Bicycle bells**

Oh, no! Talk of the Devil! Back into the house!

**The BARON enters with GONK, who carries a large remote**

BARON. Oh, no you don't! Zap it, Gonk!

**GONK waves remote at house. We hear all the locks go off, barring escape**

There. You're locked out and that's the way you'll stay until you pay up. Fifty Kroner – and if you can't pay, I'll take the dodderly old geese instead. There's always a ready market at Christmas!

MG & FREYA. No!

MG. We rehome the Geese – we don't sell them to be eaten!

BARON. More fool you! Gonk, go and round 'em up!

GONK. **(exiting)** Yes, your Honour.

SVEN. I say, Uncle!

BARON. Oh, you're my brother's boy are you? Last time I saw you, you were in nappies.

SVEN. But Uncle, there must be some sort of –

BARON. Some sort of what? Namby pamby, touchy feely deal on the nevery nevery? Oh, no, that's not for me! A debt's a debt and needs a remedy. **(To MG)** So, where's the pretty little goosey you're so chummy with?

FREYA. Not Heidi??!!

BARON. Yes, Heidi!

MG. We can't sell Heidi for Christmas dinner!

BARON. Of course, you can. She's worth fifty Kroner of anyone's money.

FREYA. But Baron!

BARON. **(passionately)** Call me Herbert!

FREYA. What?

BARON. Marry me Freya! Make me complete and we'll say nothing about the rent. Come and live with me as Lady Von Rumpensmakka! I'll be your little Herby Werby with me big scratchy whiskers!

FREYA. But I don't like whiskers!

MG. And she's too young!

BARON. She's not that young!

MG. She's my only daughter!

BARON. Tough! Goosey or girley. Otherwise, you're all out on the street!

**HEIDI appears in the doorway**

FREYA. **(running to HEIDI)** No, Heidi! You can't sacrifice yourself! You just can't!

MG. Please, Baron. We'll find the fifty Kroner!

SVEN. Stop this! Stop this!! I'll pay the rent! I've got the money! **(Pulls out money)** Here, Uncle, take this – twenty, forty, forty five, forty six, forty seven, forty eight, forty nine... I'm one short!

BARON. Well, isn't that too bad?

SVEN. But, Uncle -

BARON. A miss is as good as a mile.

SVEN. But –

BARON. Fancy her yourself do you?

SVEN. Uncle!

BARON. **(To MG)** Now, which is it to be? The girl or the goose?

FREYA. Mum –

MG. No, Freya, you can't!

FREYA. Mum. There's no other way. It has to be me!

MG. I know, but -

BARON. Marry me, Freya! **(Points at HEIDI)** Or, she's lunch!

**Aurora Magic sting. AURORA enters. She waves her wand and freezes everyone on stage**

AURORA. To all this fuss I'll put a stop,  
We can't have Heidi for the chop!



But I've a trick that's neat and bold,  
For she'll lay eggs of solid gold!

**Waves wand. Magic spell music, which continues underneath the next sequence. Exits.**

**ALL come out of freeze. HEIDI walks towards the BARON...  
The CHORUS geese come on to watch**

BARON.           What's happening...?

FREYA.           No, Heidi, you don't have to do this!

**HEIDI lightly shrugs off FREYA, circles the BARON and then produces a gold egg from his ear, which she lobs casually to MG**

MG.               Heidi! It's solid gold! **(Jumping up and down)** IT'S SOLID GOLD!!!!

**All the CHORUS geese cheer. HEIDI backs a bewildered BARON up against the pros. She produces two more eggs from his pockets, which she also lobs to MG. She almost produces an egg from his mouth, but grimaces and pushes it back in again and runs to MG**

MG.               Heidi, you wonderful, amazing, darling goose!

**Spluttering the BARON takes the egg from his mouth and stares at it in wonder**

How did you do that?

**HEIDI shrugs. She genuinely doesn't know**

Can you do it again?

**HEIDI thinks and then nods and produces an egg from MG's ear**

Heidi, I had no idea you could lay golden eggs!

**HEIDI throws a look to FREYA – neither did she!**

Well, Baron. I think you've had more than your rent! But now you really must excuse us. There's gold to be spent and celebrations to be celebrated!

BARON.           **(still dazed)** Very well... **(Calling)** Gonk! Gonk, wherever you are, we're leaving! **(Turns on his heel and exits)**

## Mother Goose

MG. Oh, Heidi, you are so clever! It's the first time we've ever got one over on him! Did you see his face...?

FREYA. Like he'd swallowed his whiskers!

**ALL laugh**

MG. And Sven, in spite of your horrible rumpy wotsit name – I'm going to invite you in for tea and give you a Christmas jumper!

**ALL continue to laugh as they go into the house**

FREYA. Oh, Mum. We're going to have the best Christmas ever!

**They exit laughing happily. Maybe SMORG enters grumpily and pulls the curtain across...**

**SCENE 2: Outside the Goosery****In front of Tabs. Baddie Sting**

SMORG. **(sarcastically)** Hah, hah, hah, hah, hah...! **(Turning to audience)** Yes, it's me, Smorg! Bog troll, slime specialist – and that's quite enough human happiness for one day... But maybe Aurora has slipped up. After all, everything has changed big time for Mother Goose. Everything, except what she looks like! And she's always been a little bit vain - maybe even vain enough to give away her golden goose! **(Yawns and checks his watch)** It's tomorrow. Time moves quickly round here – and Freya is out for a stroll with Sven – which gives me the perfect opportunity to start the process of winding everyone up! **(Laughs unpleasantly)** Oh, spare me all that tosh! I'm a baddie from the Bog, what do you expect? **(Indicates off)** Here they come! I'm going to hide. Sssssh! **(Puts finger to lips and exits)**

**FREYA and SVEN, now wearing a jumper, enter**

FREYA. It was really kind of you to offer to pay off Mum's debt.

SVEN. **(wryly)** Pity I didn't have quite enough to do so.

FREYA. Nevermind, maybe Heidi would never have found out how to lay golden eggs if you had. And you got a free jumper!

SVEN. Yes, there is that. Er – Miss Goose....

FREYA. Freya.

SVEN. Miss Freya... Look, obviously, I'd want your mother to be absolutely happy about this, but what I want to say is...

**SMORG enters upstage of SVEN, shushing the audience with his finger to his lips.**

**Audience shout, alerting SVEN**

SVEN. **(To SMORG)** Who are you?

SMORG. I'm not here. **(Makes pass over himself. SMORG Magic sting)**

FREYA. Who was that?

SVEN. **(confused)** I don't know. He wasn't there.

**They both shrug. SMORG remains...**

I'm sorry, this is all rather new for me...

FREYA. Don't worry, take your time.

SVEN. Thank you, Miss Goose – Freya. I've given this a lot of thought and what I really want to say is –

**MUSIC - SMORG makes a magic pass at SVEN, who blurts out...**

Your Mother is a fat faced old frump!

FREYA. What??!

SVEN. No!! I didn't say that!

FREYA. You did!

SVEN. But I can't have done - I don't understand! I'm so sorry, I didn't mean it at all! What I meant was –

**SMORG magic sting - SMORG makes another pass**

She looks like the back end of a particularly unattractive bus!

FREYA. Sven!!

**SMORG magic sting - SMORG makes another pass**

SVEN. She makes turkeys look pretty! **(Guffaws into her face)**

**FREYA slaps his face, cutting off the laughter**

FREYA. I thought you were nice – but I was wrong! You're even worse than your beastly uncle! **(Storms off)**

SVEN. What have I done...? And what have I said...And WHY???  
**(Exits dejectedly the other side)**

SMORG. **(delightedly watching him go)** There! The seed is sown. Wait till that little lot gets back to Mother Goose – and then watch her wobble and topple into my accommodating trap! **(Acknowledging likely boos)** I thank you! **(Exits)**

**The BARON and GONK enter the auditorium with a large telescope which they set up to spy on the stage**

BARON. Come along Gonk, hurry up, hurry up.

GONK. Hurryin' up it is, Your Worship... **(Fusses with telescope)**

- BARON.            There... We now have an excellent view of the Goosery. If that Goose can lay golden eggs, we need to nick it! Keep a careful watch, Gonk. I want to know everything that happens.
- GONK.            I'll stay here all night, Your Honour - and don't you worry, if anything happens -
- MG.                **(off)** Heidi!
- BARON.            Quiet – it's the old bag! **(Shoves GONK out of the way and peers down telescope)**
- MG.                **(enters carrying a tray of meatballs)** Heidi...! Heidi, Heidi, Heidi, Heiiidiiiiiii!!!

**HEIDI skips on happily**

I've brought you your supper. No more boring goose food – just lovely **meatballs!**

**MG hands over the tray. HEIDI looks somewhat surprised and tries to refuse the food**

Now, don't tell me you're off your food, Heidi.

**HEIDI shakes her head but looks nervously at the meatballs**

Do you know what I think, Heidi?

**HEIDI shakes her head**

I think maybe you're feeling a bit lonely, now that Freya seems to be walking out with Sven.

**HEIDI shakes her head. "No, I'm not!"**

But don't you fret. You wait till next spring and we'll soon find you a little goosey boyfriend! Now, night night, my love – **(Kisses HEIDI)** and enjoy your supper! **(Exits)**

**HEIDI exits the other way, carrying the tray and rather nonplussed**

- GONK.            Your Honour!
- BARON.            What?
- GONK.            I've had an amazing idea –
- BARON.            Well, put it back in its box!

GONK. But the girl goose might be lonely. She might like a little goosey boyfriend!

BARON. So?

GONK. Let me be the goosey boyfriend!

BARON. What???!

GONK. I won't actually be a goose. But I'll *pretend* to be a goose.

BARON. You will?

GONK. I'll disguise myself with feathers and things, chat her up with a bit of ootchi kootchi goose stuff – and then...

BARON. What?

GONK. Bosh. I'll kidnap her. Clever, eh?

BARON. A man dressed up as a goose?

GONK. Yes!

BARON. **(furious)** It's totally and utterly bonkers! **(He changes his mind)** And yet –

GONK. Yes?

BARON. In some strange, weird way –

GONK. Yes?

