

*PUSS IN BOOTS*

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*A PLAY IN FIVE SCENES*

*BY DAVID AND BRIDGET HILL  
CHRISTMAS 1985*

CAST IN RANDOM ORDER

CHRISTOPHER GERALD HICKMAN

ANTONIA SARAH HICKMAN

PUSS BRIDGET HILL

WALLY DAVID HILL

QUEEN PHYLLIS HILL

BARON BENJAMIN HILL

GUBBINS DON ADAMS

WITCH BETTY LANGTON

LADY IN WAITING JOAN ADAMS

GUBBINS DON ADAMS

SCENE SETS JANET ADAMS

SCENE ONE

Chris My name is Christopher. I am but a poor millers son. My family have lived happily in this mill for generations but times are bad, my father died and left the family with large debts. It has taken every penny that I had saved to pay them off and now my stepbrother who is the eldest has reappeared to claim his inheritance of the mill.

Enter Wally.

Wally Ha thats it I've sold the mill. I am rich.

Chris But the mill has been our home for generations. We've been happy here. Its brought us many good things.

Wally Huh I want to see the world. Hit the high spots where its all at London Las Vegas, New York, Walsall.

Chris But dont you remember the good times we had here when we were young. You remember sunny days by the river when the corn ripened to a golden yellow and-

Wally Kellogs made it tasty very very tasty. I'm fed up. Watch out world watch out Walsall here I come.

Enter Baron. Puss hisses viciously at Baron.

Baron There there Puss.

Wally Well lets get this over then.

Baron Give me the deeds.

Wally Give me the money.

Baron Dont be silly now give me the deeds.

Wally Oh all right here you are now you give me the money.

Baron Oh didnt I tell you I'll pay you when I marry the princess.

*Wally You twister, you crook, you Les Dawson, you toad. Give me the deeds back.*

*Wally goes for the Baron but the Baron draws a sword and points it at Wally who cowers away.*

*Baron It must have slipped my mind that I dont seem to have a lot of money at present but fear not you shall be paid. I will marry the princess and then I shall be rich. Now that this mill is mine I want you out all of you.*

*Baron Exit*

*Wally Oh dear Oh dear. I must help the Baron to marry the princess in order to get my cash. Oh well thats still got to be easier than getting cash out of the listening bank.*

*Wally Exit*

*Chris Oh dear, Oh lore, Oh cripes, Oh dear What shall I do ?*

*Puss Dont worry I'll help you out.*

*Chris I must have gone mad cats cant talk. It must be the shock. Cats talking why thats like reading news in the Daily Mirror.*

*Puss Well improbable as it may seem I can talk. You see I was once a fairy princess and then because I was naughty I was sent down here to redeem myself.*

*Enter Gubbins.*

*Chris This cat talks, Gubbins.*

*Gubbins No look dont fool about I've got a new job.*

*Chris I'm not fooling about she talks. Doesnt make a lot of sense but thats fairly usual for a woman.*

*Puss I resent that I went to the fairy university Sheffield.*

*Gubbins Good grief Chris she does talk. Whats your name.*

*Puss Puss*

*Gubbins Is that all ?*

*Puss Yes*

*Gubbins You ought to have two names, its only proper. You know like I'm Gubbins the Cobbler. Oh no I'm not that now. Thats what I came to tell you about I've got a job as a postman so now I'M Gubbins the post.*

*Chris Oh no not another job. You've had more jobs than I can remember. Before you were a cobbler you were a woodchopper but you didnt go a bundle on that. Then before that you sold glass but you thought it was a pain. Then you travelled in ladies underwear until you found it was a drag. Before that you.....*

*Gubbins Yes Yes but the point is that Puss should have two names. Now let me see . I've got it. I'll give her these boots then we can call her Puss in Boots.*

*Chris Who ever heard of Puss in Boots. You'll want to call your dog Puppy in Habitat Mothercare next.*

*Puss Well I think its a nice name. I'll wear the boots always.*

*Chris I think its silly.*

*Gubbins Well I like it aswell . A cat who speaks should be called something special.*

*A knock is heard at the door. Enter Antonia.*

*Antonia May i come in and shelter from the storm.*

*Chris Yes.....Yes.....Oh yes please.*

*Gubbins Its a wicked storm out there. The Witch must have cast another nasty spell on some poor wretch. Where would one so beautiful be going on such a day.*

*Antonia I thank you kind sir for the compliment. I go to meet the Baron Smogvelt my intended.*

*Chris Then.... you.... must be....the Princess Antonia.*

*Antonia That is so and you are ?*

*Chris My name is Christopher oh and this is Gubbins the Post.*

*Antonia So you have to get up terribly early to deliver the mail.*

*Gubbins Yes oh that is do I ?. I havent started the job yet.*

*Antonia I suppose if people liked you then you would be the ante post favourite.*

*Antonia giggles at her own joke.*

*Gubbins Eh What.*

*Chris What amazing repartee and what a delightfull laugh you have.*

*Antonia Oh the rain is easing off now perhaps I should hurry on.*

*Chris Must you go so swiftly please join us in a glass of something warming to send you on your way.*

*Antonia Thank you very much but I really must go. Thank you for your hospitality.*

*Chris You are most welcome Your Majesty.*

*Antonia Exit*

*Chris Oh wasnt she the most gorgeous woman you have ever seen, Oh except Felicity Kendal of course. I think I'm in love. How can I meet her again.*

*Puss I'll help you.*

*Chris Huh how can you help. Wasnt she the most beautiful lady ever. Her eyes so clear so blue like limpid pools. Her voice so melodic. Her skin so soft. Her hair floated in an auburn cloud about her divine features. Her figure was beyond compare and the razor sharp thrust of her wit, her elegance .....*

