

SCENE ONE - The Village of Little Dumton

A Narrator enters, taking up a position to one side of the performance area. They are also the prompt.

SONG 1: In Our Village - The Villagers.

Villagers enter, some are shopping, carrying shopping bags, and some are selling their wares. One is even sweeping.

Villager 1. Turnips lovely turnips. Boil them, mash them, roast them.
A truly versatile vegetable. Turnips! Turnips!

Villager 2. Carrots! Help you to see in the dark. Carrots!
Help you to see in the dark. Carrots! Carrots!

Villager 3. Cabbage! Cabbage! Cabbage! Cabbage!

All. In our village, life is always full of fun.
What with dancing, on the green under the sun.
We've a maypole, where we tie ourselves in knots,
And beside it, our good old village shop.

In our village, it is thatched from end to end,
With quaint cottages, that seem to lean and bend.
In our village. In our village.

People are friendly our neighbours are the best.
To live in a village we really are blessed.

In our village, ev'ryday is market day,
Where there's turnips up, for sale and on display.
In our village, it's a great day ev'ry day.
In our village, no-one ever moves away.

In our village, life is always full of fun,
What with dancing, on the green under the sun.
In our village, it's a great day ev'ry day.
In our village, in our village.
In our village, in our village.
In our village.

After the song the majority exit but three or four remain, pretending to chat and buy things etc. One carries a basket of vegetables.

Narrator. A long time ago, in a land far away,
In a village like this, you see here today.
There lived a young boy, his name it was Jack,
But don't worry, no beanstalks, oh no, none of that.

It's Jack's sister Goldilocks, this show features,
And her encounter with several unfortunate creatures.
But hey, I'm ahead of myself and the plot,
So back to the present, and to a large blot.

For Goldilocks and her brother so dear,
Had a mother that some did indeed fear.
Old Mother Reilly, the formidable Dame,
Finding a man to marry's her game.

Old Mother Reilly enters and the Narrator exits in a panic. Old Mother Reilly waves after him smiling.

Mother Reilly. Yo ho, gorgeous...oh he's gone. (*She spots the audience*) Oh hello, my name's Old Mother Reilly. (*She cups her hand to her ear*) What's my name?

Audience. Old Mother Reilly!

Mother Reilly. Oh you are good audience. (*She shouts to somewhere off the performance area*) Hey, this lot's not too bad; you can put the tear gas away now. Well, here we are then. Yes, my name's old Mother Reilly, It's not a very glamorous name is it? You see I'm a widow. (*She pulls out a hanky from her very loud dress and blows her nose*) One day I was a happily, married woman, the next, boom, he was gone in a puff of smoke.

Jack Reilly enters.

Jack Reilly. Well what did you expect? Dad was a pantomime villain.

Mother Reilly. (*Wistfully*) Yes but he was my pantomime villain, oh I do miss him and that wonderful manic laughter. Anyway, as I was saying I'm a single parent looking for a new man in my life (*pointing at an audience member*) and it could be you... oh... and this is my son, Jack. He's well, how shall I put this, one slab short of a patio if you know what I mean.

Jack. Hey mum.

Mother Reilly. Oh I'm sorry dear. It's just it can be very hard bringing up two young children all on your own. Speaking of which, where's your sister?

Jack. (*Worried*) Err...well that's why I've been looking for you.

Mother Reilly. Oh no, what's she done now?

Jack. Well, she decided to go to Mr Crumbs the baker this morning to fetch some bread.

Mother Reilly. Yes?

Jack. Well while she was there, she decided that his oven wasn't hot enough so she thought she'd help him out.

Mother Reilly. Oh no! And?

Jack. Well I don't know all the details, but as I got there, the fire brigade were just leaving.

Mother Reilly. Oh why does she think she always knows best?

Jack. She just likes interfering that's all.

Singing can be heard off the performance space

Goldilocks. His name is Jack, and he's not very bright.
He was dropped on his head and he's never been right.

Jack. Oh oh, here she is!

Goldilocks enters skipping; she carries a basket with cleaning things in which she has through the entire show. She stops and then walks straight up to a villager.

Goldilocks. You should get your haircut, it's far too long.

She walks up to another cringing villager.

Goldilocks. Just look at you. You're terribly scruffy, and you need a wash!

She goes up to Katie Carrot who is carrying a basket of vegetables.

Goldilocks. You'll never sell those like that. You need to spread them out so people can see them. (*To Katie's horror, she empties the contents of the basket onto the floor.*)

Katie Carrot. Oh my lovely, washed vegetables. (*Katie gathers them all up and puts them back in her basket. She returns to the small group of villagers, mumbling.*)

Goldilocks. There, that's better.

Mother Reilly. Oh Goldilocks, what have you been up to?

Goldilocks. Well, I've been helping people out in the village mother dear. I've helped Mrs Butterworth by letting all her dairy cows out of that tiny pen she keeps them in. They all looked much happier walking around free.

Mother Reilly. (*Horrified*) Oh no!

Goldilocks. And I've helped Mr Pimple with his gardening. As I walked past his garden I could see all these nasty, red weeds so I've pulled them out for him.

Another horrified voice is heard off the performance area.

Mr Pimple. My prize Geraniums, destroyed!

Mother Reilly. (*Horrified*) Oh no!

SONG 2: Oh No! Goldilocks - Jack, Old Mother Reilly & Villagers.