BARON. It's not as mad as it sounds!

GONK. I knew you'd see it that way, your Honour!

BARON. But someone needs to distract the old bag.

GONK. You could do that - you're brilliant at that sort of thing!

BARON. Well, yes, I am. **(Starts to exit)** Come along, Gonk. It's time to get you dressed – we're going goose hunting!

**BLACKOUT**

**SCENE 3: Mother Goose's Parlour**

Upstage there is a wallpapering table, various buckets of gloop, brushes, an A frame ladder and a tarpaulin which can be pulled out to protect the floor. There are also lots of golden eggs.

**HEIDI and FREYA are revealed.**

FREYA. (surveying the equipment) Is this as mad as I think it is?

**HEIDI nods happily. "For sure!"**

FREYA. Look, Heidi, you know Sven –

**HEIDI clasps her heart "Love!"**

Yes, but he was really nasty yesterday.

**HEIDI looks surprised**

FREYA. He called Mum some horrible names.

**Outraged, HEIDI mimes beating him up**

FREYA. Hang on a second, he wasn't quite that nasty!

**HEIDI shrugs expressively as MG bustles in**

MG. Now, have we got everything we need, do you think?

FREYA. I still think we should get a man in.

MG. Nonsense. We're sprucing up the parlour for a party to celebrate our good fortune. That doesn't mean we have to start behaving like millionaires.

FREYA. But what if we make a mess?

MG. Of course, we won't make a mess.

**The doorbell rings**

Come in! It's not locked.

**SVEN enters nervously**

Hello, Sven dear!

## Mother Goose

SVEN. Good morning, Mrs Goose. I wondered if I could possibly have a word with Miss Freya?

FREYA. **(very frostily)** Why...?

SVEN. I, er...

MG. **(brightly)** Freya dear, can you pull that cloth out with Sven? Heidi! You and I will go and get the wallpaper.

### **HEIDI wants to stay and see what happens...**

Heidi, I said you and I will go and get the wallpaper!

### **HEIDI nods but returns to watching FREYA and SVEN**

Now. Heidi!

### **Unwillingly, HEIDI allows MG to steer her from the room**

FREYA. Well, come on then. You may as well be useful.

SVEN. Yes. Of course.

### **They start to unfold and spread out the floor cloth**

Look, I just wanted to –

FREYA. I don't think any more needs to be said. Do you?

SVEN. But I didn't mean a word –

FREYA. So why say it?

SVEN. It didn't feel like it was me!

FREYA. Oh, so someone just put the words in your mouth, did they?

SVEN. It's crazy – but that's what it felt like!

FREYA. You laughed in my face!

### **MG returns with wallpaper and stops in the doorway. HEIDI is behind her, straining to hear**

And how dare you call my mother 'The back end of a particularly unattractive bus!' She may not be the most beautiful woman in the world, but she's lovely and kind and I love her!



- SVEN. I know you do and I don't know what made me say it! I am really, truly sorry!
- MG. **(interrupting as if nothing has happened)** Here we are, dears... **(A pause)** Sven dear, if you've got nothing better to do, why don't you stay and help us do a bit of wall papering?
- FREYA. **(ominously)** Yes, that would be a VERY good idea!
- SVEN. Well, if you think I can be of help?
- MG. Of course, you can.

**MG puts a roll of wallpaper on the table, but every time she goes to paste it, it rolls back up**

Actually, it's lucky that you're here. Could you hold the ends out for me? Thank you.

**SVEN awkwardly splays himself out on the table, holding the paper flat**

Oh, that's much better.... I can get lots of paste on now.

**MG liberally pastes the paper, not noticing she is pasting SVEN's face, which moves sideways with each swipe of the brush. FREYA and HEIDI watch delightedly**

There we are. Thank you, Sven.

- SVEN. It's a pleasure, Mrs Goose.

**SVEN wipes his eyes with a towel, whilst MG climbs the ladder. She holds the paper out in front of her. Unaware of what is happening, she repeatedly treads on and tears it. By the time she reaches the top, she is left with a tiny scrap**

- MG. Oh, dear. Maybe we need to do it differently.
- SVEN. Yes, Mrs Goose.
- MG. I'll paste it up here. Will you hold the bucket for me?
- SVEN. **(Miserably picking it up)** Yes, of course.

**MG climbs back up the ladder with a new sheet. She holds it against the wall with one hand and with the other takes the brush and dips it in the bucket. Each time she does so, SVEN gets a splosh in the face.**

**FREYA has been whispering to HEIDI, who creeps round behind SVEN and with a quick nudge upends the bucket over his head**

MG. Oh, dear. Did I do that?

SVEN. **(clearing away the gloop)** I don't - I don't really know how it happened.

MG. Well. Wipe your face down, dear.

**Semi blinded, SVEN goes back to get the towel, unwittingly standing in the bucket that has been conveniently placed by FREYA...**

MG. Oh, dear! I hope we haven't ruined your clothes, Sven.

SVEN. No, no that's quite alright. **(Short pause)** It's just a splash.

MG. Well, if you're sure. I think I need the bucket a bit higher.

SVEN. Ok... **(FREYA hands SVEN a new bucket, which has no base. SVEN holds it above his head)** Thank you...

**High up the ladder, MG dips the brush and applies some paste. She goes to repeat, but realises the bucket is empty**

MG. Freya, be a dear and bring me some more paste would you?

**FREYA passes a full bucket of paste to MG**

Thank you.

**MG pours the paste into the bucket over SVEN'S head. SVEN is drenched**

Oh no...! Don't laugh, girls! I think there must have been a bit of a hole in that bucket, Sven - would you like to go home for a change of clothes?

SVEN. Yes, please... Well, good-bye, everybody. **(A beat)** Thank you for having me. **(Exits)**

MG. **(calling after him)** Not at all, Sven... **(Sotto voce)** Maybe next time we should get a proper man in, Freya. We'd better tidy up!

**MG, HEIDI and Freya start to tidy up**

BARON. (off) Hellooo! **(Entering carrying a bunch of flowers)** Is anyone at home? I've just popped round from me castle next door. For you dear lady. **(Presents flowers)**

MG. **(flattered in spite of herself)** Oooh, flowers! I'm afraid you've caught me in my overalls.

BARON. Not at all. They have a certain - utility chic.

MG. Do you think so?

BARON. There's something about a generously proportioned woman in protective clothing.

MG. Is there?!

BARON. But put that aside - I suddenly thought "Is Heidi lonely?" and if so, "Can I help?"

**HEIDI shakes her head in definite denial**

MG. Really?!! That's just what I was thinking last night!

BARON. We think as one! And that's why I've brought my little boy goose Gonk – I mean, Honk! **(Calling)** In you come, Honk!

**GONK enters, dressed as a goose, carrying a coil of rope**

BARON. Between you and me, I think he's pining for a mate.

MG. No?!

BARON. Yes. I heard his sad and lonesome call only this morning... Show us your sad and lonesome call, Honk.

**GONK enthusiastically trumpets a vibrant call. Then blows a kiss and winks suggestively at HEIDI. HEIDI is appalled**

BARON. There, you see. Lovesick!

FREYA. **(stifling her giggles)** Will you excuse me, Baron? If Heidi's got company - I need to go for a walk!

**FREYA exits, although HEIDI furiously tries to stop her**

BARON. He's brought his skipping rope. I thought they could play together.

MG. What a sweet idea. Heidi, why don't you take Honk next door?

**GONK trumpets his call and HEIDI shakes her head**

Now, don't be silly dear. It's lovely for you to have a bit of goosey company.

**GONK approaches. HEIDI elbows him in the guts**

BARON. Why, they're frisking about already!

**HEIDI kicks GONK**

MG. Heidi, I'm disappointed in your manners. Now, take Honk next door and make him welcome!

**Scowling grumpily, HEIDI takes GONK next door**

BARON. **(moving seductively and pinning MG against the pros)**  
Mother Goose, we've known each other a while...

MG. A wee while, yes –

BARON. But I've never asked you your first name.

MG. My first name? Well, I can hardly remember where I put it, but it's **(Name of woman in Scene 1)** Sheila.

BARON. Sheila? The name is strangely familiar. **(Looks at Sheila)**  
And yet – **(Looks at MG)** somehow different.

MG. I wonder how Heidi and Honk are getting on?

BARON. Oh, don't worry about them. I'm sure they're fine.

MG. Are you sure?

BARON. **(angrily)** Of course I'm sure! I mean... **(Sweetly)** Of course I'm sure.

**Upstage HEIDI runs across the stage pursued by GONK with the rope**

MG. Baron –

BARON. Call me Herbert.

MG. **(obediently)** Herbert.

MG. Sheila, what's different about you? Why do you suddenly captivate me?

MG. I'm a multi-millionaire?

BARON. Oh, Sheila, how could you think such a thing! Those golden eggs of yours are just – pretty baubles!

**We hear crashes and bashes off**

I'm after riches of the heart, Sheila –

MG. **(moving)** I wonder what's going on next door –

BARON. **(restraining her)** They're just having goosey fun!

**A particularly loud crash**

MG. **(moving again)** Are you sure?

BARON. **(furiously)** Of course I'm sure! **(Slams her against the pros)**  
Don't you realise that I'm burning with deep, passionate feelings of desire for you!

MG. Desire?!

BARON. Yes, desire! Sometimes a man just has to look into his own soul and say it the way he sees it, and what I want to say is –

**HEIDI enters pulling GONK, who is trussed up in the rope**

Can't you do anything properly, you're supposed to tie her up!!!!

GONK. But your Honour -

MG. So that's it! You're not after me, at all!

BARON. What?

MG. You just want my golden goose!

BARON. Well, I'd hardly want you - you walloping great walrus!

MG. Walloping great...?!!! Get out! Get out of my house!

BARON. Don't worry I'm going.

MG. And take your horrible goose with you! I thought you fancied me!

BARON. Fancy you?! Who'd fancy you??! **(Exits dragging GONK)**  
Come along Gonk. **(Shouts over his shoulder)** Walrus face!

MG. Goose thief!! Heidi, are you alright?

