

QUEEN. *(To get a view of BILLY, she absentmindedly pushes the KING forward. His head goes into the bowl.)* Another bag of flour. *(She releases the KING who emerges spluttering.)*

BILLY. *(Emptying a new flour bag in to the bowl.)* Another bag of flour.

QUEEN. Beaten Eggs.

BILLY. *(To get a view of the QUEEN, he absentmindedly pushes the KING forward. His head goes into the bowl.)* Pardon?

QUEEN. Beaten eggs.

BILLY. *(Still holding the KING'S head in the bowl, he pours in a jug of beaten eggs.)* Beaten eggs. *(He releases the KING.)*

KING. *(Emerging from the bowl.)* I don't need this!

QUEEN. *(Referring to cook book.)* Oh, that's right. Knead it.

BILLY. *(Pushing KING'S head in to bowl again.)* Pardon?

QUEEN. I said, knead it.

BILLY. Oh! Knead it! *(He enthusiastically kneads the mixture with the KING'S head still trapped in the bowl.)*

QUEEN. *(Suddenly noticing.)* Oh Nobby! I'm so sorry.

(Iratly, the KING picks up the bowl and pours it over BILLY'S head.)

Oh, you two! *(She produces a large foam cake with a cream topping and places it centre.)* Never mind, here's one I made earlier!

(The KING and BILLY look to each other and jointly push the QUEEN'S face into it.)

BLACKOUT.)

SCENE 4.

The Topmost Turret. Frontcloth or Tabs.

(SPOOKY MUSIC. CARABOSSE appears out of the orchestra pit, or at one of the auditorium doors. She carries a small three legged stool.)

CARA. Aha! Surprised to see me, eh? I've fooled them all! No one thought to guard the orchestra pit! *(Or "the foyer" if appearing in the auditorium.)* No one could anticipate such a masterstroke of magical villainy! *(Gaining the stage.)* Yes, boo and hiss as much as you like, but I'm the Queen of the castle around here! Spindleshanks!

(SPINDLESHANKS appears carrying a spinning wheel.)

Pass it up! Pass it up!

(SPINDLESHANKS passes up the wheel and also gains the stage.)

(To AUDIENCE.) Oh, belt up! Here it is. One lovely, little spinning wheel!

SPINDLE. And one lethal, little spindle! *(Touching it.)* Oooh, it's sharp!

CARA. Yes, the spindle, Spindleshanks. The spindly, spiteful spindle. Oh, I've dreamt of this moment for eighteen years!

SPINDLE. Eighteen long years!

CARA. Plotting and planning!

SPINDLE. Scheming and scamming!

CARA. And in just a few minutes –

SPINDLE. The beautiful –

BOTH. YUK!

SPINDLE. Graceful –

BOTH. YUK!

SPINDLE. Princess Aurora –

CARA. Will be –

BOTH. DEAD!!!

CARA. As a doormail!

SPINDLE. As a dodo!

CARA. *(To AUDIENCE)* And do you know what, she doesn't seem to be here at the moment, so we just need to call her - and we thought you might like to help us!

(AUDIENCE response.)

What do you mean - 'NO'? Don't you want to help us?

(AUDIENCE response.)

Oh, yes you do!

(AUDIENCE response.)

BOTH. Oh, yes you do!

(AUDIENCE response.)

BOTH. You do! You do! You do!

(AUDIENCE response.)

CARA. I don't think they want to help us.

SPINDLE. But we've worked really hard on our plan.

CARA. *(To AUDIENCE,)* D'you want us to go then?

(AUDIENCE response.)

SPINDLE. But we don't want to go.

CARA. I know. We'll just have to think about it.

*(NUMBER. Suggest "Should I/we stay or should I/we go?"
The Clash.)*

CARA. *(At end of NUMBER.)* Alright, you win, we'll stay!

SPINDLE. Do the magic incantation!

CARA. Oh, yes! The magic incantation!
Sweet Princess, wheresoe'er you be -

SPINDLE. That's good.

CARA. Thank you-
Climb up the stairs and come to me!