*Gubbins Did you see the same person that we did?*

SCENE TWO

*In the woods. Enter the Queen followed by Antonia and Lady in Waiting*

*Queen But you must marry the Baron Antonia. He is the only one with enough money to help us out of the mess that we are in. I've explained all that before.*

*Antonia I dont like him he's nasty and cruel.*

*Lady In W He's not that bad.*

*Antonia Well would you marry him.*

*Lady in W Well I am a little young to think of marriage.*

*Queen Come now there is no alternative.*

*Enter Puss*

*Puss I most humbly beg Your Majesties pardon but I happened to be passing and could not help overhearing. I hope you could forgive me for suggesting as a possible alternative suitor the Marquis of Carrabas.*

*Queen Who?*

*Puss The Marquis of Carrabas*

*Lady in W But is he rich?*

*Puss Extremely so. He has too much gold too count.*

*Lady in W Where does he live ?*

*Puss He lives in the Castle Colgate yonder surrounded by the ring of confidence.*

*Queen Why have we never heard of so noble a man.*

*Puss He is very shy.*

*Antonia Is he very handsome.*

*Puss Oh amazingly so he is the most handsome man I have ever seen*

*Antonia Oh please Mummy may I meet him he must be better than the Baron.*

*Queen Yes I suppose so.*

*We shall be pleased to receive the Marquis of Carrabas tomorrow at noon.  
Please convey this to him.*

*Puss As your Majesty wishes.*

*Exit*

### *SCENE THREE*

*In the woods*

*Puss Listen Chris I've arranged for you to meet the princess at court at 12 noon tomorrow. I've told the Queen that you are the Marquis Of Carrabas and that you have so much gold that you cannot count it.*

*Chris But I'm not the Marquis and I have no gold.*

*Puss You can call yourself who you like and you do have gold in the golden grains of wheat and who can count those.*

*Chris I still dont see how it will help but if it works I will give you anything that your heart desires.*

*Puss Just trust me.*



SCENE FOUR

At the Witches Castle.

Witch *Hubble Bubble Toil and Trouble  
I cast this spell twice and Double  
Eye of newt and tail of cat*

*Oh damn I'm out of cats I wonder if beans will do instead ?. Now what sort of beans should I try HP, Heinz Beans or maybe Human Beans.*

Enter Wally.

Wally *I need your help to make sure that the prince marries the Baron.*

Witch *Why should I help you.*

Wally *Because if the Baron marries the princess then he will be able to pay me for the mill.*

Witch *That is of no concern of mine but I will help for 10 gold crowns.*

Wally *But I have no money.*

Witch *Then close the door on the way out. Oh wait a minute you may be able to help me after all. I need a cat. Bring me a nice fluffy cat and i will see what I can do.*

Wally *Oh thank you.*

*30 minutes later Wally reappears dragging Puss in Boots*

Wally *Heres the only cat I could find its a bit mangy but I hope it will do.*

Witch *That will do nicely thankyou. You may go.*

Wally *But what about the spell.*

Witch *Go away before I turn you into something fat boring and very irritating .*

Wally *Not Les Dawson. Anything but that. I'll go.*

Exit Wally.

Witch *Now where was I with that spell Oh yes*

*Witch (continues)*

*Hubble bubble toil and trouble  
I cast this spell twice and double  
Eye of newt and tail of cat  
Come here Puss*

*Puss Keep away from me you horrible person.*

*Witch Got you. Now with my knife here.....*

*The door bursts open.*

*Gubbins See I told you Chris shes got Puss.*

*Chris Let Puss go.*

*Witch No*

*Chris Let her go*

*Chris draws sword and advances on the witch.*

*Witch Come down ye spirits of the night  
Come down now with all thy might  
Strike him dead before the clock strikes twice*

*Gubbins Shut her up Chris. If she finishes this spell your dead.*

*Witch Make him dead when I call thrice.*

*Chris Stop*

*Witch Oh let it be.*

*Chris Stop*

*Witch Oh let it be*

*Chris advances and plunges the sword deep into the witch. The witch falls to the ground and a trickle of green blood oozes from her mouth.*

SCENE FIVE THE DENOUMENT

*The scene is the castle. The Queen is seated surrounded by her courtiers. To her left is Antonia, to her right is a lady in waiting. Puss in Boots enters.*

*Puss Your most royal highness may I have the pleasure to present to you his excellency the Marquis of Carrabis.*

*Chris enters follows closely by Gubbins. Antonia gasps.*

*Queen Ah it is the hero of the hour the slayer of the wicked witch. You see good news travels fast in these parts. Without more ado I must award you as is the long custom in this court with the lands and castle of the witch from whom you have delivered us.*

*Chris I am overwhelmed by your majesties generosity I do not have words enough to express my thanks. However I must confess that I am not a Marquis but merely a commoner.*

*Puss Your majesty I alone am to blame . The Marquis was my invention for Chris had fallen deeply in love with the Princess and I took it on myself to try to arrange a meeting. However I knew that a meeting with a commoner was impossible so I invented the Marquis.*

*Queen I am glad that you have had the courage to tell me the truth. You shall have a title, this time a real one. I dub you the Duke of Carribonia Castle.*

*Lady in W Madam I have two petitions for the hand of the Princess. May I suggest that it would be a happy thought to make this gathering a betrothal party.*

*Queen The Princes shall choose herself.*

*The lady in waiting hands some papers to the Princess who hardly glancing at them holds out her hand to Chris.*

*Antonia My hand goes with my heart.*

*Antonia and Chris kiss.*

THE END