

Scene 3 – Mother Goose’s Book-Shop

An old cottage style shop. As you come in the door (stage right back) there is a counter. Behind the counter is a desk with a computer on it. Stage left is a door off to the living quarters. It is a nice homely place; there are piles of books everywhere and the shelves are packed with books also. Prissy is in her nest which is on a tea trolley, so the puppeteer can be underneath. On stage are Jack, Jill and Simon.

Musical Number – “Not there yet”

After the musical number Jack goes to counter. Jill starts sweeping while Simon is asleep at the computer.

Jack Right Jill turn the sign, I’ve got a feeling that today’s going to be a good day for business. *(To Prissy)* Isn’t that right Prissy?

Jill Ok, Jack I love your enthusiasm but we have not had a customer through that door all week. *(She turns the sign and immediately the door opens and a villager walks in)*

Enter villager

Jill I don’t believe it!

Jack Ah ha, I told you Jill, I knew today was going to be the day! Good morning my friend and how can I help you this fine morning?

Villager Ah ya, give me two batter burgers, three onion rings, two sausages and a garlic and cheese fry, please.

Jack *(Dejected)* The chipper is two doors up.

Villager Oh right, cheers.

Villager exits

Jack *(To Prissy)* Ohhhh! I thought that was the start of something great Prissy.

Jill Shame we don’t sell chips that was a big order.

Jack Ohhhhh. *(Sits down)*

Jill Don't worry Jack, we mightn't have many customers, or much money, but we have each other.

Jack Your right, we just have to be patient and things will look up.

Jill That's the spirit!

Jack I love you Jill Hickory.

Jill I love you too Jack Goose.

They lean over the computer and are about to kiss when Simon stands up from the Computer and stretches between them.

Simon Your second name is Goose! HA!

Jack (*Sarcastically*) Sorry Simon we didn't wake you did we?

Jill Ya, you're supposed to be working, not asleep.

Simon No, no I was just testing the keyboard for drool resistance.

Jack Ya right!

Simon Alright, no I'll tell you what it was, I was doing a highly specific Yoga exercise to relieve work related stress.

Jack Stress! If you were anymore laid back you be horizontal.

Simon Ok, you have me, I have insomnia; I was trying to sleep it off.

Jill Simon, you'll never change and you were late this morning.

Simon I can explain that, the orange juice carton said concentrate, so I did but nothing happened.

Jill Simon, if ignorance is bliss you must be the happiest man in Nursery Land.

Jack Ya, you'd even fail a blood test.

Simon Anyway my motto is everything in it's own time, I mean what's the point in rushing everything. (*Chinese voice*) As wise man once say – The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Jack Come on now seriously we need to put our heads together and come up with a plan to sell more books

Simon pushes their three heads together

Jack I didn't mean it literally.

They break

Simon Right, sorry, ok how about this. I have been working on some new nursery rhymes, listen to this;

Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To get her poor dog a bone.
But the dog couldn't wait,
So when dinner was late,
He ordered a pizza by phone.

Or this

Jack was nimble
Jack was quick
Jack jumped over the candlestick.

Jack kept jumping,
Much too close.
Now his pants
Smell like burnt toast.

Jack & Jill Simon!

Simon Don't like it? Ok, I've got a million of em, how about this

There was an old woman
Who lived in a shoe.
Which, I think you'll agree,
Was a dumb thing to do.
Her husband divorced her.
Her kids ran away.
The shoe smells disgusting.
Why on earth did she stay?

Jack I think I preferred the original! Just get back to work; maybe Mary will have a better idea when she gets here. I wonder where she is, she's very late.

Jill Well it was a late night last night.

Jack Ya, it was a great party though, my Mother has not moved yet this morning. Did your Dad get home eventually? I'd say he was annoyed he missed the party.

Jill Ya, he came home very late last night and was in a very odd humour. I don't know what that was all about!

Enter Mary

Mary Alright I'm late, so sue me!

Simon Dream boat, thanks for sailing by and brightening up my day. You have been a ray of sunshine on an otherwise miserable day.

Mary I am in no mood for your nonsense today.

Simon Com'n Mary we're like B.F.F.'s best friends forever. *(Puts his arm around her)*

Mary How about you get O.F.F.

Simon I can't help it Mary, I'm a hopeless romantic.

Mary The hopeless bit is right anyway. I have to go over here now. *(She walks away)*

Simon Mary you can walk away but know this: you'll never find anyone like me again!

Mary I should hope not, if I don't want you, why would I want someone like you?

Jack Alright, alright let's try and get some work done before the Kraken awakes in there.

