

Grabbem Are you Buttons?

Buttons No I'm the coachman. But I'll see if I can find him. Walk on. (*Exiting to the house and then re-entering*)

Grabbem Are you Buttons?

Buttons No. I'm the Head Gardener and my petunias need mangel-worzling. I'll see if I can find him (*Exiting into house and re-entering as Butler*)

Grabbem Are you Buttons?

Buttons No I'm the Butler. You rang, m'lord. I'll see if I can find Buttons. (*Exiting into house and re-entering as himself*)

Snatchem Here, we've seen you before.

Buttons I'm sorry you haven't found Buttons. (*He crosses right between them*) I'm just going to do my shopping.

Grabbem What's your name?

Buttons Buttons. (*Short comic chase round and off, Buttons left, duo right*)

(*Enter ensemble right as horn sounds*)

1st Girl It's the Baron's silly old car.

(*Horn again and a crash*)

2nd Girl It's in the ditch.

3rd Girl Who's driving it?

1st Girl The Ugly Sisters. Here they are, back from holiday.

(*Enter Ugly Sisters to play on music dressed in bikinis and towelling robes, sombreros for one, sailor hat for other. They just have the steering wheel seizing it from each other while orchestra plays "I do like to be beside the seaside". Explosion off right. Baron staggers on carrying all the luggage which he dumps right. Sisters byplay has got rough enough for them to get dishevelled*)

Deidre So who was that driving?

Josephine
(*the plumper one*) Not me.

Deidre And it wasn't me

Hardup Well it wasn't me - no wonder we crashed. We should have gone with Shearings, But I don't suppose they'd have had you two.

Josephine I'm not going to stand here and be insulted.

Deidre Well sit down - and be insulted. Just look at you. Miss England 1953.

Josephine Miss England? I'm Miss World.

Hardup You're the right shape.

Josephine I'm hot stuff. They call me global warming,

Hardup You look more like global warning.

Deidre Everybody thinks I'm a dreamboat.

Josephine You look more like a shipwreck. (*Aims a blow at Deidre but misses*)

1st Girl Have you enjoyed your holiday?

Josephine Wonderful.

Deidre It was absolute heaven on the French Riviairyairyrya (*ad lib with airya*)

2nd Girl How did you find Monte Carlo?

Josephine We just looked and it was there.

Hardup Why don't you tell them where we've really been?

3rd Girl Where's that?

Hardup Fleetwood, But why did we have to go in the monsoon season?

Josephine This is a welcome I'm sure. I did at least think Cinderella would be here to greet us.

Deidre Yes - who's going to carry our luggage?

Josephine and Deidre (*together - shouting*) Cinderella.

Hardup There's no need to shout like that. She'll come once she knows we're here. Cinders! Cinderella! (*Moving towards house left carrying one case. Enter Cinderella from house. Romantic play on music. Hardup embraces her*) ()

Cinderella Hello daddy. How wonderful to see you looking so well. Tell me all about your holiday.

Hardup I will as soon as I've got inside. (*moving left to house*)

Cinderella Hello Deidre. Hello Josephine, (*They ignore her by turning their backs and facing away*)

Hardup (*looking back*) Girls, say hello to your sister,

Josephine She's not our sister.

Deidre She's only our step sister.

Josephine (*turning to Cinderella*) Haven't you heard of soap and water you dirty little skivvy.

Deidre No wonder they call you Cinders - you look as though you've been playing in the cinders.

Hardup She'll have been working in the cinders, lighting a fire for you to come home to. You don't know what good hard work is,

Deidre What good is it?

Cinderella I don't mind daddy, honestly I don't.

Hardup Well it makes me mad (*Picking up case in anger. Front falls open and clothes drop out. To sisters*) Look what you've made me do, Get inside. (*They cross him to house doorway, laughing*)

Cinderella Don't worry daddy. I'll put them back in, (*She does so during following lines*)

Hardup (*To Ugly Sister*) I wish you two were inside, For a life sentence, You do nothing but show me up. That last day at the hotel I could have shamed,. (*directed alternately to sisters*) At breakfast time you said you didn't want any cornflakes 'cos they crackled in your shoes - at dinner time you asked for treacle to spread on your knife so the peas wouldn't fall off, At tea-time I caught you playing ping pong with a pickled onion - and when they served fish and chips, what did you say - I think they taste better in the TV Times. And another thing - what's that you've got stuck in your hair?

Deidre A slide - what do you think?

Josephine Some slide.

Hardup Let me have a look. (*He pulls a fork out of Deidre's hair*) It's a fish fork. (*Smells it*) Kippers. (*Reads it*) Hotel Costa Brava, Fleetwood. How degrading. Stealing, To think that one of my daughters should stoop so low, I'm humiliated. My daughter leading a life of crime,

Deidre I'm sorry daddy.