

**Jimmy** No, you just sweep it under the carpet (*exits*)

**Squire** (*knocking on door*) Dame Trot, are you within? (*Dame Trot opens door*)

**Dame** No, I'm without

**Squire** Without what?

**Dame** Without the rent (*shuts door*)

**Squire** Dame Trot, open up!

**Dame** (*opening door*) Have you tried the window?

**Squire** No

**Dame** Well why don't you? (*closes door*)

**Squire** Very well I will (*goes to window, opens it, duster in face. Knocks at door again*) RENT!

**D and J** (*opening door*) SPENT!

**Squire** Dame Trot, have you my final demand note?

**Dame** Yes

**Squire** And?

**Dame** I've decided not to join

**Squire** Dame Trot I want my money

**Dame** Now that is a strange coincidence

**Squire** (*tapping foot, ready for worst*) Why?

**Dame** Because, because I said to Jimmy only this morning. (*to Jimmy*) What did I say to you only this morning?

**Jimmy** That's right you did! You said to me only this morning. What did you say to me only this morning?

**Dame** That's right I did! I said to you only this morning, the Squire will be wanting his money

**Jimmy** That's right you did! You said to me only this morning, the Squire will be wanting his money

**Dame** And then what did I say?

**Jimmy** Let him want!

**Squire** (*through clenched teeth*) Woman! You're late with your rent for the autumn quarter, you're late with your rent for the winter quarter

**Dame** And I'll tell you something else

**Squire** What?

**D and J** (*singing*) Spring will be a little late this year

**Squire** In that case I shan't modernise the property

**Dame** Modernise it? That's a laugh. This house should be scheduled as a listing building

**Squire** You mean listed

**Dame** I know what I mean! This house gives a new definition to lean to. Why it's so old it's even got William the Conquerors initials on one door

**Squire** It's a perfectly good house. There's running water in every room.

**Jimmy** Yes, down the walls. Listen, when you rented us this house you said it had a heated swimming pool.

**Squire** I did

**Jimmy** You didn't say it was a tropical fish tank

**Dame** And we have to bath in it

**Squire** What do you do about the fish?

**Dame** Blindfold them. And another thing, there are wild rats in the drains

**Squire** Drains? But there are no drains

**Jimmy** That's what makes them wild

**Squire** If it's so awful why don't you leave?

**Jimmy** Well maybe we will. *(to Dame)* Tell you what Mam, we'll move into a tree house

**Dame** That's no good, we'd only fall out

**Squire** Look, I'll meet you halfway. Pay up inside twenty four hours and I'll forget half the debt

**Dame** Excellent! And I'll meet YOU halfway

**Squire** Good!

**Dame** I'll forget the other half *(Exit Dame and Jimmy into cottage)*

**Squire** Curse it, I'm never going to get this rent. I'd take legal advice but that costs money. The last time I went to a barrister I said "how much do you cost?" He said "four hundred pounds for three questions". I said "How much?" He said "Four hundred pounds, now, what's your third question?" *(sighs)* Still needs must *(exits)*

*(Music for entrance of Bloodshot and Squint from opposite sides. Dressed as Secret Agent types with dark glasses. They circle and bump into each other)*

**Squint** Who's that?

**Blood** Me!

**Squint** It can't be me, I'm me. It must be you

**Blood** Idiot! Take those glasses off *(They both do)* This disguise is no good

**Squint** I know, I hardly recognised myself

**Blood** You looked like a right little twerp

**Squint** Well that's what's so clever cos I'm really a right big twerp

**Blood** *(In hushed tones)* Let's remember why we're here

**Squint** *(loudly)* We were sent by Giant Grimm

**Blood** Ssshh! I know that. You know that. But no one else must know that. Let's read our secret instructions *(takes paper from pocket and reads)* From Giant Grimm to my Secret Agents Bloodshot and Squint, that's us

**Squint** Is it?

**Blood** Yes, idiot. *(to audience)* I'm Bertie Bloodshot

**Squint** And I'm Sammy Squint

**Blood** *(reading again)* You are engaged to locate and kidnap the beautiful daughter of Squire Grabbem of Sunnyside and bring her to my kingdom in the clouds. Signed Giant Grimm

**Squint** Well. What do we do?

**Blood** Start looking for the girl

**Squint** Right! *(produces large magnifying glass and moves around. Sees B's feet then moves up body to face. Screams)* AAAAAAGGGGGGHHHHH!

**Blood** Idiot! How do you manage to do so many stupid things in one day?

**Squint** I get up early!

**Blood** Now let's try and do this job properly. You know what happened last time?

**Squint** Yes, we bungled it

**Blood** That's right, you bungled it. So now we must put our heads together

**Squint** Right *(he leans in, they bump heads)* OW!

**Blood** Idiot! I mean we must conspire

**Squint** I'm already conspiring, it's hot in here isn't it?

**Blood** We must form a plan to capture the Squire's daughter

**Squint** Oooh, the Squire's daughter *(He drools and slurps)*

**Blood** *(hitting him)* You've been on the wine gums again. Where were you when they handed out brains?

**Squint** In the wrong queue

**Blood** Now start thinking, where are we going to search?

**Squint** *(determinedly)* I shall search every cole and horner

**Blood** Hole and corner

**Squint** Every crook and nanny

**Blood** Nook and cranny

**Squint** And leave no turn unstoned

**Blood** You'll have the RSPB onto you! You're soft you are. You have to be tough and ruthless

**Squint** That's me, rough and toothless

**Blood** You've got to be hard. We're villains pure and simple. I'm pure..

**Squint** And I'm simple! (*looking confused*) Hang on a minute

**Blood** To be a villain you have to be nasty, horrible and revolting (*his face is close to Squint's who bursts into tears*). Now what's the matter? You're trembling, are you frightened?

**Squint** No, it's the wind blowing up my trousers. I don't know where it's coming from, but I know where it's going to

**Blood** To work. We must track down the Squire's daughter. Just imagine you are in Line of Duty

**Squint** That'll be easy, I never know what's going on there either

**Blood** We must look for the Squire. Wherever the Squire is, his daughter is sure to be too

**Squint** They go together, so do we. Where there's you there's me

**B and S** (*Singing together*) They go together, so do we. Where there's you, there's me (*they exit, enter Squire*)

**Squire** Curse it, I'm never going to collect this rent from Dame Trot. What money she has paid me wouldn't cover the cost of the rent book. Time for a little gentle persuasion (*tip toes to cottage door and then knocks furiously. Enter Jimmy*)

**Jimmy** Are we all happy? Good. Mam! (*to offstage*) Dracula's back (*enter Dame*)

**Squire** Ah Dame Trot, can I make a suggestion?

**Dame** How very dare you! Never in all my life, well not for a long time, well perhaps last week

**Squire** Wait until you hear what I have to say

**Dame** I'm waiting

**Jimmy** Don't keep us waiting Squire

**Squire** (*now talking to Jimmy*) This is my offer. If I can't have the rent, I'll have the old cow

**Dame** Oh Squire, how romantic, I thought you'd never ask

**Squire** Not you! Your cow Jessie

**Dame** What, part with Jessie? (*start music*) I wouldn't dream of it. Why that cow's been as good a friend to me as any woman could wish for

**Squire** Very well then. Tomorrow morning out you go. Lock, stock and barrel!

**Jimmy** Do you really mean that Squire?

**Squire** I do

**Jimmy** It's no good Mother, you'll have to let Jessie go