**HEIDI nods. She is a bit shell shocked**

Good... (**Distractedly, draws the door curtain**) Heidi... I know the Baron was only speaking out of spite, but was it true, what he said just now?

**HEIDI shakes her head**

Heidi... Please tell me the truth. Am I really ugly?

**HEIDI tries to deny it)**

No, Heidi the truth...

**HEIDI nods unwillingly and then snuggles up to her**

Thank you, Heidi. I wish it wasn't so, but it is... Heidi, darling, would you give me five minutes? (**HEIDI doesn't want to let go**) Just five minutes and then I'll be fine.

**HEIDI looks at MG, who gently kisses her. HEIDI goes. MG looks after her**

Oh, dear. I don't know... I guess, I just fell out of the ugly tree. (**Quietly starts to cry**)

**The door curtains part abruptly. It is SMORG. MUSIC)**

- MG.           Aaah! Who are you?
- SMORG.       I am Smorg – the Bogmaster.
- MG.           You're a troll!
- SMORG.       You've got it in one - but I'm also the Bog of Beauty Bogmaster! No one gets to dip so much as a toe without my say so; yet one good dunk - and even your own flesh and blood won't recognise you!
- MG.           I'm not sure I like the sound of that.
- SMORG.       What's not to like? (**Indicating audience**) Just imagine whole theatrefuls of people - all coming to see you for your incomparable beauty.
- MG.           Me?
- SMORG.       You. Sheila Goose – Delectamondo! You'll be chairing This Morning in no time!
- MG.           Where do I sign?

## Mother Goose

- SMORG.       **(whipping out contract)** Right here!
- MG.            Hang on, hang on, maybe I was a bit rash.
- SMORG.       Just sign here and beauty can be yours within the hour!  
(Gives contract to MG and speaks aside to audience) That's  
all I need – one little squiggle and she'll have signed away her  
closest friend, Heidi the goose! (Whips contract back)
- MG.            Wait a sec, I was reading that.
- SMORG.       All you need to do is sign – the Bog of Beauty awaits!
- MG.            But I haven't got a bathing costume!

**SMORG makes a sign and a Troll runs in with one**

Or a towel!

**SMORG makes a sign and another Troll runs in with one**

Or a snorkel!

**SMORG makes a sign and two more Trolls run on with  
snorkel and flippers**

- SMORG.       We'll handle the paperwork on the way. Come away with me  
into the dark of the night!
- MG.            **(to Audience)** Shall I...? But why not? You only live once.  
I've got to give it a try! I'm going!
- SMORG.       **(punching the air)** Yes!

**MG and the TROLLS rush out... HEIDI comes back on. She  
is distraught to find the door open and no Mother Goose.  
She dithers for a moment and then rushes out into the  
night.**

**BLACKOUT**

## SCENE 4: On the Way to the Bog of Beauty

Frontcloth or tabs.

**Night. SMORG and the TROLLS enter singing and carrying lanterns. "To the bog, to the bog.... Etc**

SMORG.       **(suddenly halting)** Where is she? Where's she got to?

**The Trolls rush back off**

**(calling)** Can you see her?

TROLLS.       **(off)** Yuk! That's gross!! **(The Baby Trolls rush back on. "We shouldn't have to see that!" "That's disgusting!")**

SMORG.       What is it? What's happened?

TROLL1        She was changing!

TROLL2 & 3.   We saw her without her clothes on!

TROLL4.       It was gross!

MG.           **(entering in a dressing gown and flippers)** There – I'm ready for my makeover!

SMORG.       Well, hurry up!

MG.           But I never got to see the paper thing you wanted me to sign!

SMORG.       **(showing it briefly)** There it is. There! **(Whips it away)** Now, can we please get a move on!

MG.           Alright, alright, no need to get shirty.

TROLLS.       Let's go! **(Start to sing)** To the bog, to the bog...Etc.

**HEIDI rushes on**

MG.           Oh, look!

SMORG.       What is it now?

MG.           It's my goose, Heidi. **(To HEIDI)** Hello, darling!

SMORG.       **(aside to TROLLS)** Lose that goose, get rid of her!

**TROLLS rush to surround HEIDI**

MG.           Hang on, hang on, that's my goose, she's a friend!



**TROLLS allow MG through to HEIDI**

Heidi, what are you doing out here...?

**HEIDI points toward home**

Yes, of course I'll be back soon... I've just got one or two things to do, so off you pop back home.

**HEIDI stamps her foot and tries to drag MG**

Heidi Goose! Don't you stamp your foot at me! These trolls are my friends.

SMORG. Yes, we're her friends!

TROLLS. **(Barbershop a la Jungle Book)** We're your friends  
We're your friends  
We're your friends to the bitter end...!  
The bitter end (the bitter end)

MG. You see? **(HEIDI tries to bar MG's way)** Heidi, I'm going to be very cross with you in a minute. You don't understand! I can be beautiful. Don't you see? I can be beautiful for you and for everybody else. I just need to go to the bog!

SMORG. **(leering)** She just needs to go to the bog.

TROLLS. To the Bog! To the Bog! To the Bog...!

**The TROLLS prevail and HEIDI is left on her own. After a moment or two of indecision, she decides to follow. The BARON and GONK enter**

BARON. Come along, Gonk. It's imperative we find the goose.

GONK. But the house was empty, which way did they go?

BARON. I don't know. We'll ask this lot.

GONK. What if they fib to us, your Honour?

BARON. Of course, they won't fib to us! **(Points the wrong way)** Now, without any fibbing, did they go this way?? **(Audience most probably shout "yes!")** Are you sure...? They're obviously fibbing, Gonk. We'll go this way. **(BARON and GONK go off the correct way)**

GONK. **(exiting)** Total genius your Worship!

- FREYA. **(calling off)** Mum? Mum, where are you? **(Enters)** That's strange, the door was open, yet no one was at home... And I thought I heard shouting. I hope everything's OK.
- SVEN. **(calling off)** Freya!
- FREYA. It's Sven.
- SVEN. **(entering in his Christmas jumper)** I came back.
- FREYA. You've smartened up a bit.
- SVEN. Well, I did take a bit of a pasting.
- FREYA. You deserved it.
- SVEN. Yes, I did.
- FREYA. **(mischievously)** Nice jumper.
- SVEN. Thank you... But I still don't understand what happened. I know it did happen, but honestly, Freya – I don't understand why. I want you to like me, not hate me."
- FREYA. And I suppose I want you to like me too, but. Oh, I don't know...

**Song:** *Oh Boy! / Call Me Maybe*

All my love, all my kissin'  
You don't know what you've been a-missin'  
Oh boy, when you're with me, ho boy  
The world can see that you were meant for me

All my life I've been a-waitin'  
Tonight there'll be no hesitatin'  
Oh boy, when you're with me, ho boy  
The world can see that you were meant for me

Stars appear and shadows a-fallin'  
You can hear my heart a callin'  
And a little bit of lovin' makes everything right  
I'm gonna see my baby tonight

All of my love, all of my kissin'  
You don't know what you've been a-missin'  
Oh boy, when you're with me, ho boy  
The world can see that you were meant for me

Dum di dum dum, ho boy

## Mother Goose

Dum di dum dum, ho boy

All of my love, all of my kissin'  
You don't know what you've been a-missin'  
Oh boy, when you're with me, ho boy  
The world can see that you were meant for me

All of my life I've been a-waitin'  
Tonight there'll be no hesitatin'  
Oh boy, when you're with me, ho boy  
The world can see that you were meant for me

Stars appear and the shadows a-fallin'  
You can hear my heart callin'  
And a little bit of lovin' makes everything right  
And I'm gonna see my baby tonight

All of my love, all of my kissin'  
You don't know what you've been a-missin'  
Oh boy, when you're with me, ho boy  
The world can see that you were meant for me

FREYA. We'd better go in. Do you know where Mum and Heidi have got to?

SVEN. No, there was no one at home, though the door was open.

FREYA. I'm just wondering if something isn't right. Will you help me look for them?

SVEN. Of course.

FREYA. Good. Oh, and by the way –

SVEN. Yes?

FREYA. I've decided to forgive you!

**They rush off**

**BLACKOUT**

**SCENE 5: The Bog of Beauty**

**MG is perched on the edge of the bog, surrounded by the TROLLS. She wears a snorkel.**

- MG. What's it like in? **(Dips toe)** Oooh, it's quite warm!
- SMORG. Yes, it's just right. But you still haven't signed.
- MG. But I need to read it properly.
- SMORG. **(exasperated)** It's a simple formality!
- TROLLS. **(start chanting)** Sign! Sign! Sign!
- MG. It's all very well you lot shouting for me to sign. But if it's a formality, why's it so important?
- SMORG. **(producing hand mirror, which he gives to MG)** Look at that! Is that a formality??!!
- MG. Oh, my goodness. No one should have to look like that!
- SMORG. You see – that's why we're trying to help, we're your friends!
- TROLLS. **(Barbershop)** We're your friends  
We're your friends to the bitter end...!  
The bitter end (the bitter end)
- SMORG. Now, sign before it's too late, otherwise this bog closes in one minute! Sign and be beautiful!
- MG. You're right. I will. Give it here!
- SMORG. **(handing it over)** YES!!
- MG. What's this about Heidi?
- SMORG. Nothing, it's not important! **(Grabs contract back)**
- MG. But –
- SMORG. She just comes to live with us when you're beautiful!
- MG. Why?
- SMORG. You'll be busy!
- MG. Doing what?

SMORG. Calendar shoots - and we'll give her ever such a good home!

MG. You really mean it?

SMORG. Of course, I do. Now sign! **(Gives back contract)**

**HEIDI runs on and starts trying to pull MG away**

MG. It's Heidi...!

SMORG. **(aside)** Oh, bog farts! **(To MG)** Tell her to stop interfering, or I close this bog in ten seconds!

**The TROLLS begin to count down the seconds**

MG. Heidi, Darling...! You don't understand! **(To TROLLS)** Oh, please stop the clock! **(To HEIDI)** You'll have a lovely new home, I know you will...

**HEIDI shakes her head desperately**

Heidi, please understand. I'm sorry, I really am.

SMORG. SIGN!!!

