

# Puss in Boots

By Sarah Quick

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**Act 1 Scene 1**

DAME

Hello Everybody. I said Hello Everybody. Hello, this side. Hello, other side. Hello in the middle – that’s you sir. I’ve got my eye on you!

Let me introduce myself – My name is Tallulah Tart and my friends call me Treacle. My husband was the baker here in DillyHillyVille...but he recently baked his last jam tart; filled his last cream puff; took a delivery of angel cakes up to the heavens...he died Sir.

It’s been a sad time. He was my one true love. Oh, I had lots of boys after me when I was younger, infact the Bakewell Tart was named after me – but my Bartholomew was the only one for me. He wooed me with cakes – I resisted of course, didn’t want to ruin my girlish figure. But as we grew old together there was nothing I like better than sucking on one of his Rum Balls in front of the telly.

It’s been a sad time. Understandably I’ve not been feeling myself, which is unusual for me because I usually feel myself all the time! Now, I think I’m coming down with a cold...I’m a bit chesty.

He left my eldest Tom the bakery so now he’ll knead to be the breadwinner; to my middle son Dick he left the Donkey which is fitting because he is happy to sit on his ass all day long; and to my youngest, Harry, he left Puss which is perfect because he has always been a big fan of (sneeze) cats.

The problem is is that Dick has vanished and left the rest of us to look after Dolly the Donkey.

HARRY Hello mum!

DAME Ooh, hello Harry! This is my youngest son ladies and gentlemen. Isn't he handsome?

HARRY Mum! Have you seen Dolly - she keeps running away!

DAME No, I've spent all day looking for her. She keeps on breaking into the neighbours' gardens to eat all the carrots

HARRY She *loves* carrots.

DAME I told them that donkey manure was very good on their rhubarb...but they said they'd rather have custard like everyone else.

HARRY Perhaps the girls and boys and mums and dads could help us find Dolly?

DAME Oh, that's a good idea. Would you help us? If you see Dolly the Donkey would you shout Hello Dolly, nice and loud.

HARRY If you shout really loudly then we'll hear and we'll come and find her – do you think you can do that?

DAME Let's have a practice after three Hello Dolly – one two three Hello Dolly etc Very good. Right, let's go and find her – you go that way and I'll go this way. Goodbye everybody!

Exit

## Act 1 Scene 2

READY                    This seems as good a place as any to look for business boys.

WILLING                There aren't many people around.

ABLE                     Erm (turns him around to face audience)

WILLING                Oh! Hello!

ABLE                     Allow us to introduce ourselves.

READY                   I'm Ready

WILLING                I'm Willing

ABLE                     And I'm Able

READY                   And we are your friendly neighbourhood Odd Job Men

WILLING                Not that *we're* odd

ABLE                     But the jobs certainly can be!

WILLING                Sometimes people get confused and think that we're odd.

READY                   No job too big or too small.

ABLE                     RWA are the ones to call!

WILLING                And we're not odd.

HARRY Hello boys, just the people I need! I don't suppose you've seen Dolly the Donkey have you?

READY Sorry Harry.

WILLING Are you supposed to be looking after her?

HARRY I am. Tom and Dick have travelled abroad to try and find an answer to our money troubles and they've left me in charge of the Mill with all its bills, Dolly without any lolly and Mother, who has no idea that we're broke because Dad didn't want her to know.

ABLE That doesn't sound like much fun.

WILLING Its funny isn't it – you're in charge of a bakery without any dough.

ABLE/READY Willing!

READY Wish we could help but we're not exactly flush with the readies ourselves at the moment.

WILLING And we haven't got any money.

HARRY Don't worry about me, as long as I've got my trusty Puss here we'll be alright. And besides everybody's telling me that dad had some gold coins stashed away for a rainy day.

WILLING Hidden from your mum you mean.

HARRY Exactly – she can't spend what she doesn't know about.

READY *She* would try.

HARRY                    Once I find those coins we'll be as right as rain. Are you fellas going to be alright?

ABLE                     We'll be fine.

READY                    We're actually going to go to the palace later to look for work.

WILLING                 The King is looking for people to join his army.

READY                    The Ogre has been causing more trouble up on the Royal lands.

ABLE                     Sending his evil henchman to do his dirty work.

READY                    He's stolen priceless royal heirlooms.

WILLING                 And he's not stopping at the tomatoes.

ABLE                     He wants all the Royal riches and...

READY                    ...He's threatened to kidnap the Princess Aurora.

HARRY                    Kidnap the Princess Aurora!?! Oh no! Poor Princess. You know, I've heard she's the most beautiful girl in the whole world. Don't laugh, but sometimes, I dream that we meet and fall in love...I wish!

READY                    Yeah right!

ABLE                     Dreamer.

WILLING                 Yeah, you just need a magic lamp!

ABLE Or magic beans!

READY Things like that only happen in fairy tales.

WILLING And there's no such thing as fairies.

We hear a loud wailing and sobbing – very dramatic. Fairies enter

HARRY Oh, hello!

READY (to Willing) You were saying?

SPARKLEY Oh no, it's terrible, terrible (blows nose loudly)

HARRY Hello there – whatever's the matter?

