

Puss in Boots

**Script by
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**All suggested songs are from the Contemporary
Disney Songbook**

Puss in Boots Dramatis Personae

The Miller's three sons:

Percival

Henry

Thomas

Priscilla Percival's wife

The Magistrate

Puss

Villager 1

Villager 2

Chorus of villagers

A rabbit

A partridge

The King

Princess Alice

The Earl of Easton

Footmen 1 and 2

Courtiers and Servants

Reaper 1, 2 and 3

Other Reapers

Mower 1, 2 and 3

Other Mowers

Sir Simon de Gruffwit (The Ogre)

The Ogre's servants and friends.

All suggested songs are from the Contemporary Disney Songbook which is available from www.musicroom.com or any good music shop.

Scene 1 In the Village, Outside the Mill

The scene is one of happy village life with villagers dancing and singing on the green in front of the mill. All but two seem to be enjoying themselves, Percival and Priscilla, the late miller's eldest son and his wife. The magistrate stands aloof, shuffling through his papers and scrolls. Puss is sleeping, one side.

SONG 1 Go the Distance (from Hercules)

- MAGISTRATE Gather round, my good people, and prepare for the reading of the miller's will.
- VILLAGER 1 The miller's will! At last, the wishes of our dear late miller shall be revealed.
- VILLAGER 2 Dear late miller, my elbow! You couldn't stand the sight of him when he was alive. Not many of us round here could.
- VILLAGER 1 That doesn't mean we shouldn't be respectful now he's dead, does it?
- VILLAGER 2 I have a sneaky feeling that his spirit lives on in that one there.
(Points to Percival, the eldest son, who is bossing the villagers around and getting them to stand in line for the will-reading.)
- VILLAGER 1 I hope he left the mill to Thomas, he's a good lad.
- VILLAGER 2 He's the youngest son, you fool. The youngest does not inherit.
- MAGISTRATE Gather round, I say, and be quick about it. I have other more important business to attend to today. *(He unfurls a long scroll.)*
- VILLAGER 1 Look at that scroll, the will must be very detailed.
- VILLAGER 2 It'll take all day to read that out.
- PERCIVAL Silence, you peasants! Let the reading commence.
- MAGISTRATE By the powers invested in me by his royal highness the King, in my capacity as city magistrate and acting as attorney for the late Herbert, Miller of
- PERCIVAL Just get on with the will, man, never mind the sermon.
- MAGISTRATE Very well. *(Clearing his throat)* The will is very straight forward....
- VILLAGER 1 *(Aside)* Thank goodness for that!
- MAGISTRATE Post hoc ergo propter hoc.....
- PERCIVAL In English, magistrate, in English. You don't think these ignorant villagers understand Latin, do you?
- VILLAGER 2 Why, do you?

PERCIVAL How dare you!

VILLAGER 1 That means no.

MAGISTRATE Oh, very well. I, Herbert the Miller do bequeath my estate to my three sons. It shall be divided as follows: Percival, my eldest son, shall alone inherit the mill buildings and the business associated with it; *(gasps of surprise)* Henry, my second son, shall have my donkey and Thomas, my youngest son, shall have the cat.
(Much outrage amongst the villagers at Thomas's lot.)

VILLAGER 2 Shame on you, Herbert. Is that the best you can do for your younger boys who have worked so hard in the mill?

MAGISTRATE Silence that man. This will may not be contested.
(Villager 1 clasps his hands over the mouth of villager 2. Percival struts smugly around and gives each brother a commiserating slap on the back. The villagers drift away.)
The title deeds to your mill, Percival. *(He hands the documents over.)*

PERCIVAL Thank you, magistrate, you have been most helpful.
(He shakes the magistrate's hand and drops a bag of gold into his palm.)

MAGISTRATE My pleasure, young Percival. May you have many years of success as the new miller. *(He exits, leaving the three boys alone with Priscilla. Puss is curled up on one side, regarding the scene.)*

PRISCILLA Right, now let's get on with things, shall we. You two boys shall work for us now.

PERCIVAL Priscilla, you may be my wife but I own the mill and I employ the workers.

PRISCILLA Shall we say five shillings a week?

HENRY No we shall not. I, for one, have no intention of working for you two.

THOMAS I neither. I shall make my own way.

PERCIVAL Pah! All you own in the world is the clothes on your back and a cat. How will you survive?

THOMAS I can look after myself, thank you. All I ask is that, for the time being, you allow me, and Puss, to sleep in the barn.
(Percival is about to answer when...)