MG. Alright, alright! **(To HEIDI)** I'm sorry... I'm so sorry.

**MG signs. MUSIC. HEIDI faints and is caught by SMORG, who emits a blood curdling laugh of triumph**

Hang on – no, I've changed my mind, I didn't mean it!

SMORG. Too late! **(Pushes MG in)**

MG. **(falling)** Aaah!

SMORG. Finally, the goose is mine - and trolls rule!

**The TROLLS start chanting "Loser, Loser!"**

SMORG. **(to Audience)** You don't think trolls rule....? Oh, yes we do....! Oh, yes we do....! We do, do, do, do, do, do....! We do, do, do, do, do, with knobs on and a cherry on the top....! Alright, alright, alright, just because it's you – we'll agree to differ... But that doesn't mean we don't rule!!

**HEIDI starts to wake up and struggle**

Oooh, look - little Miss Goosey is waking up.

**HEIDI stamps on his foot**

Ow! She got me right on my sore big toe!

**HEIDI kicks SMORG in the rear and he falls over. She punches her arm triumphantly in the air and runs off**

Ow! Well, don't just stand there. Quick, catch that goose!

**The TROLLS run off**

**The BARON and GONK enter**

BARON. There's nobody here!

GONK. **(indicating Audience)** Maybe they weren't fibbing after all!

BARON. Maybe they weren't. Quick, back to the house!

GONK. But what if they were fibbing?

BARON. I don't know – maybe we should ask them.

GONK. But if they were fibbing, they might fib again – and if they weren't fibbing we might think they were fibbing, even though they weren't fibbing, because they *looked* like they were fibbing –

BARON. Yes, alright, Gonk –

GONK. But even if they *were* fibbing, it's possible somebody might have been fibbing to them –

BARON. I said, alright! Enough! I think they were fibbing, so I'm going to wait here. But just in case they weren't fibbing, you go back to the house to see if the Old Bat's gone back.

GONK. But –

BARON. Just do it, Gonk!

GONK. Yes, your Honour! **(Runs off)**

**Smoke rises and we hear a furious bubbling from the bog**

BARON. Whatever's happening now?

**MG ascends from the bog, much beautified. The BARON falls in love**

Sheila! Baby!

MG. Herbert! Boy chick!

BARON. (aside) What an ootchi kootchi girlie!

MG. (aside) He fancies me!

BARON. Where have you been all my life?!

**Song:** *Just Can't Get Enough*

When I'm with you baby  
I go out of my head  
And I just can't get enough  
And I just can't get enough

All the things you do to me  
And everything you said  
I just can't get enough  
I just can't get enough

We slip and slide as we fall in love  
And I just can't seem to get enough of

We walk together  
We're walking down the street  
And I just can't get enough  
And I just can't get enough

Every time I think of you  
I know we have to meet  
And I just can't get enough  
And I just can't get enough

It's getting hotter, it's a burning love  
And I just can't seem to get enough of

And when it rains  
You're shining down for me  
And I just can't get enough  
And I just can't get enough

Just like a rainbow  
You know you set me free  
And I just can't get enough  
And I just can't get enough

You're like an angel and you give me your love  
And I just can't seem to get enough of

Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough

Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough  
Just can't seem to get enough

FREYA.       **(off)** Mum!

SVEN.       **(off)** Mrs Goose!

MG.         It's Freya and Sven!

BARON.      We must tell them of our love!

MG.         No, no! It's too soon!

BARON.      But I don't want to let you out of my sight, you scrumptious  
dollop of totty!

MG.         I'll get rid of them! Meet me round the back of the Goosery in  
half an hour!

BARON.      Till then –

MG.         Till then –

BOTH.       Baby!!

**BARON runs off. MG composes herself. FREYA and SVEN  
run on**

FREYA.      Mum!

MG.         **(turning to face her)** Yes?

FREYA.      **(taken aback)** Mum?

MG.         What is it? I'm busy.

FREYA.      What's happened?



- MG. What's happened?! I'm beautiful. That's what's happened.  
This is the real me.
- SVEN. But you're not Mother Goose.
- MG. Of course, I'm not "Mother" Goose – and less of the mother,  
thank you very much. In fact, this whole panto thing needs to  
change. **(To Audience)** And you lot can stop your sniggering  
– this show isn't 'Mother Goose' anymore, it's called 'An  
afternoon/evening with Sheila Goose'.
- S and F. What?!!
- MG. We'll sing a few songs, talk about my new colour scheme for  
the bathroom and how I love my family. And we can scrap this  
dinky little band. We need a strings section.
- MD. Eh?
- MG. And brass. Go on, hop it. You're sacked!

**MD angrily hits an off chord, shuts piano lid and gets up**

- FREYA. Mum! **(To MD)** You're not sacked! **(MD sits down, huffily)**  
Mum, listen to me – it's me, your daughter, Freya - and this is  
Sven –
- MG. I know exactly who Sven is – and you're welcome to him. Tell  
him to keep his opinions to himself, that's all I can say.  
Anyway, who would want the Oily Rag when they can go  
chuff, chuff, chuff with the Engine Driver?!
- SVEN. Mrs Goose!
- FREYA. **(in tears)** I don't know who you are, but you're not my Mum!
- MG. Of course, I'm your Mother! Now, where's Heidi? I'm going to  
need a photo with her for all my charitable work - in fact, she's  
the only one of you that really understands me. Where is she?

**Baddie Sting. SMORG enters with the TROLLS and HEIDI,  
who is tied up**

- SMORG. Here she is! You're just in time to say goodbye!
- MG. What? Oh, no – no, please, not Heidi!
- SMORG. Too late, you signed her away remember!
- MG. But I changed my mind!

FREYA. Mum! What's this?

SMORG. There's a price for everything and the price for your Mum's pretty face was one pretty little goose!

FREYA. No! No, you can't do such a thing – stop him, Mum!

**AURORA enters**

SMORG. Hey, look, it's the fairytale cruiser!  
But this time honey, you're the loser.  
I've proved my point and had my fun,  
Cos humans, only care for number one!  
They're greedy, vain, shallow and base -

AURORA. I'm sorry, Smorg, but shut your face!  
You clearly played it fast and loose,  
And cheated just to win that goose.

SMORG. It's signed and sealed in black and white.

AURORA. But are you sure it's watertight?

SMORG. Of course, I am, clause eighty two C  
It guarantees I'll have goose for tea!

FREYA. No!

MG. He told me lies!

SMORG. Will you shut up!

AURORA. But that being so, you will not sup!

SMORG. Oh, cut the drivel and go back to Fairyland! Look here. Clause eighty two C. **(Reads)** I, Sheila Dagmar Gunhilda Goose, surrender said Heidi Goose to the Troll Smorg to eat for his tea!

TROLLS. 82 C! 82C! 82C!

AURORA. **(makes a magic pass)** Look again! **(Aurora Magic Sting)**

SMORG. **(aghast)** It's gone!

AURORA. Easy come, easy go, Smorg.

**AURORA waves wand. HEIDI's bonds fall away, she stamps on SMORG's foot and rushes to AURORA**

SMORG. Ow! Not again!

AURORA. You always were a bully and a bruiser,  
But now it looks like *you're* the loser!

**TROLLS start chanting "Loser!" "Loser!"**

SMORG. OK, you've won for now and so I'll beat it.

But I'll be back to have my goose - and eat it! **(Exits with the TROLLS, still chanting derisively – Brave Sir Robin from Monty Python?)**

FREYA. Mum – how could you?

MG. I don't know, but I am so, so sorry – and I'll never, ever do anything like that again!

AURORA. I hope not. You betrayed Heidi and placed her in great danger.

MG. But – I – I was very silly...

AURORA. She isn't safe here – and she can't even trust her closest friend.

MG. Of course, she can!

AURORA. **(to HEIDI)** Can you trust Mother Goose?

**HEIDI wants to say yes, but she can't)**

MG. Heidi, please darling –

AURORA. Can you, Heidi?

**HEIDI is trapped. She looks to MG, to AURORA and back again. Finally, she shakes her head**

Come, we must go.

FREYA. Where?

AURORA. To the Land of the Snow Geese – and the Palace of Light on Magic Mountain.

MG. But she can't fly!

AURORA. I'm sorry Heidi, but you must go.

**HEIDI shakes her head furiously and looks to MG**

She let you down, Heidi, and you must fly away from this place.

### **HEIDI points to broken wing and shakes her head**

Heidi, your wing is strong now. You *can* fly. I promise you!  
Now, say goodbye to Mother Goose and come with me.

**MUSIC, which continues to end of scene. HEIDI makes up her mind. She kisses FREYA goodbye and then MG. She crosses to join AURORA at the wing. She takes a last look and is gone.**

### **A pause**

- FREYA.           Where is Magic Mountain?
- SVEN.            Far north and then further still. Over the fjords, over the sea and beyond the light of the night. No human has ever been there before.
- MG.              Oh, what have I done?! What can I do?
- SVEN.            Maybe you need to go there too.
- FREYA.           But it's an almost impossible journey.
- MG.              I'll go anywhere!
- SVEN.            Of course, you'll need to plan and prepare.
- FREYA.           Sven's right. And I'm coming with you.
- MG.              But it might be dangerous.
- FREYA.           Mum – Heidi is like my sister.
- MG.              I know. I'm so sorry.
- FREYA.           Then that's settled then.
- SVEN.            And, if you'll have me – may I come too?
- FREYA.           Yes.
- MG.              Really?
- FREYA.           Mum, I think he should.
- SVEN.            I'm very good with maps.

MG. Then that's settled too. We'll go together – and we'll speak to the Grand High Goose himself.

**The MUSIC swells**

FREYA. Mum! Look! It's Heidi!

**They look up and then out over the audience. CHORUS enter)**

MG. She's flying! Heidi! Heidi....! She can't hear us, but we will come for you, my darling – and I promise you – I promise, promise, promise, I will never, ever let you down again as long as I live!

