

SCENE 2.

Ma's Cottage. Tabs or front cloth. A moveable cut out cottage interior works well in this scene – also a dog basket at pros R or L.

(See notes at back.)

MA discovered sitting on a small stool. She weeps into a hanky.

MA. Oh, dear. Oooh. Oh. (**Blows nose noisily.**) I am sorry, I do beg your pardon – but I'm so upset! Ever since that horrible witch came to the village, everything has gone from bad to worse. This endless winter's made everyone poor. Look at me! I'm in the same outfit I was two years ago!

JACQUES. (**entering with CAPUCINE**) Ma, Ma! Capucine's brought a carrot to share!

MA. A carrot? A lovely, crunchy, juicy carrot? Food!

FELIX. (**bounding on from other side**) Did someone say food? My middle name is food!

CAPUCINE. We're going to have to share it, Felix.

JACQUES. And it's not quite a whole carrot.

CAPUCINE. It's not even quite half a carrot.

MA. Not half a carrot?

CAPUCINE. (**producing big green stalk with a tiny bit of carrot**) It's more the memory of a carrot.

MA. A memory?

FELIX. (**pointing at JACQUES**) Look at him. He's been getting extra carrot chunks, I know he has!

JACQUES. Felix –

FELIX. You have, haven't you?

CAPUCINE. So what, if he has had a little nibble!

FELIX. I want a little nibble!

CAPUCINE. Well, you can't have a little nibble.

FELIX. Just because you love him!

CAPUCINE. (**flustered**) No I don't; I mean -

FELIX. It's all too much. (**Puts hands over ears, shuts eyes and runs on the spot and screams.**) Aaaah!

(**AUDIENCE shout.**)

(**Aghast.**) Not at Capucine!

JACQUES

MA & CAPUCINE. FELIX!!

MA. Into your basket! Remember, Capucine is a guest in this house. Poodle power indeed.

FELIX. (**deeply contrite, sits in dog basket**) I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I forgot about all my friends out there. I'd never, ever want anybody to shout at you, Capucine.

MA. Oh, look, here's Beauty.

(**BEAUTY enters.**)

Any food in the shops?

BEAUTY. I'm afraid not.

MA. I thought so. You're just in time not to have any supper with us.

BEAUTY. Oh, well. At least it helps to keep us all trim.

MA. But I'm the same weight I was two years ago! I wouldn't mind if I was slim and beautiful, but all I am is hungry. I'm so hungry I could eat my own reflection!

CAPUCINE. I'm so hungry I could eat an elephant's reflection!

JACQUES. I'm so hungry I could eat all the nuts in a factory making pork pies that might contain nuts!

CAPUCINE. (**a beat**) I'd prefer the pies.

JACQUES. I meant if there weren't any pies.

CAPUCINE. Eh?

BEAUTY. Maybe we'd all feel better if we *pretended* to eat some food.

MA. Good idea, Beauty. Let's sing for our supper!
(**NUMBER, about food.**)

MA. Oh, that's much better! I feel really full now.

BEAUTY. So do I.

CAPUCINE. So do I.

JACQUES. So do I.

FELIX. So do I! I feel so full, that – that - I don't feel full. I feel hungry. I'm not full at all!

BEAUTY. Nor am I.

CAPUCINE. Nor am I.

JACQUES. Nor am I.

MA. Oh, you lot of so and so's. Fancy fibbing like that. Well, I can tell you I feel full. I feel really, really – it's starting to wear off a bit now. I do feel a bit peckish; Well, hungry; I'm starving!

FELIX. What are we going to do?!

J

ACQUES. (**bravely**) It's no good, Ma. When I look at you, when I look at Beauty, when I look at Capucine -

FELIX. What about me? Do you look at me too?

JACQUES. (**irritated**) Yes, alright, Felix, when I look at you too – I know what I must do. I must set out to seek our fortune.

BEAUTY. (**alarmed**) Jacques!

CAPUCINE. No, Jacques, you can't, you mustn't!

JACQUES. Why not?

MA. (**hurriedly**) Because you're too young.

CAPUCINE. Exactly.

JACQUES. I'm twenty four!

CAPUCINE. You're a young twenty four!