PRISCILLA You may sleep in the barn for one year, after which time, if you have not left, I will have the bailiffs throw you out. Is that understood?

THOMAS Perfectly.

PRISCILLA Now come along, Percival, we have work to do. We cannot stand around idling all day.

PERCIVAL Yes, Priscilla. *(They exit)*

HENRY Farewell, Thomas, my good brother.

THOMAS But, Henry, what will become of you?

HENRY I shall take my donkey and offer to work for the miller at Gudrun's Ford. He will value my skill with the machinery. But what about you?

THOMAS I will have to wait and see what fate has in store for me, Henry. I will find something.

HENRY Well, the best of luck, brother.

THOMAS You too, farewell. *(Exit Henry.)*
Oh woe! What is to become of me?
(Puss wakes up)

PUSS Don't be sad, master. You have me to help you. I am a cat of many means.

THOMAS My goodness, a talking cat. That alone must be worth something. What else can you do? Can you sing?

PUSS Oh yes, master. Would you like to hear?

THOMAS Well, I don't know if now is the time....

PUSS The boys and girls would like me to sing, wouldn't you boys and girls?

THOMAS Well, perhaps just a quick one then.

SONG 2 My Funny Friend and Me (from the Emperor's New Groove)

THOMAS My, Puss, you certainly can sing – after a fashion. Perhaps we could join a circus. They might need a performing cat. Or else, I could sell you for your fur.

PUSS Master Thomas, do not speak rashly for I shall help you make your fortune. I have a plan.

THOMAS What plan could this be? It is true, I have seen how resourceful and intelligent you are when you catch the mice and rats in the barn, but helping me make my fortune is in a different league altogether. *(He ponders.)* Very well, I shall give you a chance to prove yourself.

PUSS Thank you master. All I need is a pair of boots to protect me from the brambles, a drawstring bag and a length of rope.

THOMAS How one can make a fortune from those quite eludes me. Nevertheless, you shall have what you ask.

PUSS Thank you master. You shall not regret this. Using all my feline skills of deception and subterfuge I shall make a rich man of you. Whatever happens, you know you've got a friend in me. *(Thomas winces as Puss begins to sing again. A chorus of villagers appears and join in the song.)*

SONG 3 You've Got a Friend in Me (from Toy Story)

Blackout

Scene 2 In a Field Near the Village

Enter Puss wearing the boots and dressed as a musketeer, carrying the drawstring bag tied with the rope to a stick over his shoulder and whistling. He unties the bag and puts some oats and lettuce in. Puss addresses the audience.

PUSS I expect you're wondering what I'm up to aren't you. Well, are you?
Well, I'm not going to tell you. Oh, alright then. I'm going to catch a
rabbit or two in this bag. You don't believe I can do it?
(Sounds of singing off-stage.)
Here comes one now. Just you wait and see.
(Enter Rabbit, who stops in his tracks when he sees Puss.)
Hello, little rabbit.

RABBIT *(Somewhat nervously)* Who, who, who are you?

PUSS I am Puss ... in Boots.

RABBIT *(Aside)* What a strange thing, a cat wearing boots.
I'm not so little, I'm nearly as big as you.

PUSS Yes, but my claws are sharper than yours.

RABBIT Well, my ears are longer than yours.

PUSS *(Laughing)* You can't fight anyone with your ears though, can you!

RABBIT Stand aside and let me pass, Puss in Boots.

PUSS Not so fast, goofy, I have a proposition.

RABBIT A proper what?

PUSS Sition. Oh, never mind. I have something I would like to proffer.

RABBIT I'm not daft, cat, I sense something in the air.

PUSS *(Sniffing)* It must be all the greens you eat that causes it.

RABBIT If you'll let me pass I'll say 'good day' and be on my way.

PUSS Oh, so you've had enough lettuces for today have you?

RABBIT Yes! *(He starts to exit, then turns)* Well, no, actually!

PUSS Then you might be interested in what I have in my bag.
*(Puss places the bag on the floor and opens the neck. Rabbit
hesitates.)*
Come on, long-ears, juicy lettuces, just what you like to eat.

RABBIT Well, maybe just a little nibble.

(Rabbit puts his head inside the bag and Puss draws the string tightly around his neck. He jumps up in alarm and Puss spins him around until he falls over, quite dizzy.)