**Song: *One Way or Another***

One way, or another, I'm gonna find ya  
I'm gonna get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya  
One way, or another, I'm gonna win ya  
I'm gonna get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya  
One way, or another, I'm gonna see ya  
I'm gonna meet ya, meet ya, meet ya, meet ya  
One day, maybe next week  
I'm gonna meet ya, I'm gonna meet ya, I'll meet ya

I will drive past your house  
And if the lights are all down  
I'll see who's around

One way, or another, I'm gonna find ya  
I'm gonna meet ya, meet ya, meet ya, meet ya  
One way, or another, I'm gonna win ya, I'll get ya, I'll get ya  
One way, or another, I'm gonna see ya  
I'm gonna meet ya, meet ya, meet ya, meet ya  
One day, maybe next week, I'm gonna meet ya  
I'll meet ya, ah

And if the lights are all out  
I'll follow your bus downtown  
See who's hanging out

One way, or another, I'm gonna get ya  
I'll get ya, I'll get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya (where I can see it  
all, find out who ya call)  
One way, or another, I'm gonna get ya  
I'll get ya, I'll get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya (where I can see it  
all, find out who ya call)  
One way, or another, I'm gonna get ya

## Mother Goose

I'll get ya, I'll get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya (where I can see it  
all, find out who ya call)  
One way, or another, I'm wanna get ya  
I'll get ya, I'll get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya (where I can see it  
all, find out who ya call)  
One way, or another, I'm wanna get ya  
I'll get ya, I'll get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya (where I can see it  
all, find out who ya call)  
One way, or another, I'm wanna get ya  
I'll get ya, I'll get ya, get ya, get ya, get ya (where I can see it  
all, find out who ya call)  
One way, or another

**BLACKOUT and CURTAIN**

**INTERVAL**

## SCENE 6: Back in the Village

As scene 1, but clumps of merrily coloured balloons are festooned everywhere. A large bottomless basket is centre stage.

SVEN, FREYA and the CHORUS are attaching balloons and assorted kitchenware to the basket.

**Song:**        *Shine*

You, you're such a big star to me  
You're everything I wanna be  
But you're stuck in a hole  
And I want you to get out

I don't know what there is to see  
But I know it's time for you to leave  
We're all just pushing along

Trying to figure it out, out, out  
All your anticipation pulls you down  
When you can have it all  
You can have it all

So come on  
So come on, get it on  
I don't know what you're waiting for  
Your time is coming, don't be late, hey, hey

So come on  
See the light on your face  
Let it shine, just let it shine  
Let it shine

Stop (stop) being so hard on yourself  
It's not good for your health  
I know that you can change  
So clear your head and come 'round

You only have to open your eyes  
You might just get a big surprise  
And it may feel good

And you might want to smile, smile, smile  
Oh, don't you let your demons pull you down  
'Cause you can have it all  
You can have it all

So come on  
Oh, come on, get it on  
I don't know what you're waiting for  
Your time is coming, don't be late, hey, hey

So come on  
See the light on your face  
Let it shine, just let it shine  
Let it shine

hey  
(Let me know ya) let me know ya  
(You're all that matters to me) you're all that matters to me  
let me show ya  
(You're all that matters to me) you're all that matters to me  
So come on, get it on  
I don't know what you're waiting for  
Your time is coming, don't be late, hey, hey

So come on  
See the light on your face  
Let it shine, just let it shine  
Let it, let it shine

let me know ya  
(You're all that matters to me) you're all that matters to me  
let me show ya  
(You're all that matters to me) you're all that matters

hey  
(Let me love ya) (shine) let me love ya  
(You're all that matters to me) shine, shine

Oh, c'mon (shine)  
See the light on your face  
Let it shine, just let it shine (shine all your light over me)  
Shine

**They sing as they work and halfway through, MOTHER GOOSE enters, wearing a parachute and carrying a large number of balloons**

MG. I think that's it! We've done everything we can. **(To FREYA and SVEN)** You two just need to put on your parachutes and we're ready to go!

**(To CHORUS)** Bye, bye my darlings! **(CHORUS rush round to hug MG)** Bye, bye! Oh, I'm going to miss you, but when we



come back we'll be bringing back Heidi! **(Pulling free)** There, that's enough, or else I'll cry. **(To audience)** Bye, bye my darlings, I'm going to miss you too! In fact, **(Welling up; gives balloons to a Chorus)** Hold those, dear. **(The person immediately sails off into the wing)** Oh, no!

CHORUS. Aaaaah!

FREYA. Quick! Grab them!

**Several CHORUS rush off and bring them back**

MG. That's it, dears, you all hold on together.

**SVEN takes the balloons and attaches them to the basket**

FREYA. Are we all done?

MG. **(wiping a tear away)** Yes... We're done.

SVEN. Then let's get on our way!

MG. Oooh! I can't wait! You sit there, Freya; you there, Sven - and me here!

**MG, FREYA and SVEN get into the basket**

Are you all set to navigate, Sven?

SVEN. I have a map and two watches. This one tells the time and the other is actually a compass.

MG. Brilliant!

FREYA. **brandishing large pair of scissors)** Is everybody ready?

MG & S. Ready!!

FREYA. Then off we go!

**Cuts ribbons ostensibly holding the contraption in place**

MG. I can feel us moving!

FREYA. I can feel it too!

**They lift the basket up. We can see the bottom half of their legs. They lurch L or R**

SVEN. We're being caught in the breeze!

**They lurch the other way**

ALL 3.           Whoohaah!

MG.               We're taking off!

CHORUS.       Bye, bye!! Bye, bye Mother Goose! Bye, bye Freya! Etc.

ALL 3.           Bye, bye! Bye, bye!

MG.               We're flying! We're in the air!

**MUSIC**

**BLACKOUT**

**SCENE 7: Somewhere Else Back in the Village****Front Tabs**

SMORG. I'm not having a good time! Are you having a good time?  
**(Audience response)** It's not fair – I ask you - how's a bog troll meant to enjoy himself when everyone hates him? Even my own trolls calling me a loser - and I was so close to worldwide troll fame and fortune! But I take comfort from the words of that great Scottish Troll, Robert the Bog. "If at first you don't succeed - squash the spider." And I need to squash Heidi the goose...! Oh, yes, that'll take the smug look off Aurora's face! So, first I need to get that little goose back – and I can think of someone who wants her back almost as badly as I do. And here he comes now...

**SMORG hides to one side. The BARON and GONK enter with the telescope**

BARON. Quick, Gonk. Set it up. I want to see if the old bat's airborne!

GONK. Yes, your Honour.

BARON. Three hours I waited behind that Goosery.

GONK. I can't believe she stood you up.

BARON. What?

GONK. Rejecting a man like your Radiance!

BARON. Shut up, Gonk!

GONK. But it's not right -

BARON. I said, shut up!

GONK. Making you look like a wombat.

BARON. Will you shut up! What I saw in that old frump I'll never know – and now she's lost the goose!

GONK. **(looking through telescope)** Your Honour! They're in the air!  
And - oh, they're really pretty!

BARON. What are?

GONK. All those little balloons!

BARON. Eh?

- GONK. Hundreds of little balloons!
- BARON. Give it here! **(Looking)** I knew it! She's on her way – and with my nephew too! We must beat them to Magic Mountain!
- SMORG. **(appearing)** And with my help, maybe you will.
- BARON. Oh, yes? **(Aside)** Who is this smelly man?
- SMORG. Smorg's the name. **(Aside)** Stuck up old toff! **(To BARON)** Have you not heard of the Giant Geese of Boundtobiteyoo?
- BARON. No, I haven't.
- SMORG. Well, they're the strongest, swiftest geese this side of fantasy – and they'll get you to Magic Mountain faster than you can say -
- BARON. What?
- SMORG. Get me to Magic Mountain.
- BARON. Really?
- GONK. That's fast.
- BARON. Where can they be found?
- SMORG. **(pointing off)** Just there.
- GONK. **(looking)** Wow! They're enormous! They're the bad boys, your Honour!
- BARON. Goodness - they certainly are. Well, what are we waiting for? "Get me to Magic Mountain!" Come on, Gonk. Vamoose! Let's get the Goose! **(Exits with GONK)**
- SMORG. Yes, you go do that - and then fly back to me, my chickens. Fly back to Smorgy Porgy – oh, I do love it when everything goes wrong! **(to Audience)** You don't agree with me? Well, tough - I'll see you all again at supptime! **(Exits laughing wickedly)**

**Baddie Sting**

**BLACKOUT**

**SCENE 8: The Doomed Flight of Goose Force One****Frontcloth**

**MUSIC.** In the dark we hear crashes of lightning and rumbles of thunder. **AURORA** runs into a tight spot of light.

**CHORUS** and cardboard cut-outs (Balloon, Mountain, Lightning, etc.) enact the narrative

**AURORA.** Oh, dear! I just popped on to let you know it's tough out there for Mother Goose and Freya and Sven! And just when I thought they were doing so well! Bobbing along over forests and mountains for miles and miles, with my beautiful Northern lights guiding their way. But now the most awful storm has started up!

**Renewed crashes of thunder and lightning**

Thunder and lightning and the cruelest of arctic blizzards bouncing their little balloon this way and that. I knew it was only a matter of time before they crashed – and now they have! Smack into the side of a mountain and it's wild country out there. Full of trolls and all sorts! Fortunately, they're all still in one piece – and if they can just find some shelter for the night they should be ok. I'll cast a spell to keep them safe. **(Waves wand – Magic sting)** There... we must just all cross our fingers and toes and wish them well. Honestly, I ask you. This happens every year in panto – just when you think it's all going so well, it all goes wrong!

**Another crash of thunder and lightning**

Oh, my goodness. I'll see you all later!

**BLACKOUT**

## SCENE 9: Back Again Somewhere Else in the Village.

Frontcloth and in Audience.

We hear demented squawking noises... **BARON** shoots across the stage riding a Giant Goose - goose neck and head attached to a goose body and false human legs. The actor's real legs are in yellow tights, with goose feet shoes)

BARON. Heeelllpppp!!!

**BARON** careers into the opposite wing. There is a huge crash, followed immediately by more demented squawking from the opposite wing...

**GONK** appears riding a similar goose. "Aaaaaaaah!!!" He manages to avoid crashing and gains control of his beast. He enjoys going backwards and forwards, circling etc with a sort of skipping trot

GONK. Oooh! It's quite fun!