SPARKLEY (incoherent) Du Oga Stobl by wanbd. (sobs)

READY What did she say?

WILLING I *think* she said (copies) Du Oga Stobl by wanbd. (sobs)

HARRY (to Dust) Do you know?

DUST (Nods timidly)

HARRY Are you fairies?

DUST (Nods timidly)

WILLING Now, *that's* odd.

READY (to Harry) This is getting a bit far-fetched.

HARRY An Ogre is about to kidnap a Princess, (indicates audience) I think fairies are the least of their worries. (To Dust) Can you tell us why that fairy is so sad?

DUST The Ogre stole her wand.

HARRY The Ogre stole her wand?!

SPARKLEY Und dow I caant bake bagic sbells.

All look at Dust

DUST And now she can't make magic spells!

SPARKLEY De obly dink I haaf leff is a bagic botion.

All look at Dust

DUST (getting a bit annoyed) The only thing she has left is a magic potion.

SPARKLEY Datcanbakeadibalsbeak!

All look at Dust

DUST (shrugs) she's lost me.

HARRY Calm down Mrs Fairy. I'm so sorry the Ogre stole your wand.

READY We'll get it back for you.



WILLING                   Us and who's army?!

ABLE                       The King's army stupid – we're going to enlist remember.

DAME                       Yoo Hoo! Hello everybody!

HARRY                     Don't tell mum about the Ogre, OK? She doesn't know that he exists and I don't want her to find out...she can get rather dramatic.

DAME                       Any sign of Dolly yet you lot? (response) Oh dear - now you will remember to say 'Hello Dolly' if you see her. Good. (looks at fairy)  
What's the matter with her – she looks like rabbits got into her cornflakes and she thought they'd added raisins!

DUST                       The Ogre stole her wand.

DAME                       What!

HARRY                     What!?! (laughing) Ha, ha. Don't be silly. Run along. Vivid imagination. (changing the subject) Hey mum, did you know that they're looking for people to work in the palace. Ready, Willing and Able here are going to apply to join the army.

DAME                       Ha! What, are we hoping to scare the enemy to death through laughter!

ABLE                       Oi!

WILLING                   The threat of the Ogre is no laughing matter.

READY                     Shussssh.

DAME Threat of what?

HARRY Nothing Mum! Erm...the threat of the...odour!

DAME Odour?

READY/ABLE (nodding) Odour.

WILLING Odour?! I said- (Harry nudges him) Ohhhhhh! Right. Odour. Yes, absolutely. There is a nasty odour at the palace.

ABLE It stinks.

DAME They've been eating too many Brussels sprouts!

WILLING But we are determined to seek out the smell and banish it once and for all.

READY It may not be *Fabreezy*.

ABLE But we *pledge* to get it done.

DAME Ha! I see what you did there...fabreezy, very clever, pledge to get it done, I like it.

HARRY Anyway, It's not just an army-

DAME They'll be Glade when it's done (laughs)

HARRY - It's not just an army-

DAME That's no Ly- sol (laughs)

HARRY                   Mother!

DAME                    What!?

HARRY                   People didn't come here to hear stupid jokes.

DAME                    Then they're in for a rude awakening! (looks at him, acquiesces) Alright  
alright.

HARRY                   (just about to speak)-

DAME                    Calm Downey!... No need to Shout! (thinks) I can't think of any more.

HARRY                   Good. Now, as I was saying the King isn't just looking for an army-

DAME                    Oooh, the army - Your father was in the royal marines before he became a  
baker. I loved him in his uniform...and out of his uniform.

HARRY                   Thank you mother. -It's not just soldiers that the King is looking to hire -  
he needs a cook too.

DAME                    Ooooh!

READY                   Who could do that, I wonder?

DAME                    I could!

WILLING                They'd have to be able to cook really well.

DAME                    I can!

ABLE And bake.

DAME Pick me, pick me!! I can cook and bake – I'll come with you to the Palace later on. I'll bake! He won't be able to resist my muffins...and a great huge carrot cake!

SFX William Tell Overture - Donkey enters very excited

DAME Dolly! There you are. (She encourages crowd to shout Hello Dolly - Dolly nuzzles into her) Good heavens! What's got into you.

HARRY You mentioned the C word

DAME I most certainly did not – this is a family show.

HARRY Not that...(whispers) Carrots.

SFX repeat Donkey overhears and goes to nuzzle Harry instead.

DAME But I didn't, I just said about my muffins and the carrot cake

SFX repeat Donkey goes crazy and nuzzles her more.

WILLING Don't suppose anyone's got any C (the others but their hands over his mouth.)

READY Big

ABLE Orange

READY Root vegetables

ABLE do they?

Puss re-enters with a carrot

HARRY There we go...clever Puss.

DAME So, how exciting – off to the Palace to let the King have a nibble on my  
fancies!

READY (to Sparkley) I don't suppose that magic potion of yours could bring us  
lots of luck could it?

HARRY Yeah...Or, help me marry the Princess!

DAME A magic potion – ooh, could it help me win X-factor. What? I've got it.  
The X Factor...And I'd be happy to give it to Simon Cowell anytime!