- PUSS There, I knew it would be easy. Rabbits are so stupid.
(Rabbit moans as Puss ties his front paws together with the rope. Noises off of a partridge approaching.)
Aha, methinks I hear another victim for my trap.
(Enter Partridge, who flaps around nervously when he sees the cat.)
- PARTRIDGE Don't eat me, don't eat me, cat. I have five hungry chicks to feed.
- PUSS Why would I want to eat you? I have a plump juicy rabbit over here for dinner.
(Puss whips the bag off rabbit's head and he whimpers.)
- PARTRIDGE Good, then I'll be on my way. *(He starts to exit.)*
- PUSS Not so fast, feather-face. I have a proposal to make.
- PARTRIDGE No thanks, I'm already married.
- PUSS No, you don't understand, I wish to entreat you to savour a little sustenance.
- PARTRIDGE A little suss what?
- PUSS Tenance. To put it plainly, you said you have five mouths to feed and I have some delicious oats in my bag here.
- PARTRIDGE Well, I don't know if I can accept gifts from a stranger.
- PUSS I am no stranger. I am a nobleman, the Lord Puss, in Boots.
- PARTRIDGE Oh well, that's different. Perhaps I could just try a few.
(Puss holds the bag open on the floor and Partridge puts his beak in. Puss whips the bag over his head and pulls the string tight. He proceeds to spin him around as before.)
Help! Help!
- PUSS No-one can help you now, you're my prisoner. Come and meet Rabbit.
(Puss ties the two together.)
There's no need to look so frightened, Rabbit, I'm not really going to eat you. We're off to meet the king. I'm going to give you two to him for a present.

RABBIT Oh no, what will become of us?
PUSS You never know, the king may let you go. Hey that rhymes – you never know he may let you go. That gives me an idea for a song.
PARTRIDGE No, please don't sing.
PUSS Why not? You can join in if you like.

SONG 4 Someday (From Hunchback of Notre Dame)

Blackout. Exit Puss, Rabbit and Partridge

Scene 3 The Royal Palace

A masked ball is in progress and a number of noblemen and ladies are dancing. Many shield their faces behind masks on sticks. Some of these are grotesque. The King is sitting on a large throne one side and his daughter, the princess, stands along-side him. A footman stands up-stage with a tray of silver goblets.

DANCE 1 A Minuet

KING Goodness, these modern-fangled dances use up one's energy.
Footman, a drink, quickly.

FOOTMAN 1 Certainly sire. *(Rushing forward with a tray of drinks. The king takes two and downs them both before placing the glasses back on the tray. He then takes a third as the footman exits with the tray.)*

KING Well, Earl, what news do you have to report?

EARL None really, sire. All is quiet in your kingdom at the moment and the peasants are not revolting.

KING On the contrary, my dear Earl, peasants are always revolting.

EARL Well, sire, they certainly do not wash very often and know nothing of the refined manners of the court.
(He blows his nose on his sleeve.)

KING Yes, quite so.
(Enter footman)

FOOTMAN 1 My liege, there is a page without.

KING Without what, any writing on?

FOOTMAN 1 No, sire, it is a page seeking an audience.

KING Well there's one over there. *(Points towards FOH.)*

FOOTMAN 1 Begging your pardon, sire, but I believe he wishes to address the king.

KING But I'm already dressed.

FOOTMAN 1 Shall I show him in, sire?

KING Do I know him? Describe him to me, footman.

FOOTMAN 1 Well, he's about so high, he has very long whiskers and a short stubby nose.

EARL Sounds very ugly to me, my liege.

KING Oh very well, you'd better show him in.

(The footman shows Puss in.)

EARL My goodness, it's a cat.

KING Snazzy boots!

PUSS Your highness. *(He bows deeply.)*

KING A talking cat. What else can you do, kitten.

PUSS Well, I can sing and dance as well if you like. *(Does a little dance.)*

EARL State your business, Cat. What is it you want with the King.

PUSS I come as ambassador for my master, the Marquis of Carabas, who has sent me to bring certain gifts to your highness.

EARL Marquis of what? Never heard of him.

KING *(Looking around.)* What manner of gifts do you bear?
(Puss reaches into the wings and drags on Rabbit and Partridge.)

PUSS These, my lord, are offerings from my master's estate by the river.

EARL They're still alive. Is it not customary to kill the animals you hunt?

PUSS Yes, my lord, but the boys and girls would not like it if I killed this little fluffy rabbit and this cuddly partridge, would you boys and girls.

RABBIT We wouldn't have been exactly over the moon ourselves.