The **BARON** totters back on. Conversely, he has very little control

BARON. This isn't a goose, it's a donkey – whoooaaa!!

GONK. You need to grip with your legs, your Honour.

BARON. I am gripping with my legs, now get out of my way – OW – OW - OW!!

GONK. And bounce in the right place when you trot. (**Trots elegantly**)

BARON. I'll bounce you in the right place in a moment! (**Cavorts around out of control**) Oooh! Ow! Oooh!

**Suddenly GONK'S goose savages the BARON**

Ow! What was that for?

GONK. Sorry, Your Worship. Still learning the ropes sort of thing.

BARON. Well, go and learn the ropes somewhere else!

**GONK trots off, as he does so, the BARON's goose goes for him**

- GONK.           Ow!
- BARON.           There, you don't like it back, do you!? **(Suddenly BARON's goose starts to run around the stage at alarming speed)**  
Aaaaaaaaah!
- GONK.           Try pulling back on the reins, your Honour!
- BARON.           Will you shut up!
- GONK.           Pull back, your Honour!
- BARON.           I am pulling back!
- BARON careers back into wing.**
- GONK winces as he watches him and then tries a few tricky manoeuvres, grinning complicitly with the audience.**  
**Waltzing, hopping on one leg etc.**
- BARON comes back on**
- What are you doing now?
- GONK.           Just trying out a few moves, your Honour – a few bits of elite goose control.
- BARON.           Well, you can stop that right now. We need to get to Magic Mountain. Now, go and prepare for take-off.
- GONK.           Certainly, your Honour. **(Exits with ostentatiously expert control. Scowling, the BARON follows)**
- BARON.           **(off)** Ow! Will you go straight!? That's better.... Further than that, Gonk.
- GONK.           **(off)** Further?
- BARON.           **(off)** Much further. Right. Now, it's Magic Mountain or bust!  
GO!!
- Furious squawking noises. MUSIC. A few seconds later GONK appears riding elegantly, followed by the BARON, riding less elegantly**
- BARON.           **(screaming)** Aaaaah!!
- As they enter the opposite wing the music becomes upliftingly triumphant**
- BARON.           **(off)** We've done it, Gonk. We're on our way!!!!



## Mother Goose



**BLACKOUT**



**SCENE 10: The Haunted Hunting Cabin.**

**There is a bed. If space is limited it can be vertical, so that the occupants stand up in it. Above the middle of the bed is a large Moose's head. There is also a large cuckoo clock.**

**We hear the sound of wind blowing, which becomes much louder as the door is opened, revealing billowing snow. MOTHER GOOSE, FREYA and SVEN come in**

MG. Lucky we found this hunting cabin!

SVEN. Absolutely!

FREYA. I'm freezing! **(Shuts door, wind immediately abates)**

MG. That's better. Isn't this a sweet little place! **(Reads framed quotation)**

"Beware all who enter; you have much to fear,  
For only wicked trolls are welcome here!"

Charming! I've had enough of trolls to last me a lifetime!

FREYA. Maybe we should find somewhere else.

MG. Maybe we should! **(Opens door. Roaring wind noises and she is deluged with snow. Shuts door, wind immediately ceases as before)** On the other hand, maybe not.

SVEN. I suppose we'll just have to make the best of it.

**The doors of the cuckoo clock fly open, revealing a face**

CLOCK. Yes, you will! Now go to bed, it's half past ten! **(Doors shut)**

MG. Did that just happen...?

**Clock doors fly open again**

CLOCK. Yes, it did! **(Doors shut)**

MG. Blimey.

CLOCK. **(Doors open)** I forgot –

MG. What?

CLOCK. **(grumpily)** Cuckoo! **(Doors shut)**

- MG. And cuckoo to you too.
- FREYA. Maybe, we'd better do what s/he says.
- SVEN. I guess so.
- MG. Hang on, hang on! There's only one bed!
- SVEN. **(shocked)** Mrs Goose, I wasn't suggesting that Freya and –
- MG. Nevermind. It's been a long day and we all need to get some rest.
- FREYA. **(getting into bed)** Yes, let's. I'm exhausted.
- MG. Yes... Shall I take my boots off?
- FREYA. Probably best if you leave them on.
- MG. You're right. **(Clambers into bed)** Shove up, Freya. Oooh, that's better... Jump in, Sven!
- SVEN. Right. **(Hesitates)**
- MG. Well, come on, then.
- SVEN. Right. Yes, of course. **(Gingerly gets into bed)**
- MG. **(sighs contentedly)** Isn't this cosy! Freya...? Freya? Goodness, she's already asleep.
- SVEN. Is she?
- MG. It's just you and me now.
- SVEN. Right.... Well, er, goodnight, Mrs Goose.
- MG. Goodnight, Sven. I shall sleep like a log tonight. Let me know if I snore. **(Yawns, shuts eyes and almost immediately snores)**
- SVEN remains rigidly awake...MG pulls SVEN toward her. Tentatively, he puts her arm back. The process is repeated**
- (Chuckling and sleep talking)** Oh, you big tease!
- MG snuggles in to SVEN with a vice like grip. He struggles vainly and finally cries out**
- SVEN. Mrs Goose! Mrs Goose!

**MG and FREYA both wake up**

- MG & F.       **(panicky)** What?!! What?!! What is it?!!
- SVEN.         I, er, I... You asked me to tell you if you were snoring.
- MG.            Was I?
- SVEN.         Yes.
- FREYA.        Is that all? You don't have to scream the place down, Sven.
- SVEN.         No... I realise that... Sorry.
- FREYA.        So, can we all go back to sleep?
- SVEN.         Yes, of course... Goodnight.
- F & MG.        Goodnight.

**The three settle down and both SVEN and FREYA are soon asleep. MG remains awake...**

- MG.            **(whispering)** Freya...? Sven...? Are you asleep? I'm wide awake now. Oh, well...I'll try counting sheep. One, two, three etc....

**Slowly the Moose's tongue (arm in long pink sock) descends and pulls off her hat, which it throws on to the bed**

- (Jumping out of bed)** Aaaaah! This isn't happening! Tell me this isn't happening!
- F & S.         **(waking)** What is it? What is it?
- MG.            The moose! It took my hat.
- CLOCK.        **(Doors fly open)** Well, tell it not to! And go back to sleep! Don't you realise it's eleven o'clock!
- MG.            But it was only half past ten a minute ago.
- CLOCK.        It's eleven o'clock, when I say it's eleven o'clock!! **(Shuts doors and immediately reopens them)** Cuckoo! **(Shuts doors)**
- MG.            This place gives me the serious creeps. I wonder if the weather's got any better? **(Opens door and receives a face full of snow. Furious wind noises. Shuts door. Noises cease)** That'll be a no, then.

- FREYA. I guess we'll just have to stay here.
- MG. I suppose you're right. Well, let's all go back to bed.
- SVEN. **(courteously getting out of bed to allow MG past)** Mrs Goose.
- MG. **(climbing in)** Thank you, Sven...But get back in, dear. I feel safer when I'm surrounded!

**SVEN gets back in**

That's right. Everything's going to be fine. We've just had a bit of a day, that's all. And everything that possibly could happen has already happened! **(To Moose, as she puts on her hat)** And don't take my hat off again!

- MOOSE. No, of course not.
- MG. Thank you.... WHAT?!!!! Freya! The mmmmoose SPOKE!
- FREYA. **(equally scared)**. I know the moose spoke!
- MG. **(grabbing him)** Sven, the moose spoke!
- SVEN. Yes, Mrs Goose, I know that, but please try to keep calm -
- MOOSE. Good night, Mrs Goose.
- MG. There it goes again! **(Jumping out of bed)** That's it! That's enough! I'm not staying in this bed a moment longer!
- FREYA. Neither am I!
- SVEN. Look, the moose was being perfectly friendly.
- MOOSE. I am perfectly friendly.
- SVEN. You see? So maybe we should just try to behave as normal.
- MG. NORMAL!?! Well, I tell you what I'd normally do at a time like this – I'd normally leave! **(Opens door and receives a face full of snow. Furious wind noises. Shuts door. Noises cease)** But nothing's normal anymore.
- SVEN. I'm really hungry. Do you think there's any food here?
- MG. Yes, that's a normal thing to do. Let's eat.
- FREYA. Maybe there's something in this cupboard.

**Opens cupboard. Two TROLLS are revealed, blowing rolled up party blowers. FREYA screams and slams door shut**

The cupboard's full of trolls!!

- MG. You see? Normal's been cancelled!
- SVEN. Oh, dear.
- FREYA. Maybe we should just go back to bed.
- MG. OK. But not to sleep. I'm not sleeping!
- FREYA. No, just to be close to each other and I want to be able to hold Sven's hand.
- MG. So, do I. You'd better go in the middle Sven. There's no impropriety, we'll all probably be dead in the morning.

**They all get into bed with SVEN in the middle and MG the side nearer the door. MUSIC**

Right. Let's just sit here and wait for death...

***Spooky Song: Psycho Killer / Poison***

**with the MOOSE, CLOCK and SKELETONS joining in. Towards the end, MG and FREYA get up to close the doors on the trolls and the clock**

- MG. That's it! I've had enough. I'm leaving!
- FREYA. **(getting MG back into bed, the sheets are raised)** Calm down, Mum. Calm down! Come back to bed and calm down!
- MG. Calm down?! Everything is totally and completely bonkers! **(The sheets are lowered, SVEN has disappeared)** Where's Sven??!!

**SMORG bursts out, with an evil cry.**

**MG and FREYA scream again and run out of the door and into the storm.**

**SMORG laughs wickedly as the lights dim to black**

## SCENE 11: In the Mountains.

### Frontcloth

**The storm is still raging. MG and FREYA run on. They are obviously exhausted.**

MG. That's far enough, Freya! I can't go another step!

**MG stops, panting deeply. Over the course of the next 10 seconds the sound and light change from storm conditions to a delightful sunny day. The birds start to sing...**

FREYA. I think the storm's easing.

MG. It's definitely getting better. What a lot of weather we get in Norway.