Mother Goose *(Voice off – very husky and rough, Mother Goose is extremely hungover)*
JACK! PARACETAMOL!

Jack Speaking of which.....coming Mother!!

Mary I have a feeling my hangover is going to look quite small compared to Mother Goose's.

Jill How much did she have to drink?

Simon How much drink was there?

Jill Loads and loads.

Simon That sounds about right. She would want to take it easy on that drink. Drink killed my Granddad!

Jill Really, he drank too much?

Simon No he got hit by a Guinness truck, neeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeer BANG!

Enter Mother Goose she is in her night dress her hair is everywhere and she looks rough. Jack follows her back in.

Mother Goose Ohhhhhhhh, Hey Sparky! *(To the lighting man who quickly dims the lights)* Thanks. Ohhhhhhh what a night chicks, what a night.....Ohhhhhhh never again. I feel like I've just come back from the Fianna Fail, drink-in, I mean think-in.

Phone Rings

Jack A customer!

Jill Hello Mother Goose's Nursery Rhyme and Fairy Stories Book Shop, how can I help you?

Sound effect of voice on phone

Jill Mother Goose its Morning Ireland they want an interview.

Mother Goose Tell them I'll call them back, what kind of a fool would go on the radio in this state?
Oh what a night though, the legs are danced off me. Good morning everyone.

Jack, Jill, Simon & Mary Good morning Mother Goose.

Mother Goose *(To audience)* Good morning boys and girls.

Audience respond

Mother Goose (To audience) I said! Good morning boys and girls.

Audience respond loader

Mother Goose Ohhhhhh my head, not so loud. Good morning Prissy my favourite little goose friend, give Mummy a kiss (*Prissy kisses Mother Goose.*) Oh she is a sweetie. Now down to business, give me the morning report Jack.

Jack Ahhh, I've nothing to report Mother, we haven't had a customer all day.

Mother Goose What's the word on-line Simon?

Simon No body has been looking for us, no emails, no tweets and our facebook page is even less popular than Mary Harney's page.

Mother Goose I see, any phone calls Jill

Jill Afraid not Mother Goose.

Mother Goose Ok, Mary do I have any appointments today?

Mary Not a one Mother Goose.

Mother Goose Excellent, I'm off back to bed.

Mother Goose goes to leave

Simon (*Looking out the window*) Hang on, here comes Mayor Hickory and some rough looking fellas.

Jack Ha, I hope he doesn't want the rent.

All laugh

Mother Goose Mayor Hickory? (*To the window*) Let me see, right I'll be back in a jiffy.

Mother Goose legs it off to beautify herself very quickly. She sticks her head back out holding up a dress

Mother Goose Mary what do you think of this little number?

Mary It's disgusting.

Mother Goose It looks much better on.

Mary On what? On fire?

Mother Goose angrily exits.

Jill *(At the window)* I wonder who those men with Daddy are.

Jack Maybe they want to buy some books.

Simon Haaaaa Haaaaa, oh you were serious! I doubt it Jack, two of them look like they can barely speak not to talk about reading books.

Jill Your'e right Simon, I don't like the look of this.

Enter Mayor Hickory

Jack Good morning Mayor Hickory and what can we do for you on this fine morning?

Mayor Hickory Not now lad, I say not now lad. Where's your Mother? I'm here on a matter of some importance, I say some importance.

Simon Your not canvassing for votes then?

Mayor Hickory No I certainly am not! Where is Mother Goose?

Mother goose appears in the doorway, all dressed up and looking her best.

Mother Goose Here I am ducky.

Mayor Hickory Ah Mother Goose, I've come to discuss the rent.

Mother Goose Of course, why don't you step into my parlour?

Mayor Hickory *(Excited)* Oooo by heck I will, *(Remembering)* I mean no, I say no, not this time Mother Goose. I think this better be discussed here in front of everyone.

Mother Goose Oh whatever you're into.

Mary I think I might puke.

Mother Goose Ha, youngens can't hold their drink. Now Mayor you mentioned the rent?

Mayor Hickory Yes, Mother Goose I'm afraid I have to collect your arrears.

Mother Goose My arrear?

Simon I hope you have a wheelbarrow to carry that thing in!

Mayor Hickory You owe me six months rent lady! And it's time you coughed up.

Mother Goose starts coughing loudly.

Mother Goose What do you want me to cough up a lung?

Mayor Hickory Now look here Mother Goose! You owe me a lot of money and it's time to pay the Piper.

Mother Goose The Piper, the Piped Piper, oh he lives down the lane.

Mayor Hickory The bottom line, I say the bottom line is you pay or I have no choice but to serve this eviction notice on you.