KING Well, kitten, I am most impressed. You may return to your master and give him the compliments of the King.

PUSS Thank you, sire, and good day to you. *(He exits backwards, bowing deeply. As he exits he overhears the next line.)*

KING Footman, in the morning you shall prepare a carriage for myself and the princess. I shall drive along the river and see for myself the lands belonging to this Marquis of Carabas.

FOOTMAN 1 Very well, sire.

EARL Let the dancing continue. Musicians, if you please.
(The music starts.)
(To a nearby lady.) Mistress, allow me the pleasure of the last dance with you.

LADY Certainly, my lord.

DANCE 2 A Country Dance

Scene 4 The Barn

Thomas is sitting alone in the barn, carving a stick with his knife and humming to himself. The barn is lit by a row of candles set into an upturned wooden box, which also serves as a table. Thomas sits on a second box.

THOMAS Oh woe, oh woe, how did poor Thomas come to be in this sorry state?

My father, it's his fault, he could have shared the estate between the three of us and provided better for me. But then, father cared for me all his life; why should he leave me just a cat in his will? Perhaps he knew something we do not know. Perhaps this cat really does have powers we cannot understand. *(Enter Puss with the bag.)*

Hey, Puss, you're back at last. *(Looking inside the bag)* What have you got for me then? What! The bag's empty. What does this mean?

PUSS The bag's not important, master. It is simply a means to an end.

THOMAS What on earth do you mean? Oh, never mind, I'm sure you know what you are doing.

PUSS Trust me, master, the plan is going well. Before too long I will make you a rich man.

THOMAS I don't need to be that rich, Puss. I just need enough to survive. Look at me – living in a barn, no proper bed to sleep in, only the river to wash in and no-one for company.

PUSS No-one master?

THOMAS Oh, I didn't mean that, Puss. I've got you, of course. Thank goodness, or I'd go quite mad.

PUSS You must not allow yourself to be dejected, master. You may be down at the moment but it will not last forever. Everything will turn full circle. Someday, you will be prosperous, proud and content, you'll see. It's all part of the circle of life.

(The introduction to the song starts.)

THOMAS You're not going to sing again, are you, Puss?

PUSS Just a quick one, master.

SONG 5 The Circle of Life (from the Lion King)

(Thomas joins in with the song. At the end of the song they curl up together on the hay to sleep.)

THOMAS Puss.

PUSS Yes, Thomas.

THOMAS This plan of yours, will you tell me about it? After all, it does involve me, doesn't it?

PUSS But, master, I'm very sleepy. Can I have a cat-nap first?

THOMAS Oh do tell me now, Puss. I'm simply burning to know.

PUSS Oh very well. It involves the king....

THOMAS The king!

PUSS And his daughter...

THOMAS His daughter!

PUSS The princess...

THOMAS The...

PUSS Oh do stop being a parrot, master, and let me finish.

THOMAS Oh do stop being a parrot.... *(Puss glares at Thomas)*... sorry Puss, you can go on.

PUSS You will have to play along with whatever happens and do not show any surprise.

THOMAS Alright then.

PUSS I have visited the king....

THOMAS Wow!

PUSS And informed him of the existence of a certain nobleman, by the name of the Marquis de Carabas.

THOMAS Who's he? Do we know him?

PUSS It's you, you fool, er, I mean master. I have created an identity and a title for you and tomorrow I shall create lands and a castle.

THOMAS Oh great, you'll pull them out of your bag will you?
(Puss glares.)
Sorry, Puss, I'll play along with whatever happens, like you said.
Tell me what you expect me to do.

PUSS You must go down to the river in the morning, to the place where there is a bend and a large oak tree.

THOMAS I know the place, Puss.

PUSS There, you must bathe in the river and when I say so, you must pretend you are drowning. I will take care of everything else.

THOMAS Really?

PUSS Just remember, you are the Marquis of Carabas and you must be as dignified as a nobleman.

THOMAS It might be difficult wearing the clothes of a merchant. *(He gestures to his clothes.)*

PUSS All will be taken care of, master.

THOMAS Puss, you are either really clever or a complete mad-cat.

PUSS Tomorrow you will see, master, you will see. Now, can I please go to sleep?

THOMAS Yes, of course. Goodnight, Puss. Sweet, feline dreams.

PUSS Goodnight, master.
(Thomas blows out the candles, one by one.)

Instrumental reprise of song 5

Scene 5 By the River

Thomas is bathing in the river and Puss is basking in the sun on the riverbank. He repeatedly looks into the distance for a carriage. Suddenly, Puss grabs Thomas's clothes, which are in a neat pile and hides them under a rock.

