

Scene 1

*(As **Intro Music** plays (CD track 10) the cast enters – fade when ready. The lights come up on the main stage, the backdrop to which is a rural scene with fields, distant farm buildings, a castle, an orchard and a river cutting through the landscape. Narrators stand to one side, reading from old books or manuscripts.)*

Narrator 1 Welcome everybody! If you all could settle down,
We'd like to get proceedings underway.
(pointing at the audience) So you stop chatting, you stop coughing, and you lot over there
Sit still, or you'll be asked to leave! OK?

(The Farmer enters carrying an axe, and begins chopping.)

Narrator 2 Once there lived a farmer, a poor but decent chap,
Who one day felt the need to chop some logs.
This wasn't such a great idea – dodgy ticker, see.....

Farmer Oh cripes, I think I'm gonna pop me clogs!
(he comically falls to the floor)
I need my children by my side, and call my lawyer too,
'Cause seeing as I'm feeling rather ill,
I need to divvy-up my few and meagre worldly goods.
I think the time has come to make a will!

(He reaches inside his pocket and pulls out a scroll. He then croaks and dies with the scroll rigidly extended in his hand. His son, two daughters and his lawyer enter, and stand round his body. The lawyer takes the scroll.)

Narrator 3 The lawyer read the will as the farmer's children waited...

Daughter 1 Ooh! I'm so excited! Tell me now,
What did Daddy dearest leave to me, his eldest child?
Some cash? Some land? Or his best milking cow?

Daughter 2 Well, I'm nearly as old as you, so I think we'll be sharing
Between the two of us what's in the pot.
(to the son) But as for you, you little squirt, the youngest of us all,
I reckon he'll have left you diddly-squat!

Son Is that all you can think about? Our dear old father's dead!
That's the thing that really bothers me.

Lawyer Well, squabbling aside, there's only one way to find out
Just what he's left to each of you. Let's see.....

Song 1 – Where There's A Will *(CD track11, lyrics p16)*
(Lawyer, Daughters and Son, supported by the whole cast)

(The Lawyer and daughters exit. Puss enters and sits next to the son.)

Narrator 3 So, not a lot to celebrate, I think you'll all agree.
OK, the girls had reason to be pleased –
One got livestock, the other land, but as for little bro'....
The sole heir to a mangy mog with fleas!

Narrator 1 Though it seemed the young man got the rough end of the deal,
His father had been quite a clever bloke.
He'd left his son this feline fur-ball, knowing that it would
Bring him fame and fortune. Then it spoke!

Puss Pull yourself together, mate! Things are looking up!
You have a real exciting time in store!

(The son is open-mouthed with shock!)

Narrator 2 The farmer's son was struck quite dumb. He wanted to reply,
But couldn't 'cause his chin was on the floor!

Puss Now listen very carefully. There's lots of work to do,
And I've a list of things that need arranging.
Fetch some boots, a bag, a hat, a waistcoat...oh, and please,
The kitty litter in my tray needs changing!

(The son exits, then quickly returns with the boots, a large bag, a hat and a waistcoat – see staging suggestions/costumes and props.)

Son Here you are; a hat, a bag, a waistcoat, and some boots.
I bet you'll look quite fetching with them on.

(Puss puts on the boots, waistcoat and hat.)

Narrator 3 And so the cat dressed up (he looked a real bobby-dazzler),
Then unexpectedly broke into song!

Song 2 – Puss In Boots! (CD track12, lyrics p17) *(Puss supported by the whole cast)*

Son I'm kinda guessing from now on things might get quite bizarre!

Narrator 1 With this, he'd hit the nail on the head!
Puss told him....

PussNow don't you worry, everything's.....in hand.

Narrator 2 But, being a cat, he meant "in paw" instead!

(As Intro Music plays (CD track 13) they exit.)

.....continued.....