Mother Goose Evict little old me? (*Southern American Accent*) But what will I do, where will I go?

Mayor Hickory Frankly my dear I don't give a damn!

Simon (*To audience*) Now I'm sure I've heard that somewhere before.

Jack Now Mayor, we're all friends here. We'll get you the rent, we just need some time.

Mayor Hickory How long?

Jack Say... forty years.

Mayor Hickory Am I to believe you don't have ANY money then?

Mary Let me just check the accounts (*She looks in a ledger*) What comes before zero??

Jill Daddy, what has come over you? You have always looked after the people of Nursery Land, and Mother Goose and Jack are like family.

Mayor Hickory Yes very, I say very like family, free loading off me for months.

Jill Daddy please you can't do this to them.

Mayor Hickory Go-ahead home girl, this is deep, deeper than you know.

Jill But Daddy....

Mayor Hickory Jill you don't understand. I have no choice here.

Jill Yes you do, please Daddy don't do this.

Mayor Hickory I'm sorry Jilly. Mother Goose, I say Mother Goose I have no choice, due to your failure to account for the money owed to me under the properties act of Nursery Land, but to serve unto you this eviction notice and request that you leave these premises immediately.

Jill Oh Daddy! *(She runs out crying)*

Jack Jill!

Mother Goose And to think I had feelings for you *(she flings herself on the ground crying)*

Mary Listen you, I don't know what your playing at, but I think your being very contrary about this, and I'm the one who does contrary around here. What if we refuse to go?!

Simon Ya, right behind you baby

Jack Ya, I don't mean to be disrespectful Mayor, as some day I still hope to ask you for your daughters hand in marriage, but this is unfair and we are not moving.

Simon jumps up on the counter

Simon Hey no we won't go.

Jack Ya we have rights! We'll take this to the highest court in the land.

Simon Dead right Jack!

He runs off stage and returns with a stepladder.

Mary What are you doing?

Simon Going to the highest court in the land!

Mary Idiot!

Mayor Hickory Come on now, I say come on now, there is no need for this to get ugly.

Simon It just got ugly bud.

Mary Ya and they don't come much uglier than him.

Simon She's joking, she loves me really.

Mother Goose So you nasty man, that I once loved, it looks like your out numbered and out of luck.

Mayor Hickory I was hoping it would not have to come to this *(He whistles)*
There is a knock at the door.

Mother Goose Who is it?

Mac Goons.

Mother Goose Who?

Mac Hired Goons
Mother Goose looks out then slams the door.

Mother Goose Sorry we're closed.
The goons burst in.

Simon Oh ya I forgot about those three.

Mayor Hickory So, I say so, are we gonna do this the easy way or the hard way.

Jack What does the hard way entail?

Mayor Hickory Oh I don't know, maybe a bit of a slapstick chase scene, at the end of which you get evicted.

Jack Sounds ok, *(To the band)* Hit it guys.

Music Cue - Slapstick scene

As the music starts chaos ensues and everyone running around screaming, jumping on the Goon's backs etc. Mid way through the fight Jack shouts;

Jack Simon hit the lights!

The lights go out and there is much commotion in the dark, then:

Mac HOLD IT!

Silence

Mac Benny!

Benny Ah ya boss?

Mac Turn on the light.

Benny flicks the switch the lights come up and Mary is standing next to Mac with a brush over his head, about to bring it down:

Mac Turn it off! Turn it off again!

As the lights go down we hear Mac getting smacked on the head. More noise, then:

Bruno I got the fat one boss!

Benny Hey let me go!

Mother Goose Who's the fat one?

Then:

Mother Goose Oh someone is touching me.

Mayor Hickory Sorry, I say sorry.

Mother Goose I didn't say stop.

Mac Alright that's enough.

He fires a gun. Silence.

Mac Alright, Benny count to three and then turn on the light.

Benny Gee OK Boss, ahhhh one, two...ahhhhhhh

Mac Just turn on the light.

The lights come up and Mac is facing the wrong way, pointing the gun away from everyone. He turns round:

Mac Alright, you two knuckleheads, grab Godzilla here and dump her in the street.

The goons drag Mother Goose out screaming;

Mother Goose NOOOOOOOOOO! My home is all I have, how can you do this to a defenceless, old lady. Hold it let me at least get my goose.

They let her go she collects Prissy.

Mother Goose Come on Prissy it's time we flew the coop.

She slowly walks out:

Mac Now the rest of yez, move it.

*Jack, Mary and Simon exit slowly followed by Mac, Benny and Bruno.
Mayor Hickory is left alone, he turns the sign on the door to closed, looks around,
shakes his head turns out the light and exits.*

End of Scene 3.