- PUSS *(Calling to Thomas.)* Master, remember what I told you. Do not show surprise at anything that happens.
- THOMAS Whatever you say, Puss.
- PUSS I can hear the king coming now, pretend you're drowning.
(Sound of a carriage off. Thomas flails around in the water.)
- THOMAS Help, help! Someone help me, I'm drowning.
(Enter the King, Princess and two footmen.)
- KING Goodness, it's the cat with the boots again. I suppose he's surveying his master's lands.
- PUSS *(Bowing deeply)* Your highness, please help me, my master is drowning.
- KING Your master, the Marquis, is he here?
- PUSS There sir, in the river, he's drowning and I can't swim.
- KING What are you waiting for men? Go and save him. He paid tribute to his king with gifts so I shall see that his life is saved.
(Footman 1 takes off his jacket and wades in to save Thomas.)
- PUSS Oh, thank you, sire, you are so generous. I pray you do not be offended by my master's state of undress. You see, vagabonds stole his clothes while he was in the water.
- PRINCESS They stole his clothes?
- PUSS Yes, my lady.
- PRINCESS Then we shall get him some new ones. Father, you can spare a suit of clothes for the poor unfortunate Marquis, can you not?
- KING Well, I...I...I...
- PRINCESS Then that's settled. Footman, go to the carriage and fetch the King's spare suit.
- FOOTMAN 2 Certainly, my lady. *(He exits.)*
(Footman 1 appears assisting Thomas, who is wrapped in a blanket.)
- THOMAS My liege, I am so sorry to trouble you like this.

KING It is no trouble, Marquis, you once sent me gifts and now I shall return the kindness.

PRINCESS And you shall have a suit of my father's clothes to replace your stolen ones.

THOMAS Stolen?

PUSS Yes, the ones that were stolen while you were in the river, remember?

THOMAS Oh yes, of course. Why, your generosity knows no bounds.
(Enter Footman 2)

FOOTMAN 2 Your suit of clothes, my liege.

KING Give them to the Marquis. *(He does so. Thomas looks embarrassed.)*
Behind the tree, man. You can change there.

THOMAS Thank you, sire. *(He does so.)*

KING And then you shall drive with us along the river and you shall show us your estates.

FOOTMAN 2 Ahem!

KING A hymn? What on earth for, it's not Sunday, is it?

FOOTMAN 1 I believe he means ahem, as in a small coughing sound to get someone's attention.

KING What is it man? You have our attention.

FOOTMAN 2 I'm afraid, sire, that the carriage was parked on soft ground and is stuck fast in the mud.
(Thomas appears from behind the tree, buttoning up a very fine suit.)

KING Well, no matter, it's a fine day. We shall walk.

PRINCESS Oh father, how shall I walk in this? *(She gathers up her dress.)*

THOMAS Allow me, my lady. You may take my arm.
(She looks at Thomas then smiles a broad smile.)

PRINCESS Yes, father, it's a grand idea. We shall walk.
(She takes Thomas's arm and snuggles up quite close to him.)

PUSS It's not far, your majesty. This way, just around the river bend.

SONG 6 **Just Around the Riverbend (from Pocahontas) (first half only)**

End of Scene

Scene 6 In the Water Meadows

*The reapers and working one side and the mowers the other (they could be FOH).
Enter Puss.*

PUSS *(To the audience)* Aha, some peasants pretending to work. Things are really going my way. Using my superior intellect and inbred cunning, I shall manipulate the plot of this play to my own ends. It's a good thing I'm very modest or I'd want to go and tell everyone how clever I am.

Hey you, peasants!

REAPER 1 Oi look, a talking cat!

REAPER 2 And what an outfit he's wearing.

(Reapers all laugh.)

PUSS *(To audience)* Just look at them. They look as if they have not washed for months, years even. No wonder they say, 'the peasants are revolting'. And what a manner of speech; country bumpkins through and through.

Good day to you, revolting peasants.

PEASANT 2 Who are you, Robin Hood?

(They guffaw with raucous laughter.)

PUSS *(Drawing his sword)* I am the king's herald and you'd better not forget it or else I will throw you off this land.

REAPER Alright, keep your fur on. We were just kidding.

PUSS I have an important announcement and you'd better listen well or else I'll cut off your ears. The king is passing through these estates today and he will expect obedience from his subjects.