FREYA. But what's happened to Sven? I was so scared that I just ran.

MG. Me too. I couldn't get away from that horrible troll quick enough.

FREYA. And now we're marooned in the mountains and we left Sven all on his own!

MG. I'm sure he can't be too far away.

FREYA. But how are we going to find him? **(Calls)** Sven...! Sven...!

MG. **(at the top of her voice)** SVEN! SVEN!!!! SVEN RUMPENSMAKKAA!!!!!!!!!!!!.....

FREYA. No, it's no use. He can't hear us.

MG. Hang on a second. What if we yodelled?

FREYA. Yodelled?

MG. Our voices might travel further across the mountains if we yodelled and so Sven might hear us.

FREYA. That's a brilliant idea!

MG. But what are we going to yodel?

### **MUSIC. Behind them the songsheet descends**

Would you credit it? Who would believe that a yodelling song could fly down so handily, just when we need it? There's proof

that sometimes fact is stranger than fiction! Shall we give it a go?

FREYA. Definitely.

**MG and FREYA sing the song through**

MG. I'm afraid he doesn't seem to have heard us. I'm sorry, Freya. **(Exiting)** We did our best. We'd better just plough on and hope to goodness we find him.

FREYA. Hang on, hang on, hang on!

MG. **(poking head back on)** What?

FREYA. Why don't we get them to help us?

MG. You mean – audience participation?

FREYA. Yes!

MG. Are they trained?

FREYA. Who cares if they're trained?! There's lots of them!

MG. You're right. It's a great idea, even if they are a bit rough around the edges. Will you help us sing the song...? You will? Fantastic! On four - one, two, three, four!

**Song: Yodelling Song**

It seems that words alone won't do,  
**Oh, Sven dear, where are you?**  
**Across the peaks we'll yodel to you**  
Yodel-ee, yodel-ee, yodel-oo!  
We'll sing a yodelling melody  
**As loud as we can be**  
**You'll find us all eventually**  
Yodel-oo, yodel-oo, yodel-ee!

**Half way through, MG stops the proceedings**

MG: Stop, stop, stop! I don't think we've made things quite clear. There's a man out there. A brave young man, who needs our help. The key to success is volume – not tone or phrasing – just relentless, ear crushing volume. Shall we try it again...? I said, shall we try it again?!

FREYA. Brilliant – thank you, Nick

**They sing the song through and then listen hopefully for a reply**

- MG. He still hasn't heard us.
- FREYA. Maybe boy's and girl's voices travel further in different directions?
- MG. You could be right. I always sound different in trousers.
- FREYA. Let's split it up! The words in black we all do. The words in blue the boys do and the words in pink the girls do!
- MG. It's worth a try – and remember we're talking about every single boy and girl here – the young ones, the middle aged ones and the older ones, so no shirking! Thank you Nick

**They sing the song the song through with both sexes encouraged to out-do each other**

- Do you know, I think we're getting somewhere. But for maximum effect, I think we need to find a special way to liberate everyone's voices.
- FREYA. How are we going to do that?
- MG. You don't see choirs sitting down, do you, so why should we? So, this time, everyone - when you get to your own bit – stand up!
- FREYA. Then sit down?
- MG. Yes – when you've done your bit, sit down and allow the others to take over.
- FREYA. And then stand up again for your next bit!
- MG. Exactly. This is vital. Otherwise, we won't have maximum confusion – and of course VOLUME!
- FREYA. Well, I'm a girl, so I'll lead the girls!
- MG. And I'm a – well, I'm going to *pretend* to be a boy! Thank you Nick!

**The song is sung through with a ludicrous amount of standing up and sitting down. At the end we hear an answering response off stage**

- FREYA. It's Sven! It's Sven!



## Mother Goose

MG. You're right! Let's sing it one more time just to guide him in – and remember, you need to go up and down like good 'uns!

**The song is sung through and at the end SVEN appears**

FREYA. Sven! Sven you're safe!

**FREYA rushes to SVEN and embraces him**

MG. **(breaking them up)** Hang on, hang on! Break it up! We haven't got to the final reel yet...!

SVEN. I'm sorry, Mrs Goose.

MG. But you're safe! **(Gives SVEN a bear hug)**

SVEN. **(trying to break free)** Mrs Goose, Mrs Goose! There's something I need to tell you!

MG. What?

SVEN. I've found most of the balloons. I'm sure we can still get to Magic Mountain!

FREYA. That's fantastic!

MG. It's a miracle! Let's get going straightaway! **(To Audience as they exit)** Thank you all so much! We'll see you all again on Magic Mountain!

**MUSIC**

**BLACKOUT**

## SCENE 12: The Palace of Light on Magic Mountain

**Three SNOWMEN are revealed standing to attention. The BOSS SNOWMAN enters.**

BOSS. Stand at ease. **(The three SNOWMEN do so)** I won't beat about the bush, lads. Tonight, could be tough. Strange objects have been seen flying through the sky, so we're on maximum alert. The safety of Magic Mountain is in our hands. Are you all complete?

ALL 3. Yessir!

BOSS. Fix noses.

**All three do so**

BOSS. Snow man Two!

SM 2. Yessir?!

BOSS. Your head's on wrong. Take your nose off and start again!

**2 takes off nose. 1 & 3 help to swivel head to reveal eyes. 2 reapplies nose**

BOSS. Have you all got three buttons and a jaunty little scarf?

ALL 3. Yessir!

BOSS. Very good – Snowman Three!!

SM 3. Yessir?!

BOSS. You've come out without any eyes on at all. Go and get your eyes directly!

SM 3. Yessir! **(Runs off)**

BOSS. You all of you need all of your bits all of the time. We'll be working with the Goose Guards tonight - and I don't want anyone saying that a snowman isn't as good as goose.

SM 1 & 2. No sir!!

**SNOWMAN 3 runs back on. He has three eyes**

BOSS. **(furious)** Snowman Three!!!

SM 3. Yessir!?

BOSS. You've got three eyes!!!

**We hear lots of squawking towards the back of the auditorium**

BOSS. Oh, never mind. Something's up lads. To your stations!

**All the Snowmen run off. The BARON and GONK appear at the back of the auditorium riding their geese**

GONK. This is it, your Worship. We've done it! We've flown to the Palace of Light!

**Ad lib making their way to the stage, with the geese taking liberties, biting and attacking members of the audience. Maybe the BARON'S goose insists on crossing through an entire row, whilst GONK infuriates the BARON with well-intentioned advice**

BARON. **(Gaining the stage)** The whole place seems to be deserted. I tell you what, Gonk.

GONK. Yes, your Radiance?

BARON. We need to get rid of these geese and split up.

GONK. But I need to be on hand to protect your flank.

BARON. Don't worry about my flank, Gonk. Let's worry about finding the golden egg laying goose.

GONK. But your Honour –

BARON. No, buts, Gonk – **(Points)** you go that way and I'll go this way.

GONK. But-

BARON. Gonk! That is my final word!

**A worried GONK exits. The BARON's goose tries to follow**

No, boy, we're going this way.

**The four SNOWMEN creep on upstage**

This way! You stupid goose! This way!

BOSS. Bring him down, boys!

**The four SNOWMEN run after the BARON whose goose suddenly makes a bolt for the wing**

BARON. (exiting at speed) Waaaaah!!

**MG, FREYA and SVEN enter in the auditorium**

MG. We did it! And look – all the same people are here to see us again! What a strange life you all lead!

**Ad lib gaining the stage**

Which way do you think?

SVEN. I don't know, Mrs Goose. Each way is as good as the other I suppose.

MG. Alright then, I'll go this way and you go that way and between us one of us is sure to find Heidi. **(Exits)**

SVEN. **(starting to go)** This way, Freya?

FREYA. Sven –

SVEN. Yes?

FREYA. I - I don't know what I'd have done if we hadn't found you.

SVEN. Me neither. I was very worried about you. Let's try to stay together this time.

FREYA. Don't worry, I won't let you out of my sight!

SVEN. And I won't let you out of mine.

**Doom laden, discordant chord**

GHSG. **(off)** Stay right where you are! **(Two Geese wheel on the GRAND HIGH SNOW GOOSE on his throne-like chair)** You dare to intrude in the Palace of Light!?

**The Snowmen bring on MOTHER GOOSE, she is in chains**

FREYA. Mum!

GHSG. Silence! No human has set foot in this sacred place for thousands of years!

MG. But –

GHSG. Silence – you elephantine person! Do any of you know who I am?!

SVEN. The Grand High Snow Goose?

- GHSG.           **(deflated)** How did you know that?
- FREYA.           **(trying to flatter)** You look so important!
- GHSG.           Well, actually I am very important – and I'm nine hundred and forty seven years old! But I've still got all my feathers and my beak is as sharp as a razor. **(Starts to cough. Snowmen go to pat him on the back)** Leave me be, leave me be – I'm the Grand High Snow Goose! **(Boss Snowman whispers in his ear)** What...? Oh, yes. **(Indicating MG)** And I'm here to try this miserable specimen for gross vanity, mistreatment of a goose -and that most despicable of all human behaviour – goose eating!
- MG.               But I've always loved geese!
- GHSG.           Exactly! You all love goose!
- MG.               Not like that – we love and cherish our geese; we provide a sanctuary –
- GHSG.           Not another word! You can't speak in your own defence! Someone must speak for you!
- FREYA.           I'm her daughter, I'll speak for her!
- GHSG.           Not possible. You'll be rooting for her right from the start!
- SVEN.           I'll speak for her – I hardly know her.
- GHSG.           Very well – and make sure you keep it like that. I don't want you going all goeey when I sentence her to death.
- ALL.             WHAT!?!??
- GHSG.           Silence! I haven't lived nine hundred and forty seven years in order to tolerate idle backchat. **(Resumes coughing. Snowmen go to assist)** Will you leave me be, I'm the Grand High Snow Goose! Now, who will speak against this Mother Goose? **(Sees someone in the wing)** You there! Who are you?

**GONK's head appears around the pros**

- GONK.           Me sir?
- GHSG.           Yes, you sir! You will be our Prosecutor. Come forward and show yourself.
- GONK.           You don't want me, Your Worship. You want the Baron!