SPINDLE. Brilliant!

CARA. Yes, alright.
Make no delay and be here quick –

SPINDLE. (*very quickly*) So that we can kill you with our spindle when your
finger on it you do prick!

CARA. Will you shut up! You're putting me off.
Make no delay and be here quick,
...And you will get a little prick!

(*SPOOKY MUSIC.*)

SPINDLE. Genius!

CARA. It's working! Now for my disguise!

(*CARABOSSE drapes a shawl over her head. She does not notice SPINDLESHANKS, who does the same and sits behind the spinning wheel.*)

(*With an assumed voice.*) Here am I, a little old lady, who spins
and spins –

SPINDLE. (*With a similar assumed voice.*) And here am I, another little old lady!

CARA. Another little old lady?

SPINDLE. Yes, I'm another little old lady, who spins and spins -

CARA. You can't be another little old lady, who spins and spins - I'm the little
old lady, who spins and spins. You're supposed to be the little old
lady's cat!

SPINDLE. But I want to be a little old lady!

CARA. You're a cat!

SPINDLE. I don't care. I want to be a little old lady.

CARA. But I'm the little old lady and you're sitting on my stool!

SPINDLE. That's because I'm a little old lady –

CARA. No, you're not a little old lady!

SPINDLE. Yes, I am!

CARA. No, you're not and get off my stool!

SPINDLE. Shan't!

CARA. (*Starting to manhandle SPINDLESHANKS.*) You mangy, miserable moggy, I'll teach you who the little old lady is round here!

SPINDLE. No, you won't!

CARA. Yes, I will!

SPINDLE. No, you won't!

CARA. Yes, I will! (*Throttling SPINDLESHANKS.*) I am the little old lady! I am the ONLY little old lady! THE SWEET - LITTLE - OLD - LADY - WHO SPINS AND SPINS!!!

(*The PRINCESS enters.*)

PRINCESS. Excuse me –

CARA. Er, yes, my dear?

PRINCESS. What are you doing?

CARA. (*Releasing SPINDLESHANKS, she jumps on to the stool and works the wheel.*) Spinning!

PRINCESS. Spinning?

CARA. Yes, my dear. Spinning. I'm a little old lady, who spins and spins - and this is my little old cat.

SPINDLE. (*Grudgingly.*) Miaow.

CARA. Tiddles. Sweet, little old, Tiddles, who sits all day and watches me spin and spin. Don't you, Tiddles?

SPINDLE. (*Very grudgingly.*) Miaow.

PRINCESS. I've never seen a spinning wheel before.

CARA. Haven't you, my dear?

PRINCESS. No, it's funny. I just felt –

CARA. Yes, my dear?

PRINCESS. Something magical almost pulling me up the stairs -

CARA. And now you've found us and our spinning! Isn't that nice? Would you like a go?

PRINCESS. You're very kind -

CARA. Oh, not at all -

PRINCESS. But I think I'd better go back.

CARA. } No!

SPINDLE. } (*Jumping up.*) Miaow!

PRINCESS. What?

CARA. I mean, (*soothingly*) no, no, no, no, no - even dear little Tiddles wants you to stay.

PRINCESS. Really?

CARA. Oh, yes. Because it's just such wonderful fun.

PRINCESS. What is?

CARA. Spinning.

PRINCESS. Isn't it rather tricky?

CARA. No, my dear, it's as easy as pie.

PRINCESS. Well, if it's not too much trouble.

CARA. Nothing could be less trouble. (*Guiding the PRINCESS onto the stool.*) There you go. That's it, make yourself comfortable. Start the wheel spinning, take hold of the spindle and -

PRINCESS. (*Pricking herself. MUSIC STING.*) Aaah!

CARA &
SPINDLE. RESULT!!!

PRINCESS. I pricked my finger!

CARA. Yes, you did, didn't you! But you just stay there and soon you won't feel a thing - in fact, soon you won't ever feel anything ever again! Come on, Spindleshanks, we've won! Let's go and tell them to cancel the second half!