REAPERS The king! Coming here! *(and other such utterances.)*

PUSS He has bestowed a peerage on your overlord.....

REAPERS A peerage!

PUSS So when he asks to whom the land belongs, you will say, 'to the Marquis of Carabas'.

REAPER 1 The Marquis of Carabas!

PUSS Do you understand me,

REAPER 2 Yes, we understand.

PUSS Good, and if you do as you are told, I will put in a good word for you with the king – and the Marquis.

REAPER 2 Thank you, cat.

PUSS Now get on with your reaping. You can't spend all day standing around chatting.

REAPERS Yes, sir. *(etc.) (They carry on.)*

PUSS The fools, if I find one brain between them I'll eat my tail. Mind you, if you think the reapers are dim, wait 'til you meet the mowers. They are something else. Now I think the king will go this way.
(He crosses to the other side where the mowers are.)
Hey you, mowers, gather round, I have an announcement.
(To the audience) Goodness, what a stench! I wouldn't want to sleep in the same barn as this lot. Just a minute.
(He takes out a clothes-peg and puts it on his nose.)
Ah, that's better. Now, where was I?

MOWER 1 The announcement!

PUSS Ah yes, thank you, young man. I am herald to his royal high and mighty, the king.
(There is a reaction from the mowers to this.)
I have come to deliver a proclamation.

MOWER 2 Procler what?

PUSS Mation!

MOWER 1 Where is it then.

PUSS Where is what?

MOWER 1 What ever this procler thing is you're delivering.

PUSS *(To audience)* Oh, give me patience when dealing with half-wits.
You can't see it, you idiot, you hear it.

MOWER 2 I can't hear nothing.

PUSS That's because I haven't said it yet.

MOWER 2 What are you waiting for then?

PUSS You lot keep interrupting me, don't you.

MOWER 1 No we don't.

MOWER 2 Let him speak.

PUSS Thank you. The king has bid me to travel the land.....

MOWER 1 Why did he bite you? You're the cat, you're supposed to bite him.

PUSS Not bit, you fool, BID. It means he requested me.

MOWER 2 What's wrong with your nose?
(Puss huffs in desperation, takes the peg off his nose and throws it to the floor.)

PUSS The king is passing through these fields today and he wishes you all to know that he has made your master, the evil ogre Sir Simon de Gruffwit a peer.

MOWER 3 I didn't know he had disappeared.

MOWERS Hush! *(and other interjections.)*.

PUSS When the king rides through he will ask you to whom these lands belong. Your answer must be the Marquis of Carabas.

MOWER 3 No, it's the evil ogre, Sir Simon de Gruffwit.

PUSS Not now he's not. Now listen carefully; your master is now called the Marquis of Carabas. Now, what's he called?

MOWERS The Marquis of Carabas.

PUSS Good you're learning.

MOWER 2 What's a marquis?

PUSS It's just a rank of nobility, like a duke.

MOWER 1 Can't he be a duke? It's easier to say.

PUSS *(Getting more exasperated.)* No, he can't be a duke – I told you, he's a marquis.
(To the audience) Give me patience when dealing with the uneducated.
 Now, do not disappoint me. The king will not be very impressed if you do not know your master's new title, will he.

MOWER 3 New title? Has he written a book, then?

PUSS *(Aside)* One day education will be available to all. I pity the teachers who have to deal with people like this.
 And now, without further adieu, I bid you farewell, ignorant peasants. *(Exit Puss.)*

(The mowers drift back to work, grumbling. Some are memorising the title, the Marquis of Carabas. The reapers, meanwhile are all lounging around. Enter the King, Princess and Thomas on the reapers side of the stage, followed by the two footmen.)

KING Aha, there are plenty of peasants in these fields, today.

FOOTMAN 1 Let me shoot one for you, my liege, for your supper.

KING What do you think I am, a cannibal?

FOOTMAN 2 I believe he said PEASANTS, not pheasants.

REAPER 1 *(Jumping up and bowing deeply)* Your highness! *(Others follow his example and bow.)*

KING Relax, my good subjects. It is pleasing to see you hard at work.

REAPER 3 Thank you, sire.

KING Now tell me, peasant, to whom do these lands belong? Who is your master?

REAPER 3 Our master is *(he ponders.)*

REAPER 1 The Marquis of Carabas. You must forgive him. He has a bad memory.

KING Then, my dear Marquis, you must be very proud of your workers. They are doing a grand job. Or at least they've started it.