- GHSG. I've got him safely under lock and key – and you will be too unless you do a good job. You are the Prosecutor. Let the trial commence!
- GONK. **(miserably)** Yes, your Worship.
- GHSG. **(To the Court)** Now, the Defence will make up its opening arguments.
- SVEN. Thank you, your Honour. **(Clears throat)** To open –
- GHSG. That's quite enough of that. Call the first witness, Heidi the Goose!
- SNOWMEN. **(shrilly)** Call Heidi the Goose.

**HEIDI enters**

- MG. Heidi, darling!
- GHSG. Silence! I've just remembered something. How do you plead?
- MG. **(tearfully)** Guilty.
- FREYA. Mum!
- MG. But it's true. I am guilty. This is all my fault!

**HEIDI rushes to MG and tries to change her plea**

- Oh Heidi, darling, I'm so very sorry. I should never have signed you away! I'm guilty of everything!
- GHSG. Silence in Court! Will the Witness, please leave the Accused alone – and will the Prosecutor please tell the Court how Mother Goose's vanity and mistreatment of a goose deserve the maximum penalty!
- GONK. The maximum penalty?
- GHSG. Well done – I couldn't have put it better myself! Now, after the Prosecution's unanswerable arguments... **(Puts on black cap)** It is with a heavy heart that I must impose the only sentence available to me.

**HEIDI rushes to him**

Not now, Heidi.

**HEIDI stamps her foot, points at MG shakes her head violently and snatches off the GHSG's black cap**

Heidi Goose, how dare you! Leave this court immediately!

FREYA. But she knows that Mother Goose isn't guilty. She was tricked by Smorg!

GHSG. Smorg? Who is this Smorg?

**Thunder Clap. Baddie sting. SMORG jumps on**

SMORG. I am Smorg! **(Points at HEIDI)** and I claim her for my supper!

GHSG. What?!

SMORG. A delicious supper – all signed away to me by lovey dovey, kindhearted, good old Mother Goose!

MG. No!

FREYA. You tricked her!

SMORG. Oh, really? **(Producing contract)** Well, have a gander at this! Have a gander! Even at moments of high drama, old Smorg keeps his sense of humour! **(Reads)** "I, Sheila Dagmar Gunhilda Goose, surrender said Heidi Goose to the Troll Smorg to eat for his tea!"

GHSG. Eat for your tea!! Did you say, eat for your tea!?

SMORG. That's exactly what I said!

GHSG. Seize him!

**SNOWMEN rush to grab SMORG**

SMORG. Eh? What? Now, just a moment!

GHSG. This is the worst case of goose eating I've ever encountered! Take him away to be frozen and packaged!

SMORG. You can't do that to me!

GHSG. Why ever not? Take him away and freeze him!

**AURORA appears**

GHSG. It's the Fairy Aurora!

SMORG. They want to freeze me!

- AURORA. Well, I can't say I blame them. **(To Audience)** What do you think? Shall we let the Snowmen take him away to be frozen?  
**(Audience shout)**
- SNOWMEN. **(chanting)** Freeze him! Freeze him! Freeze him!
- SMORG. No, no!
- AURORA. Are you sure? **(Audience and SNOWMEN shout)**
- SMORG. No – no – I'll do anything!
- AURORA. Anything?
- SMORG. Anything!!
- SNOWMEN. Freeze him! Freeze him! Freeze him!
- AURORA. Did you trick Mother Goose into signing Heidi away?
- SMORG. Yes! Yes! But it was just a bit of a joke!
- GHSG. **(apoplectic)** Eating a goose for a bit of a joke!! Aurora, he must be frozen!!
- SMORG. I'm a vegetarian. I eat mashed potato and bog fruits!
- AURORA. Well, I think we should let them freeze you, unless –
- SMORG. Yes?!
- AURORA. You apologise for tricking Mother Goose and promise to be good!
- SMORG. But I'm a troll!
- AURORA. You'll be a frozen troll in a minute!
- SMORG. Alright, alright, I'm really, really sorry!
- AURORA. And...?
- SMORG. I promise to be good!
- AURORA. **(waves wand)** In that case – let it be so!

### **Aurora Magic Sting**

- SMORG. Oooh, ah, oooh! I feel better. I feel good...! I feel really good...! I am good and I'll never think of eating a goose as long as I live!



**ALL cheer**

MG. Does that mean we can take Heidi home?

SMORG. Of course, you can, dear lady.

AURORA. But is she not already home?

**HEIDI runs to MOTHER GOOSE**

MG. **(hugging her)** Oh, Heidi!

AURORA. Well, in that case -

FREYA. We'll be one big happy family again! In fact, we might be even more of a family if Sven can pluck up the courage to ask me to marry him!

SVEN. Me?

FREYA. Well, who else is going to do it?!

SVEN. Yes, of course. That is, as long as it's OK with you, Mrs Goose? And I suppose I really ought to ask Uncle.

BARON. **(entering)** Ask Uncle what?

MG. I'm going to be your sister in law!

BARON. If you think I want you as a sister in law –

**SMORG Magic sting - SMORG makes a magic pass at the BARON**

Ding dong bell, look who's in the well! **(Aside)** I didn't mean to say that!

MG. I beg your pardon?

**SMORG Magic sting – SMORG makes another pass**

BARON. Why, you're the most beautiful creature I've seen on four legs or two!

MG. Baron!

BARON. **(aside)** What am I saying?!

**SMORG Magic sting – SMORG makes another pass**

Marry me, Sheila, make me complete! **(Aside)** This isn't me at all!

MG. But I accept!

BARON. What?!

MG. In front of all these witnesses!

BARON. Curses, I've been done up like a kipper!

MG. **(taking his arm)** Just you wait till I get you back home!

AURORA. Quite right too, we should be getting along.

MG. Back to the Goosery for a double wedding!

**Song:** *Venus / The Best Years of our Lives*

A goddess on a mountain top  
Was burning like a silver flame  
The summit of beauty and love  
And Venus was her name

She's got it  
Yeah, baby, she's got it  
Well, I'm your Venus  
I'm your fire, at your desire  
Well, I'm your Venus  
I'm your fire, at your desire

Her weapons were her crystal eyes  
Making every man mad  
Black as the dark night she was  
Got what no one else had, whoa!

She's got it  
Yeah, baby, she's got it  
Well, I'm your Venus  
I'm your fire, at your desire  
Well, I'm your Venus  
I'm your fire, at your desire

She's got it  
Yeah, baby, she's got it  
Well, I'm your Venus  
I'm your fire, at your desire  
Well, I'm your Venus  
I'm your fire, at your desire

**SCENE 13: Audience Participation**

MG Well that was fun wasn't it? And while they all get ready for the big weddings we've got some time together again. And you know what that means, don't you? Yes it's sing-a-long time

And because we also want to get to the pub just as much as you we'll get the lyrics straight on and get singing. **(Call off)** can we have the lyrics please.....? Actually I'm not sure we'll even need them this year.

Do we all know this song? Brilliant, let's do it. Full volume please. Nick? – count us in please....

**Song: Country Roads**

Country roads, take me home  
To the place, where I belong  
West Virginia, Mountain mamma  
Take me home, down country roads

MG Do let me know....especially you Shiela. I have to go and get ready for the wedding now so I'll leave you with these lovely people

#1 I think we're well warmed up now but just in case, let's sing this once more all together

**Sing**

#2 Excellent, now this year we're going to try something absolutely brand new. We're going to have a race and see who can sing fastest

#1 Brilliant. Here's how it works. The band will speed up after each successful sing-through until we have complete and utter failure....

**Sing**

#2 Wonderful. OK, Nick, a bit faster please

**Sing**

#1 & #2 Ad lib competitions until backstage is ready

## Mother Goose

#1 OK I think the band is the winner. Now it's time for the big weddings so let's sing it again at the right speed, with the volume turned up to 11.

**Sing**

#1+2 We'll be off now and leave you with Nick for one last singalong. 'Bye

**Sing**

**SCENE 14: Walkdown**

GONK            We've told our tale of Mother Goose  
GHSG            Who with vanity played fast and loose  
SMORG          I tricked her in to try the water  
MG                Something I really shouldn't orta  
CLOCK           Braving snow and cold and moose  
AURORA          North we went to save the goose  
SMORG          Undone I was, my ruse revealed  
AURORA          Good to be, you signed and sealed  
BARON           I was caught just like a kipper  
MG                And now I help you with your zipper

**Raised eyebrows and unsure looks from the rest**

SVEN            I found love and got pasted  
FREYA           But now we're wed, let's get wasted  
MG.                Wait, there's one more thing for us to do  
FREYA            Heidi. This one's for you

**HEIDI mimes loving the audience (heart shape with hands)**

ALL.              Awww.....and Merry Christmas too!!

**Song:**            *Xmas Number*

**FINAL CURTAIN**

## PROPS LIST.

Prologue

Wand (FAIRY AURORA)

Scene 1

Letter (POSTMAN)

Small suitcase (SVEN)

Map (SVEN)

Large Remote (GONK)

Notes and Coins (SVEN)

Golden Eggs (HEIDI)

Scene 2

Large Telescope (GONK)

Tray of Meatballs (MOTHER GOOSE)

Scene 3

Various Buckets of Gloop (On Stage)

Bucket Without a Base (On Stage)

Paste Brush (On Stage)

Rolls of Wallpaper (MOTHER GOOSE)

Towel (On Stage)

Bunch of Flowers (BARON)

Coil of Rope (GONK)

Contract and Pen (SMORG)

Bathing Costume (TROLL)

Towel (TROLL)

Snorkel and Flippers (TROLLS)

Scene 4

Lanterns (SMORG and TROLLS)

Scene 5

Hand Mirror (SMORG)

Scene 6

Clumps of Balloons (On Stage)

Bottomless Balloon Basket (On Stage)

Balloons (MOTHER GOOSE)

Large Pair of Scissors (FREYA)

Map and Two Watches (SVEN)

Scene 8

As decided

Scene 9

2 Giant Geese

Scene 10

Handfulls of Snow {Confetti} (Stage Management)

Party Blowers (TROLLS)

Scene 11

Songsheet