

Slime Good-day.

Cecil Good gracious!

Cyril Good heavens!

Both Good-bye! (*Move to exit*)

Slime Wait.

Both (*Together*) Why?

Slime You are the sons of Joseph Wheatmeal?

Both Deceased. (*Both raise hats*)

Slime Is this the mill of Joseph Wheatmeal?

Both Deceased. (*Both raise hats*)

Slime Are you the only sons of the said Joseph deceased?

Cyril Wheatmeal. (*Cyril raises his hat*)

Cecil We have a step-brother, Colin by name. But he's of no importance-

Cyril And apart from that, we don't like him.

Slime Interesting. (*Aside*) Perhaps I can turn to profit this lack of brotherly love.

Cecil Do you mind telling us who you are?

Slime Not only who I am, but what I am. The land on which the mill stands is owned by my master, the Ogre.

Both The Ogre! (*Cyril jumps into Cecil's arms*)

Slime You've heard of him? (*Wicked laugh. Cecil drops Cyril*) I am the Ogre's lawyer. In that capacity I have bad news for you two.

Cecil Anything to do with the mill?

Cyril Anything to do with the will?

Slime Both. Your late father's will leaves the mill and everything in it to your step-brother Colin.

Both Everything?

Slime Down to the last grain of flour.

Cecil Nothing for us?

Slime Nothing.

Cecil He was got at.

Cyril Who was?

Cecil The old man.

Cyril Who by?

Cecil Colin of course. I'd do anything to get even with our precious step-brother.

Slime As a lawyer I may be able to help you. For a cash fee, I could alter the Will to read in your favour.

Cyril Eh – that's cheating.

Slime My friend, have you never cheated at snakes and ladders? (*Cyril nods 'Yes'*) Gone up a ladder when you should have come down a snake?

Cyril (*Guiltily*) Yes, and I'll tell you something else. I once did something wickeder than that. I shook a three and pretended it was a six.

Slime A man after my own heart. The false Will I shall produce is a ladder in the game of life. Play the game my way and everything comes your way.

Cecil You mentioned a fee.

Slime Forget the fee. Instead you can render me a small service.

Both Done. Tell us what to do.

(Burst of Slime's music as he brings them down stage) (11)

Slime This afternoon, Her Royal Highness Princess Marigold visits the village. My master the Ogre wishes to meet her. You must secure an introduction to the Princess and arrange for her to visit the Ogre.

Cyril But will she want to meet an Ogre?

Slime You must persuade her. Remember our bargain. I shall return in an hour's time. Assemble the villagers and master Colin, as witnesses. Then I'll read the Will. (*Loud laughter*) Leaving everything to you. (*Exit left laughing. Play off*)