THOMAS Yes, yes, my liege. I am very proud of them.

REAPER 1 Good Lord! Not only has he a new title but he's much less ugly and fierce than he used to be.

REAPER 2 He must have had a make-over.

REAPER 3 And a face-lift.

REAPER 1 He looks twenty years younger.

REAPER 2 And much slimmer.

THOMAS Well, you know, I've been following the Atkins diet. It has worked wonders for me.

PRINCESS Father, we must be on our way. I'm getting hungry.

KING Of course, my dear. This way.

THOMAS Farewell, my loyal workers. And, by the way, I think I'll double your pay.

REAPERS Hurray for the Marquis.

(They cross the stage to where the Mowers are working. Thomas is offended by their smell and constantly pinches his nose.)

- KING Cease your industry, peasants.
(They ignore him.)
- THOMAS He means stop mowing, men. *(They do so and stare at the king.)*
Do your not recognise your monarch.
- MOWER 1 What's a monarch.
- MOWER 2 Isn't it a religious man who lives in a monastery?
- THOMAS That's a MONK, you fool. This is your King.
- MOWER 3 Your highness, *((bowing))* you should have said before.
(All the mowers bow.)
- KING My good men and women, do not trouble yourselves on my account.
I shall pass through these lands as swiftly as the wind.
- MOWER 1 *(To Mower 3)* Here that, he's got your problem.
- MOWER 2 Too many cabbages, I say.
- KING Before I leave, pray tell me, who is the overlord who owns this estate and pays your wages.
- MOWER 3 He don't pay us very much.
- FOOTMAN 2 Just answer the question.
- MOWERS *(Except Mower 3)* The Marquis of Carabas!
- MOWER 3 The evil ogre, Sir Simon de Gruffwit.....
(The Mowers stare at Mower 3 and Mower 1 stamps on his foot.)
- MOWER 3 CARABAS!
- KING *(To Thomas)* Once again, Marquis, you must be proud to have such reliable workers.
- THOMAS Well, they certainly add a certain perfume to the countryside.
- KINGS Subjects, you may resume your occupations.
(No-one moves)
- FOOTMAN 1 He means, carry on working.
(A hubbub breaks out as the Mowers start working.)
- KING Well, young Thomas, I am very impressed by your lands. Shall we soon see your castle?
- THOMAS No, yes, no!

KING Well which is it, yes or no?
THOMAS Yes, I hope so, my lord.
KING Excellent! Now let's continue. We wouldn't wish the dear Princess
 to faint from hunger, would we?
THOMAS No sire, we certainly would not.
 (Thomas takes the princess's hand and guides her.)
KING Tally ho, to the Marquis's castle we must go.

End of Scene

Scene 7 The Ogre's Castle

The scene opens outside the ogre's castle. One corner of the stage is the outside of the castle and the rest is the great hall. Puss enters casually, whistling.

- PUSS Ah, this must be the place; rather an impressive castle and very fitting for an evil ogre. This is the ideal setting for the last phase of my brilliant plan to make my master rich and famous.
(Puss turns his back on the castle entrance for this speech.)
I have to confess, I'm a little nervous about this bit. I didn't mind meeting the king – but an ogre! It's not every day you meet one of those.
(Enter Sir Simon, unseen by Puss and stands behind him.)
And do you know what? This is not just your run of the mill ogre who yells and shouts. No, I'm told this one is really ugly and has a foul temper. And what's more he can turn himself into any animal. See that bird up there? That could be him watching me. He could be closer than I think.
- OGRE Yes, indeed he could.
(Puss reacts with great alarm.)
- PUSS Oh my goodness. You must be S...S...S...Sir Simon de Gruffwit.
- OGRE Indeed I am.
- PUSS *(Aside)* Yuk! They were right. He really is ugly.
- OGRE And who might you be, trespassing on my land.
- PUSS N..n..no, sir, not trespassing, just passing through.
- OGRE *(Shouting)* And what business have you to be passing through my lands, dressed like one of the three musketeers?
- PUSS I've just been on an errand for the king.
- OGRE The king? Now that's different.
- PUSS I could not pass through without sending you the king's respects.
- OGRE He sent you to give me his respects?
- PUSS Why, yes sir.
- OGRE Well, in that case you must come inside for a drink to refresh you for your journey.
- PUSS Why, thank you, it will be a pleasure.

OGRE Follow me.