SPARKLEY No...It's just a potion that makes animals talk

ABLE Oh

WILLING Sounds pretty useless to me. Who wants to hear an animal talk?

HARRY I do

READY I think it would be quite cool

WILLING Maybe we could give it to Dolly here.

READY (whispers) And she might be able to tell us where your father's treasure is  
hidden.

HARRY Ooh, that's a great idea.

ABLE I'll do it! (grabs bottle)

SPARKLEY Careful!

DUST She only has the one bottle.

READY It's precious stuff mate.

WILLING Maybe I should take it. (takes it)

ABLE Hey!

READY No, you know I'm the best at looking after things – I'll take it.  
Donkey has come up behind Ready

ALL Careful!

READY I'm. Being. Careful (turns and Donkey sends liquid flying) Oops!

WILLING Now look what you've done!

ABLE Sorry Dolly – now I guess no one will get to use the magic potion.

Puss starts to dip paw into the potion and lick it up

HARRY Look at that! Clever Puss!

PUSS Miaow

WILLING Great, the cat eats a talking potion and her first word is miaow!

DAME I don't think it's worked. (whispers) maybe this 'fairy' is actually just a crazy lady who like dressing up in fancy wigs and false eyelashes.

DUST A-hem. We are fairies actually.

SPARKLEY Although the eyelashes are an added perk! I just need to say a little rhyme that completes the spell.

ABLE Ahhhh

WILLING/ABLE Of course.

SPARKLEY (thinks) My dearest moggie, fearless Kitty  
I'll make you shrewd, astute and witty  
I'll grant you speech with this here ditty  
Which I'll stop right now coz it's really – not very good  
(moving on!) Right let's see if that's worked.

HARRY Puss?

PUSS Yes Harry.

ALL Oh my

PUSS Woo Hoo!

DAME You can talk.

PUSS I can talk! This is such a relief. I've got so much to say. Oh the years of frustration, not being understood! Being offered milk ALL the time – I'm

lactose intolerant people! And, if Donkey here could talk he'd tell you his name's Dylan...not Dolly!

R/W/A

Dylan!?

DAME

Maybe that's why he never came when we called.

PUSS

Oh, the things I've seen. And the state that things are in up at the mill... It's a good job I'm here...I've got lots of ideas...First things first we need to make some serious money. We're so broke that even the mice are begging to be eaten...takes all the fun out of it!

DAME

What do you mean? We've got the Mill and the bakery we are "well to do".

PUSS

More like "well to don't."

DAME

(to Harry) Your father always said that I had nothing to worry about financially.

PUSS

He lied to you

WILLING

Well, not *lied* per se

HARRY

He was trying to protect you.

READY

Didn't want you to know how bad it was.

PUSS

Pretty bad.

R/W/A

Terrible.



DAME But it can't be. He was a brilliant baker! Every housewife in Dillyhillyville couldn't get enough of his French stick.

HARRY I know mum, but even Dillyhillyville has become more health conscious recently.

READY They're watching their weight.

PUSS Not like you.

DAME Oi! I'll have you know that my body is my temple.

WILLING Of doom!

DAME Men like a few curves...a little something to grab hold of.

WILLING You've got more curves than a scalextric.

HARRY It's the little something they're grabbing hold of that I'm worried about.

DAME Shut it you!

HARRY We are in trouble mum, it's true. But Dad made sure that there was a fortune in gold coins hidden somewhere safe.

DAME Hidden from me?!

HARRY Yes. I mean no, not from you...from everybody.

DAME Oh.

HARRY Do you know where they are Puss?

PUSS I'm sorry Harry - There aren't any gold coins – the Ogre took them about a month ago...I think it's what sent your dad to his grave Harry.

HARRY I can't believe it!

DAME Ogre?

ABLE Uh oh!

READY Maybe it was better when it couldn't talk!

WILLING I don't suppose you have a potion that makes an animal shut the hell up?

HARRY I'm sorry mum. It's true. There's an Ogre.

DUST A horrible, scary Ogre.

SPARKLEY With evil henchmen!

HARRY He's terrorising the whole of DillyHillyVille and he's not going to stop until he has everything we own.

DUST And the Princess.

SPARKLEY He took my wand and now he's taken your gold coins (sobs hysterically)

WILLING Oh don't start that again!

PUSS I can help! I have a plan. And I am just the man for the job.

ABLE                    Cat.

PUSS                    Whatever. All I need is a bag, some fine clothes and some boots.

SPARKLEY            If I had my wand I could get that for you in a flash.

DUST                    A-hem. I have a wand.

SPARLEY            So you do. Here goes

(Magic flash etc etc – Puss has clothes)

PUSS                    Now I'm ready. But first are you sure that you want to meet the Princess and fall in love?

HARRY                I'm sure.

DAME                    You haven't even seen her.

HARRY                I have...in my dreams (Sings) Michael Buble – Just haven't met you yet.

PUSS                    Well, in that case I think I'll join you at the Palace later – I will have something for the King and you will be on your way to marrying the Princess Aurora. Now I bid you people, good-day.

ALL                    Goodbye everybody