PUSS *(Aside)* It's amazing what a mention of the king's name can do.
(Sir Simon leads puss into the great hall, motions to him to sit at the table and pours him some wine. The table is set for a banquet.)
My goodness, you do have a big appetite. Can you eat all of this?

OGRE This is not for me. I'm expecting guests.

PUSS You have guests here? They must be very brave...stupid...er, I mean honoured to be invited.

OGRE I am expecting a hundred to my banquet.

PUSS Wow, that's quite a feast. Now tell me ogre, I mean Sir Simon, is it true you are able to turn yourself into any animal?

OGRE *(Crossly)* Who dared tell you this?

PUSS Oh, just a friend of a friend.

OGRE Well, as it happens it is true.

PUSS You wouldn't like to demonstrate would you. I mean, just something simple like an elephant.

OGRE Ha! You insult me, you little cat.
(There is a flash of lightning and a crash of thunder followed by a short blackout. When the lights come up Sir Simon is transformed into a lion, which is sitting on the table, growling and about to pounce on Puss. Puss shrieks and the lion pounces, mauls him, leaves him motionless and runs off-stage. All is quiet for a few moments, then Puss moans and lifts his head.)

PUSS Oh dear, I think that was a mistake. I should have been more specific about the animal. That's another one of my nine lives gone.
(Enter Sir Simon.)

OGRE My dear fellow, what on earth is the matter? Has the wine gone to your head? *(Helping Puss back to his seat.)*

PUSS No, not at all. I just had an encounter with a superior feline.
Alright, so you can do lions and things but I bet you can't turn yourself into something small, let's say – a mouse.

OGRE *(Laughing)* A mouse - easy peasy.

(The same special effects as before. Sir Simon disappears and when the lights go up there is a mouse running across the stage. This could be pulled on a string. As quick as a flash, Puss is out of his seat and chasing the mouse.)

- PUSS Aha, I've got you now, you stupid ogre.
(He traps the mouse and eats it in one gulp.)
Hmm, he was quite tasty actually. You'd expect ogres to be a bit tough and chewy. *(He pats his tummy.)*
And now for the last part of my plan. If I am right, the king will not be able to resist visiting the castle of the Marquis of Carabas – and everything is ready to entertain the king to a great feast. Ah, I believe I can here voices now. This might be them.
(He goes to the door. Enter the King, Princess, Thomas and the footmen.)
- KING This is a splendid castle, Marquis. You have kept your secret well.
Ah, Marquis, here is your trusty servant to greet us.
- PUSS My liege.
- THOMAS Do come in and make yourselves at home. Er, you lead the way, Puss.
- PUSS Certainly, my lords, follow me.
(They enter and sit at the table. The princess sits next to Thomas.)
- KING Your servants have prepared well for my visit, Marquis. I am most impressed.
(Puss pours wine and is assisted by the footmen. The princess snuggles up to Thomas and takes his arm.)
You do indeed own a fine estate, and a magnificent castle. You also appear to have won the favour of my daughter, the princess.
- THOMAS Thank you, my lord.
- FOOTMAN 1 My liege, there is a large crowd of people on the drawbridge.
- PUSS I shall show them in.
(Puss crosses to the entrance to address the crowd outside.)
My lords, ladies and gentlemen, I have an announcement to make.
- NOBLEMAN 1 Who are you?

PUSS I am the king's herald. The king has honoured Sir Simon with the title of Marquis of Carabas. You will no longer call him Sir Simon.

NOBLEMAN 2 Hurrah for Sir Simon!

PUSS (*Glowering at Nobleman 2*). You will call him Marquis or My Lord.

NOBLEMAN 1 Perhaps he'll be in a better temper now.

PUSS I must warn you he has also undergone a physical transformation.

NOBLEMAN 2 He's not playing at being a lion again, is he?

PUSS You will find his face much improved. The king himself sits alongside the marquis to honour him.

NOBLEMAN 1 The king?

PUSS And now, please enter and join the banquet.

ALL Hurrah for the Marquis!
(Music plays as they enter, each in turn bowing to Thomas and the king as they pass.)

KING Well, marquis, I must say that if you do not marry my daughter the fault will be entirely your own.

MARQUIS Why thank you, my liege, if the princess will agree I will be most happy to take you up on your offer.
(Thomas and the princess embrace.)

KING My lords, ladies, gentlemen (*noticing Puss*) and cats, pray be upstanding for a toast: (*all rise*) to my daughter, the princess, and her future husband, the marquis.

ALL To the princess and the marquis.

SONG 7 Remember the Magic (Disney's Music From the Park)